

Warracknabeal Energy Park

Attachment A.3: Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan



WARRACKNABEAL ENERGY PARK

Preliminary Community & Stakeholder Engagement Plan





DOCUMENT HISTORY AND STATUS

The following table outlines the revisions made to this document

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NOMENCLATURE

Term	Definition	
communication	the act or process of providing public information about the project.	
Community	a group convened by the project team to provide an avenue for two-way communication,	
Reference Group	to facilitate information-sharing with local communities, and to obtain local advice to	
	inform project activities and development.	
The Plan	The Preliminary Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan	
consultation	the act or process of seeking and receiving feedback from project stakeholders, such as	
those listed in Appendix A of this plan.		
controlled	a proposed action that is likely to have a significant impact on a matter of national	
action	environmental significance or the environment of Commonwealth land.	
EES	Environment Effects Statement	
feedback	input and advice from project stakeholders, such as those listed in Appendix A of this plan, provided through formal or information consultation	
the Plan	this plan, the EES Engagement Plan, which explains how consultation will be undertaken	
	during preparation and exhibition of planning and environmental approvals.	
the Project	the proposed Warracknabeal Energy Park project	
the Project	WestWind Energy Development, the proponent proposing to develop the Warracknabeal	
team	Energy Park project	
Technical	a group appointed to provide advice to the department and the proponent throughout the	
Reference	scoping and preparation of an EES, if required.	
Group		
CRG	Community Reference Group	
DELWP	Victorian Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	
EPBC Act	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999	
EE Act	Environment Effects Act 1978 (Victoria)	
EES	Environment Effects Statement	
GW	Gigawatt	
IAP2	International Association for Public Participation	
MW	Megawatt	
The Minister	The Minister for Planning	
RAP	Registered Aboriginal Party	
TRG	Technical Reference Group	
WWE	WestWind Energy Development	
WTG	Wind Turbine Generator	
WNLP	The Western Renewables Link Project, a proposed new 190km overhead high-voltage	
	electricity transmission line that will carry renewable energy from Bulgana in western	
	Victoria to Sydenham in Melbourne's north-west.	



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The Warracknabeal Energy Park project (the Project) is an onshore wind energy project in the Wimmera Southern Mallee region of north-west Victoria. The Project is proposed across two sections, with the northern section 4km northwest of the town of Warracknabeal and the southern section located 6km southwest.

The Project has been under consideration since 2017, when site investigations commenced. Extensive community interest has informed the location and size of the Project which is approximately 1,200-1,500MW in proposed generation capacity across 200-220 wind turbine generators (WTGs).

WestWind Energy Development (WWE) is the proponent of the Project and is an Australian renewable energy developer with a vision to create a clean, renewable energy future with zero emissions. WWE is committed to the development of cost-effective renewable energy generation, refined through technical excellence, commitment to communities and cohesive company values. WWE has almost two decades' experience developing major wind energy projects in Victoria including the Mount Mercer, Moorabool, Lal Lal and Golden Plains Wind Farms.

1.2 Purpose and objectives of the Plan

Extensive stakeholder engagement is critical for building the social licence required for a wind energy facility to be developed successfully. Engagement directly informs expectations including important constraints and opportunities which should be carefully considered when determining the location and design of a wind energy facility. Comprehensive engagement allows the project team to better understand the projects potential effects and enables stakeholder feedback which helps inform project decision making.

The Preliminary Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan (the Plan) has been developed to inform the submission to the Minister for Planning (the Minister) on the matter of whether the Project will be required to prepare an Environment Effects Statement (EES).

The objectives of the Plan are:

- To identify all relevant community members and stakeholders;
- To identify a variety of engagement mechanisms to ensure meaningful and collaborative community and stakeholder engagement;
- To communicate regularly with identified communities and stakeholders in relation to the project and the planning and environmental processes;
- To record, consider and respond to outcomes of engagement;
- To seek out and encourage opportunities for local community and stakeholder participation; and
- Build on previous consultation to involve communities and stakeholders in project development.

1.3 Background

Since inception of the Project, WWE has initiated engagement activities that generate dialogue that allows the project team to understand the community and the stakeholder groups.

Initial engagement commenced with Yarriambiack communities and interested stakeholders in 2017. Through early discussions WWE was able to identify relevant community groups and commence conversations to identify the best way to engage with the community and key stakeholders.

A targeted engagement plan was designed and commenced locally in 2020. This engagement sought to involve key people in the project's early development and obtain feedback about specific activities and aspects of the project.



Early engagement findings included:

- Concerns relating to the visual impact of turbines and transmission infrastructure;
- ❖ Importance of ensuring minimal impact to the Warracknabeal Municipal Aerodrome;
- Necessity for the Project to spread benefits across the wider community;
- * How construction will be managed to avoid or minimise impacts on communities, landholders, agri-business and the local environment;
- Jobs, economic and industry benefits from the project; and
- ❖ Assurance that impacts to private property will be minimized where possible.

Feedback to date has informed:

- The understanding of local values, issues and opportunities;
- The extent of site investigations;
- Location of project infrastructure including potential transmission corridors; and
- Consultation methods and communication methods.

Further details can be found in Appendix A – Engagement activities undertaken to date



2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Warracknabeal Energy Park (the Project) is a proposed 1,200-1,500MW Project across 200-220 WTGs 40km north of Horsham in north-western Victoria, with the northern section 4km northwest of the town of Warracknabeal and the southern section located 6km southwest.

WWE began investigating potential sites near Warracknabeal in early 2017 and installed a sonic wind profiler or SODAR (sound detection and ranging) on site in October 2017 to measure wind speeds and directions

The Project covers an area of approximately 25,200 hectares (ha) over two project sections and two easement corridors and is described as follows:

- The Northern Section (WAEP-N) is approximately 14,300 ha in area and is located 5 km north-west of Warracknabeal.
- The Southern Section (WAEP-S) is approximately 7,200 ha in area and is located 7 km south-west of Warracknabeal.
- The northern easement corridor, hereby referred to as the North-South Link (N-S Link) is approx. 2,800 ha in area
- The southern easement corridor, hereby referred to as the South-Murra Warra Link (S-MW Link) is approx.

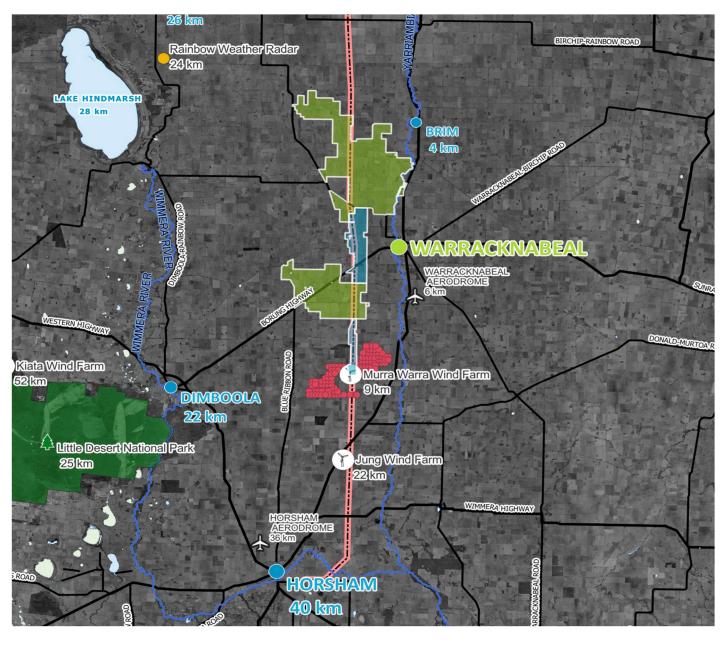
 900 ha in area

The Project proposes the following infrastructure:

- Up to 220 WTGs;
- two substations, one in the Northern Site and one in the Southern Site;
- two Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), co-located with the substations;
- overhead high voltage transmission lines running between the two substations;
- overhead 33 kV transmission lines within the wind farm, connecting groups of turbines to the substations;
- transmission and grid connection infrastructure;
- operations and maintenance facilities;
- turbine foundations and hardstands;
- site access points and access tracks with drainage where required;
- underground cabling;
- meteorological masts; and
- business identification signage;
- temporary concrete batching plants; and
- temporary site compounds, equipment laydowns and storage yards.



Figure 1 - WAEP Location





3 COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

3.1 Engagement timing

The Project has four key phases, all of which require tailored communication and engagement. The phases are:

Site selection

- o Commenced in 2017
- o Objectives were to
 - understand the social context in the potential area of interest;
 - explore potential engagement with key stakeholders;
 - manage expectations with honesty;
 - articulate potential Project benefits and timeframes; and
 - respond to any questions and queries.

Planning and approvals

- o Current stage commenced in 2022
- o This phase requires regular communication with stakeholders to ensure they understand that the Project is progressing.
- Objectives can be found in Section 3.2 Objectives of planning and environmental approvals stage.

