

ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY AND OUTCOMES REPORT

In line with our engagement strategy documented in the Stakeholder and Community Engagement Plan (see Appendix A), the West Arthur Wind Farm (WAWF) commenced engagement with key stakeholders regarding the Proposal in 2022. This outcomes report summarises stakeholder engagement to date.

Stakeholder Identification

Our approach to stakeholder engagement focuses on early and ongoing engagement to build trust and foster positive relationships with the local community, government agencies and other key stakeholders. The key objectives of the engagement to date have been:

- Build relationships and leverage communication mechanisms and benefit sharing schemes that have been successfully implemented in other projects Lacour have developed.
- To understand the perspectives of local community stakeholders and stakeholder groups such that these perspectives can be considered as part of the proposed Proposal design evolution.
- To engage early with regulators to understand areas of interest and potential concerns, such that these can be considered as part of the Proposal design evolution.

The Proposal's key stakeholder groups were identified following initial engagements in the area, a desktop review and benchmarking with other Lacour projects. A detailed stakeholder register is maintained via the Proposal's customer relationship management system, Open Point.

Understanding the stakeholder groups and their level of interest and influence has been critical in tailoring engagement tools and identifying the stage of the Proposal appropriate to engage.

The Proposal recognises that active participation across stakeholder groups produce greater community trust, as the decisions are not the result of developers' internal processes alone but also reflect stakeholders' active contributions.

Stakeholders and their areas of interest that have been identified are summarised in Table 1

Table 1: Identified Stakeholder Groups and Primary Areas of Interest

Stakeholder Group	Stakeholder	Primary Area of Interest
Local Community	Community members	• Proposal details • Community benefit sharing options • Employment and contractor opportunities
State Government	Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER)	• Ecological surveys and findings • Extent of clearing and other impacts • Referral under <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> (EP Act) • Surface water and groundwater permitting requirements • Noise assessments and limits • Emissions and discharges
	Department of Planning, Land and Heritage (DPLH)	• Planning approval in accordance with State Planning • Heritage
	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA)	• Biodiversity aspects, including black cockatoos • Offset options
	Main Roads WA (MRWA)	• Transport of infrastructure from port to site • Road upgrades and modifications • Approvals and permits
	Public Transport Authority (PTA)	• Crossing of PTA easement
	Water Corporation	• Supply water during construction
	Western Power (WP)	• Connection to existing WP infrastructure
	Department of Energy and Economic Diversification (DEED)	• Energy Transition and economic diversification • Community and Stakeholder engagement • Industry advocacy for policy

Stakeholder Group	Stakeholder	Primary Area of Interest
	Southwest and Wheatbelt development commissions	- Regional economic development including local content initiatives and education - Administrators of Community Benefits Pilot
	Regional TAFE	Education and training
	Southern Ports Authority	Use of port for delivery of infrastructure
	Relevant Ministers and Premier	Proposal updates for delivery of the Energy Transition
Federal Government	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW)	- Impact of Matters of National Environmental Significance - Referral under the <i>Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (EPBC Act) - Capacity Investment Scheme (CIS)
Local Government	Shire of West Arthur	- Understanding community impact and opportunities - Community benefit sharing options - Workforce accommodation - Proposal layout and design - Road use and maintenance - Employment opportunities - Development application under the <i>Planning and Development Act 2005</i> - Bushfire Management
	Shire of Collie	- Road use and maintenance - Employment opportunities
Traditional Owners	Gnaala Karla Booja Aboriginal Corporation	- Heritage protection and surveys - Employment and contracting opportunities - Training and development opportunities - Community benefit sharing

Stakeholder Group	Stakeholder	Primary Area of Interest
Industry Body representing the Renewable Energy Industry	Clean Energy Council	• Advocacy on policy reform • Best Practice research • Management of misinformation
Service groups, businesses and service providers	Various including the Collie Chamber of Commerce	• Impacts on services and business • Opportunities for new and existing businesses

Stakeholder Engagement Approach

Early community and stakeholder identification and engagement have been undertaken with the objective of building relationships with host landowners, community members and key stakeholders in relation to the Proposal.

