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BayWa r.e.

BULLAWAH WIND FARM

Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Plan

VERSION 3

September 2022

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Prepared by
Umwelt (Australia) Pty Limited
on behalf of
BayWa r.e. Projects Australia Pty Ltd

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Environmental & Social Consultants

This report was prepared using Umwelt's ISO 9001 certified Quality Management System.

Acknowledgement of Country

Umwelt would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the country on which we work and pay respect to their cultural heritage, beliefs, and continuing relationship with the land. We pay our respect to the Elders – past, present, and future.

Document Status

Rev No.	Reviewer		Approved for Issue	
	Name	Date	Name	Date
01	Kate Raynor	9 March 2022	Nathan Baker	9 March 2022
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1.0 Introduction

The proposed Bullawah Wind Farm (the Project) by BayWa r.e. Projects Australia Pty Ltd (BayWa r.e, the proponent) comprises the construction, operation and decommissioning of a wind farm located 28 km southeast of Hay in the Riverina Region of south-western New South Wales (NSW). The Project area is on grazing land that lies within the Hay Local Government Area (LGA), Murrumbidgee LGA and Edward River LGA. The Project is inside the NSW Government's South-West Renewable Energy Zone (REZ).

The Project will have an installed capacity of 1000 MW of clean green renewable energy, capable of powering half a million homes. A large-scale battery energy storage system (BESS) proposed on site will allow for the capture and storage of dispatchable energy. The power generated from the 170 turbines, each with a maximum blade-tip height of 300 m above ground level, or released from battery storage, will feed into the electricity grid via the proposed Project EnergyConnect transmission line.

1.1 Purpose and Objectives

This Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan (CSEP) outlines the approach, strategy, and implementation program to inform the Project's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the State Significant Development Application (SSDA), to be lodged with the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE). In particular, the CSEP supports the preparation of the Social Impact Assessment (SIA), which constitutes one of the key technical studies as part of the EIS.

The purpose of this document is to outline the approach and strategy for community and stakeholder engagement across the project assessment phase, to inform the preparation of relevant Scoping Reports (in the Request for SEARs) and completion of the Project's specialist studies. The CSEP will form part of the documentation for the BayWa r.e. SSDA for the proposed Bullawah Wind Farm.

As noted in the NSW DPE SIA Guideline (2021), respectful, inclusive, and meaningful engagement is a fundamental part of project planning and development. Engagement with affected communities and stakeholders provides first-hand insight into what people value and how they expect a project to affect them.

Community engagement is a key component of the EIS processes, with the DPE SIA Guideline (2021) outlining the following objectives to guide engagement activities:

- To ensure those potentially affected by a project understand the project and how it will affect them.
- To collect relevant data, evidence, and insights for scoping the SIA to maximise diversity and ensure representativeness of views.
- To understand the interests that people have and how impacts may be experienced (from their perspective).
- To consider the views of people in a meaningful way and use these insights to inform project planning and design.
- To provide opportunities for people to collaborate on project design matters and input to preferred solutions to address impacts.

- To confirm data, assumptions, findings, and recommendations.
- To ensure people know how their input has been considered, and what strategies will be put in place to address their concerns.
- To help understand how other specialist studies prepared for the EIS assist in addressing social impacts.
- To respect people's privacy, allowing them to communicate their views anonymously if requested.

Specifically, this CSEP aims to:

1. inform and consult with the community in relation to the proposed project.
2. develop an understanding of the social locality/social area of influence of the project, specifically the host community/communities in which the project is proposed.
3. scope and identify any impacts upon people associated with the project.
4. enable community and stakeholder input into the project design, planning and development.
5. collaboratively develop relevant strategies to respond to impacts in the form of mitigation or enhancement measures and community benefit sharing options.
6. identify future engagement preferences of stakeholders and potential partnerships between the proponent and the community.

1.2 Approach

The NSW Government's revised SIA Guideline (2021) now makes SIA applicable to all SSDs in NSW, with proponents required to commission standalone Social Impact Scoping Reports as part of the Request for SEARs. These studies are informed by, and rely on, the outcomes of early, and ongoing community and stakeholder engagement through the assessment phase. The approach to stakeholder engagement for the Bullawah Wind Farm will also be informed by the NSW Government's Wind Energy Guideline for State significant wind energy development (NSW Department of Planning and Environment, 2016) and the Clean Energy Council's Community Engagement Guidelines (Clean Energy Council, 2018).

1.3 Process

This document will be developed in collaboration with BayWa r.e through review and workshopping. It will be updated throughout the project as required. **Table 1.1** provides an indicative timeline for Social Impact Assessment activities.

Table 1.1 Indicative Social Impact Assessment Timeline

Activity	Estimated Timing
Landholder engagement	2021 to early 2022
CSEP development	February 2022
CSEP Workshop	March 14 2022
CSEP review and finalisation	Early March 2022
Instrument development and preparation	Early March 2022
Launch of project website/'go live' date	February 2022
Advertisement of engagement activities	April to May 2022
Scoping phase stakeholder and community engagement delivery	March to August 2022
Submission of Scoping Report (including SIA Scoping Report) to DPE	September 2022
Issuance of SEARs	TBC
Submission of EIS (including SIA)	TBC
Public exhibition period	TBC
Indicative determination	TBC

2.0 Project Overview

The proposed Project is located 28 km southeast of Hay in NSW in the Riverina Region of south-western NSW within the Murrumbidgee, Hay and Edward River LGA's. The Project site is situated on predominately grazing land, with the closest larger population centres being Deniliquin (66 km southwest of the project area, population 7,862) and Griffith (88 km northeast of the project area, population 27,300). Smaller townships of Darlington Point, Jerilderie and Coleambally are nearer to the Project site.

The Project site will take in an area mostly east of the Jerilderie, North Boundary and Willurah roads junction, either side of the Balranald to Darlington Point transmission line, and south of the Oolambeyan National Park.

Incorporating around 170 turbines, with a maximum blade-tip height 300m above the ground, the Project, if approved, will have an installed capacity of up to 1000MW. A BESS on site will also afford the capture and storage of energy generated, with additional infrastructure developed to connect to the proposed Project EnergyConnect transmission line.

The project is in early stages of development. Plans for the proposed development comprise:

- ~170 (3 blade) wind turbines, with a maximum blade-tip height of 300 metres (m) above ground.
- Power infrastructure providing connection to Project EnergyConnect i.e. on-site substations/switchyards to connect the proposed wind turbines to the South-West REZ transmission line, that runs through the Project Area.
- Internal electrical reticulation network i.e. electrical connections between the proposed wind turbines and substation consisting of a combination of underground cables and overhead powerlines.
- Other associated permanent infrastructure including hardstands, new access tracks, upgrades to existing access tracks, access point/s from public roads, operation and maintenance buildings.
- A single grid-scale BESS (~500 MW, up to four-hour battery).
- Temporary and permanent meteorological monitoring masts.
- Temporary construction facilities including:
    - construction compound/s and site office buildings and storage areas
    - on-site concrete batching plants for use during the construction phase
    - laydown areas used for wind turbine installation and storage of wind turbine components.
- Targeted road network upgrades to facilitate delivery of wind turbine components to the Project Area as required.
- Provision for a temporary accommodation camp on site (if required).

Project benefits will include:

- Diversifying the local economy.
- Community benefit fund.
- 400 jobs during construction, 40 jobs during operation.
- Training opportunities for the community.
- Business opportunities for local suppliers.
- Economic multiplier effect for local economy.
- Significant investment in local infrastructure.
- Renewable energy to power 500,000 homes.

