

# Crookwell 3 Wind Farm

## Project Overview

Crookwell Development Pty Ltd (CDPL) is part of an international energy group proposing to develop a new wind farm in the Crookwell region. This project is currently applying for approval from the NSW Department of Planning. As part of this process, CDPL is interested in understanding the range of stakeholder perspectives to ensure they are taken into account in the development of the proposed site. As such, CDPL invites you to participate in its consultation and engagement in the coming weeks.

## What is the New Project?

The project area is outlined below and consists of approximately 1500 hectares of undulating land in two separate parcels, south and east of the approved Crookwell 2 Wind Farm. These are referred to as Crookwell 3 East and Crookwell 3 South.

The project is proposed to include;

- 25 – 35 individual wind turbines standing up to 152m at top of blade tip with up to 3.3MW capacity each;
- Access tracks;
- Upgrades to local roads; and
- An electrical network that links the turbines to the proposed Crookwell 2 substation.

Because Crookwell 3 is proposed to operate in close proximity to the Crookwell 2 wind farm, the two projects can share infrastructure, lending significant benefits to the project. This has the added benefit of reducing potential amenity impacts arising from separate substations, control buildings and switchyards.

## Key stats of the proposed Crookwell 3 Wind Farm

**Number of Turbines:** 25 – 35 turbines.

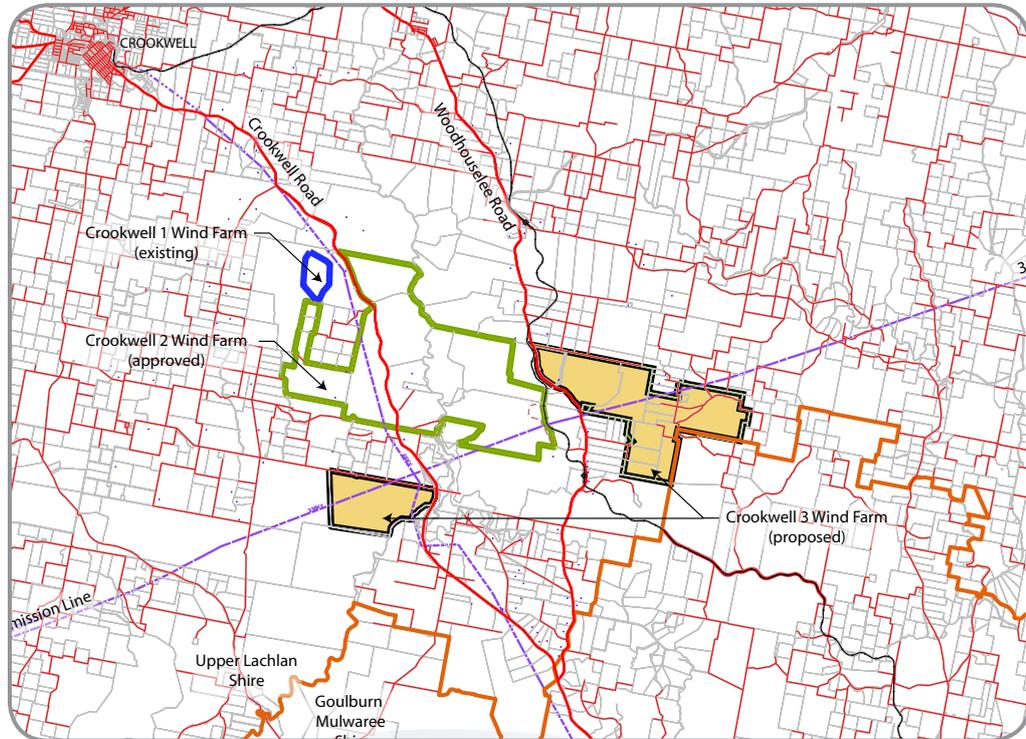
**Electricity Generation Capacity:** Approximately 45 to 116 MW.

**Number households supplied:** Approximately 40,000 Households or 100,000 people.

**Investment:** Approximately \$90 - 120 million.

**Jobs:** Up to approximately 40 full time equivalent jobs during construction and 6 for maintenance and operation for the life of the project.

**Environmental Benefits:** Displaces approximately over 200,000 tonnes of carbon a year or the equivalent of taking over 50,000 cars off the road.



Crookwell 3 Context Plan

## What is the Status of the Project?

The Crookwell 3 Wind Farm project has been developed following the modified approval of the Crookwell 2 Wind Farm in 2009.

A Preliminary Environmental Assessment (PEA) has recently been submitted to the Department of Planning which includes preliminary detail about the site and proposal. It also outlines the range of studies and investigations which will support a full Environmental Assessment (EA).