The Proposal and community context have been important in tailoring the engagement approach to the local community. When the Proposal definition was sufficiently advanced and Proposal infrastructure was agreed with key host landowners. The following consultation occurred in sequence:

1. Agreed key Proposal metrics and confirmed community information dates with wind farm host landowners.
2. We advertised a community information event and updated our website.
3. Formally introduced the wind farm to the Council prior to the Community Information event.
4. Held Community Information Events, collected attendees' details to provide future updates.

Lacour's previous experience in conducting community engagement has resulted in positive community support for projects. The ability to meet and discuss topics of interest face to face and committing to this style of communication has been crucial to Proposals success. Examples of engagement activities are:

Community contribution initiatives: These are shaped by ongoing engagement and align with both the project's stage and nature, as well as the community's identified needs.

Accessible Personnel: Community members have regular opportunities to speak directly with the Proposal team through site visits, information sessions, attendance at council meetings and participation in local events or forums.

Clear communication of Proposal purpose: The WAWF clearly and transparently outlines the need for the wind farm, providing opportunities for questions and open discussion at every stage, and ensuring that all queries are addressed.

Stakeholder and community engagement is in essence about making better, more sustainable decisions through a process that engenders trust and credibility. The Proposal has worked to understand the needs of the Proposal host communities through early, transparent and ongoing engagement. The stakeholder engagement methods adopted are presented in **Table 2**

Table 2 – Stakeholder Engagement Methods

Mechanism	Objective	Targeted Stakeholder	Description
Shire Community Forums	Engaged early by participating in shire led open forums.	Local and surrounding Communities including businesses.	Accepted an invitation to attend two Shire led forums 2023 and 2024. Outcomes of the second forum detailed in Key Principles of Renewable Development. Appendix B
Proposal Briefings / Meetings	To provide ongoing Proposal updates. To understand approvals required and key issues to be considered/assessed.	Federal, State and Local government agencies	Proposal briefing meetings, update meetings and pre-referral meetings to identify items to be considered for proposal design, approval and construction and operation.
Email/Letter Correspondence	To inform landowners of the assessment and development processes through the provision of Proposal information and additional opportunity for further engagement	Land holders / residents	Correspondence containing proposed Proposal information and key engagement mechanisms. This mechanism usually followed a face-to-face discussion.
Website	To inform the community about key Proposal information and updates	Broader Community / All	Proposal website established to provide updates throughout Proposal life for all stakeholders. It includes a mechanism to provide input/feedback, subscription to newsletters and employment register. The website is updated with newsletters and information regarding milestones including advertising the community information sessions and details on the pre-construction community grant program. It also includes a two minute Proposal video. See Item 1

Mechanism	Objective	Targeted Stakeholder	Description
Local Media	To inform the broader community about key proposed Proposal milestones and extend invitations to community information sessions.	Broader Community / All	Utilisation of the local newspaper (The Bleat) and social media mediums to inform the broader community about the Proposal and promotional information regarding the community information sessions, grant schemes and Proposal contact details included with opportunities to provide feedback.
Personal meetings /group forums	To involve stakeholder groups to understand their concerns and ensure aspirations are considered.	Local Government Business / Industry Representatives Local Service Providers Education Providers	Meetings to identify potential proposal impacts and opportunities from various stakeholder perspectives and suggestions with regards to mitigation/enhancement strategies.
Online survey	To involve stakeholder groups to understand their concerns and ensure aspirations are considered.	Local community	An interactive survey given to the community at the November 2024 Council led forum identified potential Proposal impacts and opportunities from various stakeholder perspectives. It gave an indication of community sentiment. The Key Principles for Effective Renewable Energy Development in the Shire of West Arthur includes results from this survey. See Appendix B.

Mechanism	Objective	Targeted Stakeholder	Description
Community Information Sessions	To inform various stakeholder groups and the community about key proposal information, provide proposal updates and outline who WAWF is. To provide an opportunity for members of the community to ask questions on a one to one basis. These sessions provide an alternative to asking questions in an open forum.	Community members Community and special interest groups	To date we have held 3 drop-in sessions. These sessions provided updated information on proposal developments, answered questions, dispel myths and gathered further feedback on the proposal.