Construction

- o Expected to commence in 2026-2027
- o Objectives are to
 - proactively communicate the upcoming construction schedule, traffic movements and impacts to roads
 - reduce communities' stress and concerns by acknowledging and responding to any raised issues or concerns
 - earn trust through openness and responsiveness to community interests and concerns
 - demonstrate commitment to the communities' wellbeing
 - avoid, minimise, or remediate negative impacts from construction
 - seek and respond to interest in opportunities for communities created by the construction process
 - require the contractors to invest in the local community

Commissioning and operations

- o Objectives are to
 - Continue to be an active member of the community; and
 - Strengthen collaboration through relevant partnerships that demonstrate commitment to communities' wellbeing.

3.2 Objectives of planning and environmental approvals stage

During the planning and environmental assessment stage, our communication and consultation objectives are to:

- Inform communities and stakeholders about the project, the planning and environmental approvals process, and opportunities to participate;
- Actively involve communities and stakeholders in the project's development and planning to improve outcomes;
- Encourage participation and seek input during the design of the project and the preparation of planning and environmental approvals, in order to identify issues of potential concern, obtain local insight and gain feedback on measures to address concerns;
- Help people understand the project and participate, by ensuring communication materials are clear and accessible; and
- Demonstrate how community and stakeholder issues and feedback are being captured and used to inform project development and assessment.



3.3 Relevant legislation and best practice guidance

The plan has been developed with awareness and consideration of the following legislative requirements and best practice guidance:

- Planning and Environment Act 1987
- Environment Effects Act 1978 (Vic)
- Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (1999) (Cth)
- Equal Opportunity Act 2010 (Vic)
- Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2000 (Vic)
- Privacy Act 1988 (Cth)
- ❖ IAP2 Core Values and Public Participation Spectrum
- Community Engagement and Benefit Sharing in Renewable Energy Development in Victoria, 2021
- National Wind Farm Commissioner observations and recommendations, 2020
- Clean Energy Council Community Engagement Guidelines for the Australian Wind Industry, 2018.

3.3.1 IAP2 Spectrum

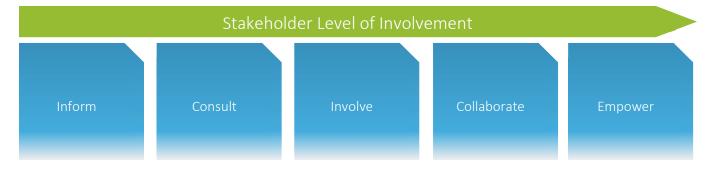
WWE is committed to best-practice community and stakeholder engagement, guided by the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) spectrum - an internationally recognised tool for planning public participation.

IAP2 defines public participation as the involvement of those affected by a decision in the decision-making process. IAP2's core values of public participation include promoting sustainable decisions by recognising the interests of all decision-makers, actively facilitating the involvement of those potentially affected by or interested in a decision, providing participants the information they need to participate in a meaningful way, and communicating to participants how their input affected the decision.

The IAP2 Spectrum includes varying levels of public participation, ranging from:

- Inform To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.
- Consult To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.
- ❖ Involve To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.
- Collaborate To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.
- ❖ Empower To place final decision making in the hands of the public.

Figure 2 - International Association of Public Participation engagement spectrum



3.4 Communication and consultation approach

The project has been founded and developed with the belief that early, sincere, and respectful consultation is an essential component of successful project development. Project planning will involve some complex decisions that require consideration of a broad range of issues. We will seek to build genuine, trust-based relationships with



communities and stakeholders to enable constructive discussion and exploration of these complexities, with a view to achieving greater mutual understanding and beneficial outcomes.

3.4.1 Principles of Engagement

Community engagement for the Project is guided by the following principles:

Table 1 - Community engagement principles

Open	 Listen with an open mind Be open and honest about considerations, impacts and opportunities Explain how and why decisions are being made and how input is used to inform decisions
Responsive	 Prompt acknowledgement of queries or concerns Respond to issues, no matter how large or small
Flexible	 Be flexible in our approach to avoiding or mitigating impacts where possible Be flexible about how and when we accept feedback so that timely input can shape the project to achieve beneficial outcomes Seek feedback on our communication and consultation approach and make any necessary adjustments in response to feedback
Inclusive	 Seek to identify and involve a broad and diverse range of stakeholders in planning and decisions Communicate in plain English and an accessible format Use a range of communication methods to reach different audiences through their preferred channels Use established local networks and groups to keep people informed
Transparency and integrity	 Be respectful and honest in all interactions Share information that allows stakeholders and communities to provide informed feedback Adhere to all relevant laws and requirements
Accountable	 Provide key points of contact within the project team for queries or concerns Take ownership for issues which may arise, particularly those that could have an impact on communities or stakeholders Provide access to senior team members and technical specialists at information sessions.



3.5 How feedback is used

Community and stakeholder feedback will inform various aspects of the project and preparation of planning and environmental approvals:

Table 2 - How feedback is used

Stage	How feedback is used
Design	 Informs options for development and assessment Considered in project scope refinement Considered in locating and micro-siting infrastructure
Planning and environmental assessment	 Enhances our understanding of the local environment, potential issues, and opportunities Considered in preparing impact assessments Considered in developing measures to avoid or minimise potential impacts Informs communication and consultation approach Informs performance requirements for construction, operation, and decommissioning
Construction and operations	 Considered in construction methodology, timing, and impact mitigation Informs communication and engagement approach

The Project team will document feedback received through consultation and all applicable associated correspondence. We will be clear about which aspects of the project's development and assessment can be shaped by community feedback, when and why we're seeking feedback and how it will be used to inform decision making.

In instances where it is not possible to incorporate community or stakeholder preferences, the reasons will be clearly explained and the rationale and process for decision-making shared.



4 TRADITIONAL OWNERS

The Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergai and Japagulk peoples, collectively known as the Wotjobaluk peoples, are the Traditional Owners of the land at Warracknabeal and its surrounds.

Barengi Gadjin Land Council Aboriginal Corporation (BGLC) are the Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) and will be responsible for evaluating the project's Cultural Heritage Management Plan. We understand that providing accurate and timely information to the Wotjobaluk peoples is a necessary and important responsibility of the project.

WWE take a partnership approach to engaging with Traditional Owners and will seek involvement on a range of topics beyond Cultural Heritage, such as native title, project design, construction, and procurement.

However, WWE recognise that cultural heritage is not exclusively the physical environment and collection of objects. It also includes the traditions and living expressions inherited and passed on through generations of Traditional Owners, such as oral traditions, social practices, rituals, and knowledge.

Per the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), intangible cultural heritage is:

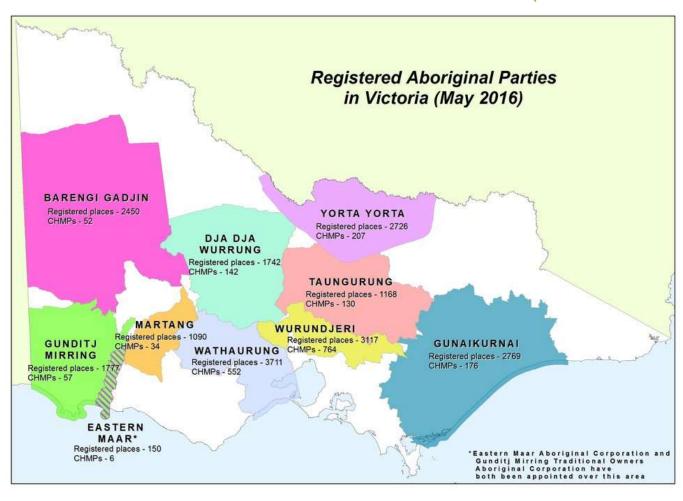
- Traditional, contemporary and living at the same time: intangible cultural heritage does not only represent inherited traditions from the past but also contemporary rural and urban practices in which diverse cultural groups take part;
- Inclusive: we may share expressions of intangible cultural heritage that are similar to those practised by others. Whether they are from the neighbouring village, from a city on the opposite side of the world, or have been adapted by peoples who have migrated and settled in a different region, they all are intangible cultural heritage: they have been passed from one generation to another, have evolved in response to their environments and they contribute to giving us a sense of identity and continuity, providing a link from our past, through the present, and into our future. Intangible cultural heritage does not give rise to questions of whether or not certain practices are specific to a culture. It contributes to social cohesion, encouraging a sense of identity and responsibility which helps individuals to feel part of one or different communities and to feel part of society at large;
- Representative: intangible cultural heritage is not merely valued as a cultural good, on a comparative basis, for its exclusivity or its exceptional value. It thrives on its basis in communities and depends on those whose knowledge of traditions, skills and customs are passed on to the rest of the community, from generation to generation, or to other communities; and
- Community-based: intangible cultural heritage can only be heritage when it is recognized as such by the communities, groups or individuals that create, maintain and transmit it without their recognition, nobody else can decide for them that a given expression or practice is their heritage.

