



Monday, 8 June 2020

State Development, Tourism, Innovation and Manufacturing Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000  
[sdtimc@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:sdtimc@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Dear Committee Secretary,

**RE: Forest Wind Farm Development Bill 2020**

Gympie Regional Council wishes to express in principle support for the proposed Forest Wind Farm Development Bill 2020. Council supports the Bill's intention to provide access to land and facilitate tenure for a major renewable energy project to occur within the Toolara, Tuan and Neerdie State forests, and to provide for the renewable energy project to coexist with the plantation licence.

Gympie Regional Council recently submitted feedback on the Forest Wind "Material change of use for a wind farm (up to 226 wind turbines) and ancillary uses" application (SARA reference: 1912-14632 SDA). Forest Wind provided a detailed and appropriate response to Council's submission.

The \$2 billion Forest Wind Project (a joint venture between global company Siemens and Queensland renewables entity Clean Sight), proposes to install up to 226 turbines in state forest located within the Gympie and Maryborough Regions. The project has the potential to supply sufficient electricity for one in four homes in Queensland and would 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 Queensland electricity network, powering opportunities for Queensland into the future.

The Forest Wind project is an important economic investment in the Gympie and Wide Bay-Burnett regions. Through its 3 - 4 year development and implementation stages, this \$2 billion project will provide immense economic value and benefits to the Gympie economy and community. The Gympie and Wide Bay-Burnett local economies stand to benefit from the Forest Wind project in numerous ways, including:

- 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 50 ongoing jobs
- Gympie businesses working with global engineering group, Siemens

Note: Submission not endorsed by Gympie Regional Council. See correspondence from Mayor Hartwick, dated 10 July 2020 - <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/documents/committees/SDTIMC/2020/ForestWindFarmDB20/cor-10Jul2020.pdf>



- Gympie businesses working as Tier 3 and 4 suppliers with Siemens sub-contractors
- Bringing specialised skills to the region and 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
- Encouragement for 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 with Siemens subcontractors, for example construction suppliers, transport & haulage, logistics, hospitality, and accommodation
- Incentive for project suppliers to be located in Gympie, potentially relocating their businesses
- Opportunity to host renewable energy tours, attracting visitors to the region
- Placing downward pressure on electricity prices in the local region and Queensland
- Placing Gympie on the world stage as a major renewable energy sector location in Australia.

It is acknowledged that the Forest Wind project will potentially secure 50% of Queensland's target for renewables by 2030 and contribute 10% of Australia's Renewable Energy Target. The project will also support Gympie Regional Council's renewable energy and carbon emissions policy and strategy positions, including:

- Gympie Regional Council's Sustainability Policy commitment to "achieve climate change mitigation by reducing greenhouse gas emissions through the application of sustainable energy practices and low emission technology" and to "support sustainability improvements in renewable energy".
- Gympie Regional Council's Environment Strategy commitment to ensure "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".

Kind Regards,

Dale Watson  
COORDINATOR SUSTAINABILITY

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