Stakeholder Consultation

Significant consultation has been undertaken with key Federal, State and Local regulatory authorities in addition to consultation with key landholders, Traditional Owner groups, the community and local service providers. A summary of outcomes from consultation undertaken to date is presented in Table 3

Table 3: Stakeholder Consultation Outcomes

Stakeholder	Dates	Event	Outcomes
Landowners			
Host Landowners	Commenced in 2022	Face to face meetings provided detailed responses to wind farms in general as well as proposal specifics to many landowner's questions over many meetings with potential host landowner. These discussions are ongoing.	Building trust and understanding of WAWF. Summary results of wind monitoring shared with host landowners. Successful negotiation of long-term lease agreements Ongoing discussions on different powerline routes
	Commencing in 2022 and ongoing	Wind monitoring has occurred over half a dozen locations to date.	
	H2 2023	Spring survey undertaken for wind farm designs agreed with each relevant landowner.	
	2023 – present	WAWF hosted multiple landowner visits to wind farms in WA. This work is ongoing.	
	Commenced in H1 2023	Negotiated long term lease agreements with willing host landowners. WAWF approached landowners of potential powerline routes between the Proposal and Shotts	



Stakeholder	Dates	Event	Outcomes
Community Members			
Whole of Community	July 2023	Presented at the shire led Darkan Wind Farm Forum in July 2023 (approx. 140 attendees)	Lacour presented alongside other industry speakers and developers at the Shire led Wind Farm forums in Darkan. The Forum was well attended, attracted approx. 140 attendees and covered: • General information on renewable energy • Overview of the development process • The experiences of other shires that have had wind farms An article summarising the event was published in the local publication, The Bleat and is included in Item 2.
	November 2024	Presented at the Shire led Darkan Wind Farm Forum in November 2024. This event was facilitated by Professor Peta Ashworth OAM, Director, Curtin Institute for Energy Transition. This event was designed to seek feedback from the local community and understand community sentiment regarding the proposed developments.	Great attendance A set of questions were asked via Slido resulting in the development of word clouds representing key issues relating to wind farms. A summary of the event along with additional information relating to renewable energy was posted on the Shire of West Arthur website and a write up included in the Bleat Newsletter see Item 3. Information from these sessions contributed to the council formulation of Key Principles of Effective Renewable Energy Development. This document includes the endorsed position statement supporting the development of renewable energy in the shire. See Appendix B
	Sept 2023	Received Information Sheet for Wind Farm Developers from Shire of West Arthur. Opportunities and Issues- Item 5	Summarises possible community enhancements, opportunities and housing/camp/legacy options for consideration and discussion.



Stakeholder	Dates	Event	Outcomes
	H2 2023	Contribution to information on Renewable Energy page on Shire website and library.	Lacour provided suggested links and donated a book to the Darkan Library that dispels many myths circulating around windfarm impacts. Wind Turbine Syndrome: A Communicated Disease, by Simon Chapman and, Fiona Crichton. See Item 6.
	May 2025	West Arthur Wind Farm website created and communicated to key stakeholders. See Item 1	Key information added to stand alone website making it accessible to all stakeholders. Information includes : • Proposal overview • Benefits • Consultation • FAQ • About us • Contact us including the ability to provide feedback and sign up to our contractor and employment register
	Sept 2025	Communicated and published our position on Community benefits Fund of \$1,050/MW on our WAWF website	Provided clarity on our intentions ahead of Powering WA's release of its Community Benefits Guideline in March 2026. Aligning with the Shire of West Arthurs Renewable Energy Community Benefit Fund Policy. See Appendix C and Item 1 (Benefits page)
	Feb 2024 and March 2026	Attended and sponsored Darkan Sheepfest Agricultural event in both 2024 and 2026	More than 60 community members visited our stall at the 2026 Sheepfest. The Lacour team answered questions, provided information, and engaged with all the event activities, strengthening our understanding of the region and its community. See photos from events in Item 7.
	Commencing June 2025	Distribution of Newsletters 1-11 in local community publication – The Bleat and via direct email to those that have either subscribed online, at one of our community events or via verbal request. Item 9	Updating local community on upcoming events, Proposal progress, and Pre-Construction Grant. The Bleat is a locally produced newsletter published every fortnight and available for purchase in local shops or online subscription.



