



## 11.0 Consultation

CWF Project understands the importance and benefits to all parties of effective, comprehensive and meaningful consultation, and the Project team includes community engagement specialists. The Project team has been engaged in consultation with stakeholders and members of the local community since initial monitoring of the wind resource on host properties in 2017.

A comprehensive Stakeholder and Community Engagement Plan (SCEP) was developed during the feasibility stage to guide consultation activity, and where possible CWF has sought to incorporate stakeholder and community input into the proposal to improve Project outcomes and community benefits. This process is ongoing. The following section outlines consultation undertaken to date and up to lodgement of this PER.

### 11.1 Consultation Approach

#### 11.1.1 IAP2 Framework


CWF Project's approach to consultation is informed by the International Association for Public Participation's (IAP2) Core Values and Public Participation Spectrum (see **Plate 11-1**). IAP2's approach is widely accepted as the leading practice for good engagement.

The IAP2 Core Values for Public Participation define the expectations and aspirations of the process and state that public participation:

1. Is based on the belief that those who are affected by a decision have a right to be involved in the decision-making process.
2. Includes the promise that the public's contribution will influence the decision.
3. Promotes sustainable decisions by recognising and communicating the needs and interests of all participants, including decision-makers.
4. Seeks out and facilitates the involvement of those potentially affected by or interested in a decision.
5. Seeks input from participants in designing how they participate.
6. Provides participants with the information they need to participate in a meaningful way.
7. Communicates to participants how their input impacted or changed the decision.

The approach centres on achieving good community-based outcomes and can be described as genuine, timely, relevant, transparent and inclusive.



		INCREASING IMPACT ON THE DECISION 				
		INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GOAL		To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.	To place final decision making in the hands of the public.
	PROMISE TO THE PUBLIC	We will keep you informed.	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will look to you for advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.	We will implement what you decide.

**Plate 11-1 IAP2 Core Values and Public Participation Spectrum**

### 11.1.2 Best Practice Charter and Social Licence

Ark Energy is a signatory to the Clean Energy Council’s (CEC) ‘Best Practice Charter for Renewable Energy Projects’, a voluntary commitment to engage respectfully with communities, be sensitive to environmental and cultural values, and make a positive contribution to the regions in which it operates. Charter commitments are:

1. We will engage respectfully with the local community, including Traditional Owners of the land, to seek their views and input before submitting a development application and finalising the design of the Project.
2. We will provide timely information and be accessible and responsive in addressing the local community’s feedback and concerns throughout the lifetime of the Project.
3. We will be sensitive to areas of high biodiversity, cultural and landscape value in the design and operation of Projects.
4. We will minimise the impacts on highly productive agricultural land and explore opportunities to integrate agricultural production.
5. We will consult the community on the potential visual, noise, traffic and other impacts of the Project, and on the mitigation options.
6. We will support the local economy by providing local employment and procurement opportunities.
7. We will offer communities the opportunity to share in the benefits of the project, and consult them on the options available, including the relevant governance arrangements.



8. We commit to using the project to support educational and tourism opportunities where appropriate.
9. We will demonstrate responsible land stewardship over the life of the project and welcome opportunities to enhance the ecological, cultural and/or agricultural value of the land.
10. During the life of the project, we will recycle waste materials where feasible and commit to responsible decommissioning or refurbishment/repowering of the site at the end of the project's life.

Ark Energy advocates a social licence to operate based on the accepted industry definition:

"A level of acceptance or approval continually granted to an organisation's operations or Project by the local community." – From Boutilier, R. G., and Thomson, I. (2011)

### 11.1.3 Industry Guidelines

In undertaking consultation for the Project, CWF has taken guidance from:

- [Clean Energy Council's Community Engagement Guidelines for the Australia Wind Industry \(2018\)](#)
- [Clean Energy Council's Best Practice Guidelines for Implementation of Wind Energy Projects in Australia \(2018\)](#)
- [Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner's Observations and Recommendations for Community Engagement \(2021\)](#)
- [Clean Energy Council's Enhancing Positive Social Outcomes from Wind Farm Development Report \(2018\)](#) and associated briefing papers.

### 11.1.4 Principles

In undertaking consultation for the Project CWF has observed the four key principles identified in the CEC's Guidelines, as described below.

#### 11.1.4.1 Openness

This means sharing relevant information about decisions and activities in a way that is:

- Clear, so any person can understand it.
- Accurate, so it is consistent and complete.
- Timely, so it is available when requested and can be used to make decisions.
- Honest, so information is available to avoid misleading assumptions.

#### 11.1.4.2 Inclusiveness

This involves identifying and interacting with all stakeholders to ensure their perspectives are understood and taken into consideration. This means that all relevant groups who are potentially affected by the Project have the opportunity to communicate their opinions, expectations, needs and concerns. Inclusiveness also means providing the appropriate channels and opportunities to participate in activities related to the Project and the decision-making processes.



### 11.1.4.3 Responsiveness

This involves listening and responding to community concerns and needs, respecting that every individual has the right to ask reasonable questions about the Project and expect a response. It involves providing mechanisms to collect questions and provide answers in an open and timely manner. Responses are factual, reflect independent information and involve third parties where relevant.

### 11.1.4.4 Accountability

This involves the ongoing process of monitoring, evaluating and disclosing information about activities, and the positive and negative impacts. Accountability means establishing systems to track and communicate decisions, policies, activities and performance over time in a balanced, comparable, reliable, accurate and clear manner, and being proactive to prevent possible risks and mitigate potential negative impacts as consequences of decisions made and activities implemented.

## 11.1.5 Priorities

Stage priorities for consultation, as identified in the CEC Guidelines, as described below.

### 11.1.5.1 Site selection

- **Priorities:** Understand the social context around the site, mapping and profiling key stakeholders and community concerns. This involved:
  - Initial engagement with key stakeholders including landowners, Traditional Owners, Tablelands Regional Council and consent authorities.
  - Introducing the Project to key stakeholders, explaining opportunities for input and the potential benefits.
  - Providing key stakeholders with clear and timely information on the status of the Project and consulting them on issues that might be of interest or relevant to them.

### 11.1.5.2 Feasibility

- **Priorities:** Prepare a detailed community and stakeholder engagement plan, introduce the Project to the broader local community and establish two-way communication channels, document interactions, and where practicable factor community input into the decision-making process. This involved:
  - Setting up a dedicated Project information website and contact details.
  - Providing ongoing and multiple channels for feedback.
  - Developing a deeper understanding of the expectations and concerns in the community.
  - Continuing to provide clear and timely information on the status of the Project to all stakeholders, and consulting and reporting on issues of interest.