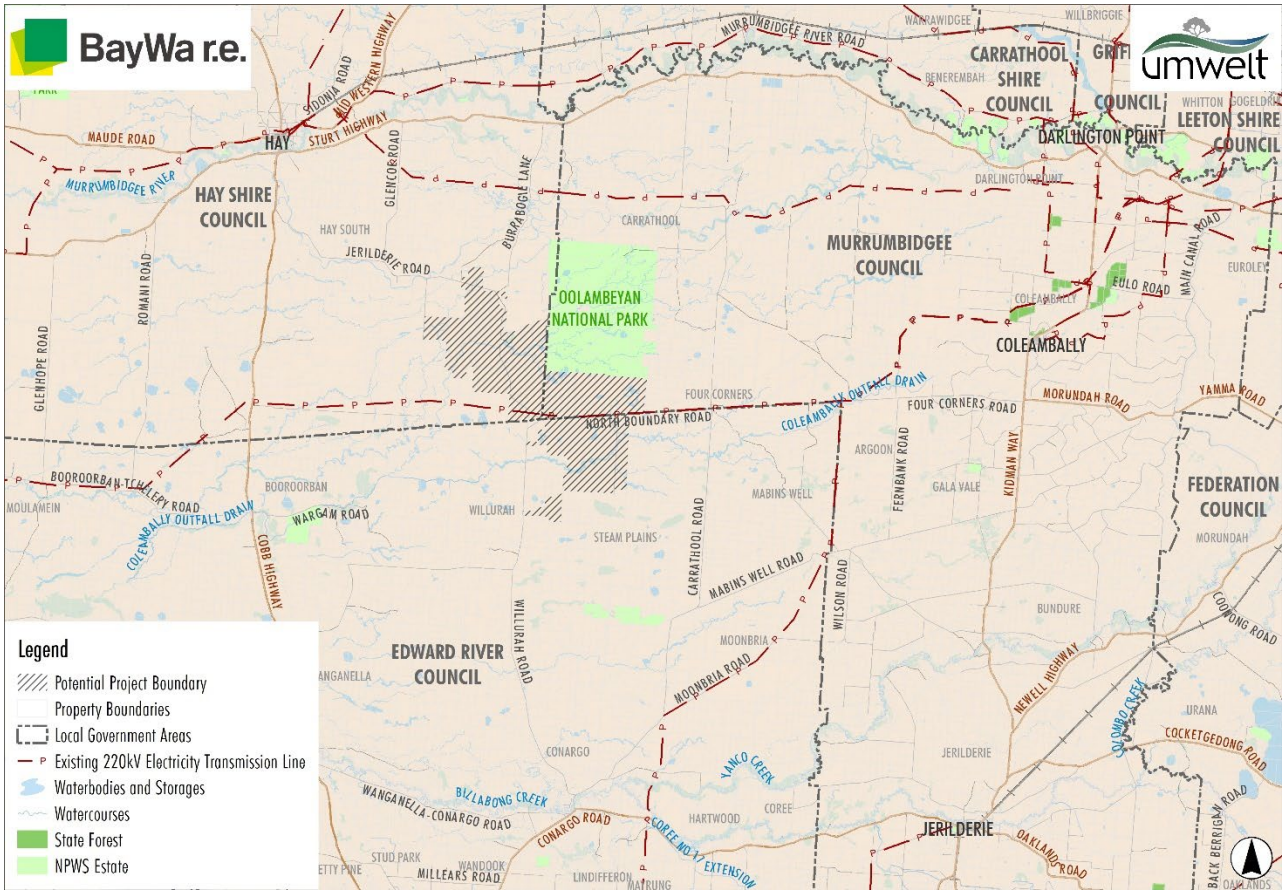


Figure 2.1 Area of social influence, as shown in the Community Information Sheet issued by BayWa r.e.[1]

[1] The Project Area boundary has been amended slightly since the issuing of the Community Newsletter (refer to Figures 1.1 to 1.4 of the Social Impact Scoping Report).

2.1 Policy Context

The NSW Government's current energy security policy and approach to a clean energy transition is being delivered through the strategic development of the renewable energy sector, as outlined through the NSW Government's *Renewable Energy Action Plan* (2013), *Electricity Strategy* (2019) and the *Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap* (2020). This policy context is relevant to inform the public positioning and key messaging for the planning and development of the Bullawah Wind Farm.

2.1.1 South-West Renewable Energy Zone (REZ)

The NSW Government's 'Electricity Strategy' and 'Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap' set out a plan to deliver the state's first five (5) Renewable Energy Zones (REZs) in the Central-West Orana, New England, South-West, Hunter-Central Coast and Illawarra regions. This builds on the 'NSW Transmission Infrastructure Strategy' and supports the implementation of the Australian Energy Market Operator's (AEMO) 'Integrated System Plan'.

The South-West REZ was chosen due to an abundance of high-quality solar resources, proximity to Project EnergyConnect, relative land-use compatibility, and a strong pipeline of proposed projects. EnergyCo NSW is responsible for planning and is continuing to refine the geographical extent of REZ, however based on current mapping the proposed Project is within the boundaries of the REZ. **Figure 2.2** shows the current proposed REZ.

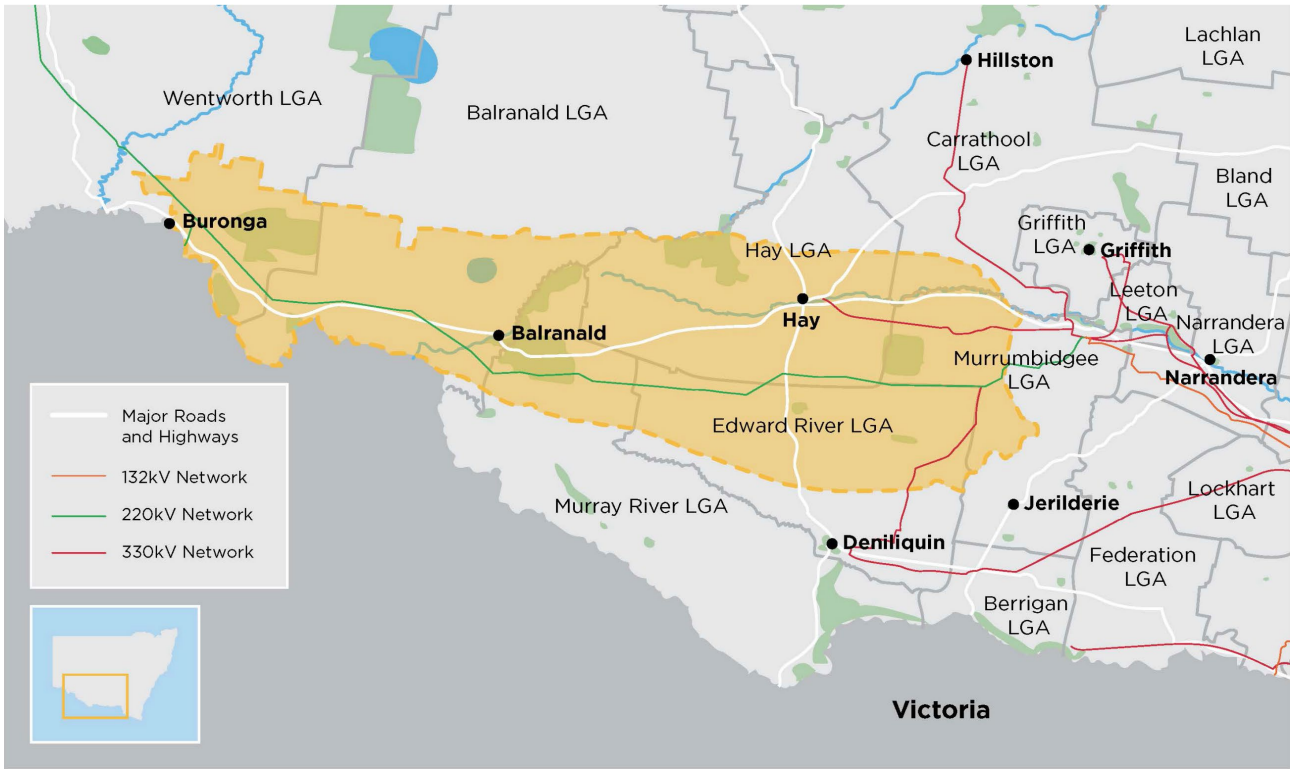


Figure 2.2 South-West Renewable Energy Zone

There are various other renewable projects currently operational in the REZ, including Darlington Point Solar Farm, Coleambally Solar Farm and Lang's Crossing Solar Farm. In addition, Hay Solar Farm has been approved, with various other projects in the planning phase including the Burrawong Wind Farm and Coleambally Battery Energy Storage System.

2.2 Social Context

This section provides a brief overview of key environmental, economic, social and infrastructure strengths, weaknesses and opportunities in the Project's social locality, identified through a preliminary review of policy and strategy documents and ABS statistics.

