



## Community & Stakeholder Engagement Plan

Kerrs Creek Wind Farm Renewable Energy Project

July 2023

## Acknowledgement of Country

We pay our respects to the Wiradjuri People as the Traditional Custodians of the Country on which the project is proposed. We recognise their ongoing connection to land and waterways, and pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

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## Acronyms and abbreviations

Name	Description
CCC	Community Consultative Committee
CEC	Clean Energy Council
CSEP	Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan
CRM	Customer Relationship Management
Darzin	Stakeholder Management database
DPE	NSW Department of Planning Environment
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
ERM	Environmental Resources Management Australia
EPA	NSW Environmental Protection Authority
FAQs	Frequently Asked Questions
GW	Gigawatt
IAP2	International Association for Public Participation
KCWF	Kerrs Creek Wind Farm
LGA	Local Government Area
MW	Megawatt
NSW	New South Wales
PPS	Public Participation Strategy
RAP	Registered Aboriginal Party
RDA	Regional Development Australia
RES	RES Australia Pty Ltd (the Proponent)
REZ	Renewable Energy Zone
SEARs	NSW Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements
SSD	State Significant Development
TfNSW	Transport for New South Wales

# 1 Introduction

RES Australia proposes to develop the **Kerrs Creek Wind Farm Renewable Energy Project** in Central Western NSW. The proposed project area is approximately 26 km north of Orange, within the Dubbo Regional Council LGA.

The project would generate up to 441 megawatts (MW) and deliver renewable, low-cost energy to the national grid, and contribute to the NSW Government's net-zero emissions target by 2050.

While wind farms provide clean renewable energy, valuable community investment, economic diversity and local jobs they often receive a mixed response from the community. Effective, considered community engagement is fundamental to generate community support for renewable energy development projects. In RES' experience, early, ongoing and transparent engagement and a clear benefit sharing approach are crucial components to fostering social licence for a renewable energy project.

## 1.1 About RES

Established in the United Kingdom in 1981, RES expanded into the Australian market in 2004 and operates in 11 countries. The company's mission is to provide affordable renewable energy across the world, from wind (on-shore and off-shore), solar, energy storage and transmission and distribution services. RES has a total project portfolio of 23 (gigawatts) GW and supports 10 GW of operational assets. In Australia, RES has successfully delivered six wind farm projects including Taralga Wind Farm and Barneys Reef Wind Farm in NSW.

## 1.2 Document review and update

Version 1.0 of the Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan (CSEP) was prepared as part of the Scoping Report to request project-specific Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs). Once the SEARs have been issued, this strategy will be updated to reflect any new requirements.

This CSEP will be reviewed every twelve months throughout the life of the project and be updated as required to address:

- stakeholder feedback and subsequent changes to the project
- changes in the construction program
- changes to stakeholder and community needs
- changes to stakeholder and community information requirements
- lessons learned from the community engagement process over the life of the project.

## 1.3 Objectives

This CSEP outlines RES' approach, strategy and implementation of stakeholder and community consultation during the development and construction phases of the project.

This CSEP aims to establish proactive communication and engagement with stakeholders and the community enabling their feedback or concerns to be clearly understood and integrated into project decision making.

The objectives of this CSEP are to:

- identify stakeholders and community groups with an interest in the project
- identify stakeholders and community groups that may be impacted by the project
- establish targeted communication tools and channels to facilitate two-way engagement
- provide clear, consistent and compelling key messages, to ensure stakeholders are informed and educated about:
  - the purpose or need for the project
  - benefits for the community
  - channels to raise questions or concerns and provide feedback
  - how RES will consider their input
- facilitate early engagement with identified Traditional Owners to maximise opportunity for the project to be developed in a culturally sensitive way, considering any tangible and intangible heritage values relevant to the project site and to support a focus on the avoidance of potential impacts to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage
- identify opportunities to build positive sentiment within local media, community and broader stakeholders
- ensure compliance with consultative requirements under the SEARs, *Undertaking Engagement Guidelines for State Significant Projects* (NSW Government, 2022), and other relevant planning instruments and guidelines
- codesign local benefit sharing opportunities with local community and stakeholders to ensure they are appropriately targeted
- identify opportunities to reduce the risk of community resistance.

## 1.4 Project overview

The Kerrs Creek Wind Farm Project involves the development, construction, operation, maintenance and eventual decommissioning of a large-scale wind farm in Central Western NSW, approximately 26 km north of the city of Orange. The project footprint covers around 9401.2 hectares, traversing eight freehold properties. Currently, the land is mainly used for agricultural purposes (sheep and cattle grazing). The project area is shown in Figure 1.

