

# Project Update

thepines  
wind farm



18 March 2025

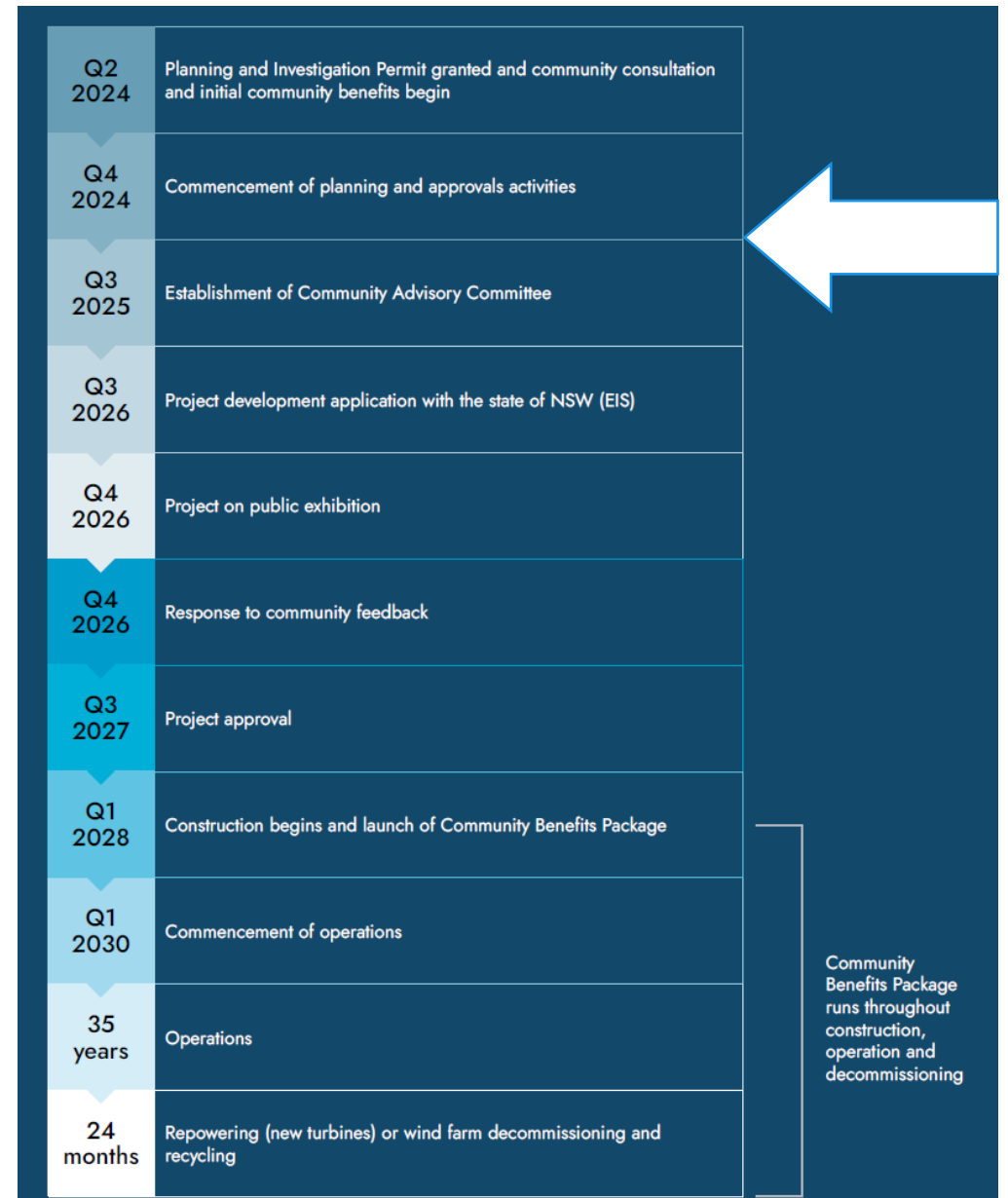
# Agenda

1. The Pines Wind Farm provide project updates to Council
2. The Pines Wind Farm team respond to written questions received from Council ahead of the meeting
3. The Pines Wind Farm team respond to questions from Council only that arise during the meeting
4. We set out actions for the following quarter.



