

Rye Park Wind Farm

Newsletter
Edition

14

April
2022

The Tilt Renewables team and construction contractor Zenviron (and their subcontractors) are continuing with building the Rye Park Wind Farm (RPWF) project including the main access track from the temporary compound to the southern substation.

Having officially commenced construction in December 2021, the project delivery team is working towards the imminent completion of the public road upgrades schedule – roughly ~19km of road reconstruction and an additional ~30km of patching and maintenance.

Internal civil works are also continuing in the northern and middle section inside the three site entry points. The ARDG quarries will continue supplying gravel to cap the internal access tracks, compound laydowns and batch plant bench.

Construction updates commenced as of mid-November 2021 and are distributed fortnightly to our email distribution list.

Please make sure you're signed up to receive the updates via email or SMS notification. During the public road upgrade scope of works, look out for fortnightly ads in the following publications:

- Boorowa News
- Gunning Noticeboard
- Hilltops Phoenix
- Upper Lachlan Gazette
- Yass Valley Times

PROJECT SNAPSHOT

**Number of
Turbines: 66**

**Blade Tip Height:
200m**

**Operations &
Maintenance
Buildings: 1**

**Collection
Substations: 1**

**Connection
Substations: 1**

**Concrete Batch
Plants: 3**

**Construction
Compounds: 3**

Sign up to receive construction updates via text message:

Opt-in by hovering over the QR code or jump on the Project webpage and complete the linked form. Alternatively, send us an email or call us and we'll add you to the list.



PROJECT UPDATE

What's happening on site?

The temporary compound facility (site offices) has been established and project staff have moved in. The temporary batch plant and laydown hardstands have also been completed at the main compound.

Temporary compound facility (site offices).



Access track stripping and formation works continue in the northern and central areas of site, heading towards the southern substation. Internal access track and hardstand construction has commenced in the northern and central areas of site.

Internal access track stripping and formation works.



ARDG have commenced operations in Barrackville Quarry and material is being supplied to the Project via the main entrance on Dalton Road.

Wind Farm main entry being sealed.



What's happening on the roads?

Works on **Grassy Creek Road** continue to progress well with gravel capping completed in April and majority of the two-coat seal has been installed to date. The replacement of the concrete causeway is projected to be completed early-May. Progressive rehabilitation will continue, and large cut batters have been stabilised with hydromulch.

It is anticipated that during the last week of April contractors will commence with the two-coat seal of the finished gravel sections of the **Boorowa bypass**, commencing at Trucking Yard Road and progressing through to Boorowa/Rye Park Road. Ongoing maintenance and heavy patching will also continue along Boorowa/Rye Park Road.

Heavy patching works have commenced along **Dalton Road**. Contractors plan to commence re-working and placing pavement on Rye Park/Dalton Road south of the main entry, with sealing works to follow. A polymer product will also be applied to unsealed sections of road to mitigate dust (as required). Current monitoring and pothole maintenance continues.

Tilt Renewables continues to work with Upper Lachlan Shire Council to finalise the design of the **Cooks Hill Road** upgrade. The final design is being developed to address key biodiversity and heritage constraints, whilst balancing road safety considerations. Both parties are working as a priority to finalise the design, and undertake works as soon as practicable. Until such time the works are completed the Project will continue to maintain the road.

Road users should still expect minor delays and diversions while the road works are being undertaken.

If travelling along these routes, please be mindful of the works and follow traffic control directives and enforceable road work speed limits. If you have any questions or concerns about the onsite works and road upgrades, please contact:

- Tilt Renewables – Site HSEC Manager: Andrew Galland – 0447 076 886, or
- Zenviron – Site Manager: Sasa Stegic – 0499 011 861

Yass Street

Works along Yass Street (Rye Park village) continue to progress with gravel placement and two-coat seal complete. The causeway design has been approved by Hilltops Council with works expected to commence mid-May. The Boorowa/Rye Park Road and Grassy Creek Road oversize-overmass intersection is anticipated to be complete early-May. These upgrade works to Yass Street are to ensure that it is suitable and safe during construction, and further to minimise impacts on the local residents.

Yass Street footpath works to commence soon

In addition to the road upgrade, the Project is also required to install a footpath to ensure pedestrian safety. We have worked extensively with Council to meet this requirement while consulting with the community to ensure they are part of the design process. Preliminary works have commenced by way of select pruning and footpath works are expected to commence first week of May. A landscape plan to tie-in the footpath was also requested by Council and agreed by the Project.

