

Renewable Energy

Investigation of projects within softwood plantations

Briefing – Oberon Council

16 May 2023

Agenda

- Background
- Current process
- Timeline
- Project details and consultation
- Questions and contacts.

Background

- Renewable energy aligns with NSW Government's net zero targets and can be managed side-by-side with timber production.
- In 2021, NSW Parliament amended s. 60 of the *Forestry Act 2012* to allow renewable energy projects to be established within pine plantations.
- Opportunities associated with using softwood plantations include:
 - suitable windy locations further from communities and towns
 - connections to established transmission lines
 - existing heavy vehicle road infrastructure
 - investment in regional communities
- In 2022, Forestry Corporation commenced a two-year commercial process to identify suitable opportunities and issue permits:
 - Registration of Interest (ROI) early-2022 asked interested renewable energy suppliers to register and indicate areas with most potential
 - Expressions of Interest (EOI) mid-2022 was a more formal submission from renewable energy suppliers for top sites identified in ROI
 - Request for Proposals (RFP) commenced early-2023 inviting registered suppliers to submit detailed proposals for the top sites.



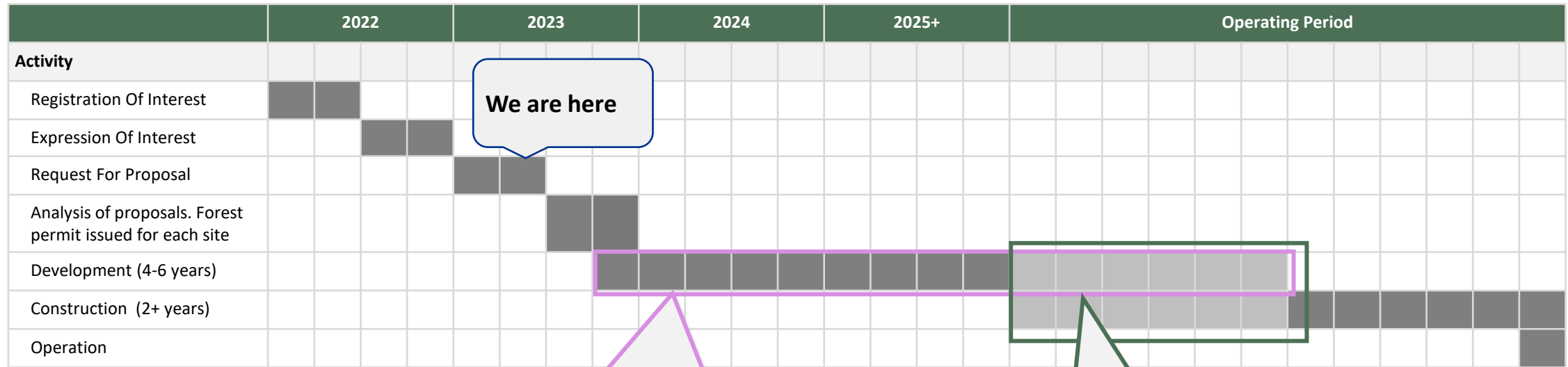
Photo Source: Siemens Gamesa Europe

Current process



- RFP is underway for the locations with greatest potential for successful projects, being:
 - Oberon
 - Sunny Corner
 - Bondo
 - Orange
- Proposals will be assessed considering:
 - ongoing timber supply
 - forest access and management
 - economic, first nations and community benefits
 - scale of renewable energy production
- Successful proposals may receive a permit in late 2023 for further investigation and planning.
- The process is confidential because it is a commercial tender.
- It is not development consent – NSW Government development application process will apply.
- The NSW Government is also developing the REZs. Importantly, this includes coordinating energy generation and storage with new transmission lines.

Timeline

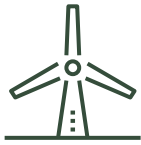


Development period to take 4-6 years including (but not limited to):

- Stakeholder engagement (First Nations, community, Local Govt.)
- Environmental studies
- Collection of wind data and other technical data
- Negotiation of grid connection
- Project design
- NSW Government planning application and approvals.

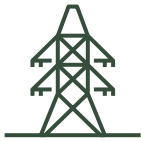
Construction will only commence once development approval granted through normal NSW Government process.

Project details and consultation



Project locations

Once proposals have been assessed and permits issued, details about proposed locations will be shared by project developers and consultation carried out.



Infrastructure

Project planning will include assessment of existing, upgraded and new infrastructure. Development consent and consultation is required for major new infrastructure.



Construction

Project permits are not construction permits. The NSW Government development consent process will be followed prior to construction, including consultation.



Forest access and timber supply

Projects must maintain ongoing timber supply and access for communities and forest management. Two hectares of new plantation will be established for any hectare of plantation removed.



Fire management

Forestry Corporation is a firefighting authority and will require detailed consideration of fire management as part of the development proposal, including consultation and contribution to fire management.



Community partnerships

Project proponents will engage with communities and must provide opportunities for community input in design, construction and longer-term partnerships that deliver community benefits.



Local job opportunities and regional development

Project planning will include assessment of local job opportunities and regional development.



Other benefits

Community members will be encouraged to consider what investments they would like to see from project developers in the community for the long term.

Questions and contacts

- Visit the Forestry Corporation website www.forestrycorporation.com.au
- Sign up to the renewable energy mailing list on the website
- Contact us: info@fcnsw.com.au