# The Pines Wind Farm Timeline

- ▶ We are currently in the planning and approvals phase. This is expected to take 3-5 years to complete, before the construction phase begins
- ▶ Many questions from Council relate to detail that will be answered in the EIS. As the project is still at an early stage, we do not yet have all information necessary to answer all of the Council's questions.





## Community Consultation Snapshot

	Spicers Creek Wind Farm Status at Scoping Report Stage	The Pines Wind Farm (scoping report planned for late 2025)
Number of Drop in Sessions	1	8
Letter box drop campaigns	None reported	3
Logged/reported individual communications	241+	1154+ so far (note on average we are logging 5+ every working day)

### Notes:

1. All wind farms continue community consultation after scoping report, these numbers are for context
2. Spicers Creek was approved in October 2024



## Community Benefits

- ▶ During the planning and approvals stage, The Pines Wind Farm will be funding \$50,000 per year of community projects (2x\$25,000 rounds),
- ▶ Round 1 winners were: Black Springs Community Association, Burruga District Community Association, Burruga Sport and Recreation Club, Oberon United Football Club.
- ▶ Round 2 has just closed. We will be notifying winners soon
- ▶ Round 3 is open (closes 31<sup>st</sup> August)
- ▶ We have had 17 organisations put forward applications for grant funding in the first 2 rounds.





## Electricity Bill Credit

- ▶ Electricity Bill Credit of \$100 per year for all households in the Oberon LGA and some Bathurst suburbs (near MT David)
- ▶ This increases to \$250 per year for the life of the wind farm if we proceed to construction
- ▶ Submit you latest bill by email ([billpay@thepineswindfarm.com.au](mailto:billpay@thepineswindfarm.com.au)) and we will pay \$100
- ▶ You do not need change electricity provider

**So far more than \$15,100 worth of Oberon household electricity has been paid by the Pines Wind Farm. This represents 151 households (more than 10% of families 2021 Census)**

