



Pottinger Energy Park

Information Pack

The Pottinger Wind Farm project aims to harness wind energy to provide affordable, reliable and clean electricity for homes and businesses in NSW.

Someva Renewables and AGL Energy would like to acknowledge and respect the traditions of the Wamba Wamba, Perrepa Perrepa, Nari Nari and Wiradjuri peoples and respect their continued special relationship with the land and water of the area. We would like to acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land where we plan to develop the project, where we work and live and pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

Cover: Indigenous Artwork by Marbie – 'EMUS' Marbie captures the beauty of the outback sunset where the day meets the night and the iconic Australian wildlife roam the outback. Buoyed by his father's knowledge and connection to country and the collecting of Emu eggs as a child, he remembers the Emus that whisks across the plains with a grace and elegance which enriches the life of our great land.

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Project Overview

The Pottinger Wind Farm project lies between Hay and Deniliquin in the historic Western Riverina region. The project is located within the South West Renewable Energy Zone (SW-REZ) identified for its abundance of high-quality wind and solar resources, proximity to transmission infrastructure, and land use compatibility.

The project has been named after the Pottinger family – one of the first families to install and maintain windmills in the region. This adoption of wind power in the early 1900s helped to develop a thriving local agriculture industry and the project seeks to build on that legacy through clean and reliable energy.

The community co-design process means the project will operate alongside existing agricultural practices and will create long lasting economic, social and environmental benefits for the local community.

A final decision on development approval is expected by mid-2025, paving the way for the Park to commence construction and contribute to NSW's Net Zero 2050 target. Once approved, construction is anticipated for late 2026, with operation anticipated to commence in 2029.

Project Description









Jobs created through construction and operations

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\$870,000 Provided in community benefits annually



510,000 Homes powered by clean and reliable energy



Operations and Maintenance facilities including site office, control room, car parking, and water tanks.

Internal access tracks and road upgrades.



Accommodation facilities to support the construction workforce.



Site access via the Cobb Highway from Jerilderie Road in the north-east, from Wargam Road in the west, from East West Road in the south and West Burrabogie Road in the west. Wind turbine components and other oversize and overmass equipment to be transported from Port of Adelaide.

Regional Locality



About Pottinger Renewables

Pottinger Renewables is a joint venture between Someva Renewables Pty Ltd (Someva) and AGL Energy. During project feasibility consultations in 2022-23, it was identified that having an Australian owned and operated project in the South West Renewable Energy Zone (SW-REZ) was highly valued by local stakeholders, including the project hosts who are Australian farming families. This was a key factor in Someva's decision to seek AGL Energy as a joint venture partner. Pottinger Wind Farm is currently the only Australian-owned project in the SW-REZ.





About Someva

- Someva is a NSW family-owned Australian-based company. Someva develops renewable energy projects with a focus on creating new income opportunities for landowners, supporting communities to grow into new industries, and providing lower cost electricity for the needs of future Australian generations. Someva's experience across project planning, design, construction, and operations is aimed at creating the future clean energy infrastructure to support a transition to a low carbon economy.
- Someva's team members have been involved in the full end to end life cycle of renewables projects since 2008, working across development, construction, and operation of approximately 2.3 GW of assets in Australia and Asia.
- Someva currently has an early-stage development portfolio of approximately 2 GW.

About AGL

- AGL is proudly Australian and has been operating for more than 186 years. AGL supplies around 4.3 million energy and telecommunications customer services. It is committed to providing its customers simple, fair and accessible essential services as they decarbonise and electrify the way they live, move and work.
- AGL operates Australia's largest private electricity generation portfolio within the National Electricity Market. It comprises renewable energy sources such as wind, hydro and solar, batteries and other firming technology, coal and gas-fired generation, and gas production and storage assets.
- AGL is building on its history as one of Australia's leading private investors in renewable energy to now lead the business of transition to a lower emission, affordable and smart energy future in line with the goals of its Climate Transition Action Plan.