### 11.1.5.3 Planning and assessment

- Priorities: Creating opportunities for input by maintaining and expanding communication channels, establishing mechanisms to gather and respond to feedback, and keeping stakeholders and communities up-to-date with Project planning and submission. This has involved:
  - Creating more opportunities for interactions and feedback.
  - Continuing to provide clear and timely information to all stakeholders, and consulting and reporting on issues of interest.
  - Open and proactive dialogue to address any questions via various methods and tools.

### 11.1.6 Goals and Commitments

CWF's goals for consultation have been to:

- Ensure all stakeholders and the community are well informed and kept up to date on Project status and developments.
- Obtain feedback and provide ample opportunities for all stakeholders and the community to communicate their views, concerns and aspirations for the Project.
- Address any stakeholder or community issues or concerns promptly.
- Work to minimise the impacts and maximise the benefits of the Project for the local community.
- Wherever possible utilise stakeholder and community input to optimise the design of the Project.

CWF's commitments for consultation have been to:

- Be proactive – connect with stakeholders and communities early in the process and regularly share information so they know what is happening and how they can interact with CWF and provide feedback on the Project.
- Be transparent – be honest and ethical in our dealings with all.
- Seek solutions – engage to understand and explore ways to minimise impacts and maximise the benefits of the Project.
- Be flexible and inclusive – ensure that our engagement provides opportunities for all stakeholders and community members to have access to information and Project personnel.
- Continually improve – evaluate the effectiveness of engagement and iteratively adapt the approach and activities as required.

## 11.2 Identification of Affected Parties

The SCEP identified a range of stakeholders likely to have an interest in the CWF Project.

The Project area involves two station properties, one Native Title claimant and is in a sparsely populated regional area of northern Queensland. The nearest townships are 10-15 km north of the site and include Ravenshoe (pop. 1400), Millstream (pop. 1246) and Innot Hot Springs (pop. 177).



According to the 2016 Census Ravenshoe's population has comparatively high percentages of residents who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (13.8%). It also has a comparatively high rate of unemployment (16.5%), with the main areas of employment in grocery stores, accommodation, education and farming (refer to **Section 13.1** for further details).

The eastern boundary of the Project area is adjacent to the boundary of Tully Falls National Park (with a minimum buffer of 600m between Project infrastructure and the protected area boundary), part of the WTQWHA. There are a number of land management and wildlife conservation stakeholders for the area as well as a local community who have chosen to live adjacent to these areas due to their ecological, amenity, recreational and cultural values.

Socio-economic opportunities and ecological impacts are two key concerns for local community members and some are opposed to renewable energy Project development in the area due to concerns about impacts to the natural environment and wildlife or the cumulative impacts of projects in the Queensland Government identified Northern Queensland Renewable Energy Zone.

The Project is located in the Tablelands Regional Council (TRC) local government area and TRC considers the Project an important opportunity for the area.

Identified stakeholders include:

- Involved and nearby residents and property owners
  - Involved landowners hosting infrastructure and easements
  - Residents and property owners of adjoining properties
  - Residents and property owners along the access and transportation route.
- Traditional Owners and legal representatives
  - Applicants to the Jirrbal People #4 Native Title claim
  - Wabubadda (Jirrbal) Aboriginal Corporation (WAC) RNTBC
  - North Queensland Land Council (NQLC) as legal representative
- Local community - residents and members of
  - Ravenshoe – est pop 1,400
  - Millstream – est pop 1,246
  - Innot Hot Springs – est pop 177
- Community and business organisations
  - Ravenshoe Community Centre
  - Ravenshoe & District Chamber of Commerce
  - Atherton Tablelands Chamber of Commerce
  - Tablelands Futures Corporation
- Environmental stakeholders and community groups – including but not limited to:
  - Cairns and Far North Environment Centre (CAFNEC)



- Terrain Natural Resource Management (NRM)
- Herbert River Catchment Landcare Group
- Friends of the Earth – Far North Queensland
- Bush Heritage Australia
- Queensland Conservation Council
- Capricorn Conservation Council
- Trees for the Evelyn and Atherton Tablelands (TREAT)
- Tree-Kangaroo & Mammal Group (TKMG)
- Bats and Trees Society of Cairns
- Magnificent Brood Frog Working Group
- Rainforest Reserves
- Opponents/opposition groups:
  - Stop Chalumbin Wind Farm
  - Keep Chalumbin Wild
  - Rainforest Reserves Australia.
- Local media:
  - *Ravenshoe & District Weekly*
  - *The Express*
  - *Cairns Post*
  - ABC Far North Queensland
  - Ravenshoe Community Notice Board Facebook page
- Government authorities and agencies
  - DCCEEW
  - Queensland Government State Assessment and Referral Agency (SARA)
  - Queensland Government Department of Resources (DoR)
  - Queensland Government Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (DSDILGP)
  - Queensland Fire and Emergency Services
  - Queensland Police Service
  - Queensland Government Department of Transport and Main Roads



- Queensland Government Department of Environment and Science (Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service)
- Wet Tropics Management Authority (WTMA)
- Civil Aviation Safety Authority
- Airservices Australia
- Government - Elected representatives
  - Federal
    - Minister for Climate Change and Energy, Hon Chris Bowen MP.
    - Minister for the Environment and Water, Hon Tanya Plibersek MP.
    - Member for Kennedy, Hon Bob Katter MP.
    - Member for Leichhardt, Hon Warren Entsch MP.
  - State
    - Member for Hill, Shane Knuth MP (Katter's Australia Party)
    - Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning, Hon Steven Miles MP.
    - Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen, Hon Mick de Brenni MP.
  - Local
    - Tablelands Regional Council - Rod Marti, Mayor; Annette Haydon, Division 2
- Transmission
  - Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO)
  - Powerlink Queensland

## 11.3 Consultation to Date

### 11.3.1 Methods

CWF has utilised a variety of channels and methods for consultation.

#### 11.3.1.1 Dedicated Communication Channels

CWF has a dedicated email address [info@chalumbinwindfarm.com.au](mailto:info@chalumbinwindfarm.com.au) and a 1800 number. These divert to members of the project team. Enquiries are responded to directly via telephone or email, generally within 48 hours.

