



## Jim's Plain & Robbins Island Renewable Energy Parks

December 2020 project update

# Jim's approved; Robbins next

Undoubtedly, 2020 has been a challenging year and I hope this update finds you safe and well.

The Jim's Plain Renewable Energy Park was approved by the Australian Government in June, making it the third and final approval required for the project after the Tasmanian Environmental Protection Authority and Circular Head Council also approving the project. This is a significant milestone and we're very proud to achieve it.

I would like to thank the community for their valuable feedback so far. We have used your feedback in the preparation of the Robbins Island development application, which is now

under assessment. We expect the development application to be on public display early in the new year and we encourage you to give your feedback to the Circular Head Council during this period.

I'm also pleased to present our most recent photomontages of the transmission line taken from key viewpoints. We've shown them to the community during our most recent drop-in sessions and they have proved to be an excellent talking point to further understand what the transmission line will look like.

**David Pollington**  
Chief Operations Officer



## Transmission line update

Plant, animal and Aboriginal heritage field surveys along the transmission line route are nearly complete and we're on track to submit development applications to the three council areas (Circular Head, Waratah-Wynyard and Burnie) in early 2021.

We've been busy completing aerial surveys and analysis to identify where transmission towers may be visible in the surrounding landscape. This then allows us to develop photomontages, which involves combining two or more images to make one image and show how the towers and line will appear in the landscape, precisely matching between site photographs, 3D models and digital terrain models.

On the right are two photomontages of the transmission line taken from key viewpoints. They present what the towers and transmission line would look like once constructed.

For more information about our work on the analysis and photomontages, visit our website at [robbinsislandwindfarm.com/projects/transmission-line](http://robbinsislandwindfarm.com/projects/transmission-line).



Bens Hill Road (looking west)  
Proposed Transmission Line / Robbins Island Bridge / Robbins Island Windfarm WTG122



Roger River Road (looking WSW)  
Proposed Transmission Line

For more information visit  
[robbinsislandwindfarm.com](http://robbinsislandwindfarm.com)



# Our current work with eagles

Recently we contracted Tasmanian company Indicium Dynamics to fit remote cameras and sensors to the eagle nests on Robbins Island and the eagle nest closest to Jim's Plain. Our "Eagle Eyes" allow us to detect activity in real-time, indicating how active a nest is and if breeding is successful.

We've also been working with Dr James Pay of the University of Tasmania and plan to fit GPS trackers to two resident wedge-tailed eagles on Robbins Island (as

has recently been done at Musselroe Wind Farm). By doing this we'll better understand eagle behaviour and flight paths which will help determine where the turbines will be located on the island. This work contributes to a statewide eagle tracking initiative that will enable the eagle population to be estimated.

We're also consulting with experts and investigating the use of bird detecting technologies, such as radar and cameras, to minimise any collisions.



A pair of sea eagles on a nest (left) and a pair of wedge-tailed eagles on a nest (right), both on Robbins Island.

## Training for the future

We're working with Hellyer College in Burnie who are establishing the Certificate II in Sustainable Energy qualification. As well as providing financial support to purchase equipment for the course, we're offering in-kind support to help students understand the opportunities that exist in renewable energy.

We have also donated anemometers, which are critical devices for measuring wind speed and direction, to enable more hands-on learning.

As part of their studies, students will focus on solutions for energy reduction in homes and explore how the energy sector can support sustainable energy practices within the community. Successful completion of the course will give students the basic skills and knowledge required to gain an entry-level position in any electrotechnology or sustainable energy field.

Currently the qualification is only offered in conjunction with Certificate II in Electrotechnology, so supporting the establishment of Certificate II in Sustainable Energy will enable more students to participate in this qualification.

We expect the course to be ready in time for the 2021 school year.

## Invest in our projects

We're exploring options for the community to co-invest in the Renewable Energy Parks.

Community co-investment is where a community invests in a renewable energy asset and in return acquires rights to a portion of the earnings but has no decision-making power or control over the operation of the project.

Currently, there are few direct investment opportunities in renewable energy as ethical or environmental funds are yet to create investment opportunities that meet the demands of potential investors.

We believe co-investment would create a direct connection between the Renewable Energy Parks and the local community; delivering benefits in the form of financial returns and a way to support the move to a lower carbon economy.

An example of this in Australia is at Sapphire Wind Farm in New South Wales ([sapphirewindfarm.com.au](http://sapphirewindfarm.com.au)), which opened to co-investment in late 2018.

We'd like to hear your thoughts on co-investment and if you'd consider participating. Give us your feedback by emailing us at [participate@upc-ac.com](mailto:participate@upc-ac.com), calling us on **+61 3 6432 7999** or seeing us in person at 86 Emmett Street.

*Source: A Guide to Benefit Sharing Options for Renewable Energy Projects, Clean Energy Council, October 2019.*



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UPC/AC  
Renewables  
Australia





The township of Smithton.

## Benefits to the community

Our goal is to develop a positive and lasting partnership with communities in Circular Head and Waratah-Wynyard. We have three strategies to do this:

1. Establish a Committee to run the Community Partnership Fund
2. Establish a UPC Managed Fund
3. Employ and buy locally wherever possible

The Committee will act as a conduit between the community and UPC and will share information, provide feedback and help to resolve issues during critical stages of development. The Committee will also be responsible for sharing the benefits of the project with the community through the Community Partnership Fund.

The Committee will determine how and to whom the funds will be distributed to. For every 1MW, we're

proposing to contribute \$750 a year to the Community Partnership Fund and up to \$250 a year to the UPC Managed Fund. At full development the contribution to the Community Partnership Fund will be up to \$675,000 a year and the contribution to the UPC Managed Fund will be up to \$225,000 a year (based on the Renewable Energy Parks generating 900MW).

Another option we're considering is for the Community Partnership Fund to be managed by a committee that other organisations can contribute to, such as other businesses in the area.

We're proposing the Committee will be made up of representatives from Circular Head and Waratah-Wynyard. What do you think? What do you see as being the best fit for the Circular Head and Waratah-Wynyard communities?

## Visit us in Smithton

Our Smithton office is open again – Wednesday to Friday between 10am and 2pm.

Stopping by is a great way for us to better explain the Renewable Energy Parks to you and we always love an excuse for a cuppa!

So come and see us in person at 86 Emmett Street, Smithton.

If you can't see us in person you can email us at [participate@upc-ac.com](mailto:participate@upc-ac.com) or call us on +61 3 6432 7999.



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