

# Stakeholder Information Session

Utilisation of Forestry Corporation of NSW's softwood  
plantation sites for renewable energy projects

April 2022

# Acknowledgement of Country

**Forestry Corporation of NSW acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land on which we live and work, and pay our respects to Elders past, present and future.**

**We recognise the connection to their land, their waters and surrounding communities and acknowledge their history here on this land.**



**We also acknowledge our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees who are an integral part of our diverse workforce and recognise the knowledge embedded forever in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander custodianship of Country and culture.**

# Agenda

- 1. Welcome and introductions**
- 2. The opportunity**
- 3. The locations**
- 4. What this means for communities**
- 5. The process**
- 6. The timelines**
- 7. Q&A**

# The opportunity

An exciting opportunity to develop renewable energy projects on Forestry Corporation of NSW's (Forestry Corporation) softwood forestry plantations

Highlight	Description
	<b>New to market</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Recently passed amendments to the <i>Forestry Act 2012</i> facilitate the opportunity to establish renewable energy infrastructure in State-owned forest pine plantations</li></ul>
	<b>Project flexibility</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Forestry Corporation seeks market input to indicate the best sites, ideal project sizes and preferred renewable technologies for development. However, decisions on development parties and projects will be evaluated against a range of criteria including stakeholder interests and non-financial community benefits</li></ul>
	<b>Plantation land protection</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The amendments to the <i>Forestry Act 2012</i> only allow for 0.7% of plantation land to be cleared for renewable projects. In addition, any land cleared for development must be offset by additional plantation land purchase at a ratio of two for one</li></ul>
	<b>Renewable generation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Renewable developments align with the Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap and will help NSW meet its net zero ambitions. It is imperative that renewable projects are started today to keep electricity affordable as coal assets retire over the next fifteen years</li></ul>
	<b>Single land manager</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Forestry Corporation is the sole land manager for its portfolio sites which allows for streamlined consultation and decision making through the project lifecycle</li></ul>
	<b>Increased economic activity</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Renewable developments will bring increased economic activity to regional areas including jobs, supply contracts and education</li></ul>
	<b>Community benefits</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>There will be financial and non-financial community benefits including improved fire management resourcing, external infrastructure upgrades and other potential community benefits</li></ul>

# The locations

This is a unique opportunity to explore the production of renewable energy from within the Forestry Corporation’s entire softwood plantation estate

Site name	Approximate softwood plantation land	Nearest town	Approximate distance to Sydney
Bombala	32,900 hectares	Bombala	~400km
Bondo	37,600 hectares	Tumut	~300km
Grafton	15,800 hectares	Grafton	~550km
Laurel Hill	54,800 hectares	Tumbarumba	~350km
Nundle	10,800 hectares	Walcha	~250km
Oberon	51,100 hectares	Oberon	~150km
Orange	11,300 hectares	Orange	~200km
Southern Highlands	3,700 hectares	Moss Vale	~100km
Sunny Corner	9,100 hectares	Lithgow	~100km
Tallaganda	1,300 hectares	Captain’s Flat	~250km





# What This Means for Communities

## Local communities stand to benefit from the developments

### Improved bushfire mitigation resources & infrastructure

- Opportunities to install bushfire monitoring equipment will be assessed; while infrastructure upgrades such as roads and water storage may be necessary for project completion

### Long lead time for construction and operation

- We expect the construction period is likely to be 2026-2030, and will be project and site dependent

### Balancing competing interests

- State Forest softwood plantations are used for a wide range of activities, not just timber harvesting

### Provide economic benefits for regional NSW

- The developments will provide regional NSW with direct and indirect economic benefits

### Work around existing harvesting operations

- Long term wood volumes to Forestry Corporation customers must be maintained.

### Normal planning approval process

- There are no planning exemptions for development on State Forests and Forestry Corporation has no special authority to act as the consent authority

# The process

The process will involve a series of stages conducted over a number of years

Proponent Phase	Response
Registration of Interest (ROI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-competitive process for developers to register interest in developing renewable energy generation facilities within Forestry Corporation softwood plantations</li> <li>• ROI open <b>30 March 2022</b> to all interested parties</li> <li>• This step will enable the Forestry Corporation to understand market interest in each site</li> <li>• Closes on <b>6 May 2022</b></li> </ul>
Expression of Interest (EOI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Competitive open invitation process for proponents to respond to selection criteria</li> <li>• Successful proponents will be shortlisted for participation in a Request for Proposal ("RFP")</li> <li>• EOI expected to open <b>Q2 2022</b> to all interested parties</li> </ul>
Request for Proposal (RFP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Competitive process for shortlisted developers to submit a proposal for development</li> <li>• RFP expected to open <b>Q4 2022</b> to shortlisted EOI participants</li> </ul>
Proponent Selection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Following RFP, proposals will be evaluated based on a multi-criteria assessment in which price is only one element of offers to be evaluated</li> <li>• Preferred party will be selected on a site by site basis. Multiple developers may be selected to undertake developments in different sites</li> <li>• Proponent(s) targeted for selection in <b>early 2023</b></li> </ul>
Post Selection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Selected parties will be granted a development permit to progress with project – The Forestry Corporation will not take on development tasks.</li> <li>• All developments on Forestry Corporation softwood plantations must satisfy the requirements under the existing planning legislation and approvals process</li> <li>• There are no exemptions for development on State forest, and the Forestry Corporation has no special authority to act as the consent authority</li> </ul>

# The timeline

Different projects will have slightly different timelines. Below is an indication of a potential timeline through to operation

The Registration of Interest is the first stage of the process.

	2022				2023				2024				2025+				Operating Period											
Activity																												
Registration Of Interest																												
Expression Of Interest																												
Request For Proposal																												
Appointment of preferred proponent																												
Development (3-5 years)																												
Construction (2+ years)																												
Operation																												

Activities undertaken in the Development Period Include:

- Collection of Wind Data
- Negotiation of grid connection
- Environmental studies
- Design
- Planning Approvals

The duration of the planning phase is expected to range between 4 – 6 years

Commencement of the construction phase is contingent upon the developer successfully gaining all necessary development approvals as required by legislation. The duration of the development phase generally ranges between 3 – 5 years.



# Q&A



# COMMUNICATIONS

For further information, please visit **[forestrycorporation.com.au](https://forestrycorporation.com.au)**

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