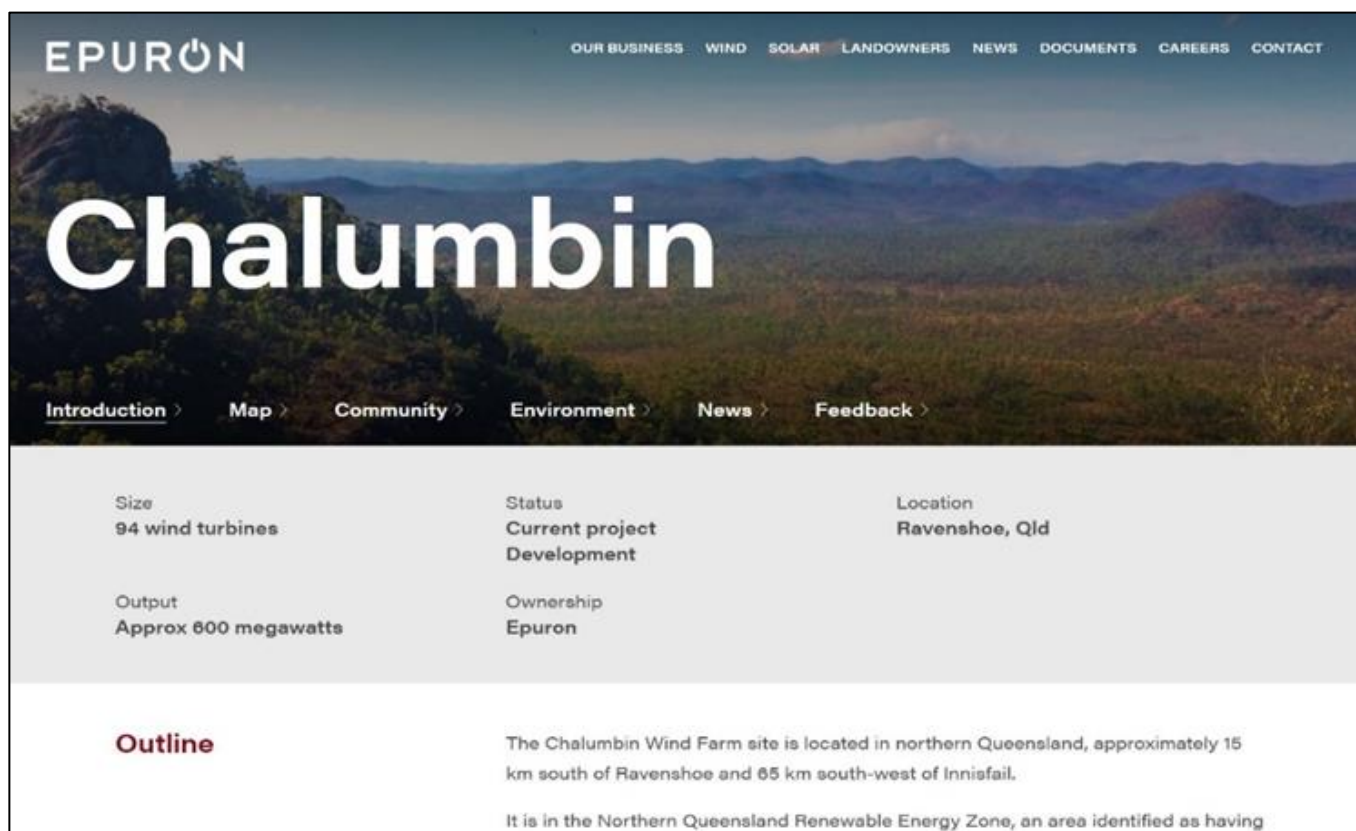
#### 11.3.1.2 Website

<http://chalumbinwindfarm.com.au>





The Project has a website under the domain name [www.chalumbinwindfarm.com.au](http://www.chalumbinwindfarm.com.au) (see **Plate 11-2**). The website address has been promoted through all communications. It provides a project overview, maps, archive of published newsletters and information documents, and a form to register for project updates. Dedicated pages provide details of community engagement, ecological assessment work and an online feedback form.



**Plate 11-2 Project website landing page**

### 11.3.1.3 Newsletters

Newsletter updates are produced in print and digital formats. The introductory newsletter was issued in June 2021 and updates have been issued in September 2021, October 2021, December 2021, January 2022 and May 2022 (see **Plate 11-3**).

They have been distributed via Australia Post mailout, directly to approximately 125 stakeholders and community members, to approximately 458 e-news subscribers and via the CWF information hub.

Content has provided the latest developments and Project status, maps to show location and layout, status in the assessment process, opportunities to participate, answers to frequently asked questions, details of anticipated Project benefits, and Project website address and contact details.

All issues are archived and linked for download on the website's 'Community' page.

# Chalumbin Wind Farm

Project Update January 2022

Photomontage of what the wind farm would look like from the Ravenshoe region.

## Location

## Community Information Sessions Ravenshoe 9 & 10 February 2022

Information sessions for the Chalumbin Wind Farm will be held in Ravenshoe in February to give interested members of the local community an opportunity to learn more about the proposal and discuss it with members of the project team.

The sessions will be held at the new information hub for the project, at 55 Grigg Street in Ravenshoe.

In light of COVID-related health concerns a number of smaller sessions will be held, each providing the same information. As places for each session are limited people are encouraged to register ahead for their preferred date and time. More session times will be added if required.

**Dates:** Wednesday 9 and Thursday 10 February.  
**Times:** 10am, 1pm, 3pm or 5pm each day.  
*More times will be added if required.*

**Venue:** 55 Grigg Street, Ravenshoe.  
**Register:** Please email your preferred date and time to [info@chalumbinwindfarm.com.au](mailto:info@chalumbinwindfarm.com.au) or call 1800 731 296.

Please note any government prescribed COVID protocols will apply and attendees may be required to sign in or scan QR code upon entry. The project team looks forward to meeting community members, answering questions and the opportunity to address any concerns.

## Questions and feedback

We welcome questions and feedback from members of the community at any time and where practicable aim to incorporate community input into the project design to improve outcomes and benefits.