Project Timeline

Planning	Early 2022	Early consultation and assessment Commencement of early consultation as part of our tailored community co-design process, wind monitoring, and preliminary environmental and social assessments which fed into the Project Scoping Report.
	July 2023	Scoping Report Scoping Report is publicly available on the NSW Planning Portal website. Assessment requirements issued by the NSW Government which identify the information to be included in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).
		Continued engagement and preparation of EIS Commencement of detailed technical studies to assess the environmental, social and economic impacts of the project.
	June 2024	EIS lodgement and exhibition The project is exhibited for at least 28 days. The community and other stakeholder groups, including government agencies, have the opportunity to provide feedback on the merits of the project via the NSW Planning Portal website.
	July 2024	Response to submissions After the exhibition of the EIS, Pottinger Renewables responded to community and agency submissions raised. This involved making modifications to the project as part of our community co-design process.
	Sept 2024	Assess development application After publishing the Submissions Report, the NSW Government will assess the merits of the development application and will prepare an Assessment Report.
	April 2025	Access Right Awarding of an Access Right by EnergyCo.
	2025	Planning approval The project requires approval by the NSW Government and will be assessed under both NSW and Commonwealth environmental and planning legislation.
	2025	Supplier, local business and First Nations business engagement Selection of wind turbine model, Battery Energy Storage System supplier and main contractors. Local content procurement planning with main contractors.
Construction	Early 2026	 Detailed design Finalisation of detailed design for the Pottinger Energy Park, including wind turbine layout, battery energy storage system design, electrical design, and civil design. Completion of remaining site investigations and geotechnical studies to inform the design. Preparation of construction management plans, including traffic, noise, and bushfire mitigation. Early works procurement and mobilisation activities commence.
	Late 2026	Construction commences Local jobs and services, arranging site access, preparing for workers, hiring workers, building infrastructure, testing and accreditation
	2029	Construction ends
Operation	2029	Operation of the wind farm Operations and ongoing maintenance, generating electricity, grid connection, conducting site visits, ongoing community engagement and environmental monitoring and reporting.
Decommissioning and/or re-energising	~2060	Option to decommission the wind farm or upgrade to extend its lifecycle.

Project and Community Benefits

Pottinger Renewables is dedicated to making a meaningful contribution to the communities in which it operates. Our team has worked with local stakeholders to co-design a benefit sharing plan that shares in the financial and other benefits of the project in many ways into the future.

The Western Riverina region continues to be a unique social locality with respect to its response to SW-REZ and proposed renewables projects. For example, the Hay community has proactively worked with its local council to consult and develop a documented position and strategy for 'successful renewable development in Hay LGA'. We have used this guidance to further shape the benefits program described below.

Core Components	Community Enhancement Program (Voluntary Planning Agreement)	Landholder and Neighbour Benefits Sharing Program	Community and Employment Benefits Fund (Access Right fees)	First Nations groups partnerships	Agribusiness Uplift Program	Local Content Strategy	Project construction and operations benefits
Description	Community Benefits Funds to Hay Shire Council and Edward River Council of ~\$740,000 combined each year or approx. \$22 million over 30 years (based on 831 MW of wind).	Landholders ~10kms of Project Area. Annual payments to proximate landholders. Upgrades to local infrastructure. Access to 'Agribusiness Uplift Program', which focuses on decarbonisation and sustainability. Administered by the Project.	\$2,600/MW from the project (SW-REZ Access Fees). For example, an 831 MW wind farm could lead to an estimated annual contribution of \$2.1 million to the fund. Administered by NSW Government.	Multiple layers and resourcing avenues administered by the Applicant, local councils and EnergyCo. First Nations Fund of approx. \$130,000 per year or approx. \$3.9 million over 30 years.	Focused on substantiality and decarbonisation. Program offered to nearby landholders and local business in the Project Area. Administered by the Applicant in partnership with external specialist supplier.	Includes an Employment and Procurement Strategy. Administered by the Applicant with support from Industry Capability Network (ICN) and NSW Indigenous Chamber of Commerce.	Direct investments by the Applicant. 550 FTE jobs during peak construction and 35 FTE operational jobs. Preparation of construction and operational management plans to minimise impact including Accommodation and Housing Strategy.

