Trunkey Creek Community Q&A Summary

Thank you to everyone in Trunkey Creek who joined us at our Community Drop-In Session on 18 October 2025. It was a great opportunity to hear from locals directly, answer questions and discuss what the proposed The Pines Wind Farm project may mean for the region.

We have pulled together a summary of the key questions raised on the day, covering topics such as transport and traffic, environmental studies, contracts, safety and infrastructure.

If you have any further questions that are not covered below, please visit our FAQ and resources page or get in touch with our team on 1800 952 319 or contact@thepineswindfarm.com.au. We are always happy to chat.

Project Details

Q: How many turbines are expected in this area?
A: The project area extends to Triangle Flat Road, which serves as the project's boundary. A maximum of approximately 25 turbines is anticipated within this zone.

Q: What is the projected power output per turbine?
A: Each turbine is expected to generate 6-8 MW, which will capture enough annual energy to power approximately 5,000 homes each.

Q: What is the expected height and lifespan of the turbines?
A: Turbine height and design are determined by site conditions and current technology standards, with an absolute maximum of 300m to the tip of the turbine. The typical operational lifespan is around 35 years, after which decommissioning or repowering may occur.

Q: What happens at the end of the lifespan of the wind farm?
A: All infrastructure is removed at the end of the project's life, apart from turbine foundations which would remain in the ground with the top 1m removed to restore the ground to previous use. Around 85% of a turbine is currently recyclable, and turbine manufacturers have committed to 100% recyclability by 2040 (i.e. before the end of the life of this project).

Q: Who is responsible for decommissioning the turbines and funding it?
A: The project owner is responsible for decommissioning. A decommissioning fund is established during the operational phase to ensure sufficient resources are available for this process. This fund is not available to be used for anything other than decommissioning. The project's owner further guarantees decommissioning by providing the host landowner with a bank security for the cost of the decommissioning.

Environmental and Planning Considerations

Q: Where will the project source water for construction and operation?
A: Water resource studies are ongoing. Local water sources may be used if sustainable; otherwise, water will be trucked in. The project will not use streams directly for supply.

Q: Why are water studies not yet finalised?
A: Water sourcing and usage are thoroughly investigated as part of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process, which is currently in progress.

Q: What are the minimum setback distances from dwellings?
A: Setbacks are guided by both visual and noise criteria in accordance with the New South Wales Wind Energy Guidelines. For a 300m tall turbine, the statutory setback is 1.9km. Neighbours can choose to have a setback (between 1.9km and 1km) in return for higher goodwill payments from the project.

Q: The turbines proposed are larger than any others currently operating in Australia. How can you predict the noise that they will generate?
A: Before any turbine model is approved for use, a prototype is installed by the manufacturer and independently tested to measure its actual acoustic levels, power output, etc. These real-world measurements give us a verified acoustic profile for the turbine well before construction begins, which means we can accurately predict how it will perform on site. Turbines are an established technology with many, many thousands successfully installed globally each year.

Q: How can you be confident that the project will comply with noise limits at my house?
A: The NSW Wind Farm Guidelines set some of the most stringent acoustic limits in the world. Under these guidelines and NSW Planning laws, wind farms must meet a limit of 35 dB at nearby homes, unless a landowner voluntarily agrees to a higher limit under a Neighbour Deed. Using detailed modelling, we can reliably predict how sound will travel across the landscape. Should the project ever experience an unexpected exceedance of a required limit, modern turbines can easily reduce the sound produced by entering an operating mode that slightly reduces energy production in order to reduce the sound generated. The combination of industry experience, detailed modelling and the availability of reduced-sound mode as a back-up gives us full confidence that the project layout will comply with all sound limits.

Q: Do blocks with dwelling entitlements need to be taken into account for turbine setbacks?
A: Yes, dwelling entitlements need to be taken into account. Our Neighbour program only provides payments for existing habitable dwellings.

Q: How will vibration impacts be managed, especially near heritage buildings?
A: Construction-phase vibration studies will be conducted as part of the EIS. Heritage management plans will ensure adequate protection for listed historic structures. The NSW Government will assess both the EIS, and the Heritage management plan to ensure it will adequately protect listed heritage buildings.

Q: What is the risk of vibration from operating turbines?
A: Operational turbines generate negligible ground vibration.

Grid and Technical Questions

Q: Where does the generated power go?
A: Electricity generated will be fed into the National Electricity Market (NEM) and distributed throughout the grid.

Q: How do wind turbines perform relative to solar energy given variable local wind conditions?
A: Wind and solar power are typically anti-correlated – wind typically generates more in the evening, night and early morning, complimenting daytime solar power.

Q: What is the land take for a wind turbine?
A: A few hectares per turbine on average, including ancillary infrastructure such as access tracks. On a typical large-scale project, this is ~2-3% of the total land holding.

Q: When does the system convert from AC to DC power, and why isn't the substation closer to the load center?
A: Modern turbines create 33kV 50HZ AC power. This is transferred to the windfarm's 'collector stations' for conversion and connection to the local transmission system's high voltage. Location decisions are based on efficiency and grid compatibility, but power is always being transferred as AC before it is exported to the existing power system.