Questions and comments can be sent to the project team via email to [info@chalumbinwindfarm.com.au](mailto:info@chalumbinwindfarm.com.au) or the online feedback form available on the website at [chalumbinwindfarm.com.au](http://chalumbinwindfarm.com.au)

## Planning and assessment

### Queensland Government

- 1 Site selection, initial concept and preliminary investigations
- 2 Pre-lodgment meeting with State Assessment and Referral Agency (SARA)
- 3 Studies and assessments (prescribed by SARA State Code 23)

**WE ARE HERE**

Application and assessments submitted to SARA

- 5 *If required - further information requested and further assessment*
- 6 *If required - public notification of proposal*
- 7 Assessment
- 8 Determination

### Commonwealth

- 1 Referral to the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment for review under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)
- 2 Decision: controlled action (Referral 2021/8983), assessment by Public Environment Report (PER)
- 3 PER guidelines issued

**WE ARE HERE**

Preparation of draft PER

- 5 Draft PER on public exhibition
- 6 Final PER submitted
- 7 Determination

## Working with Traditional Owners

Epuron recognises the continuing connection that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples have to their land, and the importance of Jirrbal People as a stakeholder for the project and the Traditional Custodians for the area of the Chalumbin Wind Farm.

The project team has been working closely with representatives of the Traditional Owners of the project area, specifically consulting with the Wabubadda Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (Wabubadda) and Applicants to the Jirrbal #4 Native Title claim, over the past 14 months. In late 2020 Epuron, the Jirrbal #4 Applicants and the Wabubadda signed a Cultural Heritage Management Agreement setting out how they will work together to identify, protect and manage cultural heritage on the site. As part of the commitments in the agreement a scoping study of the project area was undertaken involving site visits and surveys with Jirrbal People and their archaeologists, mapping studies, and consultation with Elders and cultural knowledge holders.

The results were presented by the participants to Jirrbal People at a consultation session and informed design changes to the project including removing turbines from a key area of significance and applying a buffer zone of protection to that area.

Since then, Jirrbal People have been involved in further rounds of cultural surveys and attended the site as monitors for minor earthworks. Under the agreement Jirrbal will continue to undertake cultural heritage surveys of the proposed footprint of the project prior to any disturbance.

For more information interested members of the Jirrbal community are invited to contact the North Queensland Land Council (NQLC).

## Update on planning and assessment

As the assessment work has been done, particularly for ecology and cultural heritage, the project design has been refined. The current proposal involves 94 wind turbines and would require clearing of approximately 1,132 ha, which is less than 4% of the project area. The development application and accompanying assessment reports were lodged with the Queensland Government in December 2021.

The Australian Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) will assess the proposal under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) through a Public Environment Report (PER). DAWE has issued the final guidelines for the draft PER and these have been published on the EPBC Act – Referrals list portal: [epbcnotices.environment.gov.au/referralslist/](https://epbcnotices.environment.gov.au/referralslist/) (Reference: 2021/8983).

The ecological assessment work for DAWE is still underway and the draft PER is due to be submitted in the next few months. It will include the results of onsite investigations and any proposed offset strategies. Once accepted by DAWE the draft PER will be placed on exhibition.

## More information

Website: [chalumbinwindfarm.com.au](http://chalumbinwindfarm.com.au) or scan QR code:  
 Email updates: [epuron.com.au/mailling-list-details](mailto:epuron.com.au/mailling-list-details)  
 Contact: Anthony Russo, General Manager - Queensland  
 Email: [info@chalumbinwindfarm.com.au](mailto:info@chalumbinwindfarm.com.au)

Level 11, 75 Miller Street, North Sydney, NSW 2060 | [info@epuron.com.au](mailto:info@epuron.com.au) | [epuron.com.au](http://epuron.com.au)

### Plate 11-3 Chalumbin Wind Farm Newsletter Update – January 2022

#### 11.3.1.4 Information Materials

A range of information materials have been produced to assist stakeholders and community members to understand the impacts of the Project including maps, photomontages, presentations and briefing summaries. Fact sheets have also been produced to address topical issues or matters of concern. All public materials have been made available through the website and the information hub (see **Plate 11-4**).

October 2022  
Ecology - Fact Sheet

# Chalumbin Wind Farm



renewable energy source, low carbon footprint, low impact on the environment

### Caring for the natural environment

Australia's electricity market is in transition to cleaner and renewable sources of energy to reduce carbon emissions and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

Northern Queensland is blessed with both renewable energy resources and beautiful national parks and wilderness areas. The impacts of climate change, such as rising temperatures and extreme weather events, are among the greatest threats to biodiversity and wildlife, including species found in the Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Area.

Avoiding and minimising impacts to local flora and fauna is a priority for the project. Increasing renewable energy capacity and biodiversity conservation are both critically important and compatible objectives, it just requires careful planning and management, and the right approach. Chalumbin Wind Farm is committed to working with ecology specialists and local knowledge holders to achieve a net positive outcome for biodiversity in the project area over the longer term.

### Environmental assessment

Comprehensive and rigorous assessment is required for both the Queensland and Australian Governments. Queensland's State code 23 Wind farm development requires assessment of potential impacts to avifauna (birds and bats), habitat and corridors, and on-site vegetation. This includes field surveys, species-specific studies, strategies to minimise and mitigate impacts, and preparation of technical reports and preliminary management plans.

The Australian Government's Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) will assess the proposal under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act), which protects key species and habitats.

Over the past two years, ecological investigations have been done across the project area by specialist ecologists and survey teams. Work has involved regional ecosystem mapping, field studies, surveys across multiple seasons, targeted investigations for key species and inputs from scientists, local resource managers and knowledge holders. To date it has included:

- More than 24 months of assessment work including 300+ days of dedicated surveys.
- 16 completed on site survey sessions by specialist teams, with many more planned.
- 5,490 camera trap nights at 55 sites across the project area.
- 100s of hours of focused site surveys for specific species.

Fauna species protected by the EPBC Act that have been confirmed as using parts of the host properties are the northern greater glider, the masked owl, and the magnificent brood frog. Species that have not been found within the project area despite thorough site investigations include the red goshawk, koala, quail, spotted-tailed flying fox, and cassowary.

As results from the ecological assessment work have become available, the project's design has been refined and modified accordingly. To date, 184 wind turbines have been removed from an original layout of 200, and the project is less than half of its original size.

### Location



The project area involves two cattle grazing properties south of Ravenshoe. They include remnant vegetation and disturbed areas from access tracks and transmission lines that traverse the site (pictures below). The project does not involve any rainforest, or the Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Area, or Chalumbin Hill and the wilderness area known as Chalumbin.



Rehabilitation would prioritise habitat for key species like the northern greater glider, masked owl and magnificent brood frog. It would also improve potential habitat for the koala (although not observed in the project area). It would involve key local ecology stakeholders and provide opportunities for Indigenous training and employment.

The project also proposes to meet 100% of its offset requirements with land-based offsets of at least 5-10x greater than areas affected, and fund research on the magnificent brood frog.

This plus other initiatives aim to achieve a net positive outcome for biodiversity in the project area over the longer term.