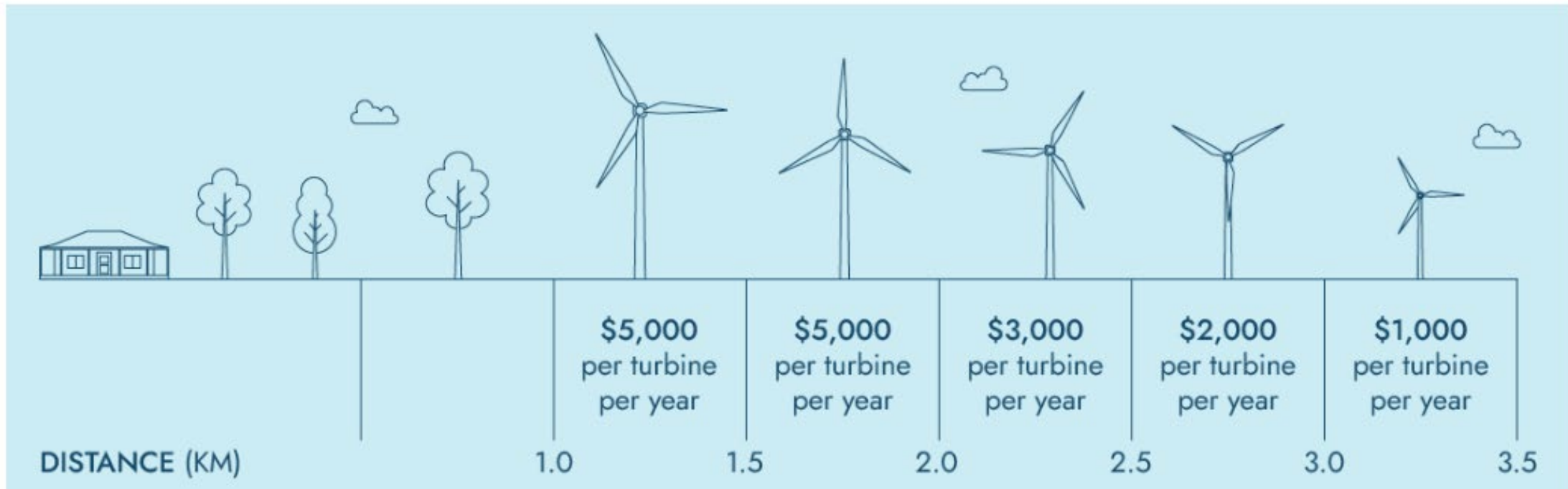




## \$100m Neighbour Benefit Program

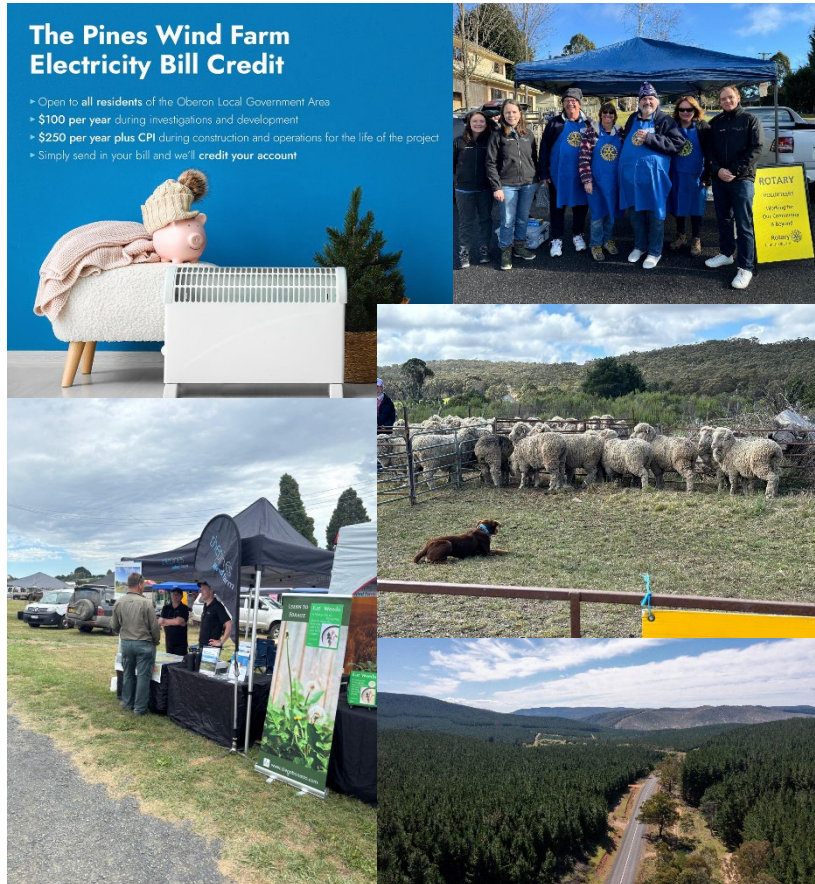
**Neighbours signing up for the neighbour benefits program will receive an average payment of \$500,000 per year over the 35-year project life**

- ▶ From the start of construction, every house within 3.5km of a wind turbine will be entitled to an annual payment
- ▶ Annual payments are calculated according to the number of wind turbines within 3.5km of the house, the proximity of wind turbines to the house, and an annual CPI increase starting from July this year.