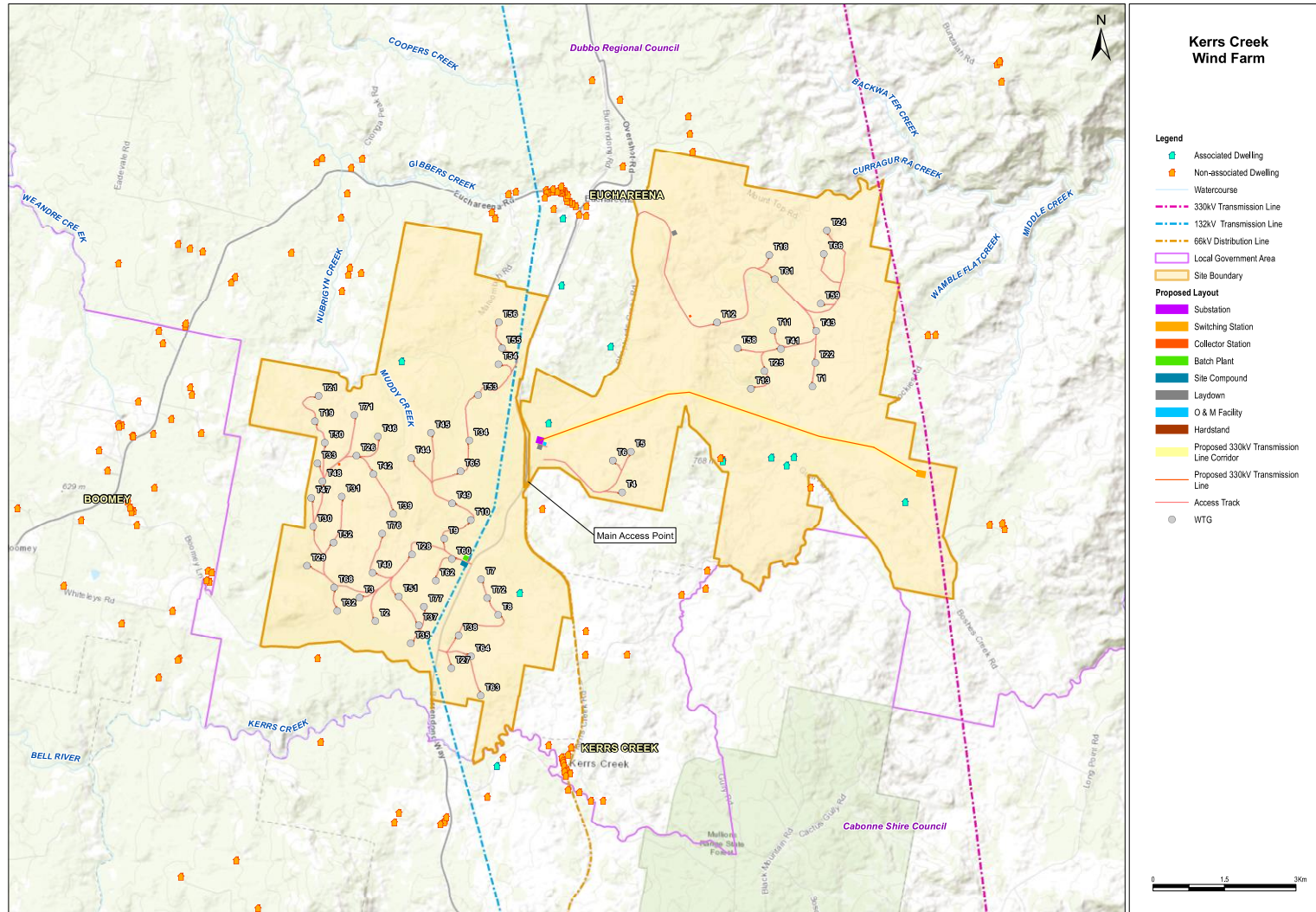


Figure 1: Project area

The site is strategically located within one of the NSW Government's designated five renewable energy zones (REZs) - the Central-West Orana REZ. The REZ initiative centralises new wind and solar power generation and battery storage in locations where energy can be easily transmitted to homes, businesses and industries across NSW.

The windfarm will comprise of up to 63 wind turbines, each with three blades mounted on a rotor hub reaching a maximum of 280 metres in height at the blade tip. It will also include ancillary infrastructure including electrical reticulation, access tracks, project substation, switching station and operation and maintenance facility, as well as temporary infrastructure such as construction site offices, concrete batching plant, construction vehicle parking areas, and material laydown areas.

The project is expected to deliver the following local and state-wide benefits:



create approximately **340** new construction jobs and approximately **10** long-term jobs to operate the facility



deliver up to **441 MW** of new, low-cost renewable energy capacity to help achieve the state’s renewable energy goals and contribute to Australia’s transition to renewable energy



generate enough clean, affordable energy to power close to **265,000** average NSW homes a year



provide host landowners with a new income source, improving the local economy



establish a Community Benefit Fund, co-designed by stakeholders, to provide direct and targeted benefits to the local community



reduce up to **700,000** tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions



encourage **investment** in Central Western NSW.