[arkenergy.com.au](http://arkenergy.com.au)

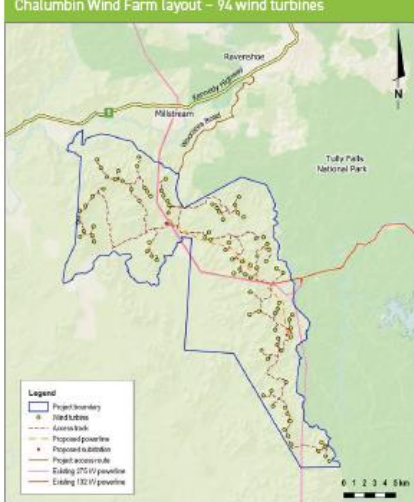
### Industry-leading rehabilitation

Commitments to minimise the project's environmental impacts include no construction during the peak wet-season months to prevent soil loss and rehabilitating at least 70% of the temporary construction footprint.

The maximum disturbance of the current layout is 1,132 hectares and includes 53 ha of existing disturbance from power lines and access tracks. Most of the new construction disturbance (~89%) would be caused by batons for road construction.

The project has made a commitment to rehabilitate at least 70% of that disturbance, which would leave an operational footprint of about 121 ha, or 0.4% of the project area, and access roads of only 5.5 metres wide.

The following images illustrate the largest possible disturbance for construction of an access track and wind turbine basing, and results of rehabilitation over time.



**Chalumbin Wind Farm layout – 94 wind turbines**

The project area is west of the Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Area and Tully Falls National Park. The current layout involves 94 wind turbines connected to the existing 275 kV powerline.

**Next steps**

DCCEEW has determined that it will assess the proposal through a Public Environment Report (PER), which is a lengthy process that involves public exhibition and enables all interested stakeholders to participate.


A draft PER has been submitted to DCCEEW for review and it is anticipated that it will be approved for public exhibition in Q4, 2022. During the exhibition period local community information sessions with ecology specialists will be held at the information hub in Ravenshoe.


**Questions**

Questions and feedback are welcome at any time and can be sent to the project team via [info@chalumbinwindfarm.com.au](mailto:info@chalumbinwindfarm.com.au) or the form available on the 'Feedback' page of the website.

**More information**

Chalumbin Wind Farm Information Hub  
Visit - 55 Grigg Street, Ravenshoe. Open Thursday afternoons or by appointment - call 1800 731 294.  
Email - [info@chalumbinwindfarm.com.au](mailto:info@chalumbinwindfarm.com.au)  
Website - [chalumbinwindfarm.com.au](http://chalumbinwindfarm.com.au) or scan QR code right.






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**SYDNEY**  
Level 11, 75 Miller St  
Kerch Sydney, NSW 2160

**BRISBANE**  
Level 6, 211 Adelaide St  
Brisbane, QLD 4000

**TOWNSVILLE**  
12 Inc Rd  
Stuar's, QLD 4816

**Plate 11-4 Chalumbin Wind Farm Ecology Fact Sheet – October 2022**

### 11.3.1.5 Local Media Inserts

Advertisements have been placed periodically in local newspapers, the *Ravenshoe & District Weekly* and *The Express* to keep readers up to date on Project developments (see **Plate 11-5**).

# Chalumbin Wind Farm

Photomontage of what the proposed Chalumbin Wind Farm would look like from a point on the Kennedy Highway

## Project Update

Over the past year the Chalumbin Wind Farm project team has been engaging with members of the local community, the project area's landowners and Traditional Owners, local environmental management organisations, ecology specialists and engineers, to improve the project design.

This work has been focused on two key outcomes: a net positive for biodiversity and maximising local benefits. New renewable energy development is urgent to mitigate the effects of climate change and meet emissions reduction targets. We also appreciate how unique and special the Tablelands area is and the importance of caring for the natural environment and making sure the local community benefits from the project in relevant and meaningful ways.

For the latest project information, including the ecology work, plans to minimise environmental impacts, and economic and community benefits, we invite community members to visit the information hub at 55 Grigg St, Ravenshoe, open Thursday afternoons or by appointment (Tel: 1800 731 296), or email the project team directly via [info@chalumbinwindfarm.com.au](mailto:info@chalumbinwindfarm.com.au).

## Community Benefit Program

We are also seeking input from community members on priorities to help design the proposed Community Benefit Program. This program will be based on an industry-leading funding commitment of \$500,000 per year from the start of construction (estimated by Q2, 2023) and for the ~25-year life of the wind farm. The opportunities for a program of this size are significant. A survey is available on the website's 'Community' page and in the information hub.

Please send us your questions and tell us what you think. We are keen to hear from you.

Tel: 1800 731 296 or email: [info@chalumbinwindfarm.com.au](mailto:info@chalumbinwindfarm.com.au). Visit [chalumbinwindfarm.com.au](http://chalumbinwindfarm.com.au) or scan the QR code on your mobile

**ARK ENERGY**

# Chalumbin Wind Farm

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Please send us your questions and tell us what you think. We are keen to hear from you.

Tel: 1800 731 296  
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**ARK ENERGY**

**Plate 11-5 Ad inserts in Ravenshoe & District Weekly and The Express – October 2022**

### 11.3.1.6 Community Information Sessions

Local drop-in information sessions have been held in Ravenshoe, in September 2021 and February 2022 to update the community, address concerns and collect feedback.

In accordance with the Queensland Chief Health Officer's COVID-19 orders, face-to-face information and drop-in sessions originally scheduled for July 2021 had to be delayed and rescheduled in September 2021. This session was an informal drop-in session over a two-hour period with information materials and representatives available to answer questions.

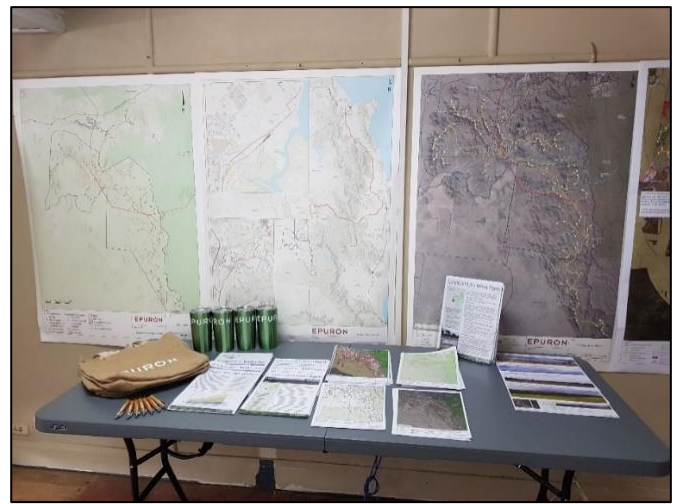
At this initial session a number of community members expressed their frustration that a presentation was not provided and it became evident that there were some community concerns about ecological impacts and Indigenous engagement that were necessary to address. The animated reactions of a small group of people put the safety of other attendees at risk and their behaviour also prevented all attendees from having the opportunity to speak, hear or be heard.