Proposed Project and Community Benefits

Development Approval and Access Rights Scheme

Both the Commonwealth and NSW Governments have made commitments to reduce emissions in Australia's energy system. Increasing renewable energy generation is one of the main ways to do this. Renewable energy projects proposed in the South-West Renewable Energy Zone (SW-REZ) can help achieve this goal while providing clean, affordable and reliable electricity.

There are two key approval processes that impact proposed large-scale renewable energy projects in the SW-REZ: State Significant Development Approval and the SW-REZ Access Rights Scheme. These two processes are independent of each other.

Approval process for large-scale renewable energy projects in SW-REZ

- A Development Approval is required before a large-scale renewables project can be built. The Development Approval is awarded via the NSW State Significant Development (SSD) process, under the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. The Independent Planning Commission or a delegate of the Minister of Planning will be the consent authority for the development application.
- A project also needs to be connected to the electricity grid to transmit and sell electricity to energy users. There needs to be transmission capacity available within transmission lines for new projects, otherwise that project's energy generation will be curtailed (i.e. 'switched off').
- The SW-REZ involves a number of large new transmission lines that will enable this renewable energy to be connected and transmit power to major centres such as Sydney, South Australia and Victoria. These new transmission lines include Project Energy Connect (PEC), Humelink, and Victoria to NSW Interconnector West (VNI-West). However, to connect a project to any of these new transmission lines, that projects requires an 'Access Right'.
- Pottinger Energy Park has been awarded an Access Right in the South West Renewable Energy Zone (SW REZ) for the Project Energy Connect transmission network.

Opportunities for local businesses and First Nations businesses

Pottinger Energy Park could create up to 550 jobs at peak construction and 35 ongoing roles throughout its operational life.

Accommodation services

The project will include a strong local business and First Nations groups focus and will bring substantial opportunities to the region.

Types of jobs and skills required include:

• Fencing

- Logistics
- Road grading
- Catering

- EarthworksConcreting
- Fitters
- Civil engineering
 - g Electricians
- Mechanical technicians

Local businesses will also benefit from flow-on economic spending from increased activity throughout the Riverina.

Main contractors, such as the companies that will be selected to supply the wind turbines, battery storage technology and the 'Balance of Plant' (civil and electrical works), are likely to be confirmed in Q3/Q4 2025.

These main contractors will be responsible for contracting local businesses and First Nations businesses.



EIS Technical Studies Overview

Technical specialists have assessed the environmental, social and economic impacts of the project and how any impacts identified will be best managed and mitigated.