Stakeholder	Dates	Event	Outcomes
	16 & 17 June 2025	Advertised our first Community Information Session at the West Arthur CRC in the Bleat. Item 8. Sessions focused on energy literacy, covering key themes from Wind Farm Forums and provision of proposed Proposal Area Map. An image of the visual banners is included in Item 10	17 members of the community attended. Of the 10 feedback forms received 7 rated their overall experience “excellent” and 3 did not rate, rather included their details to be kept informed.
	27 Nov 2025	Held our second Community Information Session in the West Arthur CRC. Providing an opportunity for members of the community to ask any questions they may have. Visual banners provided a prompt for questions on key topics. proposed Proposal Area Map also provided. Advertised in Bleat.	3 members of the community attended this session Although no feedback forms were filled in sentiment was positive.
	5 & 6 May 2026	Held our third Community Information Session in the West Arthur CRC. Providing an opportunity for any members of the community to ask questions they may have had following our attendance at Sheepfest in March and promotion of our second round of pre-construction grants. Proposed Project Area Map also provided.	6 members of the community attended this session. Two members stayed for over 1 hour and sat and enjoyed a cup of tea. Sentiment from attendees was positive.
Regional Community	March 2025	Attended Wagin Woolorama Agricultural show – invited all landowners.	Spoke to members of the community and answered questions on the West Arthur Wind farm. Promoted our online contractor and employment register
Service providers, businesses and community groups			



Stakeholder	Dates	Event	Outcomes
Various local community groups	2025-2026	Pre-Construction Community Grant Scheme	Aim of grant to provide funds to enhance and enrich community initiatives throughout the local community during the planning and approval phase of the project. • The first round of pre-construction grants was awarded to the following events/initiatives: Darkan Community Christmas Tree 2025 • West Arthur Senior Christmas Lunch 2025 • Darkan Primary School Art Exhibition 2026 • REED Waterwise children 2026 • Southern Agcare - Rural Counselling and support 2026 • West Arthur Cottage homes 2026 • Darkan Primary School Yr5/6 Camp 2026
Various local businesses	2023 - 2026	Community forums and community information sessions as listed above Meetings with local businesses in Darkan	Understand awareness of project amongst local business owners. Give an overview as required. Notify businesses of our website and register and where to obtain any further information. Listen and understand more about local businesses, their capabilities and perspectives so these insights can help inform future planning and engagement. Listen to ideas around business owner identified opportunities.
State Government Agencies and Regulators			



Stakeholder	Dates	Event	Outcomes
DWER Green Energy Team	August 2025 March 2026	Introduced the West Arthur Wind Farm to DWER and provided an overview of the Proposal. Pre-referral meeting	• Include mitigation/avoidance measures used during project design in the referral. • Include Bamford assessment for black cockatoos. • Include reference to noise agreements with landowners. • Split paddock trees out in the assessment of clearing. • <30% pre-European vegetation representation extend may result in the vegetation being significant. • Assess cumulative impacts from the proposal. • Notify the local community of the EPA referral to provide an opportunity to comment.
Powering WA	Ongoing and regular meetings since October 2024	Initial introductory meetings followed up by regular monthly meetings with key Powering WA stakeholders.	Consultation on various aspects of wind farm development such as community benefits guideline, stakeholder engagement, policy, ports and freight information.
Western Power	Ongoing and regular meetings since October 2022	Kicked off engagement with Western Power in October 2022 high-level feasibility assessment of potential wind farm areas in the wider region. Regular meetings on West Arthur Wind Farm as connection enquiry, application and studies undertaken. Further discussions held with Western Power on proposed powerline route during 2024, 2025 and 2026.	Awarded WAWF critical projects status. Western Power Clean Energy Link East Stage 1 powerlines to T6 indicate a strong commitment in the Transmission Plan. WAWF Proposal will connect to Clean Energy Link East Stage1- T6.
DPLH	Ongoing and regular meetings since October 2024	Initial engagement commenced in October 2024. Lacour attended various workshops.	Ongoing engagement with DPLH Provided feedback and advice on draft renewable energy planning code and guideline.
Elected Members	Since 2025	Meetings with various Ministers and Premiers offices Proposal introductions and updates as required.	Proposal knowledge including community sentiment, Proposal timelines and key issues.
Federal Government			