The Murray and Riverina regions have a strong focus on agricultural production, with agriculture being the top industry of employment in Edward River (16.6%), Murrumbidgee (36.4%) and Hay Shire (23.8%). Alongside promoting industry diversification and the growth of tourism, Murrumbidgee Council have committed to fostering a resilient and vibrant agriculture sector, as has the Edward River Council. A key challenge and goal for the area relates to the diversification of the economy, given the agriculture sector's dominance in the region.

The area has a strong focus on exploring and promoting alternate, sustainable energy sources with Murrumbidgee having committed to encouraging investment in solar and other sustainable energies. The Edward River Council is focusing on creating a valued and enhanced natural environment, with alternative energy usage used as an indicator to measure success. Similarly, the Hay Shire 10 Year Community Strategic Plan lists environmental sustainability as one of five key objectives that will shape the long-term vision for the community and further identifies 'investigating renewable energy resource options' as the key strategy for achieving this objective (Hay Shire Council , 2017, p. 17). The region has seen a recent increase in renewable energy projects, including Hay Solar Farm, Darlington Point Solar Farm, Coleambally Energy Storage and Yanco Solar Farm.

The demographics of the region show an older and ageing population, with median ages in Hay, Murrumbidgee and Edward River of 46, 41 and 45 respectively. The Hay 10 year Community Strategic Plan highlights maintaining student numbers in local schools, activities for young people and jobs for school leavers as key issues.

The area has strong rail and road connections to key locations. Similarly, the region is traversed by project EnergyConnect, an interconnector being built by Transgrid and ElectraNet between Wagga Wagga in NSW and Robertstown in SA. However, upgrades to transport infrastructure is a key consideration across the region, with councils placing an emphasis on improving local road infrastructure. Edward River Council has noted that improvements in services and infrastructure is a key priority to improve the wellbeing of its residents.

Given the region's reliance on the river and irrigation networks for agricultural production, water security has been noted as a key challenge moving forward, with commitments to protecting and managing waterways and catchments.

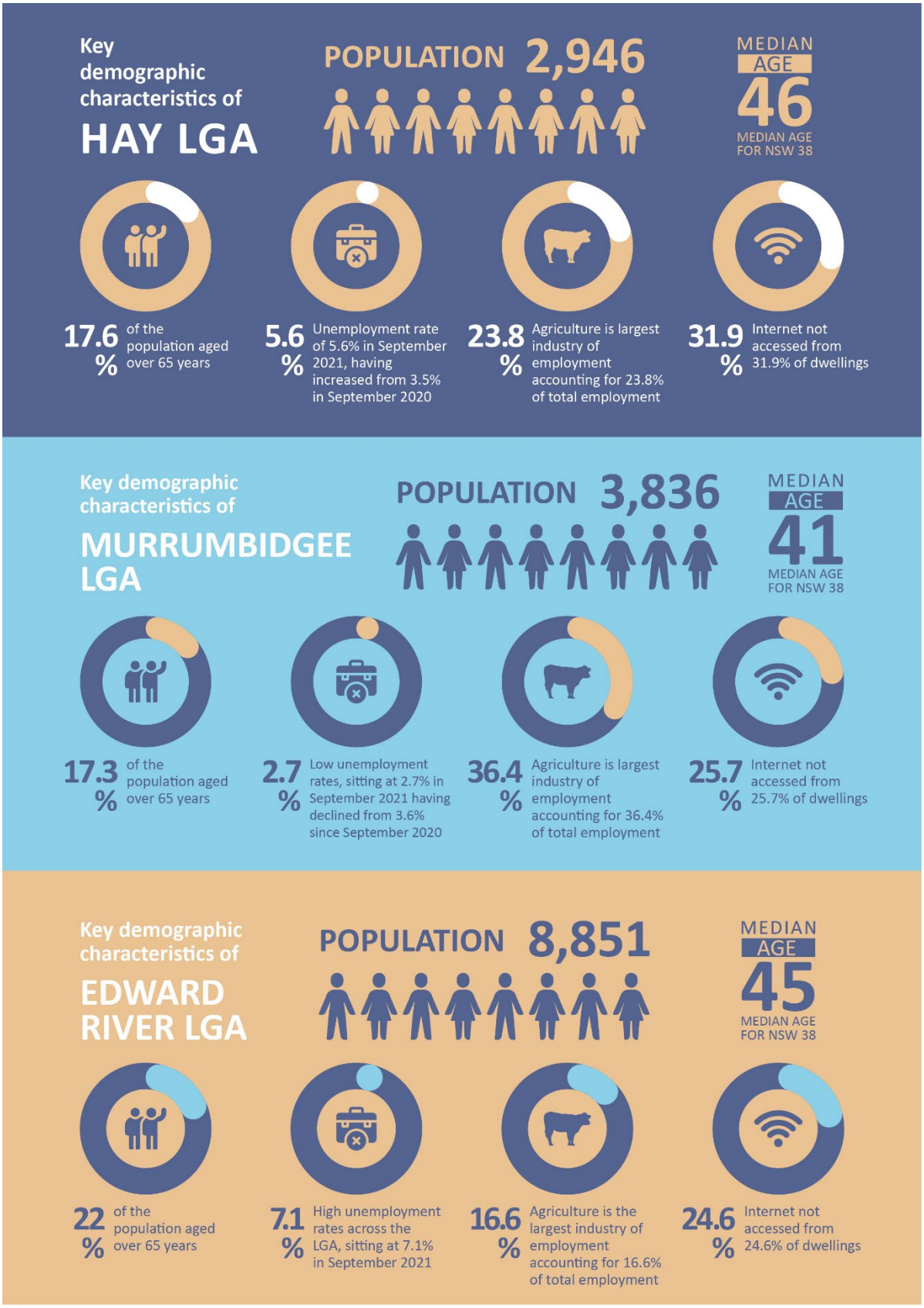


Figure 2.3 Overview statistics for Edward River, Murrumbidgee and Hay LGAs

2.3 Key Considerations

In recent times, proposed renewable energy projects across NSW have had diverse responses from local communities in relation to their perceived environmental and social impacts.

Following a preliminary review of submission reports and other publicly available documentation on nearby renewable energy projects within the region, including those listed in **Section 2.2,** we understand the following key local issues to be of importance in the planning and potential development of the Project:

- Concern relating to the number of concurrent projects coming online in response to the designation of the South-West REZ.
- Visual impact and view lines.
- Impact on endangered Plains Wanderers birds.
- Land use conflict – renewables development in productive agricultural areas, with land primarily used for grazing.
- Strain on township infrastructure and services from incoming construction workforce and particularly inadequate consideration given to workforce accommodation strategies given multiple concurrent projects in development.
- Lack of economic benefit experienced locally.
- Public health and safety concerns of neighbouring residents associated with Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMFs), radiation, hazardous materials, sleep disturbance from noise impacts and heat generation and flow on effects on livestock e.g., cattle and sheep.
- Land management impacts, such as spread of noxious weeds.
- Potential impacts to water flow during flood events.
- Interaction with the Oolambeyan National Park and impacts on access, visual amenity, ecosystems, and wildlife.

3.0 Engagement Strategy

The NSW DPE SIA Guideline (2021) outlines a number of stakeholder groups to consider in SIA engagement. The stakeholder groups that are relevant to this project are outlined in **Figure 3.1** below.

Figure 3.1 **Stakeholder groups**

3.1 Stakeholder Identification

A stakeholder identification process has been undertaken to further define relevant stakeholders for the project within each of these stakeholder groupings. A breakdown of these stakeholders is presented in **Table 3.1.** Best practice engagement design and delivery is guided by the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) Public Participation Spectrum[2] as per **Figure 3.2**, with objectives for engagement identified and aligned with relevant engagement mechanisms.