WWE believe that respectful and collaborative relationships with Traditional Owners are essential to the success and equity of renewable energy developments. WWE is committed to improving our relationships with Traditional Owners on whose lands we work, and to advocating for specific benefits and genuine collaboration and empowerment of Traditional Owners in the development of the Project.

WWE will apply dedicated engagement and project management resources to support a continual and open dialogue, provide a single point of contact for communications, and facilitate appropriate and respectful engagement.

Figure 3 - Map illustrating Barengi Gadjin Land Council Aboriginal Corporation in a regional context







5 STAKEHOLDERS

The project is expected to attract interest in the Wimmera Southern Mallee region and potentially more broadly across Victoria and Australia. WWE is actively building strategic working relationships with the various stakeholders who are directly or indirectly impacted by the Project and/or who have an interest in the Project. Some of the measures undertaken to manage stakeholder interest include the implementation of a stakeholder database, maintaining a commitment register, a communications plan and procedures for the investigation of complaints.

The mapping and assessment of stakeholders is designed to ensure the appropriate level of engagement and activities for key groups of stakeholders. Per Section 3.3.1 – IAP2 Spectrum, these levels are assigned using the IAP2 engagement spectrum, which is considered the gold standard for community engagement frameworks.

5.1 Stakeholder Categorisation

Stakeholders for the Project have been categorised into two main groups, which differentiate between:

- Those who will be or are likely to be directly or indirectly affected, positively or negatively, by the Project; and
- Those who might have an interest in or may influence the Project.

Following this definition, the two principal groups of stakeholders in the Project are broadly categorised as follows:

Connected stakeholders

People/entities directly connected to or affected by the Project. Connected stakeholders are generally located within the Project's defined area of influence. Connected stakeholders include two sub-groups:

Directly connected

- Communities, groups, businesses, and individuals within 5km of the Project
- ❖ 34 host landowner families who will host wind farm infrastructure
- Residents of 166 neighbouring dwellings within 5km of the Project boundary
- Contractors and employees working on the Project
- Local emergency services, CFA, SES, CIRT, Ambulance Victoria
- Barengi Gadjin Land Council Aboriginal Corporation
- Yarriambiack Shire Council
- Department of Transport/ Regional Roads Victoria
- GWM Water
- DEWLP Grampians Region

Indirectly connected

- Residents, businesses, officials, and administrators who may be indirectly connected to the Project by employment opportunities, influx and the related pressure on resources, services, and accommodation; and
- Local community-based organisations (CBO) who represent directly connected groups and/or other affected parties.



Interested parties

People/entities that are interested in the Project and/or could affect the Project in some way. Interested parties also includes two sub-groups to differentiate between individuals and organisations with a general interest in the Project and those with an authorisation or regulatory role:

Interested individuals, organisations, and groups

- Residents of the greater Yarriambiack Shire area;
- CBO, faith-based organisations (FBOs), non-government organisations (NGOs);
- Suppliers and service providers to the Project;
- Other notable Projects in the region;
- Renewable energy groups;
- Investors and Lenders to the Project; and
- Media, academics and other interest groups

Interested authorities:

- Victorian Government:
 - o Department of Environment Land Water and Planning (DELWP);
 - o Minister for Planning;
 - o Minister for Climate Action, Energy and Resources and the SEC;
 - o Department of Transport/ Regional Roads Victoria;
 - o Wimmera Catchment Authority;
 - o Environment Protection Authority;
- Federal Government Department of Environment and Energy;
- Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner;
- Victorian Renewable Energy Advocate;
- Yarriambiack Shire Council;
- Aboriginal & Indigenous Community Politicians at federal, state and local level;
- ❖ Aboriginal Victoria;
- Bureau of Meteorology;
- Wimmera Catchment Management Authority;
- Wimmera Development Association;
- Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO);
- Energy network providers; and
- Aviation groups
 - o Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA);
 - o Department of Defence;
 - o Airservices Australia;
 - o Aerodrome operators within 30 km of the external property boundaries of the site;



- o Flying training organisations at Horsham and Warracknabeal aerodromes;
- o Aerial Agricultural Association of Australasia; and
- Aerial firefighting, air ambulance and search and rescue in the area (e.g., Victoria Police Air Wing, Country Fire Authority, Rural Ambulance Victoria).

Once stakeholders are identified, they are assessed using the following three key determinants:

- The stakeholder's projected level of interest in the Project;
- The Project's potential impact on the stakeholder; and
- The stakeholder's degree of influence / power on or value to the Project.

A detailed stakeholder analysis, inclusive of planned means of engagement, is provided in Appendix B – Detailed stakeholder list.

5.2 Regional Profile

Yarriambiack Shire

Yarriambiack Shire (the Shire) is a local government area located in the in the Wimmera Southern Mallee region of north-west Victoria, Australia as shown in Figure 4 - Yarriambiack Shire in a regional context. The Shire covers an area of 7,158 km2 and had a population of 6,556 in 2021¹.

The Shire is predominantly rural, with Warracknabeal township accommodating its main service centre. The Warracknabeal township is complemented by Hopetoun in the north and Minyip, Murtoa and Rupanyup in the south, with another eleven small towns spread throughout the municipality.

According to 'Victoria in Future 2019', the Shire is steadily declining in population, with an annual average population change rate of -1.3%². The Shire's biggest employer is agriculture, with 15% of employed people aged 15 years and over working in grain growing³.

The Shire is the heartland of grain production and handling in the Wimmera Southern Mallee region. The dry-land farming area produces 25% of Victoria's total production of wheat and barley⁴. The number of farms in the municipality has steadily declined with the average farm increasing in size, reflecting increased efficiency in farming operations.

Figure 4 - Yarriambiack Shire in a regional context

¹ Australian Bureau of Statistics, '2021 Census All persons QuickStats' 2021

² The State of Victoria Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, 'Victoria in Future 2019', July 2019

³ Australian Bureau of Statistics, '2021 Census Community Profiles', 2021

⁴ Agriculture Victoria, 'Victorian Grains Industry', June 2021





Warracknabeal

Warracknabeal is the service centre and seat of Government for the Shire. The town is a wheatbelt town surrounded by country that is primarily used for agricultural purposes and has been substantially modified over time due to agricultural operations such as broad acre cropping and livestock grazing.

The Warracknabeal township is based on a traditional grid pattern of development. Warracknabeal has developed in a moderately compact form with the majority of community facilities contained to the bounds of the Henty Highway to the east, Borung Highway to the south, Rainbow Road to the north and the Yarriambiack Creek to the west. The Creek runs through Warracknabeal and is a key environmental asset that enhances the liveability and attractiveness of the town.

The 'Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Growth Plan' encourages a focus on investment in services and facilities for the northern part of the region in Warracknabeal, whilst investigating land to the south-east or west of the town to determine its suitability for in-fill residential development.

The community of Warracknabeal has a population of 2,227, inclusive of 558 families with an average of 1.8 children. The median age of people in Warracknabeal is 51 years, with slightly more females (50.7%) than (49.3%). Children aged 0 - 14 years make up 15.4% of the population and people aged 65 years and over make up 30.6% of the population⁵.

Of persons living in Warracknabeal, 2.4% were Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people - higher than for the state of Victoria (1%)⁶.

Warracknabeal has 1,199 dwellings which have an average of 2 people per household. At January 2022, Warracknabeal ranked third in Victoria for the most affordable median house price, with a median house value of \$171,491⁷.

 $^{^{\}rm 5}$ Australian Bureau of Statistics, '2021 Census Community Profiles', 2021

⁶ Australian Bureau of Statistics, '2021 Census Community Profiles', 2021

⁷ Australian Bureau of Statistics, '2021 Census Community Profiles', 2021



The socio-economic profile of Warracknabeal is low, with median weekly household income of \$1,047 and median monthly mortgage repayments of \$736 – with both metrics sitting lower than the Victorian average⁸.

⁸ Australian Bureau of Statistics, 'Warracknabeal 2021 Census All persons QuickStats' 2021



6 PROJECT BENEFITS

6.1 Environmental benefits

The Project will provide a significant increase in Victoria's renewable energy capacity and contribute to a more reliable electricity network. The Project will deliver significant strategic benefits for Victoria contributing to State targets and strategic goals including the Victorian Renewable Energy Target, the Victorian Climate Change Act, and well as the Federal Government's Climate Change Target.

Preliminary energy assessments indicate that the Project will:

- Generate over 5,000 GWh of electricity per annum (Approx. 11% of Victoria's annual energy consumption or 24% of generation required to meet the VRET '50% by 2030' target).
- Save 5.5 million tonnes of CO2 emissions annually.
- Power more than 1,000,000 Victorian homes⁹
- Provide approximately 11% of total annual Victorian electricity consumption¹⁰.
- Have the potential to support approximately 1,950 FTE jobs during construction and 195 FTE jobs during operation¹¹
- Have the potential to generate new employment opportunities for residents and diversify income streams for local farmers. These factors may contribute to retaining, and potentially expanding, population levels within these LGAs and the broader region¹².

