

Crookwell 3 Wind Farm Planning Process

Crookwell Development Pty Ltd (CDPL) (the proponent) is seeking project approval for the construction and operation of a wind energy facility known as the Crookwell 3 Wind Farm.

A Preliminary Environmental Assessment was lodged by Tract Consultants on behalf of the proponent with the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure (DoPI) on 12 February 2010 and a Planning Focus meeting was held on the 17 March 2010.

Since this time, CDPL has been working with a team of specialists, landowners, the local community and council to prepare the planning and design of the Crookwell 3 Wind Farm.

Under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (NSW) (EP&A Act), the project is:

- a Part 3A Major Project, and
- a Critical Infrastructure Project (a renewable energy project with a peak generating capacity of more than 30 MW).

The Director-General Requirements (DGRs) for the project were issued by DoPI on 7 April 2010 under Part 3A of the EP&A Act.

Part 3A of the EP&A Act has now been repealed, and a Transitional Part 3A project process has been created. The project will continue to be assessed and determined under the Transitional Part 3A of the EP&A Act.

Subsequently, an Environmental Assessment was prepared and lodged to the DoPI on 7 March 2011 to address the DGRs issued.

A revised Environmental Assessment was prepared and lodged on 2 December 2011 to address the supplementary DGRs which were provided by DoPI on 16 August 2011.

Then, the NSW Government released the *Draft NSW Wind Farm Planning Guidelines* for exhibition on 23 December 2011. DoPI wrote to all proponents of wind farms in NSW on 18 April 2012 regarding the draft guidelines and enclosed a checklist highlighting the key provisions of the guidelines which should be adopted for all applications yet to be publicly exhibited (which applies to the Crookwell 3 Wind Farm application).

DoPI requested that all wind farm proponents advise the Director-General of DoPI of the measures they propose to take to implement the draft guidelines.

Accordingly, Tract Consultants on behalf of CDPL lodged an updated Environmental Assessment in July 2012, which considered the draft guidelines and demonstrated that the Crookwell 3 Wind Farm is generally in accordance with the draft guidelines.

The project is now being considered by DoPI. The proposal is currently on public exhibition and the public has the opportunity to make submissions to DoPI relating to the proposed wind farm.

Once DoPI has considered the proposal and submissions, the department will prepare an assessment and recommendations report to either refuse or grant a permit (with conditions) for the proposed wind farm development, and submits it to the Planning Assessment Commission for review and determination.

The Planning Assessment Commission will review and make a decision on the wind farm development application on behalf of the Minister for Planning.

Planning Process

Proponent undertakes a preliminary environmental assessment and consultation with landowners.

Proponent lodges request for Director-General requirements for a state significant wind farm proposal with the Department of Planning and Infrastructure (DoPI).

DoPI considers the application, and may request further information.

Once adequate information is provided, DoPI issues Director-General requirements to be addressed in the proposal.

Proponent undertakes community consultation and a comprehensive Environmental Assessment.

Proponent lodges Development Application with DoPI.

DoPI considers application, and may request further information.

Once adequate information is provided, DoPI releases the proposal for public exhibition.

Proponent holds a Community Information Day to discuss the project face-to-face with members of the public, stakeholders and authorities in attendance.

Public submissions are made to DoPI regarding the proposal. Proponent also prepares a submission in response to discussions held at the Community Information Day and public submissions lodged.

DoPI considers the proposal and submissions and prepares an assessment and recommendations report to either refuse or grant a permit (with conditions) for the proposed wind farm development, and submits it to the Planning Assessment Commission for review and determination.

The Planning and Assessment Commission reviews the report and the proposal, and makes a decision of the wind farm development application on behalf of the Minister for Planning

Submissions

The environmental assessment is on public exhibition for three months from Thursday 1 November 2012 until Wednesday 6 February 2013. Interested members of the public are encouraged to lodge a submission providing feedback during this time.

Submissions received during the public exhibition period, along with the proponent's response to submissions document, will be made available on the department's website and carefully considered as part of the department's assessment of the project.

The environmental assessment for the project can be viewed during business hours at:

- Department of Planning and Infrastructure – Information Centre, 23-33 Bridge Street, Sydney;
- Upper Lachlan Shire Council (Crookwell Office) – 44 Spring Street, Crookwell;
- Crookwell Library – Denison Street, Crookwell;
- Upper Lachlan Shire Council (Gunning Office) – 123 Yass Street, Gunning;
- Goulburn-Mulwaree Shire Council – Civic Centre, 184-194 Bourke Street, Goulburn; and
- Nature Conservation Council – 2/5 Wilson Street, Newtown.

All relevant project documents are also publicly available on the department's website, and can be accessed by visiting <http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au> and following the links to the 'On Exhibition' page.

Submissions can be:

- Lodged online at <http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au> (then search for the project);
- Emailed to plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au;
- Faxed to (02) 9228 6455;
- Posted to Major Projects Assessment, Department of Planning and Infrastructure, GPO Box 39, SYDNEY NSW 2001.



Crookwell to Goulburn Road (view from road corridor)