



PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

Community Recognition Statement

17 June 2020

DIFFUSE ENERGY

Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend) :

A small wind turbine created at the University of Newcastle had attracted significant commercial investment in a bid to improve remote and emergency telecommunication access.

The university-based start-up, Diffuse Energy, has secured \$400,000 in seed funding from Shearwater Growth Equity to scale production of its promising renewable energy option. The turbine was created by PhD research, engineers Dr Joss Kesby, Dr Sam Evans and James Bradley.

Unlike a traditional open-blade wind turbine, their invention spans less than a metre. This is achieved by enclosing the blades within a diffuser, which draws more air through the turbine.

Powering critical telecommunications in the NSW summer bushfires Diffuse Energy proved the value of its technology for Vertel, Australia's leading provider of mission and life-critical telecommunication network services in late 2019.

The Diffuse Energy small wind turbines continued to power critical voice and data services for NSW Police, Rural Fire Services, State Emergency Services and NSW Health while catastrophic bushfires raged throughout the Mid North Coast and Coffs Harbour region.

Congratulations to Joss, Sam and James on securing this investment and on the University of Newcastle for continuing to support great local initiatives.