Stakeholder	Dates	Event	Outcomes
DCCEEW	Oct 25 and March 26	Proposal introduction and pre- referral meetings	• Cumulative impacts should be considered as part of the assessment, with impacts considered broadly in line with the BBMP and a risk-based approach. This should include consideration of collision risk, barotrauma, and potential changes to site utilisation. • Key habitat features in the surrounding area that may be utilised by birds should be identified and considered as part of the assessment. • Any avoidance and mitigation measures should be considered and outlined, even where impacts may be indirect.
Local Government			
Shire of West Arthur	Ongoing meetings since early 2023	Proposal introductions Participation in July 2023 and November 2024 Shire led community forums Regular presentations and proposal updates delivered at Council meetings Regular meetings/phone calls with Shire President, Project Manager, Shire President Pre Development Application submission meeting with Shire CEO, Shire Planner and Shire Project Officer in February 2026.	Constructive discussion around many topics associated with wind farms including: • Social Licence • Waste Management • Fire Management • Community Benefits • Roads and housing • Review and response to development of various council produced policies in relation to the wind farms. • Responses submitted to various questions asked. Discussed the proposed Development Application for the WAWF.
Traditional Owners			



Stakeholder	Dates	Event	Outcomes
Gnaala Kaarla Booja	Oct 2023	Introductory Meeting to Lacour Energy and the WAWF proposal	Understanding about the corporation, aspirations, priorities and preferred approach to engagement.
	November 2024	Proposal Overview meeting at GBK Bunbury Head Office	Future discussions to be held on: • Noongar Standard Heritage Agreement • Economic opportunities and benefits • Carbon offset opportunities.
	August 2025	Noongar Standard Heritage Agreement (NSHA) proposed and signed	WAWF to follow Activity Notice process in NSHA for heritage surveys on WAWF
	Sept 2025	Proposal update meeting with GKB and GKB Impact	Process begun for Community Partnership Agreement which will outline how WAWF can contribute to GKB goals and initiatives over the Proposal life. Discussions are ongoing
	Oct 2025	Onsite Meteorological Mast Heritage Survey	Engagement was positive and survey complete. The final report stated: It was the opinion of all involved that a future wind farm in Darkan would not only contribute to Western Australia's sustainable energy capacity but also draw additional local investment to the area.

Appendix A

Stakeholder and Community Engagement Plan West Arthur Wind Farm

West Arthur Wind Farm

**Stakeholder and Community
Engagement Plan**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Introduction	3
2. Project and community context	3
2.1 Project snapshot	3
2.2 Community enagement completed to date	3
2.3 Community snapshot	4
2.4 Stakeholder groups.....	5
2.5 Influence of project and community context on engagement approach	8
3. Approach	8
3.1 Goals and desired outcomes	9
4. Engagement toolbox for information sharing	9
5. Engagement toolbox for benefits sharing	13
6. Monitoring and Evaulation	13
7. Internal tools to support delivery of this plan	14
8. Roles and Responsibilities.....	16
9. Reference documents.....	16
Appendix A Media and Events Summary	17
Appendix B Stakeholder Engagement Overview	19

1. Introduction

The Stakeholder and Community Engagement Plan (SaCEP) has been prepared by Lacour Energy Developments (Lacour) for the proposed West Arthur Wind Farm project (WAWF). The Plan provides background and approach to engagement during pre-construction and construction and a snapshot of the project and community context.

The intention of the Plan is to build on existing relationships and leverage communication mechanisms and benefit sharing schemes that have been successfully implemented in other projects Lacour have developed.

This is a live plan and will be regularly updated and refreshed as the project matures, and key stakeholders are engaged.

2. Project and community context

2.1 Project snapshot

WAWF is being developed by Lacour Energy Developments.

