

First Wind Tower Ever To Feature Australian Indigenous Art – Hornsdale Wind Farm Switches On

- New wind farm in South Australia will help the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) achieve its 100% renewable energy target by 2020
- Energization of Phase 1 commemorated with announcement that indigenous Australian artwork from the local Nadjuri and Nukunu people will be featured on a wind tower – in a world-first
- Powering 70,000 homes (in Phase 1), the CO₂ reductions saved by Hornsdale wind farm upon completion will be equivalent to taking either 290,000 cars off the road or planting 1.9 million trees

7 July 2016: South Australia's newest wind farm, the Neoen and Siemens developed Hornsdale project, was switched on to the grid in a special 'energisation ceremony' which included the announcement that local indigenous Australian art will feature on one of the wind towers in a world-first.

At the opening ceremony in Hornsdale, South Australian and ACT government officials and the local community came together to switch on the first turbines of Phase 1 (comprising a total of 32 turbines) of the project developed by Neoen - the French renewable energy producer and developer of the Hornsdale Wind Farm - and Siemens Australia.

Xavier Barbaro, Neoen's global CEO who was in Australia for the celebration said that he was proud to see his company's ability to deliver on ambitious clean energy targets.

“Hornsedale is a great example of the global strength of France and Germany working together to provide clean energy for 70,000 Australian homes and new employment, training and investment opportunities in South Australia and the ACT. With almost 40% of the country’s clean energy produced by wind farms, Australia’s renewable energy footprint is increasing in size and global relevance – making it a great place to invest and do business, said Mr Barbaro.

“Neoen has been able to use our extensive wind and solar assets to expand rapidly in Australia since we started operations here in 2012. We look forward continued success in Hornsdale and across the country.

“Local communities play a big role in the success of wind farms and in creating a sustainable economy and it’s encouraging to see how welcoming people in Hornsdale and surrounding communities have been.”

The wind farm features the latest in blade technology that harvests more wind energy – increasing the annual energy yield of the turbines. Each rotor of the 32 state-of-the-art turbines sweeps a total of 10,000m² – an area equal to 320 school buses parked together. The high-tech Hornsdale wind farm uses the latest data and digitalisation platforms; every rotation is remotely monitored to increase effectiveness and efficiency.

Siemens Australia is the turn-key builder of the wind farm and local Siemens Head of Energy businesses David Pryke said that it reinforced Siemens’ commitment to investing in Australia’s future.

“Siemens has over 30 years’ experience in wind power managing over 16,800 turbines globally. It’s important to continually develop technology to support a more sustainable and environmentally friendly future for communities and the Hornsdale wind farm is a strong testament to this focus for Siemens, said Mr Pryke.

“This project is the epitome of partnership combined with the best technology to bring ingenuity to life for the benefit of society. It’s good for the environment, good

for the economy and good for the community – all critical ingredients for sustainable success.”

Since the start of the Hornsdale project, Neoen has worked with the Northern Areas Council in Jamestown by funding community grants for projects. Speaking about the support to local communities, Colin Byles, the CEO of the Northern Areas Council highlighted the many benefits to the local area.

The impact of this project is immense and has injected a new energy into the area. “You can see the impact through increased patronage of hotels and other accommodation, cafes and small retailers. Also, farmers benefit by having a regular source of income and road infrastructure that even benefits local volunteer fire fighters with new access roads,” said Mr Byles.

The local community has also benefited by direct community funding.

“The Council believes that the Hornsdale Wind Farm Community Funding is of immense value to our small community organisations. The small organisations do not qualify for the major grants offered by government and the funding from the Hornsdale wind farm provides them with the opportunity to undertake projects that they would never been able to commence. All these organisations are run by volunteers with minimum income streams coming from their day to day operations.”

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Editor’s notes

About the Nadjuri artwork

Artists – Chris Angrave and Louise Brown, Nadjuri people
Narrative - The Mungiura were found in the hilly country. They were seen peering over the top of the windbreaks, a storm was about to occur.

Nukunu artwork is still being finalised by the artist.

About Hornsdale

- 32 turbines in Phase 1, with each tower:
 - 92.5 metres in height
 - 55 metre long rotor blades
- When complete the wind farm will provide around 27 per cent of the ACT’s forecast 2020 electricity supply
- Phase 1 of the wind farm spans 13 different properties

Siemens Wind Power in Australia and New Zealand

- Snowtown II (SA), West Wind (NZ), Te Uku (NZ) and Mill Creek (NZ) and now Hornsdale
- 238 wind towers with ~639MW capacity – powering 308,000 homes

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Neoen is an independent power producer, generating electricity from renewable sources (solar, wind or biomass). Neoen develops, finances, builds and operates plants and is active in France, Portugal, Australia, Mexico, Egypt, Mozambique, Jamaica, Zambia, Jordan and El Salvador. With a current operating base of 759 MW, Neoen seeks to achieve installed power of over 1,000MW by 2017. Founded in 2008, the company is a subsidiary of Impala SAS (www.impala-sas.com), a diversified investment group with over 6,000 employees and a global presence, of Bpifrance (www.bpifrance.fr), the French public investment bank, and of private equity firm Omnes Capital (www.omnescapital.com).

Siemens AG (Berlin and Munich) is a global technology powerhouse that has stood for engineering excellence, innovation, quality, reliability and internationality for more than 165 years. The company is active in more than 200 countries, focusing on the areas of electrification, automation and digitalization. One of the world's largest producers of energy-efficient, resource-saving technologies, Siemens is No. 1 in offshore wind turbine construction, a leading supplier of gas and steam turbines for power generation, a major provider of power transmission solutions and a pioneer in infrastructure solutions as well as automation, drive and software solutions for industry. The company is also a leading provider of medical imaging equipment – such as computed tomography and magnetic resonance imaging systems – and a leader in laboratory diagnostics as well as clinical IT. In fiscal 2015, which ended on September 30, 2015, Siemens generated revenue of €75.6 billion and net income of €7.4 billion. At the end of September 2015, the company had around 348,000 employees worldwide. Further information is available on the Internet at www.siemens.com.