	Tochnical Study	What has the EIS accord?
	Technical Study	
01	Biodiversity	A team of ecologists has assessed potential impacts to biodiversity values, such as threatened species, native vegetation, birds, and bats. The biodiversity study identified mitigation and risk management measures to minimise the project's impact as best as practicable. Additionally, the study outlined a strategy to offset any residual impacts on flora and fauna in accordance with relevant legislation. Further information relating to biodiversity values is provided on the following pages.
02	Visual	A team of landscape architects has assessed the potential visual impacts of the wind farm on local residences and public viewpoints. The visual study considered the landscape values, character, and amenity of the site and its surroundings. It presented a series of photomontages from public and private viewpoints to illustrate the likely view of the project. Further information relating to visual impact is provided on the following pages.
03	Aboriginal heritage	Potential impacts to Aboriginal cultural heritage have been assessed by a team of archaeologists. Mitigation and risk management measures have been identified to protect heritage values as best as practicable. The archaeologists have extensively consulted with the Aboriginal community and Traditional Owners to help evaluate the significance of items recorded during heritage surveys. Further information relating to Aboriginal cultural values is provided on the following pages.
04	Noise	Acoustic engineers have assessed potential noise impacts associated with the construction and operation of the project, including traffic noise. The noise study outlines management and mitigation measures that will be included in a future Noise Management Plan to ensure the project's generated noise is minimised as much as practicable. Further information regarding noise is provided on the following pages.
05	Traffic	Traffic engineers have assessed potential impacts across all phases of the project on the operation of the surrounding road network. The traffic study outlines management and mitigation measures to be included in a future Traffic Management Plan, ensuring that traffic generated from the project is minimised as much as possible. Additionally, a separate study has been prepared to recommend a route for transporting the wind turbine components from the Port of Adelaide to the site. This study also documents any minor road modifications necessary along the route to facilitate these movements. Further information relating to traffic is provided on the following pages.
06	Historic heritage	Potential impacts to historic heritage have been assessed by a team of archaeologists. The site has been used for farming and agricultural purposes since early exploration of the Murrumbidgee Region commenced in the early 1800s. The historical assessment has determined that there are no known built heritage items or significant historic view lines within the site. The historical archaeological potential of the site has accordingly been assessed as low-moderate. It is possible that discrete historical features could be present in the site including rubbish pits associated with early rubbish disposal, postholes associated with light structures or former fence lines and the foundation remains of the former late nineteenth to early twentieth century residence and hut of Wargam Estate. Should any archaeological remains be present, these would be unlikely to provide substantive contribution to research questions relevant to the early history of the site or local area that is not available from other sources. Nonetheless, if relics are unexpectedly recovered during the proposed works, all works will cease immediately, and an Unexpected Finds Protocol will be followed.

EIS Technical Studies Overview

	Technical Study	What has the EIS assessed?
07	Telecommunications	A team of engineers has assessed the potential impacts of the project on existing telecommunications systems. The telecommunications study outlines mitigation and risk management measures to be implemented during both construction and operation phases. It also documents the outcomes of consultations with service providers and telecommunication asset owners. The study predicts no impacts to telecommunication services and assets.
08	Soils and Agriculture	Land and rehabilitation specialists have assessed the potential impacts of the project on soils, land capability, and agricultural resources. The site features a flat topography, which reduces the risk of erosion from surface water flows to a low level. Agricultural activities will be maintained within the site to the extent possible throughout the construction, operation, and decommissioning phases, in consultation with the host landholders. The study outlines soil erosion and disturbance management measures that will be incorporated into a Construction and Operational Environmental Management Plan.
09	Water	The available water resources, including both groundwater and surface water, as well as flooding risk within the site has been assessed by engineers. The study found that potential impacts to water resources will be readily manageable through the implementation of management and mitigation measures which are documented in the study and will be included in a future Construction and Operational Environmental Management Plan. Water use requirements for the project can also be met from local sources.
10	Aviation	Potential aviation safety impacts from the operation of the wind farm have been assessed by aviation specialists. The study includes advice on aviation safety requirements and procedures, along with consultation outcomes from relevant aviation agencies and stakeholders. It has been determined that the project will not create incompatible intrusions, adversely affect, or compromise the safety of existing airports, navigation, and communication facilities. Furthermore, the project is not expected to interfere with aerial firefighting and emergency response operations, provided ongoing consultation and cooperation with relevant fire and emergency operators regarding access and emergency procedures are maintained. Mitigation measures related to aviation safety have been outlined and will be incorporated into a future Construction and Operational Environmental Management Plan.
11	Bushfire	An accredited bushfire practitioner has assessed potential hazards and risks associated with bushfires and the use of bushfire-prone land. The study determined that the site has a low potential for bushfire hazard based on vegetation classification and land slope. Effective management of bushfire risk will involve implementing appropriate fire prevention and control measures which have been integrated into the project design. These measures include maintaining asset protection zones, providing suitable access roads including emergency access routes, and installing static water tanks. A Fire Management Plan will be developed in consultation with the NSW RFS Hay Fire Control Centre before construction begins.
12	Hazards	Potential risks associated with the battery storage element of the project have been assessed by engineers. The study found that risks to the public associated with the operation of the project (such as the potential for battery fire) do not exceed the acceptable risk criteria and can be effectively managed by maintaining appropriate separation distances between infrastructure. The study provides safety recommendations for the installation and construction of the battery which the project will strictly adhere to.

