

## Call for submissions – Forest Wind Farm Development Bill 2020

### Submission Comments:

The Forest Wind Project located within the Gympie and Maryborough Regions plans to be one of the largest onshore wind farms in the Southern Hemisphere. Positioned on government-owned forestry land in Queensland's Wide Bay-Burnett region.

The project is a joint venture between global company Siemens and project Queensland renewables entity Clean Sight, now poised to enter the stages of consultation and process planning. The \$2 billion project proposes to install up to 226 turbines in state forest currently utilised as forestry plantations between the locations of Gympie and Maryborough.

Following state approval, the 1200MW Forest Wind project has the potential to supply one in four homes in Queensland and be one of the largest grid-connected wind farms in the Southern Hemisphere. The Woolooga Sub-Station located in the Gympie Region will be the conduit to the grid, and major distribution point in the south-east Qld electricity network, powering opportunities for Queensland into the future. The project will potentially secure 50% of Queensland's target for renewables by 2030 and contribute 1/10 of Australia's Renewable Energy Target

The Gympie and Wide Bay-Burnett economies stand to benefit from:

- Going a long way in achieving the Gympie Region energy target;
- Provide impetus into the local economy;
- Working with the First Nations People to achieve improved economic and employment outcomes;
- Construction stages to provide in excess of 400 jobs, Operational stage in excess of 40 ongoing jobs;
- Gympie businesses working with global engineering group, Siemens;
- Gympie businesses working as Tier 3 and 4 suppliers with Siemens sub-contractors;
- Bringing specialised skills to the region;
- Bringing world recognised renewable energy technologies to the Gympie Region;
- Potential to further develop the renewable sector in the Gympie Region, through product innovation and supply;
- Encourages the local tertiary institutions to offer training that meet the local skill demands;
- Improved upskilling opportunities for the local workforce;

- Opportunities for other sectors to work in partnership Siemens subcontractors, ie: construction suppliers, transport & haulage, logistics, hospitality, accommodation, etc;
- Incentive for project suppliers to be located in Gympie, potentially relocating their businesses;
- Opportunity to host renewable energy tours, attracting visitors to the region;
- Place downward pressure on electricity prices in the local region and Queensland;
- Placing Gympie on the world stage as the major renewable energy sector location in Australia, and
- Supports the intent of the Gympie Region Economic Development and Investment Strategy and Tourism Strategy.

The Forest Wind Project is an important investment in the Gympie and Wide Bay-Burnett regions, towards getting both economies moving again. The \$2 billion project will through its 3 - 4-year development and implementation stages provide immense economic value and benefits to the Gympie economy and community.

From a sustainability perspective the Forest Wind Project supports Gympie Regional Council's policy and strategy positions, including:

- The 'Sustainability Policy' commits Council to "achieve climate change mitigation by reducing greenhouse gas emissions through the application of sustainable energy practices and low emission technology across corporate operations and the community" and to "supporting sustainability improvements in - renewable energy".
- The 'Environment Strategy' commits to ensuring "greenhouse gas emissions are minimised and our region is resilient to climate change" and to "investigate opportunities for the development of renewable energy facilities in the region".

#### Submission Comments:

Provided by: Will Gerhard

Position: Senior Advisor, Economic Development / Gympie Futures  
Gympie Regional Council

Address: [REDACTED]

Postal address: [REDACTED]

Contact: Ph: [REDACTED] Email: [REDACTED]