The proposed West Arthur Wind Farm (WAWF) project, subject to further feasibility, is a potential renewable energy project with an approximate capacity of between 500 MW to 1,000 MW. WAWF is a multistage project with the first stage centered approximately 10 km south-west of Darkan in Shire of West Arthur. The project may be built in 1, 2 or 3 stages, with the first stage to be around 500MW.

Subject to technical feasibility, relevant approvals and landowner agreements, each site may comprise:

- 70 to 100 turbines,
- a substation,
- transmission line to Clean Energy Link Stage 1 Substation (Known as Cordering Terminal or T6),
- and battery energy storage.

WAWF is targeted to supply electricity into the SWIS prior to 2030.

The project broadly has the following phases:

1. **Pre-construction.** This phase spans from the planning stage of the project to issuance of construction 'Notice to Proceed' to the appointed main construction contractor. A feasibility study has been completed for the project, with ongoing reviews being undertaken on the technical, environmental and social aspects of the project. The overall length of this phase is dependent on several factors such as arranging project finance, grid connection, tendering for a main construction contractor, etc.
2. **Construction.** This phase spans from 'Notice to Proceed' to practical completion of the project. The length of this phase is anticipated to be approximately 18-36 months.
3. **Operations.** This phase spans from practical completion of the project onward. The length of this phase is anticipated to be operational for approximately 30 years.

2.2 Community engagement completed to date

The proposed West Arthur Wind Farm project has been under development since early 2022. Appendix B provides up to date overview of stakeholder engagement. There has been progressive awareness in the community of an investigation into a wind farm in the community as more engagement takes place and feasibility is undertaken.

The Lacour approach to community introduction to a wind farm is a staged process with focus on those stakeholders most likely to be affected, such as landowners and neighbours with a house within 2km of a turbine, engaged as a priority.

When the project definition was sufficiently advanced and project infrastructure agreed with key host landowners. The following events occurred in sequence:

1. Confirmation of key project metrics and community information dates with wind farm host landowners.
2. Offered one on one meetings with each neighbour with a house within 2km of a wind turbine, allowing time to introduce project, and providing each neighbour a person to speak to in the future, to allow for questions post the meeting.
3. Once One on One meetings were completed, advertised a community information event and launched the West Arthur Wind Farm website.
4. Formally introduced the wind farm to the Council in an open session prior to and close to the community information date.
5. Held community information events, collected attendee details and feedback forms to provide future updates.

2.3 Community snapshot

The proposed site area would be located within the Shire of West Arthur, which is approximately 190 kilometres southwest of Perth. A transmission line to the 330kV network at Shotts terminal would also require routing through the Shire of Collie.