## Additional benefits during construction & operation



- ▶ Under the NSW Guidelines, \$1050/MW of total community benefit sharing will be provided each year of the 35-year project life
- ▶ At 250 wind turbines this would amount to **\$1.89m** every single year going into the Oberon LGA and surrounding community throughout operations.
- ▶ Construction start will also trigger the increase in the Electricity Bill Credit program to \$250



## Major announcement – \$5m major projects fund



- ▶ TagEnergy is excited to announce a \$5m major projects fund for The Pines Wind Farm, that would commence at the start of construction
- ▶ The \$5m fund is for large projects in the Oberon LGA and surrounding regions that benefit the community
- ▶ A local advisory committee will be set up in 2025 to advise on where the \$5m would be best spent
- ▶ This fund is in addition to all other community benefit announcements that have been made in relation to the project



- ▶ TagEnergy is pleased to announce that it will fund fire-fighting support over the life of the project
- ▶ This funding will provide additional fire-fighting resources that will be available to increase capabilities in the region
- ▶ Stromlo and TagEnergy are seeking input on priority initiatives. We will be engaging with local brigades during the development of the project.

## Community Questions

- ▶ Funding
- ▶ \$100m neighbour payment
- ▶ Insurance
- ▶ Turbine lighting
- ▶ Sources of project funding
- ▶ Non-disclosure agreements
- ▶ Project lifetime (35 years)
- ▶ Funding of decommissioning



## How is the project funded?

Project Stage	Source of Funding
Prior to construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 100% TagEnergy equity</li></ul>
Construction & Operation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• X% TagEnergy equity</li><li>• Y% bank loans on commercial terms</li></ul>



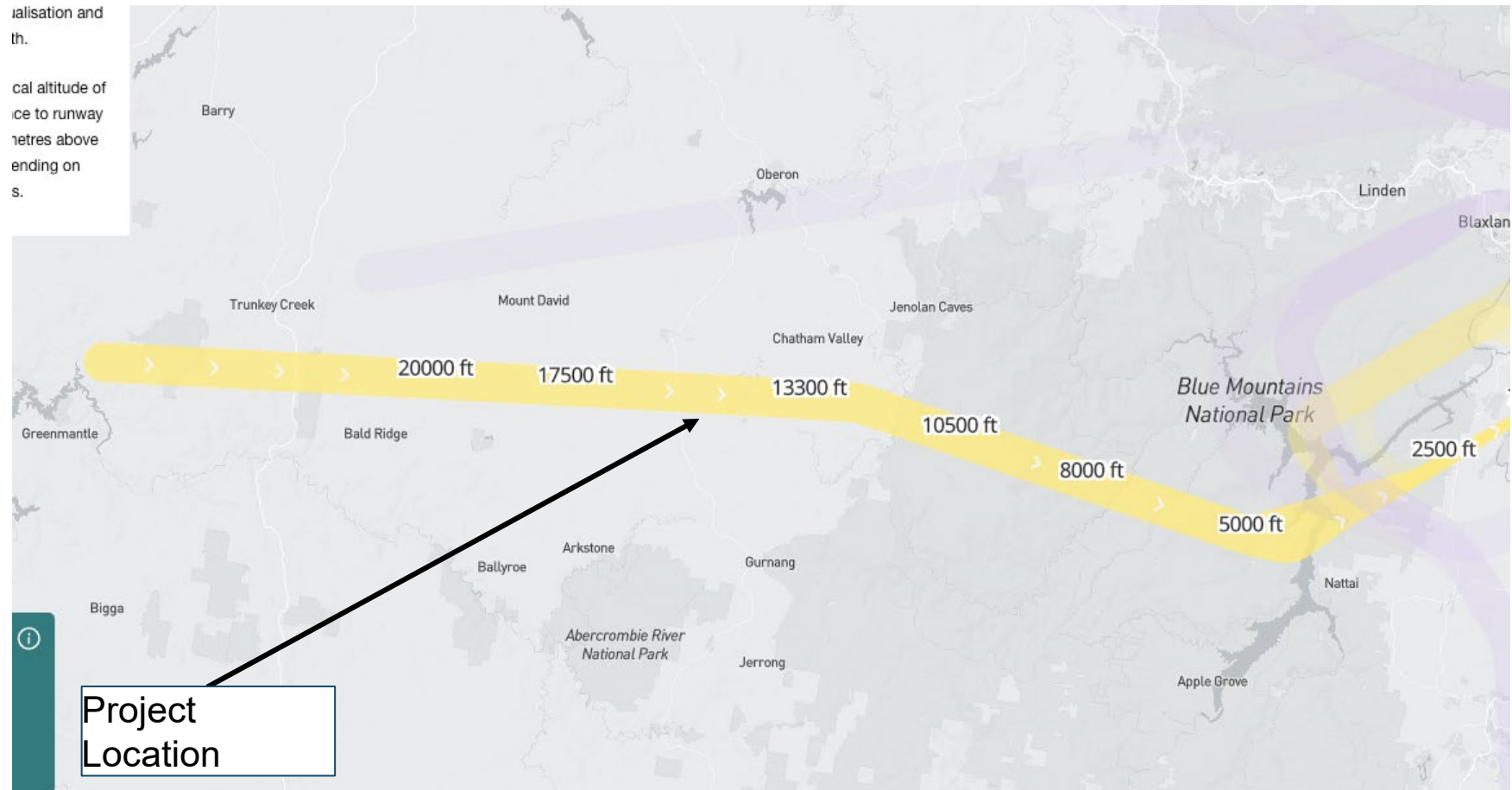
## The \$100,000,000 Neighbour Program is in addition to the \$1050/MW community benefits

