



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### ***White Rock Solar Farm Celebrates the Start of Construction***

**10 July 2017**

Deputy Prime Minister the Hon. Barnaby Joyce MP, Member for New England, today joined John Titchen, Managing Director of Goldwind Australia, local Mayor of Glen Innes Severn Council and Acting Mayor of Inverell Council at a Ground-Breaking Ceremony to mark the commencement of construction at the \$41.4 million White Rock Solar Farm project.

“This ceremony marks the start of construction of the solar farm to be co-located with White Rock Wind Farm in New England Tablelands. The award of a large-scale solar competitive grant by the Australian Renewable Energy Agency has allowed the White Rock Solar Farm to proceed to construction.” John Titchen, Managing Director of Goldwind Australia said today.

Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Barnaby Joyce said he was looking forward to the project completion targeted for early 2018.

‘It is positive news for the New England Electorate that the White Rock Solar Farm project construction is now commencing. This was made possible following the Federal Government’s \$5.4 million funding commitment from the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) towards the project in September last year.’ Mr Joyce said.

The Federal Coalition Government supports renewables and has a legislated and efficient renewable energy target, so supporting projects like the White Rock Solar Farm show that the Federal Government is serious about supporting renewable energy production to help secure the national grid.

‘With other projects like the Sapphire Wind Farm going ahead, it also shows that the New England is leading the way in renewable energy production and I will continue to advocate for the region as a growing power supplier for Australia.’ Said Mr Joyce.

White Rock Solar Farm will be a 20 MW AC solar photovoltaic (PV) power plant located adjacent to the northern end of White Rock Wind Farm, 18 km west of Glen Innes. The development is a solar-wind hybrid renewable energy facility. It is expected to generate around 44,000 megawatt hours (MWh) of electricity in the first year of operation, enough to supply the equivalent of approximately 7,200 average NSW homes. The project is designed to benefit significantly from sharing part of the wind farm infrastructure, including the grid connection and access tracks.

Alongside the wind farm project, White Rock Solar Farm represents a significant economic investment for the region. Up to 75 people are expected to be on site at construction peaks and three people as ongoing operational and maintenance staff.

White Rock Solar is Goldwind’s second wind-solar hybrid project following the 10MW Gullen Solar project which is now at an advanced stage of construction (see photo below).



*Photo: Gullen Solar Farm in advanced stage of construction.*

## About White Rock Solar Farm

The \$41.4 million White Rock Solar Farm project is a 20 MW AC development to be located adjacent to the northern end of White Rock Wind Farm in the New England Tablelands, approximately 18 km west of Glen Innes and about 500 km north of Sydney.

Development Consent was secured for the project in June 2016 and the project was successful in the ARENA Large-Scale Solar Competitive Round in September 2016. Elements of the White Rock Solar Farm infrastructure will be shared with White Rock Wind Farm, including grid connection, access tracks and some internal electrical cabling.

## About Goldwind

Xinjiang Goldwind Science & Technology Co., Ltd. is one of the largest manufacturers of wind turbines in the world. It is the largest supplier of turbines in the Asia-Pacific, having installed 6.4GW of wind turbine capacity in 2016 and cumulatively over 38GW globally.

Goldwind has established itself in Australia as the turbine and maintenance supplier to a number of established wind farms including Morton's Lane, Gullen Range, and White Rock, as well as providing these services to the upcoming projects in New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania.

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