6.2 Economic benefits

The Yarriambiack Shire Council can expect to receive rates of approximately \$1.8 million per annum for the life of the operating wind farm.

The wind power value chain incorporates five main stages: materials; components; manufacture; logistics, development and operations (which includes project development, geotechnical services, transportation, construction, and operations and maintenance). The Project team will undertake studies to assess and estimate the direct, flow-on and total employment from regional spending and the state from construction of the WAEP.

For reference, the comparative Golden Plains Wind Farm Project is estimated to cost \$3 billion with the investment expected to generate 700+ direct jobs for Victoria during construction and 30-50 ongoing fulltime roles during operations.

6.3 Community benefits

A minimum of \$2,000 per turbine per annum will be allocated to share the financial benefits of the project with the local community. The Community Benefit Schemes will be developed through community consultation to ensure the community values and views are properly considered. Below is a list of some examples of benefits distributed from other WWE wind farms which could be applied for the Warracknabeal community.

- Scholarships
 - o A scholarship to provide financial support for local community members' training and development
- Community Benefit Fund
 - o A bi-annual fund to provide financial grants for initiatives important to the communities that surround the wind farm site.
- Community Investment Program
 - o A program that allows community members that live within 10km of the wind farm site boundary the opportunity to invest financially in the project for an annual return on investment.

(https://www.aer.gov.au/system/files/Residential%20energy%20consumption%20benchmarks%20-%209%20December%202020 0.pdf)

⁹ Based on average Victorian household electricity consumption of 4,615KWh pa.

¹⁰ https://www.aer.gov.au/wholesale-markets/wholesale-statistics/annual-electricity-consumption-nem

¹¹ Appendix C (Social Impact Assessment)

¹² Appendix C (Social Impact Assessment)



Landscaping Program

o Residents at dwellings with a view to wind turbines will be invited to participate in a landscaping program. This will provide landscaping around dwellings to reduce any visual impact of the turbines.

6.4 Neighbour Benefit Sharing Scheme

WWE have committed to a Neighbour Benefit Sharing Scheme to allow project neighbours to share in the economic benefits of the Project during its operational lifecycle.

This initiative will see approximately 100 dwellings within the farming zone (outside of the Warracknabeal and Brim townships) and within a 6km radius of a constructed turbine become eligible for an annual financial benefit based on distance to the nearest constructed turbine, per Table 3 below.

Table 3 - Tiered payment structure for Neighbour Benefit Sharing Scheme

Distance to nearest constructed turbine	Annual payment
0 to 1,500m	\$9,000
1,500 to 3,000m	\$6,000
3,000m to 6,000m	\$3,000
More than 6,000m	Nil

Neighbours will start receiving annual payments once major construction works commence, with payments to continue annually throughout the life of the project. Annual payments to the project's near neighbours are expected to total approximately \$500,000 per annum.



7 COMMUNITY FFFDBACK

Since commencing investigations into a potential Warracknabeal Energy Park, WWE have valued local community input and feedback on the Project.

Identified impacts were scoped through the following activities:

- Face-to-face meetings with landholder, residents, and key stakeholders;
- Feedback derived from community open days and participation in other community events;
- Consultation with local government, in consideration of existing regional strategies;
- Review of Project-related technical documents and management plans;
- The engagement of an external consultant to complete a Social Impact Assessment;
- Feedback derived from key stakeholder consultation, inclusive of:
 - o Demographic change
 - o Changes to community facilities and social infrastructure
 - o Changes to community groups
 - o Consistency with community views
 - o Amenity impacts
 - o Traffic and impacts on the road network
 - o Employment opportunities; and
- Reference with comparable wind projects;

A range of issues and suggestions, as outlined below, have been raised during this time, which have informed and influenced the development of the Project to date. Engagement is ongoing and will continue to shape the project design, management plans and community benefit schemes .

The ongoing, collaborative efforts between the community and WWE have been achieved via engagement activities as reported in Appendix A – Engagement activities undertaken to date. A summary of key findings collected to date can be found in Table 4 below.

Table 4 - Summary of community and key stakeholder Feedback

Issue	Key Concerns	Action/Response
Visual amenity	 What will be the visual impact of turbines and transmission infrastructure How will this wind farm look so close to Murra Warra Wind Farm? 	 A comprehensive assessment into the visual impact of the Project will be prepared by Xurban and provided to stakeholders The visual and landscape assessment will form part of the submission to determine if the Project requires the preparation of an EES Photomontages have been created to aid consideration of potential visual impacts and inform further discussion. Photomontages depicting what the project would look like from publicly accessible locations in the local area are displayed at all public information sessions. The opportunity to have potential visual impacts assessed using augmented reality technology is available to the owners of all near neighbour properties and is specifically offered to any near neighbour that raised concerns about potential visual impacts.



		-
		 A visual screening program to reduce impacts will be offered to dwellings that have a view of the wind farm infrastructure, developed in conjunction with Yarriambiack Shire Council and engaging local social enterprises Internal electrical cabling infrastructure will be undergrounded as much as reasonably possible to minimise overhead powerlines and additional visual impacts. Potential cumulative landscape and visual impacts have been and will continue to be assessed at key locations, between the project and the existing Murra Warra Wind Farm Appropriate buffers have been incorporated into the design in response to specific concerns raised near neighbours about potential cumulative impacts of the project with the nearby Murra Warra Wind Farm.
Aviation	 ❖ Interface with the Warracknabeal Municipal Aerodrome ❖ Potential impacts to farmer ability to apply fertiliser, weed, and pest control via aerial application, and aerial firefighting 	 WTGs have been relocated further west outside of the Design and Development Overlay protecting the Airport environs. Further Aviation matters will be independently assessed by Chirion within the Aviation Impact Assessment. We will continue to liaise and support recommendations from the CASA, DELWP and Air services. We will work with local farmers who raised these concerns has sought to assess potential impacts on their aerial operations and the options available to address these impacts in their specific circumstances. The CFA Design Guidelines and Model Requirements for Renewable Energy Facilities state that as long as wind turbines are no less than 300 metres apart there is adequate distance for aircraft to operate around a wind energy facility given the appropriate weather and terrain conditions. Fire suppression aircraft operate under visual flight rules and as such, fire suppression aircraft would only operate in areas where there is no smoke and can operate during the day or night.
Unequal Distribution of Financial Benefits	 Maximising the spread of benefits across the wider community Neighbours near the wind farm not sharing in the financial gain of the Project. 	 WWE will continue to engage with community members to develop schemes that will maximise the spread of benefits across the wider community WWE will seek opportunities for community investment leading to improved and



		sustainable socioeconomic outcomes in the local area through a comprehensive community benefit-sharing program. Opportunities are wide and varied, from sponsorship and grant assistance to strategic community partnerships and investment schemes. Programs should be developed collaboratively and based on locally identified values, needs, interests and priorities to realise success. * WWE has committed to providing \$2,000 per operational WTG into financial benefits to the wider community. * WWE has committed to a Neighbour Benefit Sharing Scheme to allow project neighbours to share in the economic benefits of the Project during its operational lifecycle (refer to Section 6.4 - Neighbour Benefit Sharing Scheme) * A Social and Sustainable Procurement Strategy will be developed to ensure local community and disadvantaged groups can benefit from the employment and business opportunities associated with construction.
Agribusiness	❖ Any changes to farming operations that could result from the Project	 We will work with landholders throughout the design process to minimise the impacts to their agribusiness and ensure that the agribusiness operations remain in place. Collaboration with landholders regarding the interface with their agribusiness operations will include tailored, on-on-one consultation and regular landholder meetings, along with other associated activities as detailed in Section 8.1. A Project Landholder Committee will be formed to provide a forum for feedback and collaboration throughout the Project's development and delivery. As part of the contractual arrangements to secure land tenure a Paddock Protocol manual is agreed with all host landholders. The protocol outlines working principals including items like stock management, access areas, and gates. These are agreed principles in which the Project team and their contractors are contractually required to work with in respect to the landholder's property and business. Agribusiness has been independently assessed by Ethos Urban within the Social and Economic Impact Assessment, the findings of which will be applied to



- consultation activities to allow for informed discussion.
- Only a very small proportion of agricultural land, estimated at 450-500 ha or approximately 2% of the 26,000 ha site area, will be lost to permanent infrastructure e.g., internal access roads, siting of turbines and other infrastructure requirements.
- As traditional methods of spraying are predominantly used in the region, aerial spraying is rarely used and therefore, minimal impact is anticipated. However, turbines have been spaced generously and aerial spraying can safely be completed by qualified pilots. WWE will work collaboratively with farmers to help safely facilitate aerial spraying operations.

