

Biodiversity *net-gain* strategy



Energy solutions that restore not just sustain

The Gawara Baya Biodiversity Net-Gain strategy represents a 20-year, voluntary and **beyond compliance** commitment by Windlab targeting an improvement to regional ecology of at least 10 per cent compared to pre-project conditions.

Gawara Baya will be the first renewable energy project in Australia to be delivered with a robust, measurable program for achieving biodiversity net-gain.

The strategy was developed in partnership with Aurecon, and will be implemented alongside leading regional conservation and land management

experts and Traditional Owners, the Gugu Badhun People.

Delivery of the strategy is underpinned by an initial \$4 million investment in ecological restoration and threat abatement initiatives, which will commence once the project reaches financial close.

The Gawara Baya Biodiversity Net-Gain strategy provides a leading-practice case study in how decarbonising Australia's energy system and protecting our unique ecology can be addressed in synergy to invert the curve of biodiversity decline much more effectively than conservation alone.

>20-year commitment

delivered over the life of the project

\$4 million

initial implementation investment

>10% improvement

in biodiversity at a landscape scale

10 key species

with targeted recovery actions delivering halo benefits for broader ecosystem

About Gawara Baya

Gawara Baya is a vital early-transition wind energy project that can be responsibly developed, grid connected via existing transmission infrastructure and producing power within the next few years.

Once operational, Gawara Baya will occupy less than 0.3 per cent of its cattle property location, while producing enough clean, low-cost energy to power one in nine Queensland households. The project's design is based on more than 8,000 hours of cross-seasonal ecological study and analysis, minimising impacts on local ecosystems.

Located within the Queensland Government's strategically critical North Queensland Renewable Energy Zone, Gawara Baya will displace more than 1.3 million tonnes of carbon from Queensland's energy generation profile every year.



400MW capacity



300 construction jobs



\$200k+ invested in community initiatives each year, for the life of the project



1.2 million tonnes of carbon eliminated from Queensland's energy generation profile every year



\$200 million+ regional economic contribution through local jobs, supply and contracts

An Australian first in a changing climate

Windlab understands quantifying and delivering biodiversity net-gain is highly complex. We are committed to ensuring our approach is based on more than assumptions.

Windlab's Gawara Baya Biodiversity Net-Gain strategy is the direct result of our values-based approach to development and our commitment to meaningful consultation.

Our journey to deliver the first verified biodiversity net-positive renewable energy project in Australia

started in early-2022. During a regular check in with a north Queensland-based conservation group, the organisation's director shared their vision of delivering rapid action on climate change that results in a 'net-gain' for biodiversity.

This passing comment shifted our thinking around how the holistic environmental value of our projects is quantified and measured, and led to the creation of a replicable framework that raises the bar for industry.

Progress, not platitudes

Quantifying and verifying biodiversity net-gain at Gawara Baya

Aurecon was engaged by Windlab in 2022 to develop a robust methodology, material targets, a quantifiable verification approach, and implementation pathways for Gawara Baya to achieve a biodiversity net-gain at a regional landscape scale.



Methodology

Establish robust approach to determine impacts and net-gain actions.

Our starting point was determined by establishing 'net-zero' – actions required to comprehensively address direct impacts of the project.

Existing threats were identified, and bespoke, pragmatic actions established to deliver tangible, measurable improvements.

Windlab is now securing large parcels of suitable land nearby where target species are present for net-gain ecological restoration and threat abatement programs.



Targets

Identify targets for net-gain and pathways to achieve targets.

The strategy uses a baseline target of a minimum 10 per cent* overall improvement for target species.

Three step-change pathways define short-, medium- and long-term implementation actions, with the cumulative effect of each phase increasing the likelihood of improvements beyond the minimum 10 per cent improvement.

*Australia does not currently have a net-gain target or guidance, so the target is based on the United Kingdom's 10 per cent mandate, which other regions are also expected to adopt.



Verification

Identify methods for verifying net-gain.

All actions are underpinned by a data capture and monitoring plan to enable robust, reliable and defensible reporting on the success of land management activities and progress towards net-gain.

The data capture and monitoring plan aligns with the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) requirements. While not currently required, Windlab is taking a values-based approach to ensure nature-related risks are being proactively addressed.



Delivery

20+ year implementation program in partnership with Traditional Owners and regional conservation experts.

Implementation of the Gawara Baya Biodiversity Net-Gain Strategy is a commitment for the full life of the project, underpinned by an initial \$4 million investment.

The strategy aligns with the intent of Windlab's Indigenous Land Use Agreement with the Gugu Badhun People. Traditional Owners will play a leading role in delivering the land management initiatives required to achieve biodiversity net-gain, supporting the reintegration of First Nations land management ingenuity and techniques into the landscape.