Table 1: Project benefits

## 1.5 Project milestones

Timing	Milestone
January 2021	Community information session 1
January 2023	Community information sessions 2
July 2023	Scoping report to be submitted
August 2023	Community information session 3
November 2023	All specialist reports to be complete
November 2023	Community information session 4
January 2024	Submission of Development Application
February 2024	Public Exhibition Period

Table 1: Project milestones

## 1.6 Project approval process

The proposed Kerrs Creek Wind Farm is considered a State Significant Development (SSD) under *State Environmental Planning Policy (Planning Systems) 2021* (Planning Systems SEPP). Being an SSD, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared as part of the planning approval.

RES is currently assessing the feasibility of the Kerrs Creek Wind Farm Project. As part of this, RES is undertaking preliminary environmental and social assessments to understand both the impacts and opportunities the project presents to local communities and the environment. Through this, RES is wanting to seek feedback on the project from key stakeholders and local community members. This information, along with impacts identified through community and stakeholder consultation sessions will feed into the Scoping Report and thereafter into the EIS which accompanies the planning application for the project

The project will require development consent under the *NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act).

A development application accompanied by a detailed EIS will be prepared and submitted to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE).

The EIS would include a Social Impact Assessment (SIA), in addition to several specialist studies, including assessments on effects to visual changes, noise, biodiversity, heritage, water, traffic, hazard, bushfire, soils and land use.

The SIA will include a community research and consultation program and be prepared considering the NSW DPE's SIA Guideline (2020). This engagement program will be conducted for the project and will include consultation with interested parties, affected communities and local representative groups. The outcomes of the research and consultation program will inform the development of the EIS.

Comprehensive assessments will be completed to identify the potential impacts of the project, including the cumulative impacts of any other developments in the area.

The detailed design of the project will be informed by these studies to ensure that impacts are mitigated as far as reasonably and feasibly possible.

The first round of community engagement was in January 2021. After a pause in development of the project, the second round occurred in January 2023. People can also learn about the project through the project website. Further, people can request a meeting, raise queries, receive feedback, and generally express an interest in being informed via the dedicated phone number, email and online feedback form.

## 2 Community engagement approach

### 2.1 Increased stakeholder expectations

Overall, community and stakeholder expectations regarding involvement in the decision-making process for infrastructure projects continue to rise. In many cases, this stretches far beyond traditional consultation topics of site locations, environmental management, and impact mitigation to incorporate advanced concepts such as climate change, increasing social value and benefit-sharing.

Infrastructure Australia's Australian Infrastructure Audit 2019 reported that:

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*“We are living increasingly connected and digital lives. Our awareness of the world around us, and the impacts of our decisions and behaviours, is increasing. [...] The expectations Australian communities place on governments, institutions, services and products are changing. Citizens, employees, customers, and shareholders are expecting, and demanding, more. People are engaging more.”*

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The report also states that “community opposition has contributed to the delay, cancellation or mothballing of more than \$20 billion of infrastructure projects in the last decade.”

In recent years the establishment, growth and success of not-for-profit activist-based organisations such as GetUp, 350.org, Friends of the Earth, Quit Coal, the Australian Youth Climate Coalition and counterAct demonstrates that community campaigns can deliver significant disruption and change.

Increasingly, governments are encouraging community participation in decision making through initiatives such as NSW Government’s online 'Have Your Say' surveys and more stringent community engagement requirements for State Significant Projects.

Together, community and government initiatives have resulted in increased stakeholder involvement and empowerment across all stages of the project lifecycle.

Jacobs and Simetrica’s 2020 thought leadership paper, Before and beyond the build, A blueprint for creating enduring social value at scale through infrastructure investments, traces changes in community expectations over time, stating that “in 2020, we expect more from our private sector business leaders and hold companies to higher standards relating to their social impact and contribution to social value.”

These expectations mean that effective engagement is critical to good stakeholder management.


## 2.2 IAP2 approach

RES recognises the importance of early and ongoing community and stakeholder participation throughout a project's lifecycle and aims to build trusting relationships between the project team, the community and broader region.

RES has established a dedicated community engagement team, comprising specialists trained in best practice methodologies under the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2).

The IAP2 Federation has developed the Public Participation Spectrum (PPS) to assist in defining the community's role in any public participation process. The PPS identifies stakeholders in respect to their impact on project decision making - from low to high - and determines an appropriate engagement response - inform, consult, involve, collaborate, empower - as shown in Figure 2.

The Undertaking Engagement Guidelines for State Significant Projects (NSW Government, 2022) states that the IAP2 core values and the IAP2 public participation spectrum should inform all engagement strategies.



	INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GOAL	To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.	To place final decision making in the hands of the public.
PROMISE TO THE PUBLIC	We will keep you informed.	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will look to you for advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.	We will implement what you decide.

Figure 2: IAP2 public participation spectrum

## 2.3 Engagement principles

RES’ commitment to best practice stakeholder engagement aligns with our company values of passion, accountability, collaboration and excellence and our vision to be a Power for Good - creating a future where everyone has access to affordable zero carbon energy.

As a founding signatory of the Clean Energy Council’s (CEC) Best Practice Charter for Renewable Energy Development 2018, we believe in effective, clear and transparent community engagement. Our engagement principles follow the IAP2 spectrum and reflect our experience implementing DPE’s Undertaking Engagement Guidelines for State Significant Projects.

RES is committed to the following:



Figure 3: Engagement principles

### 3 Engagement strategy

#### 3.1 Stakeholder identification

The CSEP design enables community members (especially impacted stakeholders) to be part of the project planning and development process with opportunities to ask questions and engage in a meaningful way. The following table maps stakeholder groups, individual stakeholders and their relevant interests and concerns.

Stakeholder group	Stakeholders	Potential interests and concerns
Host landowners	Landowners with the potential to host infrastructure, have already been engaged regarding infrastructure hosting options, or have agreed to host infrastructure	Individual consultation, access to private land, noise, visual amenity, health and safety, construction disruption, remuneration
Proximal landholders	Neighbouring dwellings within a 5 km radius of a potential turbine location	Individual consultation, noise, visual amenity, property values, health and safety, impact of construction, traffic
Broader community	Community members who live outside the 5 km radius of a potential turbine site	Community consultation, community wellbeing, economic benefits / impacts, impacts of construction traffic, health and safety, visual amenity, land use
Indigenous communities	Wiradjuri Traditional Owners, registered Aboriginal Parties and Aboriginal groups, Local Aboriginal Land Councils, NSW Aboriginal Land Council, Aboriginal Affairs NSW and Native Title Service Provider for Aboriginal Traditional Owners	Community consultation, impact on Aboriginal social, historical, scientific and aesthetic objects or values, economic benefits / impacts, impacts of construction traffic, health and safety
Local businesses and service providers	Local Business Chambers, local businesses (especially tourism or agriculture), NSW Farmers Association, Country Women’s Associations, Lions and Rotary Clubs, local action groups and tourism organisations, Euchareena Public School	Community consultation, community wellbeing, business opportunities, community involvement and events, social and economic impacts, environmental impacts, local Indigenous and European heritage objects and values, local sponsorship

<b>Local Councils and elected government representatives</b>	<p>Dubbo Regional Council: Cr Matthew Dickerson, Mayor, Murray Wood, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), and elected councillors; Orange City Council: Cr Jason Hamling, Mayor, David Waddell, CEO; and elected councillors; Cabonne Council: Cr Kevin Beatty, Mayor, Bradley Byrnes, General Manager (GM) and elected councillors; Hon. Dugald Saunders, Member of Parliament (MP), State Member for Dubbo; Mr Philip Donato MP, Member for Orange; Hon Mark Coulton, MP, Federal Member for Parkes.</p>	<p>Community consultation, community wellbeing, impact on local residents and businesses, economic benefits, impacts on local roads and infrastructure</p>
<b>State and federal agencies</b>	<p>Transport for NSW (TfNSW), DPE, NSW Local Land Services (LLS), Environmental protection Authority (EPA), National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Primary Industries, Civil Aviation and Safety Authority, Regional Development Australia, Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner, emergency service departments, Office of the Registrar of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act, National Native Title Tribunal</p>	<p>Community consultation, project approval, regulatory compliance, environmental impact</p>
<b>Local media</b>	<p>Dubbo Daily Liberal, Wellington Times, Central Western Daily, Molong Express</p>	<p>Community wellbeing, local employment, project updates, project budget, and community involvement and events</p>
<b>Utilities</b>	<p>Electricity and gas, WaterNSW, Macquarie River Catchment, Telecommunications providers, national Broadband Network (NBN)</p>	<p>Stakeholder consultation, project approval, regulatory compliance, environmental impact, signal interference.</p>
<b>Industry</b>	<p>Construction industry, freight industry, agriculture, retail, transport</p>	<p>Stakeholder consultation, environmental impact, impact of construction, traffic</p>

Table 3: Stakeholder groups

## 3.2 Community profile and demographics

The site location is north of Orange, between the towns of Euchareena and Kerrs Creek and is accessed via Burrendong Way and Shepherds Creek Road. The site is located wholly within the jurisdiction of the Dubbo Regional Council.