Management of construction

- How construction will be managed to avoid or minimise impacts on communities, landholders, agribusiness, and the local environment
- * Roads and traffic management
- Stress on accommodation supply with an influx of workers
- The impact of the Project on local roads, and the delivery of construction materials will be assessed as part of a traffic management plan, in consultation with Yarriambiack Shire Council and the Department of Transport. Before development starts, WWE will commission a Pavement Impact Assessment of public roads and proposed access points to the site to be prepared in consultation with the relevant road management authorities. WWE will remediate any damages to roads to equal to or better than the original condition found in the preconstruction Pavement Impact Assessment.
- WWE will collaborate with local providers and local government to ensure that employees and contractors working on the Project can be suitably housed, while preventing locals from being locked out of the market due to over-occupation of local residences.
- A Workforce Accommodation Strategy will be developed to address potential pressures on local housing stock, with key principles been developed to address the limited housing stock and balance the needs of local residents, property owners and the workforce. Compliance with these principles will ensure that employees and contractors on the Project can be appropriately housed, while ensuring local residents seeking housing are not displaced from the local



		Energy Park
		housing market due to low availability or price increases.
Broader economic benefit	❖ Jobs, economic and industry benefits from the project	 Economics have been independently assessed by Ethos Urban within the Economic Impact Assessment and will form the basis of ongoing consultation and implementation of measures to maximise broader economic benefit. WWE will seek to maximise local benefits of the Project relating to the opportunities for local job generation, as well as training and upskilling opportunities for local businesses from the construction and operation phases, in partnership with local and regional education institutions. A Benefit Sharing Program will be created in consultation with the community and key stakeholders to deliver added value to the local region over the project's lifecycle and potentially beyond. This will be tailored to local community needs and aspirations, prepared with local community input, and remain flexible enough to be adapted over time. WWE commits to maximising industry engagement with the regional community and to social procurement. We will always endeavour to use our buying power to generate social value above and beyond the value of the goods, services or construction being procured.
Impacts to private property	 How impacts to private property will be minimized Depreciation of surrounding property values 	 Property values have been independently assessed by Ethos Urban within the Social Impact Assessment. The literature review of Australian and international studies on the impact of wind farms on property values revealed that the majority of published reports conclude that there is no impact or a limited definable impact of wind farms on property values. Anecdotally, a number of sales have occurred in the district in the vicinity of the Murra Warra Wind Farm in recent years, including properties close to the Project site. There has been no indication the Murra Warra Wind Farm has impacted the contract price or level of interest in any of those properties, and no expectation the Project would negatively influence this trend.



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		This information will be applied to consultation activities to allow for an informed discussion.
Turbine noise	 Noise pollution during construction Ongoing turbine noise during construction 	 An experienced and qualified acoustic consultant will prepare an environmental noise assessment in compliance with the New Zealand Standard NZS6808:2010, Acoustics – Wind Farm Noise dated 23 March 2021 (Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment). Assessments will also comply with the Environment Protection Regulations 2021, supporting the objectives of the Environment Protection Act 2017 to preven or minimise risks of harm to human health or the environment. By modelling the noise outputs of turbines, the proposed turbine locations, and the known location of sensitive receptors WWE can ensure the wind farm layout can comply with the applicable noise limits. A Noise Management Plan will be developed in consultation with the community within the vicinity of the Project prior to being submitted to the responsible authority for endorsement before development starts. The endorsed Noise Management Plan and supporting reports, plans and peer review will be placed on the Project website.



8 COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITES AND PROGRAM

Engagement activities and methods will be tailored to suit the project and planning and environmental approvals stage, the matters being discussed and stakeholder preferences. Activities and methods used will evolve to ensure ongoing relevance and in response to feedback.

8.1 Communication tools

Table 5 - Communication tools

Advertising and media	Advertisements, news coverage and interviews in local newspapers, radio, and TV channels and on digital news and social media channels will be used to reach a broad audience across the Wimmera Southern Mallee region and Victoria.
Website	A project webpage will provide a central location for information about the Project
Videos	Videos are used to communicate information in an engaging and accessible way for a broad audience and shared with the media, posted on social media, the project website and used in presentations to stakeholder and community groups.
Social media	Facebook and LinkedIn are used to communicate project information and updates, promote discussion, and respond to enquiries. Key dates and activities, such as information sessions and public exhibition, will be advertised on social media channels.
Printed and electronic newsletters	Newsletters provide project updates and information about how to get involved. Enewsletters will be distributed quarterly, with hard-copy versions supplied on request.
Information collateral	A suite of Project information materials is available on the project website and in hard copy at events, information sessions and the project's community hub. Hard copy information packs are sent via post upon request and to those who have nominated to receive updates by mail. Materials are updated regularly, as the Project's development and environmental assessments progress.
Maps and other visual aids	Maps and other visual aids such as diagrams, photographs and illustrations are used to show the project location, components, appearance, and processes.
3D visualisations	Augmented reality technology will be used to communicate visual aspects of the Project from locations that have a view of the wind farm.
Posters and other signage	Posters and signs in local communities, such as on community notice boards, will be used to share information with a local audience and raise awareness of the Project and opportunities to participate.



8.2 Engagement activities

Table 6 – Summary of engagement activities

Information sessions	Information sessions will be held to explain the assessment and consultation process, provide access to the project team and technical specialists, and accept feedback about potential concerns and suggestions from communities and stakeholders.
	At the formal exhibition stages, information sessions will be held to display and discuss planning and environmental documentation.
	Sessions may be held in person and/or via webinar or live online Q&A.
Community Reference Group	Comprising local community members, members of special interest groups, and project team members, this group facilitates two-way communication and provides local advice to the Project team, including on issues being assessed as part of the planning and environmental approvals stage. Meetings may be held in person and/or via video conference.
Stakeholder	Briefings are undertaken to provide information about the project and updates at key
briefings, meetings, and workshops	milestones. Meetings and workshops are held to address and seek input on specific matters from individuals, groups, and organisations with local or specialist knowledge. Briefings, meetings and workshops may be held in person or via video conference.
Pop-up office	A regular pop-up office will open to the public and provide a place where people can drop in to find information, ask questions and provide feedback or raise any concerns. It also provides a space to display information and promote community meetings, events and presentations.
Community presentations	Presentations are given to community groups with an interest in the project to share information and promote opportunities to get involved. Community presentations may be held in person or via video conference.
Local events and information displays	The project's participation in local events provides an opportunity for informal engagement and information sharing to raise awareness of the project, the planning and environmental approvals process and opportunities to participate.
Website	The project will have a dedicated webpage on the WestWind Energy website, hosting feedback methods include surveys, public Q&A, and interactive maps.
Surveys and feedback forms	Surveys and forms are used to collect data and feedback at information sessions, the Project's pop-up office and online.
Social research	Social research is undertaken as part of the planning and environmental approvals process to measure community awareness, views, preferences and impacts, and to complement formal and informal consultation activities.
School engagement	Engagement with local schools will be undertaken where possible to involve young people in discussions about the project and future. School engagement may be undertaken online or in person
Telephone, email, and online enquiries	Community enquiries are received via telephone, email, through a website form, online Q&A, social media and in-person. All enquiries are recorded in the project's CRM system, Darzin.
Technical Reference Group (TRG) *If applicable	Convened by government to coordinate advice between statutory decision makers and the project team throughout an Environmental Effects Statement (EES) process. The Project team will work collaboratively with members of the TRG, sharing information, seeking advice and considering their input in preparation of an EES, if required.



8.2.1 Landholder engagement

WWE have dedicated resources to support the Project team to work with host landholders and landholders where an easement will be required for the Project's transmission system. This team will regularly meet with landholders and provide updates through email, phone calls and meetings.

8.2.2 Agribusiness engagement

Recognising the unique needs and community footprint of this important stakeholder group, the project will work closely with local agribusiness, farmers, the Victorian Farmers Federation and other representative groups and regulators, in order to share and seek information and promote opportunities for participation.

8.2.3 Hard-to-reach and vulnerable groups

The project team will work with local government and other service providers to identify relevant individuals, groups and those who support them. Preliminary research has flagged potential individuals and groups such as:

- Residents in remote areas with limited communications connectivity;
- Culturally and linguistically diverse families (such as migrant Zimbabwean and Karen families as seen across the wider region);
- A substantial elderly population; and
- ❖ A time-poor population who work in agriculture

The best approach will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

8.3 Public exhibition of environmental and planning process

Public exhibition of the Environment Effects Statement (EES) if required and/or the Planning Permit Application will occur when the planning and environmental approvals pathway has been determined by the Minister.

Public notice of the exhibition period will be provided as directed by the Minister and will likely include:

- Direct mail campaigns and community updates to all landowners within 5km of a proposed wind turbine location;
- Timely information and documents posted on the Project website;
- Advertising in local print and digital media, advising the community of where they can view the EES documents and make written submissions;
- Information sessions held in locations local to the Project; and
- Provision of the EES documents on USB drives, upon request.