Yass Street road upgrade works:

- Road works underway and on track to complete in May, including replacement of the concrete causeway.
- Drainage has been designed and constructed to accommodate stormwater flows. The result is deeper 'V' drains than previous, which may result in some difficulty traversing with smaller vehicles in sections along Yass Street. However, **all driveways will be tied-in and property access will be maintained.**

Footpath design – plans updated to incorporate feedback from consultation:

- Trees retained where possible – footpath route and width adjusted to protect 3 significant trees originally at risk (now retained) and 12 less mature trees near the School (most or all should now be retained)
- Yass Street footpath crossing moved to the crest of Yass Street, south for the Hall (safest location with good sight lines to the north and south)
- Footpath extended to tie into Kershaw Street
- Landscaping plan updated to address feedback including narrow strips between path and property boundaries, and to remove additional planting near Rec Reserve and Hall
- The footpath must comply with road safety standards (State and Local) and Council design specifications.

Footpath construction and landscaping program:

- **Mid-April:** Visit and letter to Yass Street residents with information on footpath design and what to expect
- **May:** Footpath construction to commence, subject to all required approvals
- **Early-June:** Footpath complete
- **June:** Once footpath complete, finalise landscaping plan, incorporating community and Council feedback
- **Timing TBA:** Implement landscape plan during appropriate planting season (likely Winter/Spring)

Yass Street footpath plan



COMPLIANCE UPDATE

As part of the Project's compliance obligations, a complaints register is updated and published on the website on a monthly basis. You can find the register on the Project Approvals and Applications page, under Compliance.

A DPE Compliance Officer has visited site twice now, once in December and again in March. Further to this, a three-monthly internal compliance audit was undertaken on 11 February with no major non-conformances. An independent audit was also undertaken over two-days in late February, with the report now finalised by the auditor and submitted to DPE.

Design progression – Modification



Minor revisions to access tracks have been identified, which would have like for like biodiversity impact however would minimise risks associated with waterway and gully crossings. As these revisions fall outside of the Project's development corridor, we are working with DPE and DAWE to ensure the project approvals allow for these optimisations. We will keep the community updated as these works progress and prior to lodgement.

Visual Mitigation Program



Non-associated residences, where the dwelling is within 4km of a wind turbine may be eligible for participation in the Visual Mitigation Program for the Project. Eligible residences may ask the Project to implement visual impact mitigation measures on their land to minimise the visual impacts of the Project on their residence.

We have sent out letters to properties within 4km of a turbine. If you have received a letter and are interested (or have not received a letter and think we have missed you) please get in touch with us by emailing ryeparkwindfarm@tiltrenewables.com or call [1800 WE TILT](tel:1800WE TILT).



SAFETY ON THE ROADS

Please report dangerous driving by Project related vehicles as soon as possible. Similarly, please get in touch if you have concerns about traffic impacts or conditions. If possible, provide photo evidence as these assist with our investigations.

Call us on [1800 WE TILT \(938 458\)](tel:1800WE TILT(938458)).

Photos from left: Cooks Hill Road signage, Grassy Creek Road two-coat seal, Yass Street two-coat seal.



