

NSW Renewable Energy Precincts

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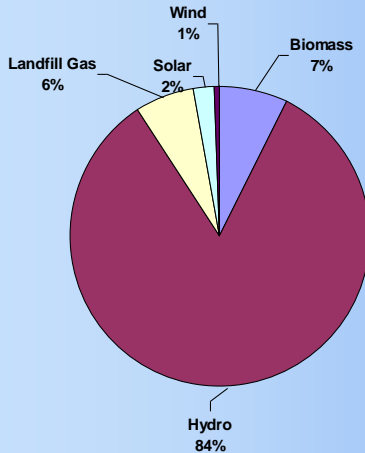
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Overview

- Federal initiatives will drive ~\$20-\$30 billion investment in renewable energy 2010-20
- NSW well positioned to be the '**next frontier**': good renewable energy resources, strong grid & large market to support growth
- NSW Government implementing a wide-ranging suite of measures to maximise our share of renewable energy investment

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NSW Renewable Energy Generation



- Around 6% of NSW total electricity usage is from renewable energy sources.
- ~85% of NSW renewable energy is from hydro.
- NSW Government State Plan target: 20% renewable energy consumption by 2020.

Figure 5. Renewable Generation in NSW in 2008

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NSW Renewable Energy Initiatives

- Small wind and solar
 - Gross feed-in tariff (60c per kwh) for all solar PV & micro-wind turbines up to 10 kw in size.
 - Streamlining planning requirements (e.g. no approvals in rural areas for turbines >200m from neighbours)
- Large-solar
 - up to \$120m for NSW solar flagship bid + site facilitation
 - Solar precinct pre-feasibility study: technical & commercial feasibility of co-locating large-scale solar power stations (1GW) in 5 areas (selected from 16)
- Geothermal
 - Licences for resource exploration

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NSW Wind Farms

NSW projects approved and under assessment

- The combined wind energy capacity of existing, approved and projects under assessment is over 3,000MW

Approved 1,500+ MW

- Crookwell II 92MW
- Silverton(1) 493-846 MW
- Gullen Range 248 MW
- Taralga 186 MW
- Conroys Gap 30 MW
- Black Springs 19 MW
- Glen Innes 81 MW
- Gunning 46 MW
- Snowy Plains 30MW
- Kyoto 126 MW

Under assessment 1,500+ MW

- Flyers Creek 80-100 MW
- Ben Lomond 205 MW
- Yass Valley 380 MW
- Boco Rock 270 MW
- Sapphire 390 MW



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Wind Farm Development - Key issues

- **Industry concerns**
 - Approval timeframes
 - Complexity and scope of requirements
 - Cost associated with planning approval process
 - Uncertainty
 - Objector court appeals
 - Cost and time for grid connection
- **Community concerns**
 - Noise impacts
 - Visual impacts
 - Property value impacts
 - Equity issues
 - Consultation
 - Uncertainty
 - Impacts on wildlife

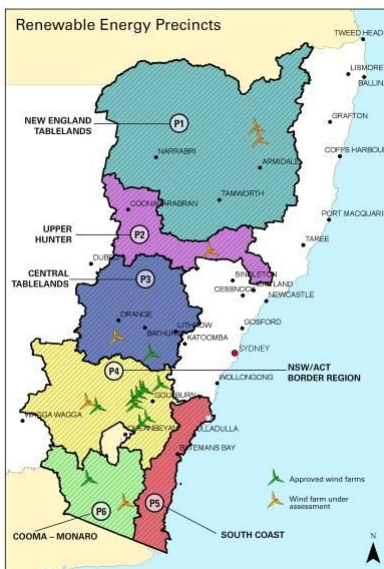


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State-wide planning reforms

- **Faster approvals under Part 3A**
 - 4 month turnaround for renewable energy projects once DoP receives environmental assessment (i.e. Government processing - assessment process un-changed).
 - Appointment of green Project Delivery Team
- **Increased certainty**
 - 30 MW critical infrastructure threshold for renewable energy projects
 - NSW assessment guidelines to be developed following completion of national guidelines
- **Financial incentives**
 - Critical infrastructure fees waived until June 2011



Six Renewable Energy Precincts

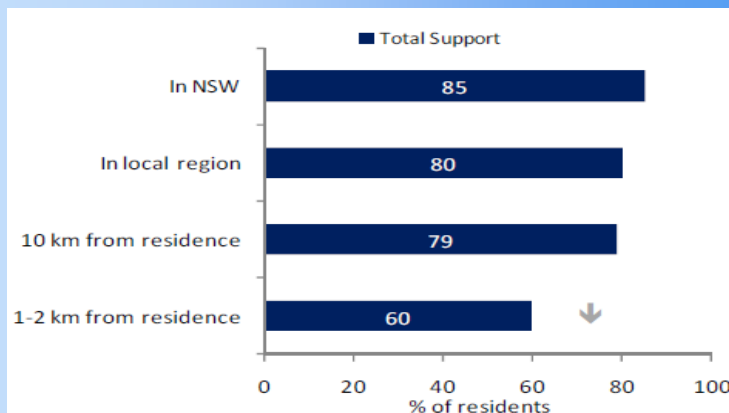
- New England Tablelands
- Upper Hunter
- Central Tablelands
- NSW/ACT Border Region
- Cooma-Monaro
- South Coast

Renewable energy precincts – areas of focus

1. Enhancing community acceptance/facilitating well-sited/designed wind farms
2. Promoting uptake of sustainability programs e.g. micro-wind/rooftop solar (solar bonus scheme)
3. Identifying and facilitating opportunities in other renewable energy technologies e.g. solar, bio-energy

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Renewable Energy Precincts – community support for wind farms



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What is the role of the Renewable Energy Precincts?

- **Information:** dissemination of information activities and resources
- **Stakeholder/community engagement:** early stage engagement to encourage more strategic approach (not just regulatory compliance).
- **Industry and project development:** identify and facilitate renewable energy opportunities within the Precinct and 'trouble-shoot' issues affecting uptake
- **Policy development:** input into policy development and identify policy and regulatory issues that cannot be resolved at precinct level

The Precinct Advisory Committees will not assess individual wind farms – but they will provide advice to councils on assessment issues not covered in the NSW guidelines

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Who will be on the Precinct Advisory Committees?

- Independent Chairperson
- Up to 4 Councils representatives
- Community representatives (landowners, environment, business)
- Regional Coordinator (Department of Premier and Cabinet) – ex-officio role (not member)

TOTAL (up to 10 persons) for each Precinct

DECCW Regional Precinct Coordinators (Secretariat)
DECCW - State-wide Renewable Energy Coordinator

To meet quarterly; they will vary from region to region

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Renewable energy precincts – next steps

- a.** Community events
 - a. Landholders & the wind industry (pilot, upper hunter precinct)
 - b. Small & community-owned wind
 - c. Wind farm noise
- b.** Greenhouse gas savings: on-line tool for wind developers & community
- c.** Informative resources (e.g. 'myths and facts' on wind energy, community cooperatives handbook)
- d.** Clean Energy Jobs project: partnership with Climate Institute
- e.** Update NSW planning assessment guidelines following release of draft national guidelines