Appendix D Social Baseline and Initial Evaluation of Social Impacts

D.1 Social Locality

The social locality for the Proposal has been defined as:

- The landholdings, property owners and residents within the Subject Land;
- The State Suburbs (SSC) of Balranald, Yanga, Kyalite and Moolpa, as per the Australian Bureau of Statistics' (ABS) statistical area; and
- The Murray River LGA, which hosts the Proposal and the neighbouring Balranald LGA.

This is based on the specific scale and nature of the proposed development, being a wind farm whose impacts on local economy and services and landscape character and amenity may extend for tens of kilometres from the project site boundary over a relatively long time period. It also considers the characteristics of the community (refer D.2); specifically, that the proposal will occur in a low population density, agriculture-dominated economy but that tourism, natural assets and rural lifestyle factors are important to the community.

Figure D-1 shows a visual representation of the social locality. As the Proposal progresses through subsequent stages of the planning process, the definition of the social locality may extend to include other localities, as required.

D.2 Social Baseline

A baseline social profile was developed using a number of primary and secondary data sources to gain an initial understanding of the existing social environment in which the project is proposed. Demographic and socio-economic data has been collected and summarised from the ABS Census (2016). Table D-1 outlines the community profile of the communities within the social locality. Important to note that in the 2016 Census, there were no people in the Moopla locality surveyed, so it has not been represented in Table D-1.

D2.1 Balranald Shire

Balranald Shire is a rural NSW shire in a remote, semi-desert area, encompassing the major townships of Balranald and Euston. The shire is located 850km south-west of Sydney, 450km north of Melbourne and 650km from Canberra and is connected to the higher-order centres of Swan Hill (90 km). The Balranald Shire local government area has a population of 2,287 and a median age of 41, with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people making up 8.8% of the population.

The economy in the region relies primarily on dry-land and irrigated agricultural production of cereals and legumes, sheep meat, wool farming and some irrigated agricultural beef. In recent years, primary production has been diversifying to encompass horticulture, viticulture, organic agriculture and the growing of fruit and nut trees.

Balranald Shire's key cultural and tourist offerings include the world heritage Mungo National Park, the Yanga National Park and the historic Yanga Homestead, on the shores of Lake Yanga. There are five iconic rivers which cross the Balranald Shire, including the Murrumbidgee (popular with anglers & fishers), Murray, Wakool, Edward and Lachlan Rivers. The access to rivers, weirs and

lakes within the region make it an ideal area for fishing, camping, boating, canoeing, kayaking and other recreational water activities.