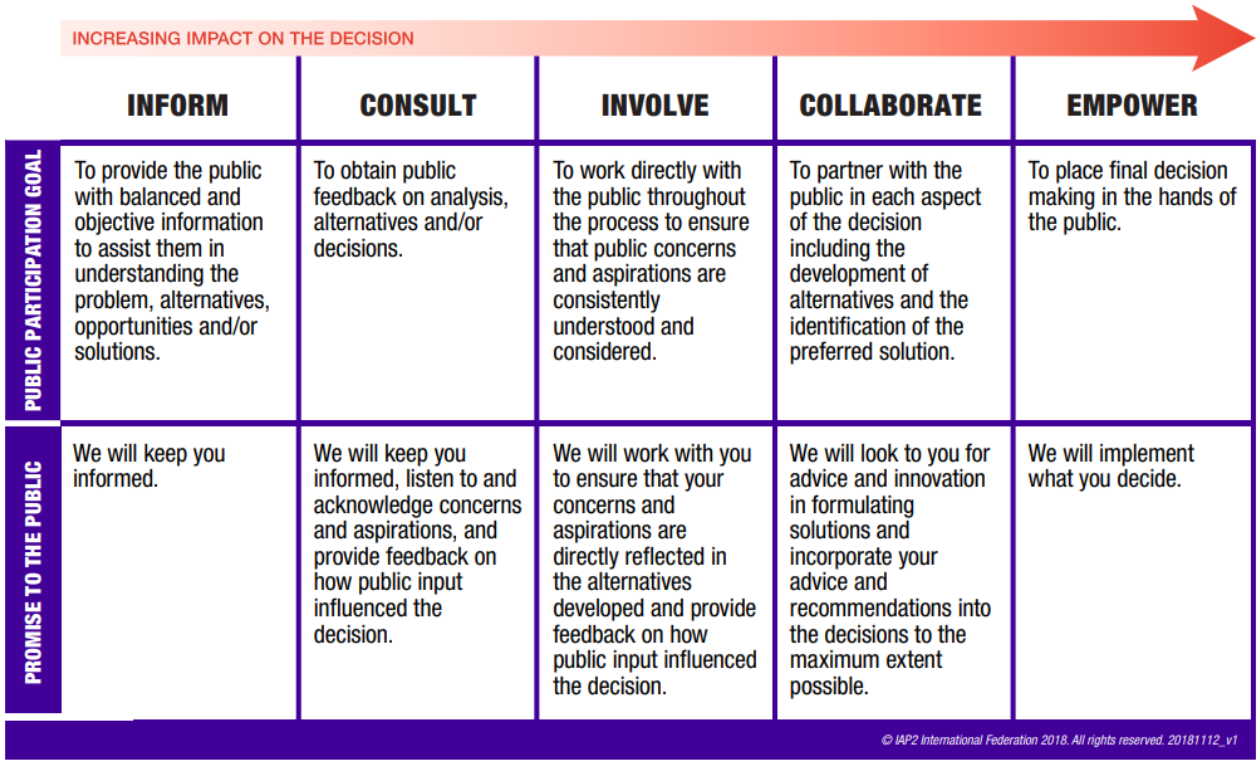


Figure 3.2 IAP2 Public Participation Spectrum

Source: International Association for public participation, 2018

Table 3.1 Stakeholder identification

Stakeholder Group	Stakeholders	Level of Engagement	Potential Interest/Concern
Host landholders in Study Area	4 landholders	Collaborate	Social amenity impacts such as noise Visual changes to the landscape Accessibility impacts due to construction traffic Changes to way of life and livelihood Land use conflict
Adjacent landholders or proximal property owners	Approximately 10 residences within 8 km radius of the site Local road users	Collaborate	Social amenity impacts such as noise Visual changes to the landscape Accessibility impacts due to construction traffic Land use conflict Cumulative impacts from multiple projects
Local Government	Edward River, Hay, and Murrumbidgee Council – Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and Executive team	Collaborate	Cumulative impacts from multiple projects Accessibility impacts on local and regional services and businesses Commercial stimulus for local economy Local infrastructure and services provision (e.g., road impacts) Land use planning and/or conflict Concerns of community and local stakeholders

Stakeholder Group	Stakeholders	Level of Engagement	Potential Interest/Concern
Local Businesses & Service Providers – Accommodation, Education, Emergency Services, Employment & Training, Health	TAFE NSW Hay War Memorial High School Deniliquin High School Deniliquin Business Chamber Coleambally Chamber of Commerce NSW Rural Fire Service Saltbush Motor Inn, Hay Settlement Motor Inn, Deniliquin Riviana Motel, Deniliquin Centrepoint Motel, Deniliquin Riviana Motel, Deniliquin Deniliquin Motor Inn Darlington Point Motel Deniliquin Hospital and Health Services Hay District Hospital Utilities providers; Transgrid, Essential Energy, Bus Services	Involve	Cumulative impacts from multiple projects Regional and local economic benefits Infrastructure and services provision Opportunities for collaboration Demand and capacity Increased demand/use of local and regional services by construction workforce Livelihood impacts Public safety for other road users (e.g., children and school bus drop off locations) Commercial stimulus for local economy
State Government	DPE Secretary DPE Director-Energy Infrastructure and Renewable Energy Zones NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Aboriginal Affairs NSW Transport for NSW Regional Development Australia Riverina Local Land Services Murray Local Land Services National Park and Wildlife Services (NPWS)	Consult	Cumulative impacts from multiple projects Alignment to NSW Government initiatives Compliance with relevant legislation

Stakeholder Group	Stakeholders	Level of Engagement	Potential Interest/Concern
Aboriginal stakeholders	Deniliquin Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) Hay Local Aboriginal Land Council Griffith Local Aboriginal Land Council Yarkuwa Indigenous Knowledge Centre Aboriginal Corporation Local Aboriginal service providers	Consult	Impacts on cultural connection to Country or place or on cultural values Inequity of impacts on Aboriginal community
Community and special interest groups	Hay Plains Landcare Group Murrumbidgee Landcare Inc Coleambally Landcare Group Murrumbidgee Environmental Water Advisory Group Murray Darling Wetlands Working Group Ltd Nature Conservation Council NSW Farmers Deniliquin Branch New Farm and Districts Historical Society Murrumbidgee Valley Food and Fibre Association (MVFFA) Riverina Ag Network Deniliquin Community Group Inc Coleambally Lions Club Lions Club of Hay Lion Club - Deniliquin	Consult	Cumulative impacts from multiple projects Accessibility impacts from construction workforce Land use conflict Sense of community / sense of place Commercial stimulus for local economy Local infrastructure and services provision Environmental impacts
Regional community	Residents in the broader Edward River LGA, Murrumbidgee LGA and Hay Shire LGA	Consult	Cumulative impacts from multiple projects Accessibility impacts from construction workforce Land use conflict Regional economic benefits Infrastructure and services provision
Local media	ABC Riverina Riverine Herald Hay Riverine Grazier	Inform	Cumulative impacts from multiple projects Regional economic benefits

3.2 Engagement Methods

Consultation with stakeholders and community groups will include:

- **Engagement:** to facilitate stakeholder involvement in the identification of issues/impacts, areas of interest/concern and strategies to address the issues raised.
- **Information provision:** to improve knowledge and awareness of the company, its activities, the project, and key issues/impacts as they arise.

Various methods will be used to engage with the different stakeholder groups based on the type of information being conveyed, level of feedback required, understanding of stakeholder needs and preferences regarding engagement. This will include existing or previous mechanisms utilised by BayWa r.e. and additional mechanisms as relevant.

Table 3.2 outlines the engagement mechanisms that will be used to engage each stakeholder group, that aligns with the level of engagement as noted in **Table 3.1**.

Table 3.2 Engagement mechanisms

	Project website	Social media	Community Hotline	Personal Interviews/ Meetings	Project Email	Community Information Sessions	Project Information Sheets
Host landholders							
Adjacent landholders or property owners							
Residents of neighbouring or nearby communities							
Local businesses and service providers							
Local Government							
State Government							
Aboriginal stakeholders							
Community and special interest groups							
Regional community							
Local media							
Lead Responsibility:	BayWa r.e.			Umwelt			

3.3 Engagement Materials and Topics

Umwelt will draft and prepare engagement materials to support the engagement activities outlined in **Section 4.0**. Materials and tools to support the proposed engagement activities may include the following:

- interview guides
- meeting agendas/run sheets
- project information sheets/posters
- other materials will be developed as relevant to address information requirements identified through the engagement process.