The area within 10 km of the site is largely rural and agricultural and includes the surrounding towns of Kerrs Creek (population 58), Boomey (88) and Euchareena (170) (Source: ABS, 2021). With services and facilities in the project area limited to one primary school and a fire station, locals rely on the centre of Orange (population 40,127) for services and infrastructure.

Within the project area, referred to as SA1 Project Area (10503110609) in the Scoping Report, the median age is 48, higher than the state median age of 39 and the Dubbo Regional Council Local Government Authority (LGA) median of 36. The area contains more people over 65 (22.8%) than both NSW (17.7%) and Dubbo LGA (17.3%), and fewer people under 15 (15.4%) compared to NSW (18.2%) and Dubbo LGA (21%).

The Indigenous population in the project area is 10.3%, higher than the NSW population of 3.4% but lower than the Dubbo LGA population of 16.6%. The population is mostly English-speaking, with only 1.7% speaking a language other than English.

The unemployment rate in the project area is higher at 5.4% than NSW (4.9%) and Dubbo LGA (3.6%), while household weekly median income is significantly lower at \$947, compared to Dubbo LGA income of \$1,597 and NSW income of \$1,829. However, home ownership is high in the area, with only 12.9% renting, much lower than the NSW rate of 32.6% and Dubbo LGA rate of 31.5%.

## 3.3 Impacts and opportunities

RES is committed to building strong local relationships with key stakeholders and communities as part of their early planning and understands the importance of ensuring local participation and community input, to achieve positive local and regional community benefits.

RES is committed to working with the community and key stakeholders to identify local environmental and social impacts associated with the proposed project. RES will work to ensure that through the EIS, SIA and associated community engagement process, that community issues are well understood and are addressed, where possible, in project design and planning.

RES recognises that the siting of the project may result in community and landscape impacts (both positive and negative) and that impacts may be experienced differently across stakeholder groups.

Across the global portfolio, RES is committed to supporting community schemes that demonstrate lasting impact and legacy.

For the Kerrs Creek Wind Farm, RES plans to work with the local community to explore benefit sharing options and target areas for contribution. This approach would be informed by community engagement undertaken for the project and would focus on meeting local community needs and aspirations.

RES is committed to local employment and procurement, where possible, and would work to ensure this commitment is reflected in the policies of the nominated Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) contractor where possible. A community supplier register has been established and will be advertised on the project website and at future drop in-information sessions.

### 3.4 Engagement tools and activities

We will tailor engagement according to individual stakeholder groups' needs and preferences, the type of information being conveyed, and the level of feedback required. This will include the following engagement channels:

Collateral	Description and purpose
Letters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Letter of introduction</li> <li>• Letters to impacted residents (immediate neighbours and surrounding community)</li> <li>• Invitations to town halls, pop-ups and other meetings</li> </ul>
Project updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project introduction and overview</li> <li>• Regular updates about project development and construction</li> </ul>
Media releases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Major project milestones</li> <li>• Holding statement/s based on key messages addressing relevant issue or concern</li> </ul>
Emails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Email database compiled during early community engagement and scoping phase (updated regularly)</li> <li>• Targeted project update emails</li> <li>• Upcoming impacts (construction)</li> <li>• E-newsletters and invitations to events</li> </ul>
Website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Platform for the wider community engagement may include:</li> <li>• Project documentation, as relevant to the development application</li> <li>• Project overview</li> <li>• Interactive map</li> <li>• News stories and videos of project in the community</li> <li>• Construction updates</li> <li>• Fact sheets</li> <li>• Community Consultative Committee information and minutes, if applicable</li> <li>• Opportunities (e.g., employment, community benefits, etc)</li> <li>• Contact details</li> <li>• Feedback and complaint form</li> </ul>

Fact sheets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft and publish series of fact sheets, potentially covering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wind energy</li> <li>• Wind farms and renewable energy</li> <li>• Wind farms and the electricity grid</li> <li>• Wind farm visual and noise impacts</li> <li>• Wind farm health and safety</li> <li>• Wind farm construction</li> <li>• Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Advertisements / flyers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invitations to community information sessions</li> <li>• Promote project opportunities such as community benefits</li> <li>• Notify of upcoming construction impacts</li> </ul>
Social media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project milestones and updates</li> <li>• Good news stories</li> <li>• Photos</li> </ul>
Project briefings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formal project briefings to key stakeholders and government agencies, including branded project PowerPoint deck</li> </ul>
Personal meetings / interviews*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduce the project and team</li> <li>• Listen to individual concerns, interests, issues and gather preliminary feedback, scope potential impacts and opportunities - including sensitivities - to inform mitigation strategies, key messages and engagement approach and build understanding of engagement preferences</li> </ul>
Community information and feedback sessions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drop in/pop-up sessions to provide information, engage with community, answer questions</li> <li>• Information booth/stall at local events (e.g., field days, shows)</li> </ul>
Community Consultative Committee (CCC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitate dialogue between community, stakeholders and the project team</li> <li>• Listen to concerns, interests, issues and feedback, scope potential impacts and opportunities to inform mitigation strategies, key messages and engagement approach and build understanding</li> <li>• Participate in the planning and development of the project</li> <li>• Promote project opportunities such as community benefits</li> <li>• Regular updates about project development and construction</li> </ul>
Site tours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organised stakeholder tours of the project site</li> <li>• Introduce the project and team</li> <li>• Celebrate project milestones</li> </ul>