8.4 Ongoing Engagement

Throughout the environmental and planning process, WWE will remain committed to a transparent and inclusive process for the disclosure of information and community input and feedback. WWE will maintain effective processes to ensure stakeholder feedback, questions and concerns are acknowledged and considered, with ongoing community and stakeholder engagement involving:

- Maintaining the project website, providing both up-to-date information on the status of the Project during construction and operation as well as provide a means for the community to contact the project team;
- Periodic meetings with key stakeholders and open community information sessions would continue throughout all stages of the wind farm development process to provide an ongoing pathway for Yarriambiack Shire Council and the local community to receive the latest project information and communicate any issues identified in the community;
- Maintaining a direct avenue for stakeholders (including members of the local community) to submit complaints, raise issues and ask questions with the project team through telephone and email;



- Maintaining a communication database throughout the life of the Project to help in identifying and resolving any project issues experienced by stakeholders; and
- Notifying affected landowners about any specific issues with projected direct impacts on properties (e.g., access changes).

The Project shares the values and principles outlined in the Victorian Government's document 'Community Engagement and Benefit Sharing in Renewable Energy Development – A Guide for Renewable Energy Developers'. The guide will be used to inform the ongoing development of the Project's community and stakeholder engagement as outlined below:

In Australia and internationally, active community engagement and participation are key to realising local benefits from, and support for, renewable energy developments.

The document 'Community Engagement and Benefit Sharing in Renewable Energy Development – A Guide for Renewable Energy Developers' sets the Victorian Government's expectations for leading practice community engagement and benefit sharing across all renewable energy technologies. The guide provides renewable energy developers with:

- detailed information about community engagement and benefit sharing;
- explanation of why both are important to secure a strong social licence;
- tools to engage with their communities and build and deliver their benefit sharing programs; and
- detail on Social Impact Assessments.

Renewable energy developers are encouraged to draw on local expertise and knowledge to inform their plans, including the experience of Traditional Owner groups and Aboriginal Victorians, and to consider the cumulative community impacts of proposed developments in some regions, including opportunities which may exist for strategic co-ordination with other developers and/or industry participants.



9 MONITORING, EVALUTATION AND REPORTING

The effectiveness of communication and consultation activities will be continually assessed and adjusted as required, to ensure the objectives set out in this plan are being achieved.

The Plan will be modified and updated in preparation of the planning and environmental processes to inform a final Plan.

9.1 Definitions

Monitoring

Monitoring is the systematic collection and storage of data. It enables activities, projects, programs, plans, and strategies to be evaluated and reported upon. Baseline monitoring provides data that is critical in providing context for evaluation and reporting regarding the Project and the value it provides. Additional targeted monitoring enables measurement of activity being undertaken and outcomes achieved. Outcomes may come directly or indirectly from an activity, and the link is tested at the evaluation stage. A key feature of an effective monitoring process is the documentation and storage of data in a manner that enables simple retrieval and exchange of data with other users.

Evaluation

Evaluation is conducted to assess the efficiency, effectiveness, and appropriateness of actions. An activity or outcome is best evaluated against a stated goal, objective, target, or benchmark. This helps identify whether the action is appropriate or adequate, and the strength of the link between the activity and the change that resulted. The need for 'before and after' information is key requirement for evaluation. Evaluations can also assess stakeholder reactions, changes in knowledge, attitude, skills, or behavioural change. Depending on the type of evaluation, quantitative or qualitative data may be required. Some monitoring and evaluation activities are costly and time consuming. Therefore, the amount and type of data collected for evaluation should be tailored to the particular purpose such as the decision making that it will inform.

Reporting

Reporting is the resulting documentation from monitoring and evaluation activities and the presentation of them to appropriate audiences at specified times. To help ensure efficiency, the purpose of reporting should be clearly defined. Key purposes may be accounting for funds expended or helping to inform a decision-making process. The timeframe of reporting should also be defined to suit its purpose.

9.2 Evaluation Principles

A robust and inclusive monitoring, evaluation and reporting framework is important to:

- enable continual improvement in the effectiveness of actions
- enable identification of new issues
- provide opportunities to test the effectiveness of actions and underlying assumptions
- enhance knowledge by decision-makers of catchment management issues
- increase confidence among stakeholders that their efforts will produce expected outcomes
- improve targeting and coordination of community benefits, mitigations, and on-ground actions
- enable improvements to project plans, strategies, and programs
- ensure accountability for the actions taking place to the community and government

The key principles of this Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Plan are that it should:

- be useful for all partners
- be simple, cost-effective, affordable, and practical by:
 - o avoiding duplication of effort,
 - o using data for multiple purposes,
 - o ensuring that users can obtain the data, and,



- o ensuring that users can easily find out whether suitable data already exist.
- o allow meaningful interpretation of data over time
- o identify assumptions within strategies and decision-making processes

Many years of community consultation has identified additional, important points raised by stakeholders that the Project's monitoring, evaluation and reporting activities should be considerate of:

- Information-gathering exercises being appropriate for the scale of decision-making that the information influences with a clear reason why information is being gathered.
- Stakeholders having unique needs that must be recognised. Monitoring, evaluation and reporting protocols need to have sufficient flexibility to ensure that the exercise remains relevant to the stakeholders.
- ❖ A demonstration of adequate process being able to substitute for outcomes which are very long-term or difficult to measure.

9.3 Recording feedback

Stakeholder interactions and feedback (both formal and informal) are recorded in the project's CRM database – Darzin. This database holds stakeholder information and enables the project team to record and classify enquiries, feedback or complaints to enable accurate record keeping and reporting.

Feedback received through formal consultation will be analysed and reported in Darzin reports. Reports will be published on the project website and supplied to those who participated in consultation.

Any complaints are managed in accordance with the WWED complaint handling procedures.

9.4 Engagement reports for mandated consultation periods

Some stages of the planning and environmental approvals process require specific reports on the engagement activities undertaken and feedback received. A report outlining consultation undertaken, feedback received and how we responded to that feedback will be produced and included as part of these planning and environmental approvals, in accordance with their relevant guidelines and scoping requirements.

9.5 Evaluation

Performance against the communication and consultation framework objectives set out in this plan will be measured through:

- Feedback from the people we engage with;
- Social research findings relating to awareness, support and satisfaction;
- Quantity and content of survey responses;
- Quantity and content of enquiries;
- ❖ Website and social media statistics relating to reach, engagement and sentiment;
- Media monitoring:
- Quick polls; and
- Feedback forms in the Project's pop-up office events and other community information sessions



10 APPENDICES



10.1 Appendix A – Engagement activities undertaken to date

nase	Timing	Audience	Activity	Who	Discussion				
ents	Completed								
	August 2017	Yarriambiack Shire	Meeting	MD / Pm / PM	Introductions and presentation on proposed wind farm.				
	August 18, 2017	Neighbour <1.5km	Meeting	CSEM / PM	Introduction to project and WWE				
	August 18, 2017	Host landholders	Meeting	CSEM / PM	Discuss project timeline and way forward. Talk about community engagement and what WWE will do to ensure the community is informed of project details				
	September 4, 2017	Neighbour >2km	Meeting	CSEM / PM	Introduction to project and WWE				
	October 5-6, 2017	Neighbours <5km	Doorknock	CSEM / PM / ADMIN / ADMIN	Door knocking the dwellings that surround the site (within 5km) to inform them of the project status and talk to neighbours about the community.				
	October 20, 2017	Warracknabeal Aerodrome	Meeting	PM	Introduction to project and WWE				
	November 9, 2017	Neighbours <5km	Doorknock	CSEM / ADMIN	Door knocking the dwellings that WWE were unable to touch base with in October 2017.				
	November 9, 2017	General Community	Media article	CSEM	Introduction with local media about project and open day (scheduled for Dec 8).				
	November 10, 2017	Neighbour >5km	Meeting	CSEM / ADMIN	Introduction to project and WWE. Met neighbour following phone call two weeks earlier.				
	November 10, 2017	Neighbour <5km	Meeting	CSEM / ADMIN	Introduction to project and WWE				
	November 10, 2017	Ward councillors	Meeting	CSEM / ADMIN	Introduction to project and WWE and talk about engagement activities undertaken and inform them of the open day on Dec 8.				
	November 10, 2017	Yarriambiack Shire CEO	Meeting	CSEM / ADMIN	Update on project and way forward				
	November 10, 2017	Yarriambiack Shire director of infrastructure and planning	Meeting	CSEM / ADMIN	Update on project and way forward				
	November 13, 2017	Media	Media release	CSEM	Circulate media release to local media alerting them of the project and upcoming open day.				
	December 1,2017	General community	Email	CSEM	Open day flyer emailed to all community groups, service organisations, schools and sports clubs in the Warracknabeal area informing them of the open day for the project.				
	December 7, 2017	Neighbour <1.5km	Meeting	CSEM / ADMIN	Met with neighbour to show photomontage and updated layout map and talk about project timeline.				