The NSW Wind Energy Guideline (2016) states that Proponents should undertake a comprehensive, detailed, and genuine community consultation process throughout the assessment process, including at the siting and pre-lodgement stage. Outcomes should include:

- Informing the community about the project, ancillary infrastructure, and the strategic context.
- Identifying the constraints and opportunities of the project area, including the values the wider community place on those attributes.
- Engaging with the community in the identification of landscape values, as required by the Wind Energy: Visual Assessment Bulletin.
    - This includes a requirement to conduct community consultation to establish key landscape features valued by the community, key viewpoints in the area (both public and private) along with information about the relative scenic quality of the area (NSW Department of Planning and Environment, 2016).
- Assisting landholders and communities to understand wind energy development, the development assessment process, how a proposal may affect them, and appropriate stages at which community consultation should be undertaken.
- Identifying and considering options for eliminating, reducing, or otherwise managing impacts.
- Discussing issues for landholder agreement if the project is approved, including siting, access, compensation, responsibility for decommissioning and rehabilitation.
- Assisting proponents to address community concerns regarding the design, development, construction, operation and decommissioning of wind energy facilities, in a transparent way.
- Discussing opportunities for shared community benefits or negotiated agreements.

3.4 Engagement Across SIA Phases

3.4.1 Phase 1 (Scoping)

It is expected by DPE in the SIA Guideline (2021) that the scoping phase will include community engagement activities to understand likely stakeholder issues and concerns early in the project, and to ultimately inform the social impact evaluation phase of the SIA.

Engagement in Phase 1 provides an opportunity to gauge and understand stakeholder issues/concerns/interests in relation to the project; to identify preliminary strategies/solutions to address topics raised; and to inform project design and planning.

In this regard, the SIA process calls for likely social impacts to be appropriately scoped and identified through consultation with potentially affected people and mitigation and enhancement options preliminarily explored.

To satisfy the SIA requirements, proposed engagement activities to be undertaken in this phase need to be targeted at identifying perceived issues of concern and/or positive impacts in relation to the proposed project to be further considered in the subsequent EIS phase.

Questions to include in interview discussion guides appropriate to this phase will include topics relating to:

- Awareness and attitudes towards wind farm development (and other renewables or industry development in the local or regional area).
- Awareness and public perceptions of BayWa r.e.
- Potential issues, concerns or interests related to the proposed project.
- Community values, identity, local needs, and aspirations.
- Areas of value and use within and near the project area.
- Sense of community in the area.
- Potential sensitive receivers and/or vulnerable community groups.
- Preferred engagement mechanisms, frequency, and content.

3.4.2 Phase 2 (EIS preparation)

Proposed engagement activities undertaken during Phase 2 will be focused on exploring and validating the issues/interests/concerns that have been identified during the Scoping Phase. The EIS program and preliminary insights or findings gathered through the various technical studies will also be further communicated during this phase, to assist in gathering feedback from key stakeholders and the wider community, on predicted project impacts.

Therefore, engagement in this phase, to inform the EIS and SIA will focus on:

- Assessment and evaluation of perceived issues, impacts and opportunities associated with the project.
- Existing capacity of local service provision and projected future demand.
- Potential strategies to address and respond to issues, impacts and opportunities.
- Enhancement measures to improve collaboration between BayWa r.e. and community or stakeholders, including potential community investment and benefit-sharing opportunities.

3.5 Recording, Monitoring and Record-keeping

Outcomes and records of each engagement activity will be documented by the team member(s) in attendance.

An Engagement Register in Excel format will also be maintained throughout the delivery of the Implementation Plan to ensure consistent tracking and recording of all community or stakeholder engagement activities and outcomes. Information to be recorded includes:

- activity details (including stakeholder engaged, attendees, time and place, mechanism used)
- discussion points
- summary of key outcomes or any actions
- stakeholder contact details
- preferences for future engagement.

Following completion of engagement for each phase, outcomes and data obtained will be collated and analysed to identify key impact themes and impact prioritisation. Identified issues or impacts may also be mapped to identify any patterns.

Communications and stakeholder engagement will be monitored throughout the project and this plan may be adapted to adjust engagement mechanisms, stakeholders, timing, or content in response to feedback or changing circumstances.

Outcomes of engagement undertaken will then be summarised in the Social Impact Scoping Report and Social Impact Assessment Report respectively.

4.0 Stakeholder and Community Engagement Implementation Plan

An overview of the activities proposed to effectively engage each stakeholder group across the two assessment phases is provided below.

4.1 Phase 1 (Scoping)

Table 4.1 presents the Scoping Phase Implementation Plan.

Specifically, in this phase, the CSEP aims to:

1. Inform and consult with the community in relation to the proposed project
2. Develop an understanding of the social locality/social area of influence of the project, specifically the host community/communities in which the project is proposed
3. Scope and identify any impacts upon people associated with the project
4. Afford community and stakeholder input preliminary project design, planning and development
5. Identify preliminary strategies that may be further explored to respond to impacts in the form of mitigation or enhancement measures or community benefit strategies.
6. Identify engagement preferences of stakeholders and potential partnerships between the proponent and the community.

Table 4.1 Phase 1 (Scoping) Implementation Plan

Mechanism	Detail	Alignment with Objectives (Section 1.1)	Stakeholder Group	Umwelt Responsibilities	BayWa r.e. Responsibilities	Timing	Required Input
Project Information Sheet 1	Project information sheet no.1 will provide an overview of the proposed project and approvals pathway, and how the community can be involved in the EIS process.	1	Proximal residents Broader community	• Draft content • Provide input into distribution area • Distribute info sheet	• Review and approve content • Design info sheet	Distribute early April	Project description Site map
Personal interviews/ meetings	Meetings with individual landholders to understand social impacts. Impacts identified will be fully assessed in the EIS preparation phase, as well as any potential project refinements considered.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Host landholders Neighbour landholders Proximal residents	• Draft interview guide • Create interview data management system • Attend meetings as relevant	• Review and approve interview guide • Undertake meetings • Record outcomes of meetings	February to June	Interview guide
Personal interviews/ meetings	Meetings with community groups to understand social impacts. Impacts identified will be fully assessed in the EIS preparation phase, as well as any potential project refinements considered.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Community/ environment/ special interest groups	• Draft interview guide • Create interview data management system Attend meetings as relevant	• Review and approve interview guide • Undertake meetings • Record outcomes of meetings	March to June	Interview guide

Mechanism	Detail	Alignment with Objectives (Section 1.1)	Stakeholder Group	Umwelt Responsibilities	BayWa r.e. Responsibilities	Timing	Required Input
Personal interviews/ meetings	Meetings with LGAs to understand social impacts. Impacts identified will be fully assessed in the EIS preparation phase, as well as any potential project refinements considered.	1, 2, 3, 4	Edwards River Murrumbidgee Hay Shire	• Create interview data management system Attend meetings as relevant	• Review and approve interview guide • Undertake meetings • Record outcomes of meetings	February, March and April	Interview guide
Community Information Session 1	2 x information session will be held with attendance by Umwelt and BayWa r.e. to allow the broader community and any interested parties to review information regarding the project, ask the project team questions, provide feedback, and raise any concerns or interests.	1, 2, 3	Broader community	• Organise the session, including location, bookings, catering etc. • Draft an invitation to/ advertisement about the session • Provide input regarding invitees • Distribute the invitation/advertisements • Attend the session and record outcomes	• Review and approve details of the session • Review and approve the invitation/ advertisements • Attend the session	May in Coleambally and Hay	Project posters and information