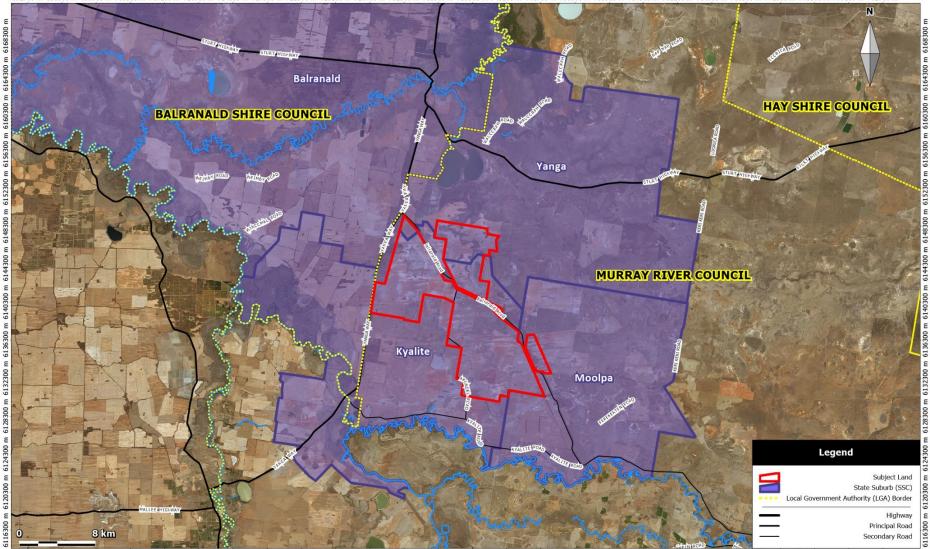
D2.2 Murray River Council

Murray River Council is located in the southern Riverina, comprising three wards, Moama, Greater Murray and Greater Wakool. The Murray River local government area is 800km south of Sydney, 600km South West from Canberra, 205km north west of Melbourne and 300km west from Albury. The main population centres include Barham, Mathoura, Moama, Moulamein, Murray Downs, Tooleybuc and Wakool. Other communities include Bunnaloo, Goodnight, Koraleigh and Womboota. Murray River Council has a population of 11,680 and a median age of 49, with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people making up 3.2% of the population. The most common ancestries in were Australian 33.9%, English 30.8%, Scottish 8.8%, Irish 8.7% and German 3.2%.

The Murray River Council's economy is strong, dominated by tourism, agriculture and industry. The Murray Region is known for its agriculture and food sector, having both rich alluvial soil and leverages irrigation opportunities for cropping and grazing. Residents and visitors appreciate the rural lifestyle.

The area encompasses a wealth of natural landscape features including sweeping plains; stands of red gum forests and Murray River and its tributaries. The area's natural assets prove to be a large attraction for locals and visitors alike and form the backdrop to many recreational activities. The area's key cultural and tourist offerings include the Murray Valley National Park and Murray Valley Regional Park, home to part of the largest, continuous red gum forest in the world and a unique environmental ecosystem.

Preliminary consultation indicates that the communities within the social locality have a good understanding of renewable energy projects from experience with the nearby solar farms, and wind farms in western Victoria. Many people drew comparisons to the solar farms, mineral sand projects and other agricultural projects in the area, and the positive benefits for the local community from these projects. Many neighbours also expressed an interest in hosting wind turbines on their properties. Key issues raised during preliminary consultation are presented in section 4.2.4



692700 m 696300 m 699900 m 703500 m 707100 m 710700 m 714300 m 717900 m 721500 m 725100 m 728700 m 735900 m 735900 m 739500 m 743100 m 746700 m 750300 m 755700 m 761100 m 768300 m 771900 m 775500 m 771900 m 775500 m 779100 m 782700 m

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Burrawong Wind Farm Social Locality Australia MGA (54) Australian Geocentric 1994 (GDA94) Created by Windlab : 20/10/2021

Figure D-1 – A visual representation of the Proposal's social locality.

Table D-1: Community profile within the Proposal's social locality.

	Balranald SSC	Yanga SSC	Kyalite SSC	Murray River LGA	Balranald LGA	NSW		
Census Year	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016		
Demographic Characteristics						•		
Population Size	1,343	37	82	11,680	2,287	7,480,228		
Proportion Indigenous Population (%)	12.2%	-	-	3.2%	8.8%	3%		
Median Age	45	36	40	49	41	38		
Year 10 as highest level of schooling (%)	17.6%	-	-	13.6%	15.9%	23%		
Year 12 as highest level of schooling (%)	12.2%	-	-	11.1%	13.5%	59%		
Bachelor degree (%)	6.9%	-	-	10.1%	7.1%	16%		
Certificate III or IV (%)	14.2%	-	-	18.2%	13.9%	18%		
Employment Characteristics						1		
Proportion of the labour force employed full-time (%)	53.8%	-	-	59.4%	59.4%	59.2%		
Proportion of the labour force employed part-time (%)	32.3%	-	-	30.5%	29.2%	29.7%		
Proportion of the labour force who are unemployed (%)	7.5%	-	-	3.7%	5.3%	6.3%		
Median household income (\$/week)	\$1,057	\$1,375	\$1,025	\$1,061	\$1,174	\$1,486		
Median monthly mortgage repayments (\$/month)	\$858	-	\$542	\$1,300	\$950	\$1,986		
Median weekly rent (\$/week)	\$150	-	-	\$200	\$150	\$380		
Median rent as a proportion of median household income (weekly)	14%	-	-	19%	13%	26%		
Dwelling and Tenure								
Characteristics								
Average people per household	2.2	1	2.6	2.3	2.5	2.6		
Proportion of private dwellings occupied (%)	78.3%	-	-	82.7%	76.6%	90.1%		
Proportion of private dwellings unoccupied (%)	21.7%	-	-	17.3%	23.4%	9.9%		
Proportion of dwellings owned outright (%)	42.2%	-	-	44.5%	41.3%	32.2%		
Proportion of dwellings owned with a mortgage (%)	20.8%	-	-	28.0%	24.6%	32.3%		
Proportion of dwellings rented (%)	32.9%	-	-	22.2%	29.7%	31.8%		

D.3 Initial Evaluation of Social Impacts

D3.1 SIA Scoping Worksheet

A preliminary evaluation of the likely social impacts is presented in Table D-2. These will be explored further and confirmed during the EIS phase.