CDPL acknowledges there are a range of concerns about the impacts of wind farm developments such as:

- Flora and fauna,
- Noise,
- Landscape and visual impact,
- Shadow flicker,
- Traffic and transport,
- Aviation,
- Electromagnetic interference,
- Cultural heritage,
- Social and economic benefits and impacts, and
- Other potential hazards.

The company seeks to understand and address these issues and has commissioned specialists to investigate these issues. CDPL is seeking community feedback regarding these issues to better understand how to address community expectations.

This investigation phase, together with the feedback from the community consultation, will inform a wind farm design which will be included in the EA. It is envisaged that the EA will be lodged with Department of Planning in the middle of the year.

Once lodged, the EA will be assessed by Department of Planning. This assessment will include a period of public exhibition where interested stakeholders are invited to make a submission to the project.

## Community Consultation, How do I get involved?

CDPL is committed to providing stakeholders with an opportunity to be involved in the approval phases of the proposed wind farm. As such, CDPL is preparing a detailed community consultation strategy which aims to fully inform all stakeholders and gather feedback which will influence the final design of the project. As a member of the community you have several opportunities to be involved in the decision making process.



These opportunities include:

- One to one meetings
- Community information day
- Public exhibition period – Request for submissions
- Website, phone and written inquiries

## **One to one meetings**

A doorknock of all houses within and near the project will be undertaken to provide the community with the opportunity to meet with Crookwell Development representatives to answer any questions and understand issues of concern.

Your feedback in these one to one meetings will be taken into account in the development of the overall design and inform the Environmental Assessment for the project.

The door knocks will be conducted on the 28th, 29th and 30th of April 2010. All houses within 3km of the site will be visited. If you have any questions, concerns or are interested in setting up an appointment with CDPL, please call 1800 457 181.

## **Community Information Day**

Once the Environmental Assessment is lodged with the NSW Department of Planning there will be a further opportunity to ask questions about the proposal. The Community Information Day will likely be held over an afternoon and will include presentation boards containing key information on the project.

Members of the consultant team will be available to answer any questions and explain key aspects of the proposed wind farm. Dates for the information day are to be confirmed and will be scheduled to coincide with the public exhibition period discussed below.

## **Public Exhibition Period - Request for submissions**

The public exhibition period allows members of the public to make written submissions about the project. This is an opportunity for stakeholders to express their position about the development and request changes to the project. These submissions are taken into account by the NSW Department of Planning when making a decision on whether or not to approve the project.

## **About the Proponent, Who is Crookwell Development?**

The Crookwell 3 wind farm has been proposed by Crookwell Development Pty Ltd (CDPL) who is also the owner of the Crookwell 2 Wind Farm Project.

CDPL is a fully owned subsidiary of Union Fenosa Wind Australia Pty Ltd [UFWA]. Union Fenosa is an international energy group with a presence in 14 countries worldwide and with over 12,000 employees.



Construction has commenced at Crookwell 2

Union Fenosa has a long history of successful renewable energy projects around the world, building more than 2,000 MW of green energy capacity across wind, solar, hydro, biomass and other renewable energy sources.

Their Australian portfolio represents an investment of approximately \$2 billion in renewable wind generation. Once complete, the portfolio will increase Australia's present wind generation capacity of approximately 1,800 MW by nearly 50% and create several hundred jobs in construction and operation.

Union Fenosa has recently been acquired by Gas Natural and together they have created a leading vertically integrated gas and electricity group that has a presence in 23 countries and employs over 20,000 staff. They have 17,000 MW of installed electricity generation and have more than 20 million customers worldwide.

## **Project Benefits, Why Crookwell 3?**

The proposed Crookwell 3 Wind Farm will result in significant environment, social and economic benefits locally, nationally and internationally. Locally, the wind farm will provide job opportunities both during construction and operation, and help position the Upper Lachlan region as a leader in renewable energy and green jobs.

Nationally, it will assist in reducing Australia's greenhouse emissions and support the objective of generating 20% of electricity by renewable sources by 2020. Internationally, it will assist in addressing the dangerous impacts of climate change such as drought, sea level rise and more extreme weather events.

## **Crookwell 2 update**

The Crookwell 2 project commenced construction in mid-2009 in conjunction with approval of the modification application. A site office compound along Crookwell Road has been constructed.

Further construction, including the larger components of the project such as the turbines, is likely to occur in late 2010.

The incentives put in place by the Federal Government's Renewable Energy Target (RET) to drive large-scale renewable energy projects have been dampened by the increase in small-scale renewable schemes, and hence caused delays in all wind farm projects. It is anticipated that the proposed Enhanced RET policy will accommodate both these schemes and enable large projects to be completed.

## **How to stay informed**

Initially, CDPL aims to keep you informed about developments surrounding the Crookwell 3 wind farm with newsletters such as this one. If you have questions or would like to be informed of developments in a different way, please contact:

### *Contact*



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