

Gunning Wind Farm

Location: Gunning, Upper Lachlan Shire, New South Wales

Client: ACCIONA Energy Oceania Pty Ltd

Duration: 2008

Involvement: Community Relations Plan

Located 15 kilometres north-east of Gunning and 70 kilometres north-east of Canberra, ACCIONA Energy has constructed 31 wind turbines to meet the energy needs of approximately 30,000 households each year. This equates to an expected capacity of 46.5MW.

Key elements of the project included the construction of:

- > 31 wind turbine towers, standing approximately 78.8m in height, with blades reaching 37m in length resulting in a total turbine height of less than 120m;
- > an electrical substation and facilities building;
- > approximately 11km of 12,000 volt underground cables;
- > access tracks;
- > a new 132kV electrical transmission line approximately 15km in length to link the wind farm to the electrical grid; and
- > two permanent meteorological masts for ongoing data measurement.

PlanCom Consulting, with support from Capire Consulting, prepared the Community Relations Plan for the Gunning Wind Farm project. The preparation of the plan involved:

- > Meetings with local stakeholders, project opponents and key community interest groups;
- > Interviews with local and state government offices;
- > Reviewing previous communication from stakeholders including letters, phone calls, meetings and emails;
- > Research and analysis of anticipated project issues; and
- > Discussions with Delta Electricity, Origin Energy and ACCIONA Energy.

The Community Relations Plan included a Community Engagement Strategy along with a Communication Management Strategy for the construction phase of this project.

For more information visit www.plancom.com.au or call (02) 9331 4336.

Photos: www.accionacom.au