	CATEGORIES	Assessment (SIA) Workshee		PREVIOUS		Project name: Burra									C Devel	Date: 20/10/2021 ASSESSMENT	-			DROUTOT	
PROJECT ACTIVITIES	OF SOCIAL IMPACTS	POTENTIAL IMPACTS O	ON PEOPLE	INVESTIGAT ON OF IMPACT	1	CUMULATIVE		ELEMEN	NTS OF IMPACT	S - Based on	preliminary in	vestigation		CE OF IMPACT ninary investig		LEVEL FOR EACH				PROJECT REFINEMENT	MITIGATION / ENHANCEMENT MEASURES
Vhich project	what social	What impacts are likely, and what concerns/aspirations have people expressed about the impact?		Has this impact	If "yes - this project, briefly describe the	Will this impact combine		Will the project activity (without mitigation or enhancement) cause a material social impact in terms of its: You can also consider the various magnitudes of these characteristics				Significance of each social impact (without mitigation or enhancement)				What methods and data sources will investigate this impact?			Has the project		
activity / activities could produce social impacts ?	impact categories could be affected by the project activities	e NB. Where there are multiple stakeholder groups affected differently by an impact, or more	Is the impact expected to be positive or negative	previously been investigated (on this or other project/s)?		with others from this project (think about when and where), and/o with impacts from other projects (cumulative)?	If yes, identify which other impacts and/or projects	extent i.e. number of people potentially affected?	duration of expected impacts? (i.e. construction vs operational phase)	scale or	sensitivity or vulnerability of people potentially affected?	level of concern/inte est of people potentially affected?	r likelihood level	magnitude level	significance o social impact		Secondary data	Primary Data - Consultation	Primary Data - Research	been refined in response to preliminary impact evaluation or stakeholder feedback?	What mitigation / enhancement measures are considered?
Free Text	Categories in SIA guideline	Free text	Positive Negative	Yes - this project, Yes - other project, No	Free text	Comulative Combined and Cumulative No Unknown N/A		Yes No Unknown	Yes No Unknown	Yes No Unknown	Yes No Unknown	Yes No Unknown				Detailed, Standard, Minor, Nothing further on this impact	Free Text			Yes No	Free Text
Construction	Way of Life	Increase demand for / pressure on housing / accommodation during construction has the potential to affect social amenity (availability and affordability of accommodation) Council and local agribusiness raised as a concern during preliminary consultation	Negative	Yes - other project	Balranald Shire Council has commissioned study on housing requirements over the next 5 years		Potential for cumulative impacts if construction activities for other expected renewable energy projects and grid upgrades in the REZ occur concurrently.	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Almost Certain	Major	Very High	Detailed	Yes	Yes - broad consultation	Yes - targeted research	No	Explore possibility of using accommodation facilit (capacity up to 400 people) established at Church Balraland to provide accommodation for Sunraysi Farm during construction.
Construction	Way of Life	Construction activities will cause disruption to agricultural activities. However, it is anticipated that disruption will be limited to host landholders as all infrastructure, including transmission easements, are located within the property boundaries of the four host landholders Community Values Survey: 30% responded that effects on land	Negative	No		No		No	No	Yes	No	No	Almost Certain	Minimal	Low	Minor	Yes	Limited - host landholders	Not required	Yes	Preliminary layout has considered the requiremen associated landholders to minimise the impact of farming operations.
Construction	Community	use was a concern Workforce during construction (up to 250 FTE during peak periods) will effect composition of local population Minor negative sentiment to backpacker labour used for solar farm construction noted during anglingtage computation	Negative	Unknown		Unknown	Potential for cumulative impacts if construction activities for other expected renewable energy, projects and grid upgrades in the REZ occur concurrently.	Yes	No	Yes	Unknown	Yes	Almost Certain	Minor	Medium	Standard	Yes	Yes - broad consultation	Not required	No	Develop strategies to promote local involvemen employment, and maximise the use of local labo products and services wherever possible
Construction and Operations	Community	during preliminary consultation Changes to character of landscape have the potential to affect visual amenity and the value ascribed to the area by the community, and in particular nearby neighbours Community Values Survey: 23% responded that visual amenity	Negative	Yes - this project	Preliminary Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment	Yes	Cumulative impact with transmission lines (existing and Energy Connect), adjacent solar farms, other potential renewable energy projects in the REZ	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unknown	Yes	Almost Certain	Transformation al	ⁿ Very High	Detailed	Yes	Yes - broad consultation	Yes - landscape and visual impact assessment	: No	Prioritise consultation with affected stakeholder infrastructure layout to minimise impacts, devel mitigation strategies for residual impact with inp specialists, including consideration of visual scr
