

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **For Immediate Release**

#### **Crookwell High School Students energised by Visit to Australia's First Hybrid Wind and Solar Farm**

**7<sup>th</sup> July 2017, Sydney, Australia**

Forty Year 8 students from Crookwell High School recently visited Gullen Range Wind Farm and Gullen Solar Farm, as part of their Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) program. The students were given the opportunity to learn how Australia's first co-located wind and solar project will work, and experience what it's like to be up close to a wind turbine and a solar panel array.

Shining a light on solar power, students took part in a minibus tour of the 10MW Gullen Solar Farm, which was awarded a grant in 2016 from the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) and is due to commence operation in August. The students were also blown away during a wind farm tour, which involved looking inside a 2.5MW wind turbine.

Tim Mead, Project Manager of Gullen Solar Farm, said "It was fantastic to show our first group of school students around the nearly completed solar farm. There is so much to learn by looking at a project like this during its construction phase. The students were engaged and asked some great questions."

Students learned about the benefits of co-locating wind and solar plants, for instance making use of all of the hours where it is sunny but not windy. During a close-up inspection of a solar panel they learnt how it converts sunlight into electrical energy.

In addition to the site visit, Gullen Range Wind Farm has pledged funds to Crookwell High School for the purchase of STELR Wind Energy Equipment kits, which the students will use as part of their STEM program. Rebecca Dark, a teacher at Crookwell High School said, "The STEM program we have started at Crookwell High has piqued the students' interest in learning. As technology is advancing so quickly, we as educators have to prepare our students for jobs that don't currently exist. The aim of the STEM program at Crookwell is to teach students these future employability skills of communication, critical thinking, team work and creativity. It is powerful for students to learn STEM based concepts, directly relate them to real world applications and to also work with local and international businesses, as happened with our project with the Gullen Range Wind Farm."

The school visits are one of several initiatives Gullen Range Wind Farm has implemented to strengthen its commitment to the local community. For instance, the wind farm also runs a Clean Energy Program, where nearby residents are given grants to install solar panels or solar hot water systems on their houses.

Gullen Solar Farm is expected to produce approximately 22,000 megawatt-hours of clean, renewable energy each year, which is enough energy to supply approximately 3,100 average homes on an

average day of sunshine, adding to the approximately 60,000 plus homes already powered by Gullen Range Wind Farm on an average day of wind.

**ENDS**

About Gullen Range Wind Farm and Gullen Solar Farm

Gullen Range Wind Farm and Gullen Solar Farm are owned and operated by New Gullen Range Wind Farm Pty Ltd (NGRWF), a joint venture between Beijing Jingneng Clean Energy Co., Ltd. (75%) and Goldwind Capital Pty Ltd (25%).

Gullen Range Wind Farm is the largest operational wind farm in NSW. It is located in the Southern Tablelands approximately 11 km South of Crookwell and 32 km north west of Goulburn. Project approval was granted in 2010 for the 73-turbine wind farm. Electricity was first generated by the 165.5MW facility in 2013 and construction was completed in December 2014. Gullen Range Wind Farm generates enough renewable energy to service in excess of 60,000 homes on an average day of wind annually.

The Gullen Solar Farm project is the development of a 10MW (AC) solar photovoltaic (PV) power plant, which is co-located within the existing the Gullen Range Wind Farm. The development has received \$9.9 million in grant funding from ARENA. Elements of the Gullen Solar Farm infrastructure will be shared with Gullen Range Wind Farm, including grid connection, substation and access tracks.

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Images and Captions



Image 1: Year 8 Crookwell High School students (Photo: GRWF)



Image 2: Getting a sense of scale; how many students does it take to hug a turbine? (Photo: R. Dark)



Image 3: Crookwell High School students looking inside a wind turbine (Photo: R. Dark)