BIODIVERSITY OFFSETS

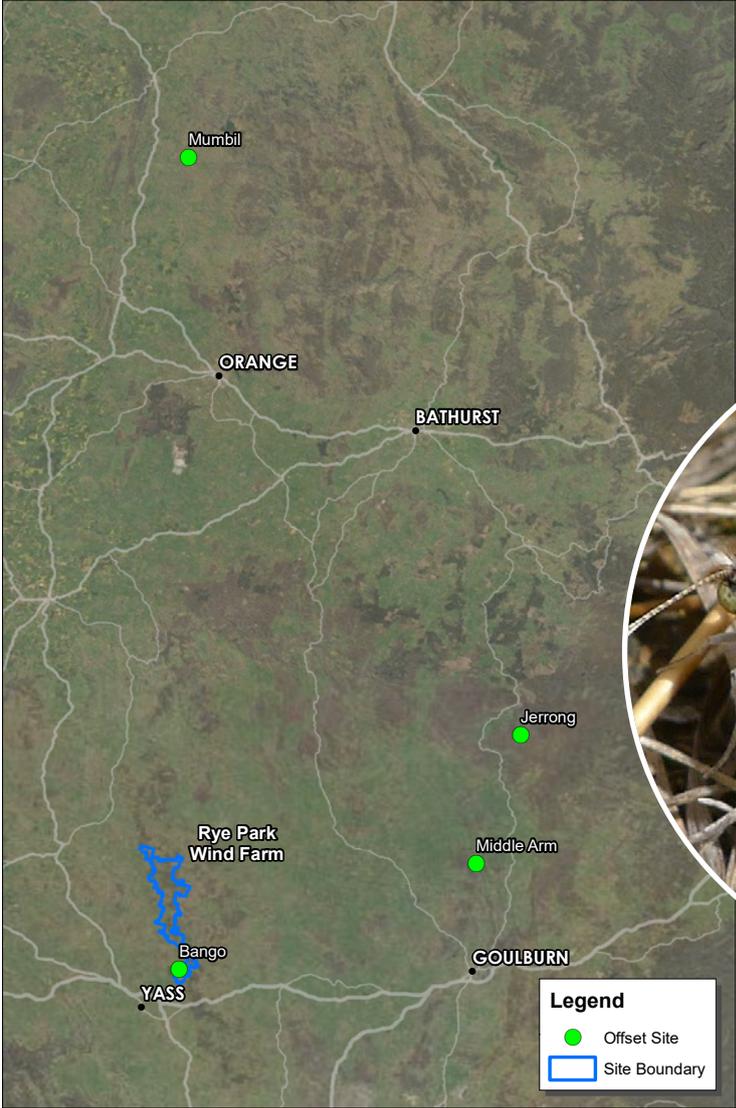
Tilt Renewables is required to offset impacts to vegetation communities and species associated with the wind farm development. In accordance with the Commonwealth approval for the Project, we have prepared an Offset Strategy that is available on the Tilt Renewables website. In line with the State requirements, prior to construction we have calculated the biodiversity offset credit liability for the Project and will review this based on the actual impact during the construction.

Within two years from the commencement of construction, we are required to retire the required biodiversity credits, to the satisfaction of the Biodiversity Conservation Service.

We are currently assessing options for securing land-based offsets and market credits for the credit liability of the Project and have to-date secured four properties to establish land-based Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements. These properties are located within the wind farm boundary at Bango and elsewhere within the relevant bioregions at Middle Arm, Jerrong and Mumbil.

We are undertaking further assessments regarding land-based offsets, securing credits available through existing stewardship sites and should credits not be attainable, Tilt Renewables will look to satisfy any outstanding liability by paying into the Biodiversity Conservation Fund.

Should any landowners in the region be interested in establishing a biodiversity stewardship site on their properties, we would encourage you to make contact with us to further explore any opportunities. We would be particularly interested in discussions with landowners around Brittle Gum Woodland vegetation communities and habitat for the Golden Sun Moth.



COMMUNITY

Welcome to new CCC members

At the start of the year the Project advertised three vacancies on the Community Consultative Committee (CCC). In adherence with the Department guidelines on the nomination process, the CCC Chair received the applications and provided recommendations to the Department for their consideration.

We extend a warm welcome to these new CCC members:

- Angus Mitchell (Boorowa local and Chair of the Boorowa Business Chamber)
- Claude Morson (Rye Park local and community representative)
- Michael Gilmour (Rye Park local and community representative)

We also wish to welcome the three new Councillors to the CCC:

- Hilltops Councillor – Cr John Piper
- Upper Lachlan Councillor – Mayor Pam Kensit
- Yass Valley Councillor – Cr Jim Abbey

Information on the CCC nomination process and guidelines can be found on the NSW Planning website:

<https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Assess-and-Regulate/Development-Assessment/Community-Consultative-Committees>



Attend the next CCC meeting as an Observer

Our next Rye Park Wind Farm CCC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 21 June 2022. If you are thinking about applying to be a community representative on the CCC or would generally like to attend as an Observer, please contact the Chair by emailing: David Johnson johnsons08@iinet.net.au

Alternatively, if you have comments you would like raised at the next CCC please let us know, or contact one of the members directly. CCC meetings are moving from quarterly to every second month during construction. Minutes from each meeting can be found on the Project website under 'Community'.