All Project Stages	Community	Was a concern The Proposal has the potential to affect social cohesion if some support the project, and others oppose; or if there is a perceived unequal distribution of benefits	Negative	Unknown		No		Yes	Yes	No	Unknown	Yes	Possible	Minor	Medium	Standard	Yes	Yes - broad consultation	Not required	No	Open and transparent communication through a of the Proposal Co-design benefit sharing schemes at both nei and community levels, and ensure that input is from a diverse range of community members su scheme response to the needs and wants of the
All Project Stages	Community	Community benefit sharing scheme has the potential to increase social cohesion and sense of place by supporting initiatives that are valued by the laced even survitive	Positive	No		Yes	Community benefits received from adjacent Sunraysia and Limondale Solar Farms	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Possible	Moderate	Medium	Standard	Yes	Yes - broad consultation	Not required	No	community Co-design benefit sharing scheme with the con and ensure that input is sought from a diverse community members so that the scheme responeds and wants of the community
All Project Stages	Community	Iccal community Failure to meet community expectations in relation to local benefits has the potential to erode trust and support for the Proposal. Over selling and under delivering on local benefits was a key concern raised during preliminary consultation	Negative	No		No		Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Possible	Moderate	Medium	Standard	Yes	Yes - broad consultation	Not required	No	Open and transparent communication through a of the Proposal Co-design benefit sharing schemes at both nei and community levels, and ensure that input is from a diverse range of community members s scheme response to the needs and wants of th community Develop strategies to promote local involvemer employment, and maximise the use of local lab products and services wherever possible
Construction	Access	Increase demand for / pressure on community infrastructure and services (other than accommodation) during construction has the potential to effect social amenity (accessibility of infrastructure and services)	Negative	Unknown		Unknown	Potential for cumulative impacts if construction activities for other expected renewable energy projects and grid upgrades in the REZ occur concurrently.	Yes	No	Unknown	Unknown	Yes	Possible	Moderate	Medium	Standard	Yes	Yes - broad consultation	Not required	No	
Construction	Access	Transport of oversize components during construction has the potential to cause disruption to local road users Community Values Survey: 27% responded traffic was a concern	Negative	Yes - other project	Limondale Solar Farm			Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Likely	Major	High	Detailed	Yes	Yes - broad consultation	Yes - traffic and transport impact assessment	No	Consider options to avoid, minimise or otherwis impacts in consultation with all relevant stakeho
Construction	Access	Increase traffic volumes during construction has the potential to cause disruption to local road users Community Values Survey: 27% responded traffic was a concern	Negative	Yes - other project	Limondale Solar Farm	Unknown	Potential for cumulative impacts if construction activities for other expected renewable energy projects and grid upgrades in the REZ occur concurrently.	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Likely	Major	High	Detailed	Yes	Yes - broad consultation	Yes - traffic and transport impact assessment	No	Consider options to avoid, minimise or otherwini impacts in consultation with all relevant stakeh
Construction	Access	Transport of OSOM components and increase traffic volumes during construction has the potential to deteriorate condition of local road network for local road users	Negative	Yes - other project	Limondale Solar Farm	Unknown	Potential for cumulative impacts if construction activities for other expected renewable energy projects and grid upgrades in the REZ occur concurrently.	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Possible	Moderate	Medium	Standard	Yes	Yes - broad consultation	Yes - traffic and transport impact assessment	No	Consider options to avoid, minimise or otherwit impacts in consultation with all relevant stakeh
Operations	Access	Upgrades to local road network have the potential to improve condition of local road network for local road users	Positive	No				Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Possible	Moderate	Medium	Not relevant					

