Community encouraged to have its say on Gullen Range Wind Farm modification proposal

Gullen Range Wind Farm has lodged an application to modify its project approval after a Planning & Infrastructure (P&I) investigation found a number of the wind farm’s turbines were built in unauthorised locations.

P&I Executive Director Chris Wilson encouraged the community to have its say on the application, which will be on extended public exhibition from today until Friday 2 May.

Given the high level of community interest in the project, it is likely the final determination on the project will be made by the independent Planning Assessment Commission.

Mr Wilson said the P&I’s compliance investigation into the location of the turbines is ongoing and all enforcement options are still being considered.

In response to the investigation, the wind farm agreed to stop work on 16 turbines located closer to nearby residences.

The modification application seeks for the project approval to be updated to reflect the current locations of the wind farm’s turbines, as opposed to the locations in the previously approved site layout.

Mr Wilson said if P&I’s assessment finds that any of the relocated turbines are unacceptable, the agency will consider all of its options, including seeking rectification.

“Our assessment will identify the acceptability of the turbines in their current locations,” Mr Wilson said.

“In particular, we will be closely examining the potential visual and noise impacts on nearby properties.

“The community's input will be a vital part of our assessment and we encourage residents to review the proposal and send in their submissions during the extended public exhibition which starts today.”

Key NSW Government agencies and Upper Lachlan Council will also be consulted with during the assessment process.
The modification application can be viewed at: http://www.majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/.

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