Based on learnings from the first information session, the approach to the second round of information sessions was adjusted and these were offered as multiple smaller sessions with a presentation. The sessions were attended by key members of the Project team and specialist consultants. This format was welcomed as more inclusive and allowed for

extensive discussion where each attendee could raise questions and have these addressed. Additional information materials were developed for the sessions including a Project backgrounder, photomontages from public viewpoints and a comprehensive variety of maps. Following the sessions the presentation, information materials and maps shared were uploaded to the Project website and left on display in the local CWF information hub.

#### 11.3.1.7 Local Information Hub

In February 2022, using local information sessions as the official opening, CWF established a local 'information hub' at 55 Grigg Street in Ravenshoe (see **Plate 11-6**). The hub has been open by a local member of the Project team on a weekly basis and by appointment. It has provided interested community members with convenient access to Project information, maps, photomontages and the opportunity for in-depth discussion about their concerns. It has also served as a consultation space for stakeholder briefings, Community Advisory Group meetings and as the start and finish point for stakeholder site visits.



**Plate 11-6 Photographs of the CWF Information Hub**

#### 11.3.1.8 Community Events

On Saturday 8 October 2022 the Project team opened the information hub for the 2022 Torimba Festival events on Grigg Street in Ravenshoe. Many people visited the Project's information table outside the hub to discuss the Project and the Project team collected 34 completed survey forms for the Community Benefit Program.

#### 11.3.1.9 Key Stakeholder Briefings

Members of the Project team have met regularly with key stakeholders and stakeholder groups to provide briefings and host site visits.

#### 11.3.1.10 Direct Correspondence

Telephone calls and emails between the Project team and various stakeholders has been ongoing.



### 11.3.1.11 Feedback Mechanisms

Multiple options have been available for community members to provide feedback and input including:

- Invitation to call or email the Project team directly at any time in all communications.
- Feedback form on the Project website.
- Feedback forms at community information days and presentations.
- Feedback forms and box at the Ravenshoe Information Hub.

### 11.3.2 Community Advisory Group

In March 2022 CWF established a Community Advisory Group, based on the Community Consultative Committee model where this is a requirement of the assessment regime, with a Terms of Reference, Charter and Code of Conduct. The group has an independent chairperson and eight members including five community representatives, two representatives for the Traditional Owners and a representative for Tablelands Regional Council.

The group meets every few months and provides an important forum to discuss topics of interest and collaborate on building greater community awareness and participation in the Project. The group has provided valuable feedback that affordable housing is important to the community and that the community has concerns with heavy vehicle traffic along Wooroora Road, In response to this feedback, the CWF Project team are investigating the feasibility of an alternate heavy vehicle access via Innot Hot Springs and a construction camp on or near the site.

To date the group has met twice, in April 2022 and July 2022. The April meeting focused on a comprehensive overview of the Project, the June meeting focused on ecology with a guest presentation by lead ecologist, Nikki O'Donnell. Between these meetings, in May 2022, members were taken on a site visit.

The group will also be an important mechanism through which the representative cross-section of local interested parties can have input into the design and delivery of social outcomes, including the Project's Community Benefit Program.

CWF has committed to a generous and industry-leading Community Benefit Program. This is intended to follow a 'hybrid' model funding multiple initiatives and will be co-designed with the community and local stakeholders to ensure it meets local needs and priorities. Funding streams that have been identified through initial consultation include a fund to support community-based initiatives, a social housing program to address housing stock sustainability issues, and funds for emergencies and natural disaster recovery in the region (see **Section 13.1.3**).

Presentations and minutes from group meetings are published on the 'Community' page of the Project website.

### 11.3.3 Stakeholder Consultation Summary

Consultation is documented in CWF's stakeholder and community engagement register. A summary of consultation with key stakeholders relevant to this PER is outlined in **Table 11-1**.

**Table 11-1 Consultation Summary**

STAKEHOLDER/GROUP	CONSULTATION
Involved landowners hosting infrastructure and easements	Ongoing engagement and negotiation of land agreements.



STAKEHOLDER/GROUP	CONSULTATION
Residents and property owners of adjoining properties	Ongoing through direct correspondence and the information hub.
Residents and property owners along the access and transportation route	Ongoing through direct correspondence and the information hub.
Members of the local and regional community	Ongoing through direct correspondence, responding to specific requests for information, discussions at the information hub, meetings and events, feedback forms and the Community Advisory Group.
Traditional Owners	<p>Ongoing consultation with Applicants to the Jirrbal #4 Native Title claim, Wabubadda Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC and North Queensland Land Council.</p> <p>Cultural Heritage Management Agreement signed October 2020 and operational since that date.</p> <p>Indigenous Land Use Agreement authorisation meeting on 7 May 2022.</p> <p>Applicant site visit with RE Alliance in July 2022.</p> <p>Refer to <b>Section 11.6</b></p>
Wet Tropics Management Authority (WTMA)	Meeting in March 2022, site visits October 2021 and May 2022, workshop of Outstanding Universal Values in September 2022, update meeting in October 2022, and other direct engagement with ecology consultants.
Cairns and Far North Environment Centre (CAFNEC)	Meeting in March 2022, site visit in April 2022, update meeting in May 2022.
Terrain Natural Resource Management	Meeting in March 2022, site visit with Chair in May 2022, attendance by Chair at Community Advisory Group meeting in July 2022.
James Cook University	Site visits with Adjunct Professor Environmental Science in April 2022 and May 2022.
RE Alliance	Site visit with NGO group in April 2022 and with National Director in July 2022.
Queensland Conservation Council	Project briefing in March 2022, site visit April 2022.
Capricorn Conservation Council	Site visit April 2022.
World Wildlife Fund	Site visit April 2022.
Australian Youth Climate Coalition	Site visit April 2022.
Environmental Defenders Office	Site visit April 2022.