4.2 Phase 2 (EIS preparation)

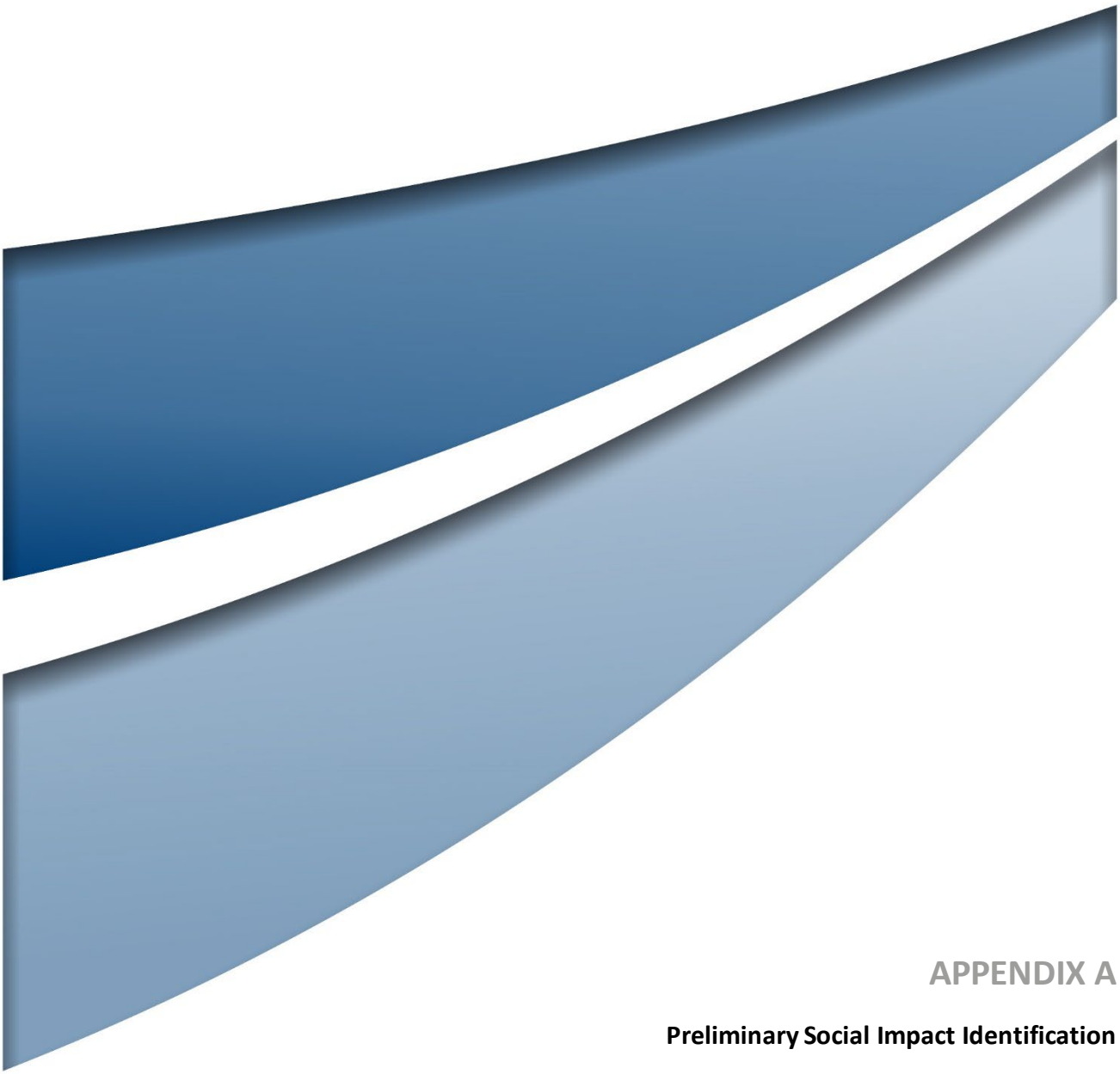
Table 4.2 contains the tasks that are proposed to be undertaken in Phase 2 (EIS preparation), however, this will be revised as required following the outcomes of Phase 1 and subsequent to the issuance of Project SEARs.

Table 4.2 EIS Preparation Implementation Plan

Engagement Mechanism	Detail	Alignment with Objectives	Stakeholder Group	Umwelt Responsibilities	BayWa r.e. Responsibilities	Timing	Required Input
Project Information Sheet 2	Second project information sheet will outline the outcomes of the Phase 1 engagement program to validate understanding of the community's perceived impacts; share additional project information and detailed plans; and provide an update on the approvals process, including the EIS and technical studies' outcomes.	1	Proximal residents Broader community	Draft content Provide input into distribution area Distribute info sheet	Review and approve content Design info sheet	TBC	Project description
Community Information Session 2 and 3	2 x information sessions will be held with attendance by Umwelt and BayWa r.e. to allow the broader community and any interested parties to review updated planning and design information (including findings of technical studies), ask the project team questions, provide feedback on the project planning and assessment. It is proposed that 2 sessions are run on different days and in different locations, to enable the wider community to access opportunities to learn about the project and provide feedback.	1, 2, 3	Broader community	Organise the session, including location, bookings, catering etc. Draft an invitation to/advertisement about the session Provide input regarding invitees Distribute the invitation/advertisements Attend the session and record outcomes	Review and approve details of the session Review and approve the invitation/ advertisements Attend the session	TBC	Project posters and information
Personal interviews/ meetings	Meetings with individual landholders to explore impacts and issues identified in Phase 1, validate their perceived impacts of the project, discuss options around mitigation measures, and evaluate any specific sensitivities to be experienced by each landholder.	2, 3, 4, 5	Host landholders Proximal residents	Draft interview guide Develop data management system Incorporate data into the SIA	Review and approve interview guide Attend meetings if requested Undertake meetings	TBC	Interview guide

Engagement Mechanism	Detail	Alignment with Objectives	Stakeholder Group	Umwelt Responsibilities	BayWa r.e. Responsibilities	Timing	Required Input
					Record outcomes of meetings Communicate any social risks the project team		
	Meetings with key community groups and/or local key stakeholders to further explore and investigate issues of the project as scoped in Phase 1 and evaluate the impact from the community or stakeholder perspective. Local service providers are likely to be targeted through these interviews to understand the existing capacity of infrastructure and services in the context of an incoming construction workforce (health, housing/accommodation, recreation etc.). Potential mitigation measures and enhancement strategies will be identified and explored through these discussions. 3 x meetings with Council to further explore any local issues and benefit sharing strategies is also likely to be included.	2, 3, 4, 5	Community/ environment/ special interest groups	Draft interview guide Develop data management system Incorporate data into the SIA	Review and approve interview guide Undertake meetings Record outcomes of meetings Communicate any social risks the project team	TBC	Interview guide
Survey	Telephone, in-person or online survey of local accommodation providers, businesses, and service providers to further explore and investigate issues of the project as scoped in Phase 1 and evaluate the impact from a stakeholder perspective. The survey will supplement in-person interviews to capture a broader group of stakeholders.	2, 3, 4, 5	Local service providers and businesses	Develop survey instrument Develop data management system Incorporate data into the SIA	Review and approve survey	TBC	Survey Instrument

Engagement Mechanism	Detail	Alignment with Objectives	Stakeholder Group	Umwelt Responsibilities	BayWa r.e. Responsibilities	Timing	Required Input
Small group discussion or collaborative assessment forum with Community Advisory Committee	1 x small group meeting or a collaborative forum with the BayWa r.e. team and key identified stakeholders, as appropriate, to work through predicted issues related to a specific impact theme (likely if any significant or complex impacts are identified in the SIA, e.g., construction workforce accommodation strategy). Mitigation and enhancement strategies relevant to the impact theme can be collaboratively developed through this forum.	2, 3, 4, 5	Key stakeholders (government agencies, Aboriginal stakeholders, local service providers)	Provide input to key stakeholders to be briefed Attend project briefings Organise project briefings Lead and record outputs of project briefings	Attend and lead project briefings	TBC	Project presentation



APPENDIX A

Preliminary Social Impact Identification

Table A1.1 Preliminary overview of social impacts

Social impact category	Project aspect	Social impact description	Duration	Extent/affected parties	Baseline relevance	Positive / Negative
Surroundings	Project establishment and operations	Negative impacts on **flora and fauna** - including the Plains Wanderer, Oolambeyan National Park	C & O[3]	Environmental groups Aboriginal Stakeholders Broader Community National Parks and Wildlife Services (NSW)	Land is important habitat for the endangered Plains Wanderer Bird. The community is invested in conservation and there are farmers who have dedicated land to preserving habitat In close proximity to the Oolambeyan National Park Plains Wanderers have dedicated Facebook groups and a sustained conservation effort	Negative [4]
Way of Life **Surroundings** **Livelihoods** **Cumulative**	Project establishment	Competing land use - the reduction in agricultural production due to multiple project developments in the area.	C & O	**Neighbouring landholders and residents** Environmental and community groups Broader Community	Agriculture is the predominant industry of the area, with high levels of employment in this sector across the LGA's (36.4% in Murrumbidgee and 23.8% in Edward River) Land use changes a key reason for opposition of other renewable projects in the region May be lower concern due to opportunities for co-occurrence between grazing and wind farms	Negative
Community Decision Making **Cumulative**	Project establishment and operations	Changes in the degree of **social acceptance** of the Project and development within the REZ more broadly due to the cumulative impacts of multiple projects	C & O	Broader Community Aboriginal Stakeholders Landholders Community Groups	Cumulative impacts of high rates of development in the area and the risk of consultation fatigue.	Negative
Community **Livelihoods** **Way of Life**	Project establishment and operations	Diversification of regional economy and income to include renewable energy delivery and supply chains	C & O	Broader community Local businesses	Agriculture is under pressure in the region due to climate change, water shortages and drought and market volatility. This represents	Positive