- ▶ **In addition to \$1050/MW**
- ▶ **No NDAs:** Our neighbour deed does not require neighbours to enter into a non-disclosure obligation
- ▶ **Insurance:** A neighbour will be protected if they cause accidental damage to the wind farm
- ▶ **Property sale/subdivision:** A neighbour can always sell their property, but to make sure that benefits flow to a new buyer, there are forms that must be signed by the incoming buyer
- ▶ **Flexibility:**
  - **No additional impacts:** A neighbour can enter the agreement, with project impacts exactly in line with the minimum NSW guidelines,
  - **Higher Payments:** Many neighbours are accepting higher impacts and higher payments





- ▶ Western Sydney Airport flight paths ~ 13,000 – 20,000 ft above ground at windfarm area
- ▶ There will be no adverse interaction between the wind farm and these flight paths that will drive aviation lighting





- ▶ **Most wind farms do not have lighting:** However, lighting may be required, subject to a risk assessment, and any direction from DPHI.
- ▶ **No flashing lights:** Recent responses from CASA on wind farm projects specifically state that aviation lighting should not flash
- ▶ **Low intensity lighting:** Recent responses from CASA on wind farm projects propose 200 Candella aviation lighting (2500 lumens, same as a good hiking headlight and 10x less than shown)
- ▶ **Few turbines will be lit:** Purpose of lighting is to “identify the perimeter of the wind farm”\*
- ▶ **Shielding from the ground will be installed.** This reflects the a light horizontally and upwards from the turbine,