STAKEHOLDER/GROUP	CONSULTATION
Next Economy	Site visit April 2022.
Steven Nowakowski	Site visit April 2022.
Bush Heritage	Project briefing May 2022.
Magnificent Brood Frog Working Group (comprises members from the academia, Department of Environment and Science, Australian Wildlife Conservancy, Bush Heritage Australia and Birdlife Northern Queensland, amongst others).	The Project's ecological consultant attended the Working Group meeting in September 2021 to discuss the Project's ecological surveys and share data on magnificent brood frog findings. Participation in additional surveys in December 2021. Ongoing consultation through emails, phone calls and meetings.
Trees for the Evelyn and Atherton Tablelands (TREAT)	Project briefing in April 2022.
Bats and Trees Society Cairns	Project briefing in April 2022.
Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner	Project briefing in June 2022.
Queensland Greens	Introductory meeting in December 2021, offer to brief other members open.
Opponents/opposition groups	Responding to enquiries, offers to meet extended.
DCCEEW	Pre-referral meeting with representatives in May 2021, meeting with representatives during the finalisation of the PER Guidelines in October 2021, meeting with representatives during the preparation of the PER in February 2022, May 2022, June 2022, August 2022 and October 2022 including site visits in July 2022 and August 2022.
Queensland Government State Assessment and Referral Agency (SARA)	Pre-lodgement meeting with SARA and other agencies in May 2021, multiple meetings post-lodgement of the Development Application and site visit in May 2022.
Member for Leichardt Warren Entsch	Project briefing in March 2022.
Member for Hill Shane Knuth	Project briefing in May 2022.
Tablelands Regional Council	Meetings with executive staff and briefing presentations to Councillors in December 2021, February 2022 and October 2022.
Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner	Project briefing in June 2022.
Ravenshoe Community Centre	Project briefing in July 2022.
Ravenshoe & District Chamber of Commerce	Project briefing in September 2022.





## 11.3.4 Community Concerns

During consultation activities the Project team has received feedback from community members and sought to address questions around the following issues.

### 11.3.4.1 Ecological impacts

Concerns about clearing of vegetation and potential Impacts on local wildlife, nearby protected areas and key species. CWF has a goal to rehabilitate 70% of the impact footprint and a substantial offset package including dedication of land-based offsets much larger than the area of clearing for the unavoidable impacts on MNES assessed as having a significant residual impact and a substantial indirect offset of \$250,000 towards scientific research for the magnificent brood frog.

Consultation and feedback from key local stakeholders including WTMA, Terrain NRM and CAFNEC, on the importance of the wet sclerophyll forest to the OUVs of the WTQWHA has led to the subsequent removal of eight wind turbine generators, 27 km of access roads and four kilometres of internal high voltage transmission line. A significant, strategic offset is also proposed involving more than 7,400 ha across three areas, primarily located immediately adjacent to the WTQWHA, including the largest patch of intact wet sclerophyll forest adjacent to the Tully Falls National Park, and the creation of formal connectivity between Koombaloo National Park and Yourka Reserve Nature Refuge.

### 11.3.4.2 Transport route

The transport route, potential upgrades and road modifications required and concerns about construction traffic disruption, particularly for residents of Wooroora Road. The feasibility of an alternative access route identified by Tablelands Regional Council and other stakeholders via Innot Hot Springs is under investigation.

### 11.3.4.3 Landscape and visual amenity

Concerns about changes to local and distant vistas surrounding the Project area. A Zone of Visual Influence map and photomontages have been produced and shared with the community at information sessions and are available in the local information hub. This aspect is discussed further in the LVIA provided in **Appendix M**.

Part of the concern regarding amenity also relates to potential subsequent impacts on property values.

### 11.3.4.4 Aboriginal and cultural heritage

Concerns about consultation with Jirrbal community members who have a historical and ongoing connection to the Project area were raised and further information can be found in **Section 8.10.3.1** and **Section 11.6**. The CWF Project has engaged with the Jirrbal Peoples for the purposes of a Cultural Heritage Management Agreement (CHMA) under the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003* and in relation to negotiation of an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) under the *Native Title Act 1993* via North Queensland Land Council, as required by the statutory processes. The CHMA was signed in October 2020. The ILUA was authorised on 7 May 2022 and subsequently signed by the Applicants, WAC and CWF.



#### 11.3.4.5 Community benefits

Concerns about the benefits for the broader community such as access to affordable housing as raised by the Tablelands Regional Council, support in response to local disasters and emergencies and employment opportunities during construction and operations. Further information in relation to the Community Benefit Fund can be found in **Section 13.1.3**.

### 11.4 Project Iteration

The design has evolved considerably from the original concept including 200 wind turbines to maximise the economic wind resource. Through evolution of the feasibility study process the proposal was reduced to 94 turbines, largely due to constraints identified through the ecological and cultural heritage assessment work.

Following further studies and extensive consultation, significant further changes have been made largely due to stakeholder concerns. These include removal of a further 8 wind turbines and reductions in access roads and the internal overhead transmission line, reducing the overall footprint and resulting in a final layout of 86 wind turbines. This outcome aims to avoid, minimise and mitigate impacts to the maximum extent practicable while delivering an economic wind energy resource to support emissions reduction targets and mitigate the effects of climate change.

Community and key stakeholder concerns have also influenced other initiatives including the commitment to rehabilitate 70% of the disturbance footprint and considerations of an alternate access route and construction camp.

### 11.5 Future Consultation

Consultation with stakeholders and community members is ongoing and will continue throughout the stages of the CWF Project. Future consultation will include:

- Ongoing engagement and consultation with community members via the information hub, responding to enquiries and feedback forms.
- Formal notification and consultation required for the publication of the PER.
- Local community information sessions at the information hub in Ravenshoe during the exhibition period for the draft PER, including provision of paper and electronic access to the draft PER document.
- Meetings and briefings with senior personnel of key government and non-government organisations
- Meetings and consultation with local stakeholders and community groups regarding rehabilitation plan implementation and monitoring.
- Distribution of regular Project updates through newsletters and local newspaper inserts.
- CWF Community Advisory Group meetings.
- Briefings and presentations to stakeholder and community groups.
- Regular consultation with Tablelands Regional Council's elected representatives and executive staff.
- Ongoing implementation of the CHMA which sets out processes of surveys, reporting and agreement on management measures for any identified cultural heritage values.
- Ongoing engagement with the Traditional Owners and their representatives to implement the authorised ILUA.



- Opening of the information hub in Ravenshoe, attended by a Project representative, on a weekly basis and more often as required.
- Maintaining the effort to engage with opponents and other concerned community members.