Table 4: Recommended collateral

\*Personal meetings may include small groups, noting that the focus of these meetings is to understand and scope local concerns, interests, issues, and priorities, rather than provide information on the project.

The table below outlines the mechanisms that are planned to be used to engage the key stakeholder groups.

Key Stakeholder Group	Tools and mechanisms						
	Letters	Project updates / fact sheets	Media release	Emails / website	Project briefing	One-on-one meetings	Community sessions
Host landowners	○	○		○		○	○
Proximal Landholders (within 5km)	○	○	○	○		○	○
Broader community		○	○	○			○
Traditional Owners / Indigenous communities		○	○	○	○	○	○
Local businesses and service providers			○	○			○
Local Government				○	○	○	
State Government				○	○	○	
Local media			○	○			
Utilities				○	○	○	
Industry				○	○	○	

Table 5: Engagement tools and mechanisms

### 3.5 Enquiry and complaints management

RES has established dedicated project contact details to manage enquiries, feedback and complaints:

- **Phone:** 1800 118 737
- **Email:** info@kerrscreek-windfarm.com
- **Website:** www.kerrscreek-renewableenergy.com

A dedicated stakeholder database has been established using a secure, cloud-based Customer Relationship Management (CRM) platform. The Darzin database is used to track all contact and communications received and sent via all channels - including enquiries, feedback and complaints. Darzin will house contact details for email and newsletter subscribers and be updated and maintained throughout the lifecycle of the project.

The Community Engagement team will be responsible for managing enquiries and complaints, and logging the following information in the project database:

- contact’s name and details
- nature of the enquiry/complaint
- response provided, action required and resolution timeframes
- closure of enquires and complaints.

All interactions with stakeholders or the community will be recorded promptly and consistently.

Enquiry and complaint response timeframes are provided in the table below.

Type of complaint	Response timeframe
Urgent complaints during construction phase (i.e., safety worker behaviour, noise, etc.)	Within 24 hours
All other complaints	Within 2 business days
Enquiries and feedback	Within 2-3 business days

*Table 6: Response timeframe*

### 3.6 Issues, risks and mitigation strategies

The table below identifies potential project risks, mitigation strategies and appropriate engagement channels to respond to stakeholder concerns.

Risk	Mitigation	Tools / channels
<p><b>Visual and audible amenity:</b> Community members object to the audible and visual impacts of wind turbines</p>	<p>Early engagement with residents and community members to provide open and honest information on the operational and visual impact of wind turbines</p>	<p><b>Recommended:</b> Project website, fact sheets, targeted emails, newsletters, in-person meetings, information sessions, complaints and feedback channels</p> <p><b>Optional:</b> Social media, site tours and briefings, Community Consultative Committee</p>
<p><b>Organised community activist campaign:</b> An organised community campaign opposes the project</p>	<p>Provide extensive information on the benefits of the project. Develop collateral to counter false or misleading information. Ensure media responses are prepared in advance to counter potential issues</p>	<p><b>Recommended:</b> Project website, newsletters, media releases, information sessions, fact sheets</p> <p><b>Optional:</b> Community benefits program, sponsorship program, social media, Community Consultative Committee</p>
<p><b>Access to information:</b> Community members do not have access to adequate and accurate information to stay informed on the project's progress, potential impacts on health, safety, and the local environment</p>	<p>Provide extensive, clear and easy-to-understand information across a range of readily accessible mediums</p>	<p><b>Recommended:</b> Project website, social media, fact sheets, media releases, newsletters, targeted mail and emails, information sessions, sponsorships</p> <p><b>Optional:</b> Social media, briefings, website, Community Consultative Committee</p>
<p><b>Approval process and timing:</b> Delays with published timelines for the project</p>	<p>Ensure that project teams provide an accurate forecast on the planning and construction of turbines and update affected parties if variations occur</p>	<p><b>Recommended:</b> Project website, fact sheets, media releases, newsletters, targeted mail and emails, complaints and feedback channels</p> <p><b>Optional:</b> Community Consultative Committee, social media</p>