[3] C = Construction O = Operation P= Planning D= Decommissioning

[4] Yellow colour is a key potential negative impact. Green colour is a key potential positive impact

Social impact category	Project aspect	Social impact description	Duration	Extent/affected parties	Baseline relevance	Positive / Negative
				Landholders	an opportunity to diversify income for individual host and neighbour landholders and the broader community.	
Livelihoods	Project establishment and operations	Income received by host landholders may provide **additional sources of income**, bringing about improved outcomes for household income and community resilience	C & O	Host landholders	All localities have lower rates of household median income than the state. Income from agriculture is uneven and highly vulnerable to drought	Positive
Livelihoods Accessibility	Construction of turbines	Potential **restricted access** to properties may result in personal disadvantage and loss of agricultural productivity	C & O	Host landholders	High rates of home ownership and agriculture throughout the region - agricultural production may be impacted due to exclusion zones	Negative
Surroundings Way of life	Project construction and establishment of infrastructure	Visual amenity changes impacting perceptions of the rural landscape	C & O	**Neighbouring landholders and residents** Broader community Environmental and community groups	Cumulative impacts of a range of projects occurring at the same stage. Most of these are other renewable projects (solar especially). Relatively new announcement of REZ - may lead to drastic changes in a landscape currently dominated by agriculture. Located in flat landscape with uninterrupted view lines	Negative
Community Livelihoods	Project construction and operation	Changes to rural amenity impacting people's sense of place and community	C & O	Broader community Neighbouring landholders and residents	Emphasis on agriculture throughout the region	Negative
Surrounding Wellbeing	Production of noise and dust from construction	Increase in **construction-generated noise and dust** could cause social amenity impacts including disturbance and annoyance for nearby residents.	C	**Neighbouring landholders and residents** Broader	Periods of drought experienced throughout the area have potential to increase dust levels during construction from increased traffic. Cumulative impact of construction noise from multiple projects	Negative

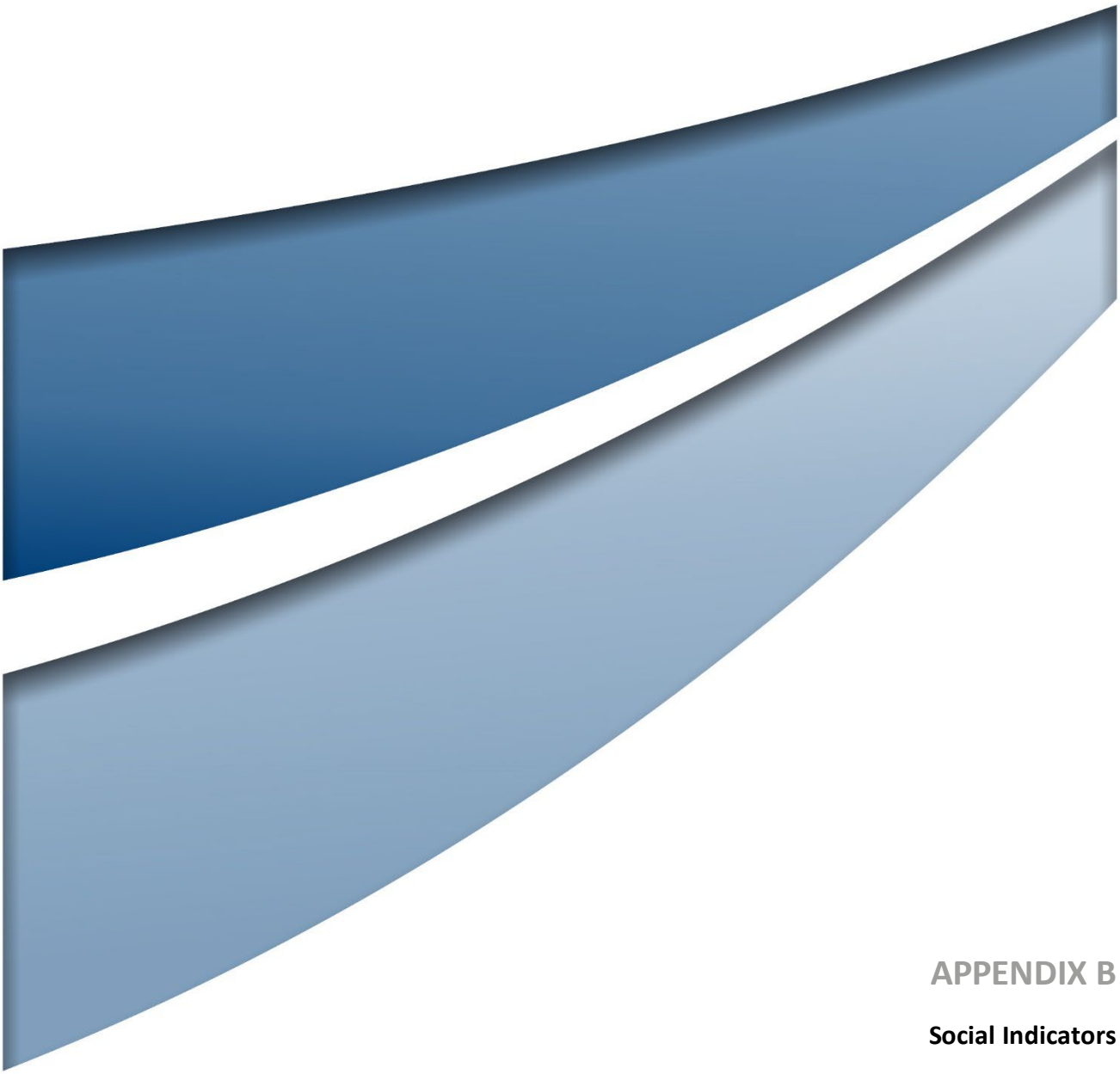
Social impact category	Project aspect	Social impact description	Duration	Extent/affected parties	Baseline relevance	Positive / Negative
				community Service Providers	Rural location likely to reduce impact on number of people	
Surroundings **Health and Wellbeing**	Project operations	**Operational noise** affecting social amenity and personal wellbeing.	O	Neighbouring landholders Host Landholders	Similar rates of psychological distress in Edward River (12.7 ASR per 100) compared to NSW (12.4), and slightly lower in Murrumbidgee (10.8) - sleep disturbances have potential to increase this.	Negative
Surroundings	Project construction	**Construction-related traffic** could cause an increase in personal disturbance caused by noise, a deterioration in road conditions, greater travel times, and heightened road safety risks - particularly important to consider cumulatively with other major projects and overlapping construction activities	C	Neighbouring landholders and residents Broader Community	Whilst the LGA is well connected to major hubs in SA, VIC and NSW, roads within the region have been criticised for a lack of maintenance. Increased traffic through towns noted as a concern with Councils considering the need to bypass certain areas in the future. Traffic incidents have seen a slight decrease in the area since 2016.	Negative
Community **Livelihoods**	Construction workforce influx	Increase in **economic activity** within local communities and townships due to an influx of workers	C	Local Businesses and Service providers Broader Community	Local areas are highly focused on agricultural production but with a growing tourism sector focused on fishing, hiking and water activities. Opportunity to support growth of recreational activities.	Positive
Community **Way of life** **Accessibility**	Construction workforce influx	Project construction will cause a temporary **rise in the population,** potentially increasing pressure on local services and infrastructure.	C	Neighbouring landholders and residents Broader Community **Local Businesses and Service Providers**	Limited rental vacancies in Edward River and lack of services throughout the region. High accommodation occupancy rates in both the Murray (58%) and Riverina (74.7%). Very few rental vacancies (Below 0.2% in Deniliquin, 0.4% in Griffith, 0.8% in Hay). Accommodation services reported difficulties in filling worker vacancies. Will they be able to support influx of workers? Will this impinge on tourism sectors?	Negative