EIS Technical Studies Overview

	Technical Study	What has the EIS assessed?
13	Air Quality	The EIS discusses the potential air quality related impacts associated with the construction and operation of the project. With the implementation of air quality management and mitigation measures as outlined in the EIS, impacts are expected to be temporary and limited to dust generation during construction. A Construction Environmental Management Plan will be prepared prior to construction to minimise potential impacts to air quality. Once operational the project will improve air quality by reducing emissions that would otherwise be generated through the burning of fossil fuels to generate electricity from traditional coal fired power stations.
14	Waste	The EIS identifies the likely waste streams to be generated during construction, operation and decommissioning of the project. The EIS describes the measures to manage, reuse, recycle and safely dispose of this waste which will be included in a Waste Management Plan. The Hay Shire Council 'Circular Economy Strategy' will be used as a guide to ensure we also support local approaches to implementing our Waste Management Plan. Our project will investigate recycling options for the wind turbines and the lithium-ion batteries used in the project when they have reached their end-of-life – which we expect to be around 30 years of operation.
15	Social	Forecasts the potential positive and negative social impacts related to the project and proposes strategies and initiatives to address identified social impacts. Further information relating to social impacts is provided on the following pages.
16	Economic	Presents the benefits of the economic impacts and benefits of the project for the region and the State as a whole. Further information relating to economic impacts is provided on the following pages.
17	Cumulative	In accordance with the Cumulative Impact Assessment Guidelines, the EIS has assessed project impacts in combination with past, present and reasonably foreseeable future State Significant Developments in proximity to the project. The potential cumulative impacts are anticipated to be manageable through the commitment to implementing the mitigation and management measures presented in the EIS and preparing a Construction Environmental Management Plan and associated sub-plans (including a Local Housing and Accommodation Strategy). These plans will consider reflect and respond to actual regional conditions at that time, especially in relation to concurrent projects which will be serviced out of Hay and Deniliquin.

Biodiversity

The wind farm site is situated on agricultural rangeland that has been historically used for grazing and pastoral clearing over the long term. Vegetation within the site primarily consists of native grasslands and shrublands, with riparian woodland along creek lines and degraded patches of Sandhill Pine Woodland. The site also features several large ephemeral wetlands, two freshwater lakes, and an artificial irrigation dam located where Eurolie Creek meets the Coleambally Outfall Drain. The site also encompasses Mapped Important Areas for Plains-wanderer habitat.

Avoid and Minimise Impacts

The biodiversity values of the site have undergone thorough environmental assessment by a team of ecologists, which is documented in a Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR). The project must meet the stringent biodiversity assessment criteria set by both the NSW Government and the Commonwealth Government before obtaining development approval.

The design of the project has aimed to minimise impacts on biodiversity values as effectively as possible. This effort has included (but is not limited to):

- Minimising habitat clearing by using existing access tracks where practicable.
- Spacing turbines 500 metres apart where there are potential flyways between local wetlands and between wooded areas.
- Plant community types (PCTs) have been mapped, and efforts have been made to avoid threatened PCTs to the best extent possible.
- Fauna habitats, such as hollow-bearing trees and stick nests, have been mapped, and measures have been taken to avoid impacting these habitats as much as practicable.
- Diurnal and nocturnal bird and bat surveys have been conducted, identifying resident threatened aerial species, resident raptor species, and migratory species likely to pass over the site.
- Surveys for threatened species have been carried out, including habitat assessments specifically for the Plains-wanderer.