<p><b>Impact of construction on the community:</b> Construction noise, dust and traffic impacts, poor worker behaviour or influx of workers in the area</p>	<p>Provide proactive updates to the community on upcoming construction work, its potential impacts and duration. Provide avenues for complaints and feedback. Seek to continually improve processes and show community where we have responded to their concerns. Build positive culture within the project team to show respect to the community and build goodwill.</p>	<p><b>Recommended:</b> Project website, newsletters, targeted email, construction notices, complaints and feedback channels, project inductions that reinforce positive behaviour and respect for the community</p> <p><b>Optional:</b> Face to face visits, phone calls, social media, information sessions, briefings</p>
<p><b>External influences:</b> Uncontrollable influences, such as health emergencies, natural disasters, government policies, etc, which may impact engagement with stakeholders and community</p>	<p>Ensure engagement can continue online if face-to-face engagement is not possible. All communications will direct audiences to the project website for more information</p>	<p><b>Recommended:</b> Project website, newsletters, targeted mail and emails.</p> <p><b>Optional:</b> Word of mouth via stakeholders and Community Consultative Committee members, traditional advertising, media release</p>

Table 7: Risk management strategies

## 4 Key messages

The following key messages will inform all project collateral development and will support the project team to provide consistent, up-to-date and accurate information to project stakeholders.

As the project progresses beyond the scoping phase we will develop additional messages to provide detailed information relevant to future stages of the project lifecycle.

All messaging will be updated in response to stakeholder feedback.

### 4.1 About the project

- The Kerrs Creek Wind Farm will include up to 63 wind turbines, each reaching up to 280 metres in height at the blade tip, as well as ancillary infrastructure including electrical reticulation, an operation and maintenance facility and maintenance access tracks.
- When operational, the wind farm will deliver up to 441 MW of new, low-cost renewable energy capacity to help achieve the state's renewable energy goals and contribute to Australia's transition to renewable energy.
- Kerrs Creek will generate enough clean, affordable energy to power close to 265,000 average NSW homes every year, reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 308 tonnes.
- We estimate the Kerrs Creek Wind Farm will attract investment in Central Western NSW, create up to approximately 340 new construction jobs and 10 long-term jobs to operate the facility.
- New income sources for property owners hosting turbines, will provide a further economic boost to the area.
- During construction, there will be temporary construction site offices, a concrete batching plant, construction vehicle parking areas, material laydown areas, storage, and vehicle access tracks.

### 4.2 About RES

- RES Australia, an experienced, independent renewable energy company, is developing the Kerrs Creek Wind Farm.
- Established in the United Kingdom in 1981, RES operates in 11 countries with a mission to provide affordable renewable energy across the world, specialising in wind and solar energy and energy storage and transmission,
- We have successfully delivered six wind farm projects in Australia, including Taralga Wind Farm in NSW.

## 4.3 Project location

- The Kerrs Creek Wind Farm site is located approximately 26 kilometres north of Orange and 110 kilometres south-east of Dubbo, between Kerrs Creek and Euchareena.
- The Project is strategically located in the NSW Government's Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) and will operate within the boundaries of the the Dubbo Regional Council.
- Access to the site will be via Burrendong Way and Shepherds Creek Road.
- The wind farm will cover an area of approximately 9401.2 hectares.
- Currently, the land located within the proposed project area is mainly used for agricultural purposes.
- The wind farm will not impact the existing agricultural use of the land.
- During the site selection process, RES investigated more than 30 locations in the Central-West region against multiple criteria including: reduced community impact, wind resource, proximity to the grid, grid capacity, available land, landowner sentiment, road access, environmental impact, topography and constructability.
- We selected Kerrs Creek as our preferred option as it ranked highest in each criterion.

## 4.4 Project approval process

- RES is currently preparing a Development Application to seek Development Consent for the project from the NSW DPE.
- We will submit a Scoping Report to DPE in July 2023. After reviewing the Scoping Report, DPE will issue a SEARs - a set of project-specific environmental and social assessment requirements, including a list of stakeholders required to be engaged during preparation of the EIS.
- We expect to lodge an EIS in early 2024 under the EPA&A Act.
- The EIS process includes a formal public exhibition to enable the local community and other stakeholders such as government, businesses and regulatory bodies to review the proposal and provide feedback.
- Following public exhibition of the EIS, and any subsequent required reporting (such as the response to submissions report and any required amendment report), DPE will assess the proposal and consider the community feedback before approving the project, or what is known as making a determination.
- Should the application be successful, RES will progress towards the expected construction start date.



## 4.5 Consultation and engagement

- RES is committed to listening to the community and providing opportunities for genuine input into the Kerrs Creek Wind Farm.
- We will consult with stakeholders and develop strategies to avoid or minimise the project's impact.
- We have established channels to encourage feedback including a 1800 community information line, a monitored email address and a project website.
- RES will be collaborating with the local community and stakeholders to develop a local community benefits plan.
- If required by the SEARs, RES will establish a Community Consultative Committee or similar forum for local community members to participate in the planning and development of the project through open dialogue and consultation.