Social impact category	Project aspect	Social impact description	Duration	Extent/affected parties	Baseline relevance	Positive / Negative
Community	Construction workforce influx	Increase in **human capital** for local communities (expertise)	C & O	Broader Community Business and Service Providers	Increase in workers with higher education levels (currently below NSW average of year 12 or equivalent school completion and bachelor qualification)	Positive
Community Livelihoods	Project establishment and operations	**Community investment initiatives and funds** to improve social outcomes for local communities	O	Neighbouring landholders and residents Aboriginal Stakeholders Community and environmental Groups Broader Community Local Businesses and Service Providers Local Government	High rates of socio-economic disadvantage throughout the region. Lack of services and resources noted by Edward River Council as a concern. An opportunity to BayWa r.e. to invest in the community increasing access to services and infrastructure	Positive
Accessibility	Construction workforce influx	Incoming Project **construction workforce accommodated locally** providing economic stimulus to service providers	C	Local Businesses and Service Providers	Construction workforce boosting local spending - hospitality, retail, accommodation Accommodation in the Murray and Riverina already has high occupancy rates (even greater in the Riverina). Very few rental vacancies (Below 0.2% in Deniliquin, 0.4% in Griffith, 0.8% in Hay).	Positive
Livelihoods	Project Construction	**Employment generation** within communities through the Project's construction can improve personal livelihoods and broader community's human and economic capital over time	C	Special Interest Groups Neighbouring landholders and residents Broader	Edward River has high unemployment rate (7.1%) compared to state average of 4.1, however it is lower in Murrumbidgee (2.1%) Already experience difficulties in filling work vacancies in the region.	Positive

Social impact category	Project aspect	Social impact description	Duration	Extent/affected parties	Baseline relevance	Positive / Negative
				Community Local Businesses and Service Providers	High rates of certificate level qualifications in the region.	
Livelihoods	Project establishment	Potential **property devaluation** impacting the ability for private property owners to buy or sell, particularly when considered cumulatively with adjacent proposed projects	C & O	Neighbouring landholders and residents	High rates of home ownership in the area, however few people with a mortgage demonstrating people have been in the area a long time. Perhaps signifying less people will want to sell Significant increase (55.5%) in the price of rural land in Edward River between 2020 and 2021. Little Australian or international evidence linking wind farms and property devaluation	Negative
Livelihoods	Construction workforce influx	**Training and education** opportunities through sourcing local employment	C & O	Broader Community Local businesses and service providers	High rates of certificate level training in the region, Collaboration of Deniliquin TAFE with local industry for training opportunities recognised as a key opportunity for Edward River.	Positive
Health and wellbeing	Project establishment	Project development may **increase stress and anxiet**y for proximal residents who feel uncertain about their futures and changes to their way of life	C & O	Neighbouring landholders and residents	Similar rates of psychological distress in Edward River (12.7) compared to NSW (12.4), and slightly lower in Murrumbidgee (10.8)	Negative
Culture	Project establishment	Impacts to **Aboriginal Cultural Heritage,** including artefacts, cultural sites, and connection to Country.	C	Aboriginal Stakeholders	Murray-Darling has been "a heartland for Aboriginal culture in South Eastern Australia" and is rich in Aboriginal heritage. High Indigenous population (Murrumbidgee 7.5%, Hay 6%). Hay Solar Farm received response submission	Negative

Social impact category	Project aspect	Social impact description	Duration	Extent/affected parties	Baseline relevance	Positive / Negative
					due to impacts on ACH Multiple Indigenous organisations in the region.	
Community	Project establishment	Incoming construction workforce may **decrease levels of community cohesion** given temporary changes in community composition	C & O	Broader community Special Interest groups Neighbouring landholders and residents	High amount of other renewable projects currently in the planning phase, increased construction workforces from these projects.	Negative
Community Livelihoods	Project establishment	**Distributive inequities** experienced through hosting infrastructure reducing **community cohesion.**	P, C & O	Neighbouring and host landholders Broader communities	Edward River noted community as being well connected, also high rates of volunteering in Murrumbidgee (29%) and Edward River (27%). Few landholders involved in the Project creating a divide between those receiving economic stimulus, and neighbours who are not.	Negative
Surroundings Safety, Health & Wellbeing	Construction of turbines	**Aero-safety** concerns due to height and quantity of turbines	C & O	Broader Community Businesses and Service Providers Neighbouring landholders Host landholders	Multiple aerial agricultural companies in the area	Negative
Surroundings Livelihoods	Project establishment	Concerns over water access and use.	C & O	Broader Community Special interest and environmental groups	Largest irrigation network in the State - TBC if some water licences revoked Experiences of both floods and droughts within the area over the past 10 years and the impact this has on ecosystems	Negative

Social impact category	Project aspect	Social impact description	Duration	Extent/affected parties	Baseline relevance	Positive / Negative
Surroundings	Decommissioning	Rehabilitation and waste production during decommissioning phase	C, O & D	Special Interest Groups Neighbouring and host landholders Broader Community Aboriginal Stakeholders	Concern raised in relation to other wind farms in NSW. Particular significance given importance of site as habitat for the endangered Plains Wanderers	Negative
Decision making	Project operation	Role in the **energy transition** and climate change reduction	C & O	Community Groups Broader Community	Designation as a REZ will increase discussion of, and opportunity for, broader energy transitions	Positive
Decision making	Project construction and operation	Lack of trust in decision making and engagement systems	C & O	All stakeholders	Some other renewable projects in the area have been criticised for their lack of engagement with the local community. Wind farm in Deniliquin received strong opposition in 2003, more recent projects haven't attracted as much attention.	Negative



APPENDIX B

Social Indicators

Appendix B – Social Indicators

Parameter	Deniliquin SA2	Jerilderie SA2	Griffith SA2	Griffith Region SA2	Edward River LGA	Hay LGA	Murrumbidgee LGA	NSW
Population Size	7,437	9,730	19,142	12,881	8,845	2,941	3,838	7,480,231
Males (%)	48	50	49	52	49	50	53	49
Proportion Indigenous Population (%)								
Median Age	45	48	36	39	45	46	41	38
0-4 years (%)	5	5	7	7	6	5	6	6
5-14 years (%)	12	12	13	15	12	13	15	12
15-19 years (%)	6	5	6	7	6	6	7	6
20-24 years (%)	6	4	6	5	5	5	5	7
25-34 years (%)	10	9	15	11	10	10	11	14
35-44 years (%)	11	10	12	12	11	9	12	13
45-54 years (%)	12	11	12	15	13	16	14	13
55-64 years (%)	15	16	11	14	15	15	14	12
65+ years (%)	24	28	17	14	22	22	17	16
Year 12 or equivalent (%)	37	35	41	37	39	38	36	59
Year 11 or equivalent (%)	12	14	7	8	12	10	10	5
Year 10 or equivalent (%)	31	30	32	37	30	30	33	23
Year 9 or equivalent (%)	12	11	8	9	11	10	10	6

Parameter	Deniliquin SA2	Jerilderie SA2	Griffith SA2	Griffith Region SA2	Edward River LGA	Hay LGA	Murrumbidgee LGA	NSW
Proportion of population with a different address one year ago (%)	12	12	14	10	12	11	9	14
Proportion of population with the same address five years ago (%)	57	57	54	63	58	58	58	54
Proportion of population who did voluntary work through an organisation or group in the last 12 months (%)	25	29	17	23	27	27	29	18
Owned outright (%)	38.5	43.7	32.8	37.9	38.6	41.3	36.2	32.2
Owned with a mortgage (%)	29.2	26.1	27.1	28.0	28.8	21.8	24.8	32.3
Rented (%)	28.8	24.9	35.3	29.1	28.3	30.4	34.4	31.8

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