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PROJECT ACTIVITIES	CATEGORIES OF SOCIAL IMPACTS	POTENTIAL IMPACTS O	N PEOPLE	PREVIOUS INVESTIGAT ON OF		CUMULATIVE IMPACTS		ELEMEN	ITS OF IMPAC	TS - Based on	preliminary in	vestigation		CE OF IMPACT		ASSESSMENT LEVEL FOR EACH IMPACT				PROJECT REFINEMENT	MITIGATION / ENHANCEMENT MEASURES
		What impacts are likely, and what concerns/aspirations have people expressed about the		IMPACT Has this	If "yes - this project,"				material s	without mitigatio social impact in	terms of its:		ent) cause a Significance of each social impact (with mitigation or enhancement)				What methods and data sources will be used to investigate this impact?				
Which project activity / activities could produce social impacts ?	activity / impact stak activities could be affected by the impacts ? project activities different than	NB. Where there are multiple	Summarise how each relevant stakeholder group might experience the impact. NB. Where there are multiple stakeholder groups affect fferently by an impact, or more than one impact from the activity, please add an	ne impact investigated cted to be (on this or sitive or other stress)	briefly describe the previous investigation. I If "yes - other project," identify the	 Will this impact combine with others from this project (think about when and where), and/or with impacts from other projects (cumulative)? 	If yes, identify which other impacts and/or projects	extent i.e. number of people potentially affected?	duration of expected impacts? (i.e construction vs operationa phase)	intensity of expected impacts i.e. scale or	sensitivity or vulnerability of people potentially affected?	level of concern/inter	likelihood level	magnitude level	significance of social impact	Level of assessment for each social impact	Secondary data	Primary Data - Consultation	Primary Data - Research	Has the project been refined in response to preliminary impact evaluation or stakeholder feedback?	What mitigation / enhancement measures are being considered?
Operations	Culture	Changes to the character of the landscape have the potential to affect visual amenity and the value ascribed to the area by the community, particularly nearby neighbours Community Values Survey: 23% responded visual amenity was a concern	Negative	Yes - this project	Preliminary Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment	Yes	Cumulative impact with transmission lines (existing and Energy Connect), adjacent solar farms, other potential renewable energy projects in the REZ	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unknown	Yes	Almost Certain	Transformatior al	¹ Very High	Detailed	Yes	Yes - broad consultation	Yes - landscape and visual impact assessment	t No	Prioritise consultation with affected stakeholders, revise infrastructure layout to minimise impacts, develop mitigation strategies for residual impact with input from specialists, including consideration of visual screening
Operations	Culture	Changes to the character of the landscape have the potential to affect connection to country for traditional custodians Consultation will be undertaken during the EIS phase in accordance with the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements	Negative	No		Yes	Cumulative impact with transmission lines (existing and Energy Connect), adjacent solar farms, other potential renewable energy projects in the REZ	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unknown	Almost Certain	Transformatior al	¹ Very High	Detailed	Yes	Yes - broad consultation	Yes - landscape and visual impact assessment	t No	Prioritise consultation with affected stakeholders, revise infrastructure layout to minimise impacts, develop mitigation strategies for residual impact with input from specialists, including consideration of visual screening
Construction	Health and Wellbeing	Noise and dust during construction has the potential to result in adverse impacts to host landholders and nearby residents Community Values Survey: 40% responded noise was a concern	Negative	Unknown		No		No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Possible	Moderate	Medium	Standard	Yes	Yes - broad consultation	Yes - noise and vibration impact assessment	No	Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) which includes dust suppression measures in accordance with relevant EPA guidelines Prioritise consultation with affected stakeholders, revise infrastructure layout to minimise impacts, develop mitigation strategies for residual impact with input from affected residents and specialists
Operations	Health and Wellbeing	Noise during operations has the potential to result in an adverse impacts to host landholders and nearby residents Community Values Survey: 40% responded noise was a concern	Negative	Yes - this project	Preliminary Noise Impact Assessment	No		No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Possible	Moderate	Medium	Standard	Yes	Yes - broad consultation	Yes - noise and vibration impact assessment	No	Prioritise consultation with affected stakeholders, revise infrastructure layout to minimise impacts, develop mitigation strategies for residual impact with input from affected residents and specialists
