

St Patricks Plain Wind Farm Social and Economic Impact Assessment



As you may be aware, Epuron Projects Pty Ltd is proposing a wind farm on land at St Patricks Plains in the Central Highlands. The proposed site extends from 10 km South of Miena to 25 km north of Bothwell and is shown on the map inset below. The wind farm will involve up to 67 turbines and associated infrastructure and will connect into the existing electricity transmission network crossing the site.

The project requires approval from the Central Highlands Council, the Environment Protection Authority and the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, requiring preparation of an environmental impact statement. Currently a number of studies relating to flora and fauna, wedge-tailed eagles, traffic, heritage, socio-economic factors, noise and visual impacts are being undertaken for inclusion in the environmental impact statement.

pitt&sherry has been engaged by Epuron to prepare an assessment of the social and economic impacts of the proposed wind farm.

This assessment will consider the social or demographic characteristics of the population living in the vicinity of the proposal site, including any special characteristics which may make people more sensitive to impacts from the proposal than might otherwise be expected. It will include an assessment of impacts on local social amenity and community infrastructure, including recreational, cultural, health and sporting facilities and services which will form part of a wider analysis of the benefits and costs of the proposal.

As part of this assessment, we are seeking community feedback to inform the community profile and to gather information about community concerns or interest in the project.



Image courtesy of Epuron

Your comments are important to us. The design of the windfarm will be reviewed twice – once currently and again after completion of two years of on-site studies. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be lodged with the EPA and Council and in that document we will say how the issues and interests you have raised with us have been noted or reflected in either the design of the wind farm or the EIS document.

Epuron has undertaken informal engagement including:

- a community information session held at Steppes Hall in August 2019
- hosting an information stand at Bushfest Bothwell in November 2019
- held a community information day / public meeting at Miena Community Centre in February 2020
- publishing regular newsletters on the Epuron website and distributing these locally.

At each event the details of interested parties were voluntarily provided for follow up information and engagement and you have provided your details for further involvement. You are being contacted now to seek your formal comments for inclusion in the social and economic assessment.

Have Your Say

A feedback form is provided to assist with the collection of information which will be used in the assessment. This form can be completed electronically by saving a copy and sending to the email address below. **Please return this form by 18 September, 2020.**

Comments can also be provided:

- **By mail to:** Leigh Knight, pitt&sherry, PO Box 1409 Launceston TAS 7250
- **By email to:** info@pittsh.com.au
- **By phone:** by calling for Leigh Knight at pitt&sherry on 1300 748 874 to arrange a time to discuss the project.

This form is being sent to landowners, individuals who have expressed an interest previously and stakeholder groups. If part of a group please feel free to contribute as part of a group and as an individual if you choose. We are seeking to get feedback from a wide cross section of the community including seasonal occupants, permanent residents, hunters and fishing groups and would encourage you to pass this on to the others you know who may have an interest.

If you have any questions or would like more information you can contact me via 1300 748 874, or go to the Epuron website at <https://epuron.com.au/wind/st-patricks-plains/>.

Thank you very much for your ongoing assistance with this project.

Yours sincerely



Leigh Knight

Principal Environmental and Land Use Planner