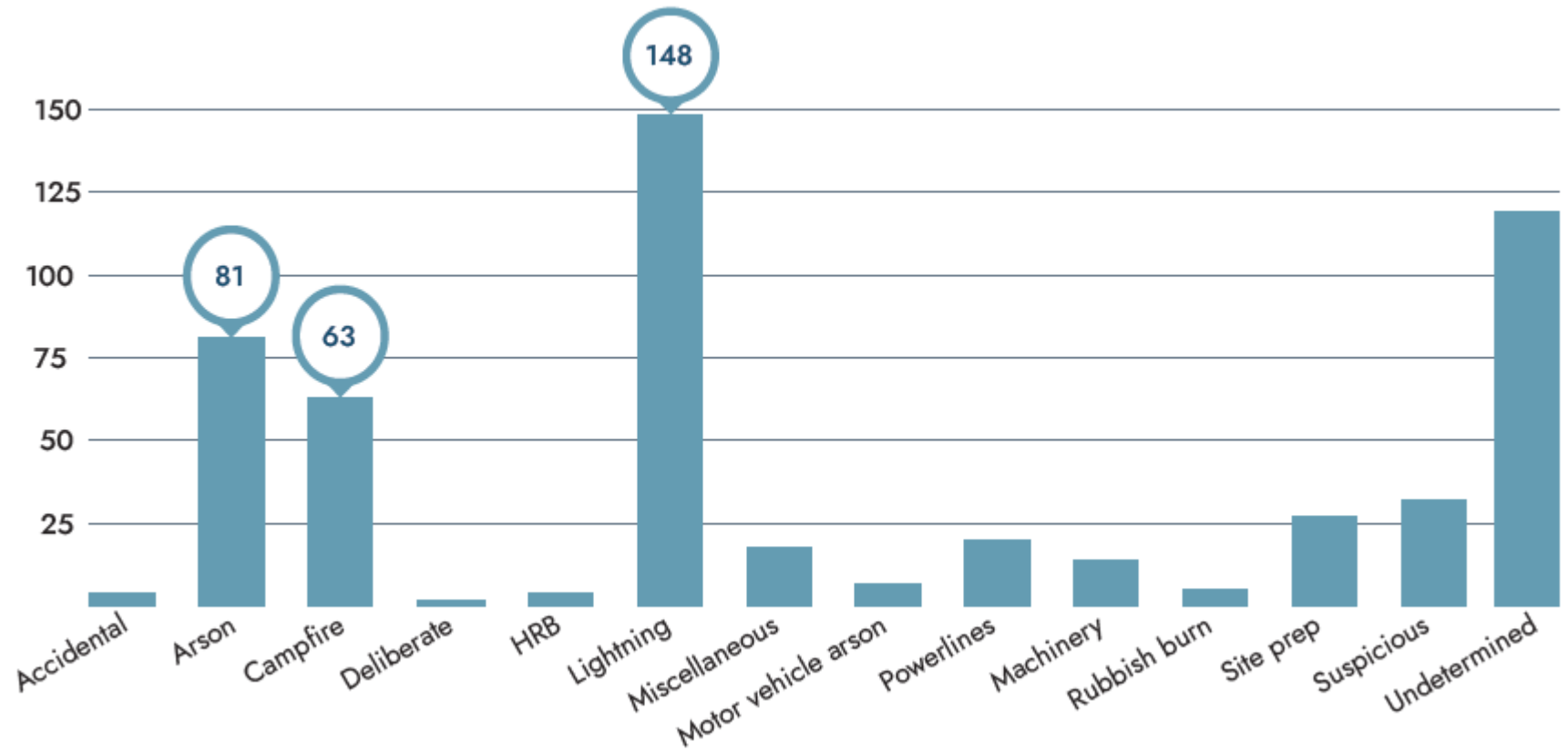
\*National Airport Safeguarding Framework (NASAF) Guidelines



## Risk of fire will be reduced with the wind farm

- ▶ Forestry Corporation of NSW keeps records of ignition sources for forest fires.
- ▶ Over the last 33 years, the three biggest identified ignition sources are **lightning, arson and campfire**.
- ▶ The Pines Wind Farm proposal will help reduce the run-away risk of all three fire sources:
  - **Lightning:** All Turbines will have IEC61400-24 certified lightning protection systems
  - **Arson & Campfires:** Project will be under 24 hour manned surveillance for early detection of run-away campfires and arson

Ignition Source Data for Bathurst Forest Protection Area since 1991





## Fire-fighting around wind turbines

- ▶ Wind turbines are treated like any other obstacle to be considered when planning flight paths during aerial application operations.

***“With windfarms you have to be mindful of the met’ towers but you know where the sub-station and wind towers are. Anticipate and understand the weather and fire behavior. I don’t see windfarms as any different from other fires in terms of our tactics, operations and how we go about it.”***

**– Commander Wayne Rigg**





## Decommissioning is fully-funded by the project

- ▶ **The Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner's estimates each wind turbine will cost \$400,000 - \$600,000 to decommission**
- ▶ **To pay for decommissioning, the wind farm company makes provisions during the operational phase of the project.**
- ▶ **This is the case for both Forestry land and Freehold Landholders who join the project.**



Response to Written  
Questions