## 5 Communication and engagement action plan

RES will consult and engage with the local community and other stakeholders throughout the Project lifecycle following the NSW Government's *Wind Energy Guideline* (2016). This guideline requires that proponents address the following components of their stakeholder engagement program through the appropriate project planning and development phases, as outlined in the table below.

Timing	Objectives	Planned activities
Phase 1 - Pre-scoping report		
2020-21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify and assess potential project sites</li> <li>Finalise site selection and project feasibility</li> <li>Identify and categorise stakeholders</li> <li>Identify landowners within 5-10km buffer, dependent on visual impact assessment</li> <li>Make initial contact to introduce the project</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Send introductory letters</li> <li>Gather phone numbers, addresses and emails</li> <li>Establish project database</li> <li>Phone calls</li> <li>Door knock for face-to-face meetings</li> <li>1<sup>st</sup> community information session</li> </ul>
2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct technical assessments for scoping report</li> <li>Draft Kerrs Creek Community &amp; Stakeholder Engagement Plan</li> <li>Identify feedback to include in the Scoping Report: face-to-face and in situ engagement, and extent of stakeholder engagement (MPs, Aboriginal land councils, surveys, etc.)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish project website, 1800 number, email address</li> <li>One-on-one meetings and negotiations with affected landowners and neighbours</li> </ul>
Jan 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community engagement to introduce project</li> <li>Establish relationships with identified stakeholders with strong interest and influence on project</li> <li>Revise CSEP following community sessions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting with DPE January 2023</li> <li>Direct mail to community</li> <li>Local newspaper advertising</li> <li>Promote pop-ups on Council events page</li> <li>Host community information session</li> </ul>
May 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish relationships with local council(s)</li> <li>Understand local context, social issues and perceived impact from Project</li> <li>Commence Benefit Sharing Development and identify opportunities for collaboration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting with Cabonne Shire Council</li> <li>Meeting with Dubbo Regional Council</li> <li>Ongoing one-to-one consultation with community members</li> </ul>
July 2023	Scoping report complete and submitted	

Timing	Objectives	Planned activities
Sep 2023	Finalise host landowner agreements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One-on-one meetings and negotiations with landowners</li> </ul>
Phase 2 - pre-EIS (post SEARs)		
TBA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SEARs received</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review of the issued SEARs</li> <li>Alignment of Project scope against SEARs requirements</li> <li>Consultation with regulatory bodies to ensure all stakeholders are considered</li> </ul>
TBA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update CSEP to reflect SEARs conditions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update CSEP</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide project updates via established communication channels</li> <li>Provide opportunity for engagement with project</li> <li>Provide opportunity for stakeholders and community to raise concerns and provide feedback</li> <li>Inform community on what aspects of the project can be influenced by the community</li> <li>Build positive sentiment across local media, and with local community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fact sheets on issues of importance to community</li> <li>Project update newsletter/s</li> <li>Website updates</li> <li>Social media content</li> <li>Media release</li> <li>Community information sessions and attendance at community events</li> <li>Online survey with questions on social values and visual aspects, landscape features, scenic quality and views to provide input for SIA and visual assessment and EIS</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify key stakeholders with an interest and influence on the project</li> <li>Provide channels for stakeholders to contribute feedback</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish Community Consultative Committee or similar, if required and feasible</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify opportunities to build social licence</li> <li>Co-design local benefit sharing opportunities with local community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop Community Benefits framework in collaboration with community</li> </ul>
Nov-Dec 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draft consultation outcomes as part of EIS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report to be prepared</li> </ul>
Early 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submit EIS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submit EIS</li> </ul>
Phase 3 - EIS exhibition		

Timing	Objectives	Planned activities
<b>Public exhibition period</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide ongoing communications and engagement</li> <li>• Proactively seek views and feedback of the community to inform the final design</li> <li>• Inform community on what aspects of the project can be influenced by the community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community newsletter</li> <li>• Community open house or pop-up sessions with displays of EIS and posters</li> <li>• Update Project fact sheets</li> <li>• Website updates</li> <li>• Face-to-face visits</li> <li>• Phone calls or emails</li> <li>• Stakeholder meetings and/or briefings</li> <li>• CCC meeting/s</li> </ul>
<b>Post EIS exhibition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft outcomes report to support EIS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report to be prepared</li> </ul>
<b>Project Determination</b>		

Table 8: Action Plan

Following Project Determination, RES will update the CSEP to reflect project construction and operation phases.

Engagement in these phases provides an opportunity for RES to build trust and social licence with the community and stakeholders by understanding and responding to stakeholder issues, concerns and interest in the project.