Black Falcon recorded during diurnal bird surveys in February 2024





PCT 164 Cotton Bush Open Shrubland

Biodiversity

Potential Impact to Biodiversity Values

Impacts that cannot be avoided from the project include:

- **Potential removal of native vegetation:** Approximately 1,005 hectares of native vegetation will potentially be removed, consisting mainly of Cotton Bush shrubland vegetation (53%), which is non-threatened.
- **Potential impacts to threatened ecological communities:** The project will potentially impact three threatened ecological communities: Acacia melvillei shrubland, Weeping Myall Woodland, and Sandhill Pine Woodland, listed under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*, as well as Weeping Myall Woodland listed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.
- **Potential impact to flora species:** Specific flora species affected include Chariot Wheels, Mossgiel Daisy, and Silky Swainson-pea.
- Potential habitat removal for threatened fauna: The project will potentially remove habitat for threatened fauna species, including impacting 3% of suitable habitat for the Plains-wanderer. In response to these unavoidable impacts, the project has committed to providing offsets beyond the requirements of the NSW Biodiversity Offset Scheme and EPBC Act Environmental Offsets Policy aimed at benefiting the Plains-wanderer. These offsets include additional funding for habitat management, predator exclusion, pest control, and population monitoring.

Mitigation and Management of Impacts

Mitigation and management of biodiversity values will be addressed through several key strategies and plans:

- **Biodiversity Offset Strategy:** A Biodiversity Offset Strategy will be developed to ensure there is no net loss of biodiversity values. Investigations have begun to establish local biodiversity stewardship sites as the primary method for securing required biodiversity offsets. If offsets cannot be fully secured through local sites, the project will explore options in the open credit market and the Biodiversity Conservation Fund to fulfill any remaining requirements.
- **Biodiversity Management Plan:** Before construction begins, a Biodiversity Management Plan must be prepared by ecologists and approved by the NSW Government. This plan will outline strategies and measures to protect vegetation and fauna habitat, as well as rehabilitation and revegetation strategies where clearing is necessary.
- Bird and Bat Adaptive Management Plan: A Bird and Bat Adaptive Management Plan (BBAMP) will also be developed and approved by the NSW Government prior to construction. This plan will include a monitoring regime and response measures aimed at mitigating impacts on bird and bat species. It will include a wind curtailment strategy to ensure that the operation of turbines does not have an unacceptable impact on birds and bats, particularly species like the Wedge-tailed Eagle, Black Kite, Australian Pelican, and Great Cormorant, which were identified in surveys.

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

The Project team acknowledges and respect the traditions of the Wamba Wamba, Perrepa Perrepa, Nari Nari and Wiradjuri peoples and respect their continued special relationship with the land and water of the project area.

During consultations, it was recognised that access to country is a priority for First Nations people. Many First Nations groups face challenges in accessing privately owned agricultural land on their traditional country to survey and identify culturally sensitive sites.

Equitable access to benefits resulting from the construction and operation of the project was also identified as a priority. The social benefits and initiatives of the project could contribute to "Closing the Gap" and improving life outcomes for Aboriginal people in the area, with respect to health, education, employment, security, housing, and capability building.

Potential Impact to Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

The Riverina and Hay Plains are rich in Aboriginal cultural deposits and values. An Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) has been prepared to identify cultural values within the project landscape, ensuring these values are recognised and incorporated into mitigation and management measures.

Preparation of the ACHAR involved extensive engagement with Registered Aboriginal Parties and First Nations groups who also supported the archaeologists on the ground during four rounds of Aboriginal heritage surveys.

During these surveys, a total of 111 Aboriginal heritage sites were identified within the project area, comprising artefacts, hearths, potential archaeological deposits (PADs), culturally modified trees (CMTs), and earth mounds. Significant design refinements have been undertaken to minimise impacts on Aboriginal heritage sites, though direct impact to 17 sites remain. These sites have been assessed as having low to moderate or unknown scientific significance.

Mitigation and Management of Impacts

Project infrastructure will be micro-sited to avoid disturbing Aboriginal cultural heritage sites. Where avoidance is not possible, sites assessed as having low to moderate scientific significance will be salvaged and/or mitigation measures will be implemented in accordance with the conditions of approval. Sites assessed as having unknown scientific significance will require archaeological test excavation to assess their significance.

An Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan (ACHMP) will be developed in partnership with First Nations groups prior to construction. This plan will document the processes and procedures required to manage Aboriginal cultural heritage before and during both construction and operational phases of the project.

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We want to 'Close the Gap' ourselves, so support us to do that through your Project."

Local First Nations Group Representative

ERM Archaeologists surveying a culturally modified tree





Visual

Potential visual impacts of the wind farm to local residences and public viewpoints has been assessed by Moir Landscape Architects. The visual assessment considered the landscape values, character and amenity of the site and surrounds, and presented a series of photomontages from public and private viewpoints to help illustrate the likely view of the project as it would be seen in a photograph.

Potential Impact to Visual Amenity

Twenty public viewpoints were assessed for the visual assessment surrounding the project including from the Oolambeyan Homestead Picnic Area within the Oolambeyan National Park, and 16 Mile Gums Rest Area adjacent to the South West Woodland Nature Reserve. It was identified that these locations will experience low – nil visual impacts due to intervening vegetation and distance to the project.

The closest proposed wind turbine is over 10 km from the Cobb Highway (straight-line distance), with most other infrastructure being greater than 15 km from the Cobb Highway. The visual assessment found that the project will have minimum impact on key tourist scenic routes along the Cobb Highway between Hay and Deniliquin as illustrated in the below photomontage.

Seven dwellings within 8 km of the project were also assessed. Of these, six have been assessed as having a negligible – low visual impact. The remaining dwelling will be visually impacted by the project however this dwelling is currently derelict and uninhabited.

Maintaining Visual Amenity

To ensure that the project minimises visual impact as best as practical, the wind turbines will include the following design principles:

- uniformity of colour, design, rotational speed, height and rotor diameter;
- evenly spaced to give a regular pattern creating a better balance within the landscape;
- use of simple muted colours (matte white finish) and nonreflective materials to mitigate distant visibility and avoid drawing the eye; and
- unnecessary lighting, signage and logos will not be installed.

Visual

Proposed View from Cobb Highway, Booroorban (16 Mile Gums Rest Area)



Wireframe Diagram



Proposed View | 60° Cropped (A)

Noise

Operational Noise

Wind turbine movement creates sound; however, people generally find they can have a conversation at the wind turbine base without having to raise their voices. The sound made by wind turbines is measured using a decibel 'A' rating (dBA). dBA captures the human range of hearing but excludes sound outside that range.

Guidelines published by the NSW Government specify some of the most stringent noise criteria in the world and are lower than comparable criteria in the US and Europe. The allowable level is somewhere between a whisper and a quiet library in terms of noise (35 dB(A) or background noise plus 5 dB(A)). This level is set to ensure that noise levels from wind turbines are compatible with surrounding land uses and to ensure that noise levels do not significantly affect the living experience of people residing in the area.

A Noise Impact Assessment was prepared by Sonus (acoustic engineering) to support the EIS. The assessment involved background noise monitoring at residences within the project area and neighbouring residences. The assessment found that even in the absence of noise mitigation measures, the noise of the project during operation is predicted to comply with all relevant noise criteria at all residences who are not associated with the project, in addition to recreational areas such as South West Woodland Nature Reserve and the Oolambeyan National Park.

Construction Noise

Construction activities will generally be undertaken during standard daytime construction hours consistent with the Interim Construction Noise Guideline as follows:

- 7 am to 6 pm, Monday to Friday;
- 8 am to 1 pm Saturday; and
- No construction activities will occur on Sundays or public holidays.

Out of hours works may be required for the concrete foundation pours and wind turbine installations.

Noise levels during construction are predicted to comply with noise criteria contained within the Interim Construction Noise Guideline with the exception of earthworks which are estimated to be 3 dBA above the noise criteria of 45 dB(A).