Seeking a minute taker

To assist the Chair in detailing an accurate account of CCC meetings, we are seeking a minute taker to attend meetings. Meetings run every second month, generally on a Tuesday evening in Yass, for around two hours.

The successful minute taker must be able to listen carefully, document clearly and understand the discussions, decisions and action items at the meeting. Minutes do not need to be verbatim but should capture the essence of the discussions in shorthand.

This work will be paid at an hourly rate. Please contact the Chair, David Johnson to discuss: johnsons08@iinet.net.au



BENEFIT SHARING UPDATE

As a long-term good corporate citizen, Tilt Renewables is committed to sharing and enhancing its host communities by offering community benefits for all of its projects, including the Rye Park Wind Farm project. The benefit sharing approach Tilt Renewables takes, focuses on three key areas: local, regional and educational benefits.

The objectives of the RPWF Benefit Sharing Plan are to:

- Ensure that the immediate RPWF community directly benefits from the presence of the Project in their community, during construction and into operations;
- Contribute towards broader public benefits and economic development that address the needs of the region throughout the lifecycle of the Project; and
- Create a legacy beyond the immediate project benefits of RPWF.

As part of the construction phase of the Project, we have committed to a number of programs that support the objectives of the Benefit Sharing Plan. An update on these is provided here.



Rye Park Food Van

We are pleased to confirm the donation of funds to the **Rye Park Rec Ground Management Committee** to purchase a food truck and coffee machine, with additional funds to make it an operational ‘mobile café’.

The village has welcomed an experienced operator who has moved to the community and is in the final stages of setting up operations. We look forward to being able to purchase a coffee and sandwich in the Rye Park village.





Study scholarships

We are also pleased to confirm the Rye Park Wind Farm bursary program with the **Boorowa and Yass Country Education Foundations**, for high-school leavers and/or trainees in the direct region. The three-year program will preference students who apply who live closest to Rye Park Wind Farm.

The program is set to launch in the coming month and will support education expenses for successful applicants over the next three years, with the view for it to continue under the Community Enhancement Funds during wind farm operations.

The local foundation (Yass and Boorowa) will select and allocate the scholarship(s) with a minimum value of \$2,500 per student. A total of \$10,000 is available under each foundation, per year for three years.



Support for the kids

With mental health a component of benefit sharing principles for Tilt Renewables, the Project is in the final stages of preparing an in-kind contribution to subsidise a mental health support program with local business, **AWI Consulting**, to help kids get the support they need, faster. The funds will cover the often-significant costs associated with undertaking psychological assessments and wellbeing workshops.

Extensive consultation has gone into the development of this mental health support initiative to support primary school students in the region. Tilt Renewables consulted with the CCC, Councillors, the Rye Park Progress Association, both the Boorowa Central and Rye Park Public School Principals, NACorp and other members of the local community. There is a shared belief that due to the uncertainties posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, this additional strain has affected the mental wellbeing of a growing number of students.

To be run over three-years as a pilot program with the view for it to be extended under the Community Enhancement Funds, funds will be available for local schools, such as Boorowa Central School, Rye Park Public School, St Joseph's School, Dalton Primary, and will undergo a selection process overseen by the School Counsellor. It is anticipated the program will launch in Term 2.

Employment opportunities

We are committed to employing local people and buying local wherever possible. Construction also provides an economic boost for regional communities by increasing demand for local goods and services, such as accommodation, hotels, restaurants and cafes.

Local subcontracts awarded recently, include:

- Kanga Hardware Boorowa
- Powderly's Pumping & Irrigation Services
- Right Switch Electrical
- Scott Reid Plumbing
- Wayne Apps Fencing
- Grazing Unlimited Rural Fencing
- Irrigear Yass
- Youngs Pumps & Poppers
- Overall Drilling
- Cleaner from Rye Park
- Luff Motors Toyota
- Active AG & Tyre Centre
- MA Steel
- Nutrien Ag



GOODS & SERVICES REGISTER



To register interest in providing goods or services for the Project, please hover over the QR code or visit the Rye Park project webpage www.ryeparkwf.com.au and complete the linked form under the Employment section.



Questions?

If you have any questions, get in touch by calling: **1800 WE TILT (938 458)**

Email: ryeparkwindfarm@tiltrenewables.com | Web: www.ryeparkwf.com.au

Postal Address: PO Box 16080 Collins St West, Melbourne Vic 8007