All Project Stages	Health and Wellbeing	Anxiety about the Proposal including anxiety about perceived health impacts has the potential to result in adverse impacts of nearby residents, the local computative	Negative	No		No		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Possible	Minor	Medium	Standard	Yes	Yes - broad consultation	Not required	No	Open and transparent communication through all phases of the Proposal
Construction	Surroundings	local community Increase in traffic during construction has the potential to increase road safety risk for local road users Community Values Survey: 27% responded traffic was a concern	Negative	Yes - other project	Limondale Solar Farm	Unknown	Potential for cumulative impacts if construction activities for other expected renewable energy projects and grid upgrades in the REZ occur concurrently.	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Likely	Moderate	High	Detailed	Yes	Yes - broad consultation	Yes - traffic and transport impact assessment	No	Consider options to avoid, minimise or otherwise manage impacts in consultation with all relevant stakeholders
Operations	Surroundings	Changes to the character of the landscape have the potential to affect visual amenity and the value ascribed to the area by the community, particularly nearby neighbours Community Values Survey: 23% responded visual amenity was a concern	Negative	Yes - this project	Preliminary Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment	Yes	Cumulative impact with transmission lines (existing and Energy Connect), adjacent solar farms, other potential renewable energy projects in the REZ	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unknown	Yes	Almost Certain	Transformatior al	¹ Very High	Detailed	Yes	Yes - broad consultation	Yes - landscape and visual impact assessment	t No	Prioritise consultation with affected stakeholders, revise infrastructure layout to minimise impacts, develop mitigation strategies for residual impact with input from specialists, including consideration of visual screening
Construction and Operations	Livelihoods	concern The Proposal will provide an alternative income stream to associated landholders on land where intensive cropping is not recommended under the Land and Soil Capability Assessment Scheme.	Positive	No		No		No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Almost Certain	Major	Very High	Detailed	Yes	Yes - broad consultation	Limited - if appropriate	Yes	Commercial agreements with host landholders in place
Construction	Livelihoods	In additional to the potential for direct employment, there will be a wide range of opportunities for local contractors and suppliers to provide goods and services during construction which has the potential to create indirect and induced employment in the local and regional area. Many people made comparisons to the solar farms, mineral sands projects and ther agricultural projects and the positive benefits for the local community from these projects during preliminary consultation.	Positive	No		Unknown	Potential for cumulative impacts if construction activities for other expected renewable energy projects and grid upgrades in the REZ occur concurrently.	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Almost Certain	Major	Very High	Detailed	Yes	Yes - broad consultation	Limited - if appropriate	No	Develop strategies to promote local involvement and employment, and maximise the use of local labour, products and services wherever possible
Operations	Livelihoods	The Proposal is expected to create 10-15 permanent jobs during operations, with 4- 6expected to be based in the local area.	Positive	No		Unknown	Potential for cumulative impacts if construction activities for other expected renewable energy projects and grid upgrades in the REZ occur concurrently.	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Almost Certain	Moderate	High	Detailed	Yes	Yes - broad consultation	Limited - if appropriate	No	Develop strategies to promote local involvement and employment, and maximise the use of local labour, products and services wherever possible
Operations	Livelihoods	A transition to renewable energy is likely to put downward pressure on wholesale electricity prices, which has the potential to reduced electricity bills for households and businesses across NSW.	Positive	Yes - other project	Australian Energy Market Commission report	Yes	Other renewable energy projects in NSW	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Possible	Moderate	Medium	Standard	Yes	Yes - broad consultation	Not required	No	
Operations	Livelihoods	Potential for devaluation of adjacent or nearby properties, either perceived or real	Negative	No		No		No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Possible	Minor	Medium	Standard	Yes	Yes - broad consultation	Not required	No	
All Project Stages	Decision-making Systems	Affected people are unable to make informed decisions, and/or are unable to influence project decisions, including elements of project design	Negative	No		No		Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Possible	Moderate	Medium	Standard	Yes	Yes - broad consultation	Not required	No	Open and transparent communication through all phases of the Proposal, Use a variety of different communication channels, and provide information in an accessible way, complaints management process

D.4 References

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