iming	Audience	Activity	Who	Discussion
December 7, 2017	Host landholders	Meeting	CSEM / PM / ADMIN	Met with host landholders to show them photomontages and inform them of what will be shown at the open day
December 8, 2017	General community	Open day	CSEM / PM / ADMIN	Open day held at Warracknabeal Hall from 7.30am-11.30am. Was well attended, approx. 40 people attended throughout the day to receive information and provide feedback on the proposal. Some of the feedback given was about local employment opportunities, ways the development could benefit the community and opportunities to link into community organisations
February 2018	Neighbours <5km	Phone calls	CSEM	Check-in with neighbours following the Christmas period
February 2018	Service organisation	Meeting	MD	Meet with Executive Director of the Wimmera Development Association to discuss project and partnership
19 September 2018	General community	Project update	CSEM	Project update sent to all stakeholders within 10km of the project site
24 th July 2018	Host Landholders	Meeting	PM /CSEM	Met with various landholders over two days to options
15 th September 201	8 Community	Project Update	CSEM	Project Update mailed out to community
5 th October 2018	Community	Media Release	CSEM	Project Update published in Local Paper
16 th December 2018	3 General community	Event	PM / CSEM / ADMIN	Information stall and sponsorship at a community Xmas event to give people a further chance to learn about the project and sponsored fireworks.
17 th December 2018	3 Yarriambiack Shire Council	Meeting	PM / CSEM	Briefing to council executives and councillors on status of project
16 th April 2019	Host Landholders	Event	PM	All landholders invited to attend an organised tour of Mt Mercer Wind Farm
1 st October 2019	Host Landholders	Landholder Update	PM	October 2019 Landholder Newsletter Update
4 th December 2019	Community Member	Meeting	PM / CSEM	Warracknabeal Action Group Introduction
4 th December 2019	Yarriambiack Shire Council	Meeting	PM / CSEM	Briefing to council on status of project
9 th January 2020	Host Landholders	Landholder Update	PM	January 2020 Landholder Newsletter Update
1 st April 2020	Host Landholders	Landholder Update	PM	April 2020 Landholder Newsletter Update
July 2020	Host Landholders	Meeting	CSEM / ADMIN	Met with individual landholders to provide an update on the project.
23 rd July 2020	Community Member	Meeting	CSEM / ADMIN	Met with the director of the Warracknabeal Action Group to discuss about community funding



7	Гiming	Audience	Activity	Who	Discussion
	4 th July 2020	Host Landholders	Landholder Update	PM	July 2020 Landholder Newsletter Update
	29 th October 2020	Host Landholders	Landholder Meeting	WWE Team	Presentation on project development
	30 th October 2020	Host Landholders	Landholder Meeting	WWE Team	Presentation on project development
	3 rd February 2021	Host Landholders	Landholder Update	PM	February 2021 Landholder Newsletter Update
	12 th March 2021	Host Landholders	Project Update	PM	Letter providing an update on the project to host landholders
	31 st March 2021	Host Landholders	Landholder Meeting	WWE Team	Presentation on project development
	15 th June 2021	Yarriambiack Shire Council	Email	PM	Provided council with an update on the project
	30 th June 2021	Host Landholders	Landholder Update	PM	June 2021 Landholder Newsletter Update
	7 th September 2021	Host Landholders	Project Update	PM	Letter providing an update on the project to host landholders
	21st October 2021	Host Landholders	Project Update	PM	Letter providing an update on the project to host landholders
	10 th December 2021	Host Landholders	Christmas Closure	PM	Letter providing WWE Christmas Closure to host landholders
	18 th March 2022	Host Landholders	Project Update	PM	Letter providing an update on the project to host landholders
	9 – 13 May 2022	Neighbours	Door Knocking	DP, EM	Doorknocking exercise undertaken with all neighbours within 5km radius
Ī	25 May 2022	Community	Media	EM	Newspaper article on Wind Farm published in Warracknabeal Herald
	27 and 28 May 2022	Community	Open Day	PM,EM,DP	Two open days held at Warracknabeal Scout Hall
2	2 August 2022	Community	Meeting	EM	Presentation to Warracknabeal Probus Club
2	2 August 2022	Community	Meeting	EM	Meeting with local farmers about regenerative soils initative
-	31 August 2022	Host Landholders	Project Update	MC	August 2022 Landholder Newsletter Update
	1 September 2022	Service Organisation	Meeting	EM, PM	Meeting with Wimmera Development Association to provide project update
ŀ	3 October 2022	Neighbouring wind farm	Meeting	EM, LT	Meeting with Murra Warra Wind Farm
	3 October 2022	Service Organisation	Meeting	EM, LT	Meeting with Wimmera Development Association



nase	Timing	Audience	Activity	Who	Discussion	
	4 October 2022	Community Group	Meeting	EM, LT	Meeting with Warracknabeal Neighbourhood House	
	4 October 2022	Yarriambiack Shire Council	Meeting	EM, LT	Meeting with council officers and Mayor	
	6 October 2022	Community	Event	DP, LT	Information stall at Warracknabeal Show	
	26 October 2022	Host Landholders	Project Update	MC	October 2022 Landholder Newsletter Update	
	7 – 11 November 2022	Project Neighbours	Door Knocking	LT	Door knocking exercise to socialise Neighbour Benefit Programs	
	13 November 2022	Service Organisation	Meeting	PM, PE	Meeting with Mycelia Renewables OBO Barengi Gadjin Land Council Aboriginal Corporation	
	21 November 2022	Service Organisation	Project Update	PE	Project update via email to Wimmera Development Association	

Provisional Future Activities (non-exhuastive)

Monthly	Host Landholders	Project Update	MC	Landholder newsletter updates
Ongoing	Project Neighbours and Community	Meeting	PM, EM., LT	Adhoc meetings with locals as required in response to enquiries
Ongoing	Project Neighbours and Community	Meeting	EM	Management of high-value/ high-risk stakeholders as required
December 2022	Project Neighbours	Door Knocking	LT	Door knocking exercise to socialise Neighbour Benefit Programs
December 2022	Host Landholders	Visit	LT	Delivery of Christmas gifts
18 December 2022	Community	Event	PM, LT	Sponsorship of Warracknabeal Christmas Festival (incl. project information stall)
January 2023	Community	Sponsorship	EM	Season sponsorship of Warracknabeal Eagles Football Club
January 2023	Project Neighbours	Door Knocking	LT	Door knocking exercise to socialise Neighbour Benefit Programs
February 2023	National Energy Infrastructure Commissioner	Meeting	COO, EM	Provide project update in regular WWE-NEIC catch-up meeting
February 2023	Yarriambiack Shire Council	Meeting	PM, EM	Provide project update
February 2023	Service Organisation	Project Update	PE	Project update via email to Wimmera Development Association
February 2023	Members of Parliament	Meeting	EM	Project and organisational introduction with Member for Lowan and Member for Mallee.
March 2023	Community	Open Day	PM, EM, LT	Open day to project general project information and solicit sign-ups for community updates
March 2023	Community	Media	EM	Promote open day



se	Timing	Audience	Activity	Who	Discussion
	April 2023	Community	Letter	EM	Introductory letter providing overview of proposed project and soliciting sign-ups for community updates
	Qtr 2 2023	Service Organisation	Meeting	PM, PE	Provide update to Barengi Gadjin Land Council Aboriginal Corporation
-	Quarterly from June 2023	Community	Project Update	MC	Community newsletter updates
		Host Landholders	Letter	PM	Letter to landholders advising them of EES notification
		Community	Project Update	MC	Project update mail out to all stakeholders notifying of EES notification and call for submissions
		All stakeholders	Media	EM	Media notification of EES decision
	When the Department's recommendation goes to	Members of Parliament	Meeting	EM	Meetings with Member for Lowan and Member for Mallee
Environmental and Planning Approvals	the Minister for Planning				Key messages:
					• Jobs
					Regional investment and development
	When the Department's	Minister for Climate Action, Energy and Resources and the	Meeting	MD, EM	Key messages:
	recommendation goes to the Minister for Planning	SEC			• Jobs
					Significant contribution towards Victoria's energy security
					Significant amount of no emissions and low-cost electricity
					Regional investment and development
					The approval of this project delivers State government policy
					The proposed project has support of local MPs
					Purpose:
					• To request the Minister's timely support for the project
	When the Department's	Minister for Planning	Meeting	MD, EM	Key messages:
	recommendation goes to the Minister for Planning				Jobs, regional investment and development
					The approval of this project delivers State government policy