## 11.6 Indigenous Engagement

### 11.6.1 Identification of Indigenous Interests

The Project identified from National Native Title Tribunal mapping that the Jirrbal People # 4 hold a registered Native Title claim over the Project area. Jirrbal People# 4 are legally represented by North Queensland Land Council as the recognised Native Title Representative Body for the region in which the Project is located.

The Project engaged with NQLC as part of early planning for the project and coordinated meetings to introduce the project. These meetings were facilitated by NQLC. Through NQLC, the Project was advised that the proposed agreements for cultural heritage protection and management and Native Title consent should be between the Project and the named Applicants to the Jirrbal #4 Native Title Claim as the Statutory Party and Wabubadda Aboriginal Corporation Registered Native Title Body Corporate as the Aboriginal Party Corporation.

A review of the tenures of the properties the subject of the Project identified that Native Title has been extinguished on Glen Gordon Station due to the freehold form of tenure and that the Leasehold tenure of Wooroora Station has not had Native Title extinguished.

The Project was advised that the Aboriginal Party for the purpose of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act (ACH Act) over the entire Project area is the Registered Native Title claimants and that the coordination of services from Jirrbal representatives for the operation of the CHMA would be performed by Wabubadda Aboriginal Corporation.

The NQLC are privy to extensive genealogy and anthropological records which have been used to substantiate to the satisfaction of the National Native Title Tribunal that the Jirrbal #4 applicants have a connection to the Project area and they also maintain a confidential database of individuals who are recognised as being Jirrbal people. The Project has as is customary and appropriate, relied on the NQLC, Jirrbal Applicants and WAC to identify people who should to receive Project information and to provide feedback to the Project.

### 11.6.2 Identification of Areas and Objects Significant to Indigenous Interests and Potential Impacts

The Project commenced discussions about cultural heritage identification and management in September 2020 and agreed to negotiate a Cultural Heritage Management Agreement for the Project. Both the Project and Jirrbal representatives agreed the importance of documenting a comprehensive CHMA before the Project progressed any ground disturbing site activities.

The CHMA was negotiated with legal advice and support being provided to Jirrbal representatives via NQLC, and the Agreement was executed by the parties in late October 2020. The CHMA sets out processes for undertaking a Preliminary Scoping Study, holding Planning Meetings and undertaking Surveys and implementing Cultural Heritage Management Measures.

The purpose of the Preliminary Scoping Study is to carry out a preliminary review to identify areas, landforms and environments that are High Potential Areas, Low Potential Areas, or that require further study and to develop an understanding of the logistics for doing future Surveys. The Preliminary Scoping Study required the a number of specific steps and deliverables including desktop reviews, reviews of aerial photographs, discussions between the Jirrbal preferred technical adviser and senior members of the Aboriginal Party Corporation and Statutory Party about



cultural aspects of the study area, consideration of available environmental and geological reports, an agreed fieldwork program, a workshop of Jirrbal people on the preliminary and preparation of a Preliminary Scoping Study Report.

Additionally it is a requirement of the CHMA that prior to any works taking place the Jirrbal parties are to undertake a survey of the area of the proposed works prior to any works being undertaken and that should any cultural heritage be identified that the Project and Jirrbal parties will meet to agreement Cultural Heritage Management Measures which will be structured to assist in avoiding adverse impacts to Aboriginal Cultural Heritage or mitigating and managing impacts on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage where avoiding adverse impacts is not possible.

The CHMA will continue to be the principal arrangement for identification and management of cultural heritage.

### **11.6.3 Impact Mitigation and Management**

The CHMA sets out in some detail the process of Jirrbal parties proposing impact mitigation and management measures for cultural heritage identified in the Project are and these include:

- Avoidance, by way of restricting access to certain areas or moving project works away from identified cultural heritage
- Collection and Salvage activities and which clearly set out that the ownership and management of salvaged Aboriginal Cultural Heritage will be the sole responsibility of the Aboriginal Party Corporation.
- Works Monitoring which would involve Jirrbal people being present for ground disturbance works and who will monitor the works for evidence of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage prior to and during Ground Disturbance.

Further detail on Impact Mitigation and Management can be found in **Section 8.10.3.5**.

### **11.6.4 Indigenous Consultation**

**Section 8.10.3.1** details Indigenous consultation that has been undertaken or will be undertaken in relation to the proposed action and their outcomes.

### **11.6.5 State Approvals or Conditions Regarding Indigenous Peoples Interests and Communities**

#### **11.6.5.1 The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003 (Qld)**

Potential impacts to Aboriginal heritage in Queensland is managed through the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003* (the ACHA). The ACHA requires that land users negotiate with the Aboriginal party (linked to the native title party) to manage potential impacts to heritage through a Cultural Heritage Management Agreement (CHMA).

A CHMA has been negotiated between Epuron Ltd, WAC and the Native Title Party for the Jirrbal People #4 native title claim. Any activities done in accordance with the CHMA are considered to have met the duty of care to Queensland's cultural heritage. The CHMA for the Chalumbin Wind Farm Project recognises Jirrbal People #4 claimants as the Aboriginal party. Jirrbal #4 claimants have appointed WAC to implement the CHMA. The CHMA prefers avoidance of cultural heritage, and if it cannot be avoided, mitigation and managing impacts to significance. The CHMA requires for a Preliminary Scoping Study that documents the cultural values of the wind farm site and identifies areas of high and low potential for Jirrbal cultural heritage and areas that require further study.



### 11.6.5.2 The Aboriginal Party

The ACHA defines the Aboriginal party for an area as the registered native title claimant. The relevant registered native title claim is Jirrbal People #4 native title claim (QUD983/2015) (J#4). The native title applicants for J#4 registered native title claim are Angela Braun, Elizabeth Cashmere, Bradley Go Sam and Kathleen Haines.

The Aboriginal party (the registered native title applicants as the Statutory Party in the CHMA) nominated WAC as its agent for performing functions under the CHMA. WAC are the Registered Native Title Body Corporate for the determined Jirrbal native title claims #1, #2 and #3 (QUD6001/2003, QUD41/2004, QUD42/2004). The Aboriginal party, WAC and Epuron are all signatory to the CHMA.

The role of the administration body is to oversee the administrative functions of the CHMA. This includes receiving notices of proposed work from Epuron and its contractors, employing Jirrbal representatives for monitoring and survey work, overseeing the Technical Advisors, authorising reports, managing payments, identifying relevant Jirrbal knowledge holders and facilitating community workshops.

The CHMA is 'another agreement' in accordance with section 23(3)(a)(iii) of the ACHA.