A Noise Management plan will be prepared before construction commences and will be included as a sub plan to the Construction Environmental Management Plan. A draft noise management plan has been included in the EIS and includes the key noise control commitments:

- · Advance notification for all receivers likely to be impacted by the works;
- · Works will be completed over the minimum possible duration;
- Undertake noise-generating activities during the day period as much as practical;
- · Schedule works to limit the number of consecutive days or nights where receivers are impacted;
- · Construction plant selections to use the lowest noise generating equipment; and
- Instructing site supervisors to respond to any noise complaints by investigating the cause of the complaint and consider if alternative work methods can be implemented to remove or minimise the cause of the complaint.

Traffic

Potential impacts across all phases of the project on the operation of the surrounding road network has been assessed by traffic engineers.

Traffic Generation

The peak hours for construction traffic will occur at the start and end of the day when workers are transported to and from the site. Generally, workers will arrive onsite between 6 am and 7 am and depart between 5 pm and 7 pm. Up to four site access points will be designed for all heavy vehicles required for the construction phase. The modelling of construction traffic is presented in the below table. The traffic assessment has concluded that the road network is expected to continue to operate with acceptable conditions during peak construction periods.

Oversize and overmass (OSOM) vehicles will also be required to deliver larger plant from the Port of Adelaide to the project (such as earthmoving equipment and wind turbine components). Approximately 3,182 OSOM vehicles would be required to access the site during the 47-month construction period. The vehicles would arrive outside of the peak periods and would be able to be accommodated on the road network subject to road upgrades and the adoption of suitable road management strategies.

Operational traffic for the project is expected to be minimal and the only traffic will be associated with maintenance and operation services.

Management of Impacts

The project will manage the impact of construction activities on local traffic and communities as follows:

- Traffic Management Plan (TMP): A TMP will be prepared before construction commences and will include communication protocols, a Driver Code of Conduct, OSOM operating protocols, and detailed information on traffic volumes and the distribution of construction vehicles. The TMP aims to reduce congestion, prevent accidents, and limit noise and emissions from construction traffic.
- **Community Information and Awareness Program:** We will keep local residents informed about construction-related traffic impacts through press releases in local newspapers and letterbox drops.
- **On-Site Parking Provision:** Sufficient on-site parking has been included in the project's design to ensure that the project workforce do not need to park on the surrounding road network.
- **Pre-Condition Survey:** A pre-condition survey of the relevant sections of the existing road network will be undertaken in consultation with each relevant council prior to construction. The sections of the road network used by the project will be monitored and maintained throughout construction. Any faults attributed to construction of the project will be promptly rectified. Upon completion of construction, a post-condition survey will be conducted to ensure the road network is restored to its original condition.

Waste and Decommissioning

- Minimum waste streams would be associated with generation of electricity from this project.
- A Waste Management Plan (WMP) will be prepared and implemented to manage, reuse, recycle and safely dispose of water. The Hay Shire Council 'Circular Economy Strategy' will be used as a guide to ensure we also support local approaches to implementing our WMP.
- Our project will investigate recycling options for the wind turbine generator and the lithium-ion batteries used in the Project when they have reached their end-of-life – which we expect to be around 30 years of operation.
- Currently, around 85-94% of a wind turbine (by mass) is recyclable and can be recycled in Australia (CEC, 2023).
- A wind turbine is predominantly made up of recyclable metals: steel, aluminium, copper and cast iron.



Social and Community

Large-scale renewable energy projects can affect people in many ways, both positively and negatively. Identifying and understanding social impacts helps to inform responses that aim to avoid, mitigate or reduce negative impacts and enhance positive impacts. 'Social impacts' generally refer to the consequences that people experience when a new project brings change. This includes individuals, households, groups, communities, or organisations.

The findings presented that Hay is a relatively rare social context within Australia with the positive impacts of proposed renewable energy developments being emphasised by key stakeholder groups consulted far more than the potential negative impacts.

Dashboard summary of engagement and consultation



Social and Community (cont.)

The impacts identified have been assessed based on the potential likelihood, dimensions and magnitude levels of the impact occurring.



Sample range of measures proposed in response to identified potential impacts





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