

This document provides a summary of the key points discussed during the 23 Jan 2023 community information session held to discuss the proposed Kerrs Creek Wind Farm project.



### How will the community benefit from the project?

The ways in which benefits are shared are typically referred to as benefit sharing mechanisms (BSMs). No two communities are the same, so effective and ongoing community engagement is critical to ensure that BSMs fit the local community context.

RES is committed to developing a Neighbour Shared Benefit Scheme (SBS) and Community Benefit Scheme for the Kerrs Creek Wind Farm to enable benefits from its renewable energy projects to be meaningfully shared with project neighbours and the wider community. For example, even if you are not a project neighbour, the wider community is likely to benefit from the project through the Community Benefit Scheme.



The details of these schemes are still in development however we urge members of the community to keep in touch via our mail-list for future details of community benefits. If you have ideas of how benefits could be shared in the community please let us know by scanning the below QR code and completing the online form.



### How will the Community Benefit Fund deal with the 2 local government organisations in close proximity to the project site (Cabonne Council and Dubbo Regional Council)?

This is a great question and one we (RES) don't currently have the answer to at this time. We did hear your voices at the 23 January 2023 information session that local community benefits are particularly important to you. We heard from many of you that you do not want the community benefit fund to be spent in the towns of Orange or more specifically Dubbo. We also heard many of you are more likely to visit Molong (situated Cabonne Council) for daily activities than towns within the Dubbo Regional Council area.



## What's the plan for traffic and road access impacts?

We acknowledge that increased traffic movements will be an impact of the Project throughout the construction phase. To manage this impact, a Traffic Impact Assessment Report will be undertaken by a specialist consultant and will be presented to the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE). This report includes a transport route assessment which informs us and the construction contractor on the best route for over size deliveries and larger vehicles. It will also inform which roads and where on the road will require upgrades to accommodate the additional traffic movements. Only roads that have a significant uplift in traffic due to the project will be subject to these upgrades and the Traffic Impact Assessment Report will inform this.

As a result of the Traffic Impact Assessment, a Traffic Management Plan will be established which will outline all of the requirements for the construction contractors to abide by throughout the construction phase. These requirements can range from dust suppression measures to group transport (buses) replacing individual utes and cars to reduce traffic.

Once the Project is operational, road use will be minimally affected.



## Which roads will be used for gravel, water and turbine deliveries?

The exact roads have not yet been established. However, it is almost certain that Burrendong Way will be included and highly likely that Shepherds Creek Road will be included as well.

Further details from the Traffic Impact Assessment Report will be available later in the year.



## What happens with decommissioning if RES go broke?

In accordance with our core values, RES is accountable for what we do. We are motivated and empowered to deliver what we are responsible for.

A wind farm is expected to have an operational life of approximately 20 to 30 years. After this time, the project owner will either decommission the site, restoring the area to its previous land use, or negotiate with landowners to repower or upgrade the equipment and extend the wind farm's operational lifespan.

In Australia it is the responsibility of the wind farm owner to decommission the wind farm. There have been no examples of a wind farm being abandoned in Australia and as an industry we are committed to not letting this occur.



## To what extent will neighbours be impacted (Visual Impact and Noise Impact)?

Visual and noise impacts are an inevitable part of almost all renewable energy projects especially wind farms. RES takes noise and visual impacts seriously and it is important for us to understand the impacts our projects have on those that are nearby. To do this we conduct community information sessions with locals like the one held on January 23rd 2023 which then help inform us of who lives close by and may be affected by noise and visual impacts and also creates a line of contact between RES and the resident for future discussions.



We also conduct Visual Impact Studies and Noise Impact Studies as part of the Development Application process. These are done so that any exceedances of the State Government thresholds and guidelines can be highlighted and mitigated. Throughout this process those residents that will receive impacts that exceed these guidelines will be managed on a case-by-case basis to make sure that each resident has a solution that is suitable for them and their households.

The results of these impact studies will become available to us over the next 6-8 months.



## What is the planning pathway for this wind farm?



## Contact the Project Team

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