Q: Would an observatory be impacted by the project?
A: The project is liaising directly with local observatory operators to address and mitigate any potential electromagnetic interference, or visual interference.

Q: Is lighting required for the wind turbines?
A: The requirement for aviation safety and lighting is determined by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority and the NSW Department of Planning, Infrastructure and Environment.

Aviation safety risk is a key consideration in relation to local flight patterns and the proximity of proposed turbines to any airports. The Pines Wind Farm is not located near to any airports. We

understand that CASA has advised the nearby Paling Yards Wind Farm (in development) that lighting would not be required.

An aviation impact assessment will be completed to determine whether or not aviation safety lighting is required. In the case that lighting is required, this would likely be for turbines at the highest elevations, or at corners of the project. If required, any lighting on turbines would be the lowest intensity lighting possible.

We understand that the community does not want lighting, and we will be doing all we can to safely avoid the need for aviation lighting.

Safety and Risk Management

Q: What are the fire risks associated with turbines?
A: While turbine fire incidents are extremely rare (approximately 1 in 1,000 globally), risk mitigation includes asset protection zones, lightning protection systems and increased maintenance inspections, increased fire-fighting resources and operational curtailment in times of higher fire danger.

Importantly, lightning fires are the number one risk within the plantation right now, prior to the wind farm's installation. We are confident that the fire risk will be lower when the project is built because of wind turbines safely grounding lightning strikes that may have otherwise started fires in the plantation.

Q: Who is liable if a fire is started by the wind farm?
A: In the very unlikely event that a fire is started by the wind farm that causes damage to a 3rd party, the wind farm would be liable and carries extensive 3rd party liability insurance for that purpose.

Q: Who is liable if a neighbor starts a fire that damages the wind farm?
A: In the very unlikely event that a fire is started by a participant of the Near Neighbour program that damages the wind farm, the wind farm's insurance will also cover the participating Neighbour.

Q: How are biosecurity and land access managed?
A: All access to private land is only made with the express agreement of landholders. Biosecurity protocols will be established in collaboration with landowners to prevent contamination or disease transmission.

Q: What processes exist to protect residents from infrasound and potential litigation?
A: The project's host agreements include provisions fully protecting host landholders from any form of loss or costs, including from litigation, arising from the project being present on their land. In practical terms, history has shown that any such litigant would make a case directly

against the wind farm, rather than the host, given the typically larger economic resources of the wind farm and its direct ability to mitigate / remedy any alleged issues.

Neighbour Agreements

Q: Why have Neighbour Deed offers changed?
A: Contracts have been updated directly in response to community feedback at our 10 nearby neighbour drop-in sessions. Revised Neighbour Deeds have now been shared, and anyone within 3.5km of a turbine can request one. We are listening and acting to meet the community's needs.

Q: When will revised contracts be released?
A: Within a week of the event (they have now been provided or are available if requested).

Q: What happens if the project changes ownership?
A: Contractual obligations transfer with the project. All agreements include clauses ensuring landholder protections remain valid under any changed ownership.

Q: Who funds payments to hosts and neighbours?
A: Payments are made by the project itself as part of its community and landholder engagement commitments. Payments are funded by the sale of electricity.

Q: What happens after 35 years if the project is decommissioned and not repowered?
A: If the project is decommissioned, then Neighbour Deeds will automatically terminate.

Transport and Infrastructure

Q: Which transport routes will be used?
A: Transport routes are under assessment. Past projects used the Mid-Western Highway and nearby quarries for road materials. Final routes will be confirmed in the Traffic Management Plan (TMP).

Q: When will the TMP be publicly available?
A: The TMP will be released as part of the EIS documentation once finalised.

Q: How will waste be managed during construction?
A: A detailed Waste Management Plan will form part of the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), ensuring compliance with environmental standards.

We also understand that waste management, water management, accommodation are major topics for local Councils. We will work closely with local councils on these topics so that we can create an EIS that does not put undue pressure on council facilities.

Q: Will local roads be used for heavy transport?
A: Where feasible, internal access roads will be prioritised. Use of public roads will be subject to council and community consultation. The project will be planned to minimise travel distances during construction. If public roads are damaged, the project will commit to maintaining them, both during and at the end of construction.

Additional Questions

Q: How many workers will the project employ, and where will they live?
A: Workforce numbers are still being finalised but the expected peak during construction is 350 people. Accommodation options, including existing local facilities, are being explored and an Accommodation Strategy will be required.

One option for the project is high-quality workforce accommodation villages, which we think are likely for The Pines Wind Farm.

Q: What alternatives are being considered for the O'Connell Road route?
A: There are several routes under investigation. When a route is selected, we will announce it.

Q: Is there a minimum number of turbines required for project viability?
A: Yes, a minimum generation threshold is required for commercial feasibility, though specific figures depend on final design and financial modelling. From a commercial perspective, we are confident that the project is large enough to be viable.

Q: Will the project expand further west in the future?
A: No. The boundary along Triangle Flat Road is firm.