ase	Timing	Audience	Activity	Who	Discussion
					WWE has been proactively engaging with the community
					• WWE has fulfilled all the Department's requests for information and clarification.
					Purpose:
					• To request the Minister's timely approval of the project.
	When the Department's	Community, Industry, and Environment Groups	Phone calls, letter	EM, MC, PM	Key messages:
	recommendation goes to the Minister for Planning	Zimionini di dapo			• Jobs
					Regional investment and development
Environmental and Planning Approvals					• The importance of the approval of this project to deliver State government policy regarding renewables and climate.
					Purpose:
					Encouragement to speak up in support of the project
-					Action:
)					• Letters to landholder's/community groups etc. asking them to write a letter of support for permit approval and send to Minister, local MPs
	Following approval of	Host landholders	Phone calls,	PM, EM	Inform about approval of Planning Permit and EES Assessment
3	Planning Permit & EES Assessment		emails		
	Following approval of	Community	FAQ	EM, PM, MC	Prepare revised FAQ document for distribution
	Planning Permit & EES Assessment				
	Following approval of	Community	Project Update	MC	Advise community of Minister's decision and outline next steps
	Planning Permit & EES				The second of the second secon
	Assessment	D : 101: 1		50.4	
	Following approval of	Project Objectors	Letter	EM	Notify objectors of Minister's decision and offer to provide ongoing updates and
	Planning Permit & EES Assessment				meeting



ise	Timing	Audience	Activity	Who	Discussion
	Following approval of	Community	Media	EM	Publicise Minister's decision, generate goodwill and confidence
Approvals	Planning Permit & EES Assessment				Build local profile beyond impacted residents and establish social licence to operate in community and provide local 'human interest' aspect to the announcement to demonstrate how project will benefit local farmers and community.
	Following approval of	Project Neighbours	Door Knocking	LT, EM, PM, PE	Update on delivery of neighbour benefit schemes
	Planning Permit & EES Assessment				
	Following approval of	Yarriambiack Shire Council	Meeting	PM, EM	To advise of the Planning Permit & EES Assessment decision
	Planning Permit & EES Assessment				To outline the next steps for the project and provide elected representatives with certainty around timeframes, funding, and WWE's commitment to the local community.
					• To be available to respond to questions and concerns
	October 2023	Community	Open Day	EM, PM, LT, PE	Open day to project general project information
	October 2023	Community	Media	EM	Promote open day
	December 2023	Community	Event	PM, LT	Sponsorship of Warracknabeal Christmas Festival (incl. project information stall)
	January 2024	Community	Sponsorship	EM	Season sponsorship of Warracknabeal Eagles Football Club



10.2 Appendix B – Detailed stakeholder list

Category	Stakeholder	Key interests	IAP2 Level of Consultation	Engagement Activities
Decision makers	 ❖ Australian Government Minister for the Environment Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources ❖ Victorian Government Minister for Planning Minister for Climate Action, Energy and Resources and the SEC Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning Department of Transport/ Regional Roads Victoria Aboriginal Victoria Environment Protection Authority 	 Planning process complies with legislation and requirements Involvement in project development and assessment Optimal outcomes for environment and community Broader regulatory requirements for onshore wind Community and stakeholder consultation 	Collaborate	 Submission requirements of planning process Face to face meetings / site inspection Factsheets / newsletters Project information passed through organisational structure Media opportunities



Category	Stakeholder	Key interests	IAP2 Level of Consultation	Engagement Activities
Registered Aboriginal Parties and Traditional Owners	Barengi Gadjin Land Council Aboriginal Corporation	 Understanding project rationale and benefits Understanding and avoiding/ minimising potential adverse impacts Opportunities to provide input to project planning and delivery Native Title Cultural Heritage Management Plan Opportunities for indigenous businesses and job seekers 	Consult	 Face to face meetings, if required Invitation to community open days Newsletters Project phone line, email address Website and social media
Australian Government	 Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner Civil Aviation Safety Authority Department of Defence Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications Members of Parliament Regional Development Australia 	 Understanding project rationale and benefits Understanding and avoiding/minimising adverse impacts Opportunities to provide input to project planning and delivery Community consultation process 	Consult	 Face to face meetings / site inspection Factsheets / newsletters Project information passed through organisational structure Media opportunities
Victorian Government and	 Country Fire Authority Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions Emergency Management Victoria 	 Understanding project rationale and Benefits Understanding and avoiding/ minimising adverse impacts 	Consult	Face to face meetings / site inspectionFactsheets / newsletters



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Category	Stakeholder	Key interests	IAP2 Level of Engagement Activities Consultation
statutory authorities Local government	 Members of Parliament Regional Development Victoria State Emergency Service Transport Safety Victoria Victoria Police Councillors, executive and officers from the following councils: Yarriambiack Shire Council Rural City of Horsham 	 Opportunities to provide input to project planning and delivery Community consultation process Understanding project rationale and benefits Understanding and avoiding/minimising adverse impacts on council land and assets, the local environment and for local residents, and businesses Opportunities to provide input to project planning and delivery Opportunities to regenerate or transition local industries, businesses, and the economy Community consultation process 	 ❖ Project information passed through organisational structure ❖ Media opportunities Collaborate ❖ Regular face to face meetings / site inspection ❖ Factsheets / newsletters ❖ Project information passed through organisational structure ❖ Media opportunities
Directly affected or adjacent landholders, licence holders and asset owners	 Private landholders in the project site area and the project's transmission route AusNet Services Crown land managers (if applicable) 	 Understanding project rationale and benefits Understanding potential impacts from project construction and operation on land, licence and/or asset Involvement in decisions which may affect land, licence and/or asset 	Design meetings to incornorate teenback that



Category	Stakeholder	Key interests	IAP2 Level of Consultation	Engagement Activities
		 Minimising impacts on land, licence and/or asset during construction and operation Co-existing and/or compensation (if applicable) 		 Invitation to community consultation sessions Paddock Protocol Agreement Phone calls, SMS, email and website Site inspection / site familiarisation as required Facilitation of group tour of wind farm under construction and one that is operational. Introduction to contractors and project construction update meetings
Local community, business and tourism	 Chambers of Commerce Greening Australia Landcare groups Local businesses and industry Residents of Warracknabeal and the Wimmera Southern Mallee region Resident / Progress / Ratepayer associations Rotary clubs Sporting clubs Tourism agencies and operators Local emergency services Warracknabeal Action Group 	 Understanding project rationale and benefits Understanding potential impacts from project construction and operation in the local area Ability to provide local knowledge to enhance the project and delivery and to help avoid/minimise impacts Opportunities to provide input to the project Clear information and updates about the project Maximising local benefits from the project Opportunities for local businesses and job seekers 	Consult	 Door knock to 5 km Regular Project updates by letter / email / newsletter Invitation to community open days Presence at community events Present project updates to key groups Project phone line, email address and website



Category	Stakeholder	Key interests	IAP2 Level of	Engagement Activities
Broader community	Victorian communityElectricity consumers	 Understanding project rationale, benefits, and impacts Ability to access clear project information Effects on electricity prices and supply 	Inform	 Project phone line, email address Website and social media Factsheets / newsletters Invitation to community open days
Energy market operators and regulators	 Australian Energy Market Commission Australian Energy Market Operator Clean Energy Regulator Energy Security Board Energy Safe Victoria 	 Understanding project scope, capacity, and operations Grid connection Safety National Electricity Market operations 	Involve	 Face to face briefings, as required Project phone line, email address Website and social media Factsheets / newsletters Project information passed through organisational structure
Industry groups, peak bodies and NGOs	 Clean Energy Council West Vic Business Victorian Farmers Federation Wimmera Development Association 	 Understanding project rationale, benefits, and impacts Opportunities to provide input to project planning and delivery Opportunities to regenerate or transition local industries, businesses, and the economy Opportunities for local businesses and job seekers 	Consult	 Face to face briefings, as required Regular Project updates by letter / email / newsletter Invitation to community open days Presence at community events Project phone line, email address and website Social media Industry Capability Network website to contain contract opportunities and project updates to registered suppliers, at appropriate time



Category	Stakeholder	Key interests	IAP2 Level of Consultation	Engagement Activities
Environment groups and NGOs	 Climate Action Network Climate Change Council Environment Victoria Friends of the Earth Landcare 	 Understanding project rationale, benefits and impacts Understanding and avoiding/ minimising adverse impacts Opportunities to provide input to project planning and delivery 	Consult	 Face to face meetings, as required Invitation to community open days Newsletters Project phone line, email address Website and social media
Educational institutions	 Federation University / Federation TAFE Local training providers Local primary and secondary schools Victorian Skills Commissioner 	 Clear information and updates about the project Future workforce needs and opportunities 	Inform	 Briefings Factsheets Project information passed through organisational structure Website and social media
Media	 Wimmera region media (print, radio, TV, online) Statewide media (print, radio, TV, online) Industry media (online) 	 Clear information and updates about the project Involvement in key milestone media opportunities 	Inform	 Briefings Invitation to community information sessions Curated media releases Newsletters Project phone line, email address Website and social media High resolution images on website Time lapse video