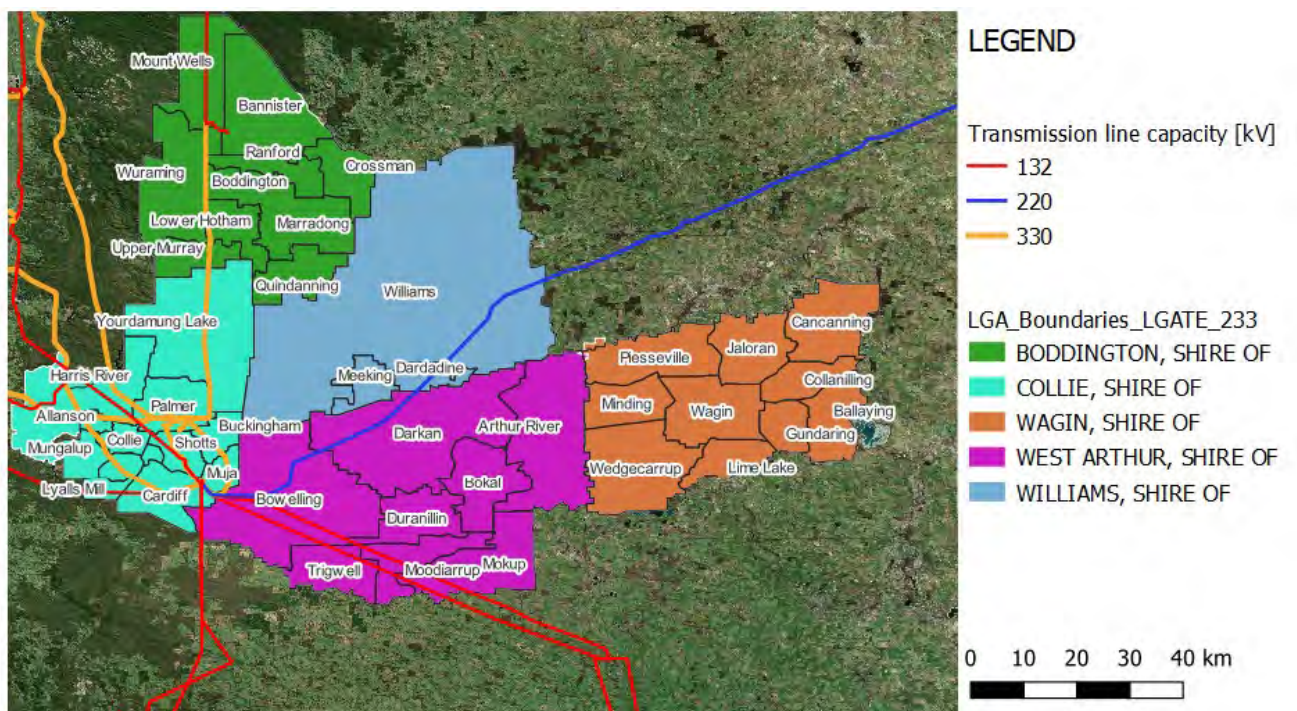


Figure 1 LGA Boundaries

The following statistics drawn from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (2021 census data) provide a demographic overview of the area and have been considered for community context within the development of this Plan.

Shire Council LGA

The 2021 Census¹ recorded The West Arthur Shire as having a total population of 773 with a median age of 50 years. It consists of eight townships. Darkan is the seat of the shire; the population was 371 with a median age of 49 years.

The primary industry in the Shire of West Arthur is agriculture and agricultural services with most farms operating a combination of crops and livestock.

The neighbouring Collie shire had a population of 8812 with a median age of 44, it is the home of WA's transitioning coal fired electricity industry.²

2.4 Stakeholder groups

Key Stakeholder groups have been identified (see table 1 below) following extensive engagement in the area, a desktop review and benchmarking with other Lacour projects. Noting this table will be updated as the project progresses as key pieces of work are finalised.

A simple but effective stakeholder analysis technique of stakeholder mapping against two variables, *interest*, and *influence*, highlights key groups and may assist with allocation of resources. Understanding the stakeholder groups and their level of interest and influence is critical in tailoring engagement tools and what stage it is appropriate to engage.

Lacour recognises that active participation across stakeholder groups produces greater community trust, as the decisions are not the result of developers' internal processes alone but also reflect stakeholders' active contributions. A summary of engagement with Stakeholders is provided in Appendix B.

Table 1. West Arthur Wind Farm Identified Stakeholder Groups (last review May 2026)

West Arthur Wind Farm Identified Stakeholder Groups				
Group	Sub-section	Description	Interest	Influence
Host Landowners		Owners of the properties with lease agreements to host turbines and other wind farm infrastructure	High	High
Direct Neighbours		Residents with a house within approximately 2 kilometres from the nearest approved wind turbine location	High	Medium
Local Community		Community beyond approximately 2 kilometres from the project.	Medium	Medium
Potential Community Consultative Committee		A potential purpose-built group to act as a bridge between the community and the developer comprising representatives from community, council and host landowners. The Community Consultative Committee has in similar projects been responsible for the management and distribution of any Community Benefit Funds.	Medium	Medium

¹ 2021 West Arthur, Census All persons QuickStats | Australian Bureau of Statistics

² 2021 Collie, Census All persons QuickStats | Australian Bureau of Statistics

West Arthur Wind Farm Identified Stakeholder Groups				
Group	Sub-section	Description	Interest	Influence
Wider community		Wider Communities such as those along common routes for assets being delivered, and those who work in the power station industry in Collie.	Low	Low
Other Developers		A number of renewable development proponents who are active in the region.	Medium	Low
Media	Local/regional	Local and regional publications including: - The Bleat (West Arthur), - Social media streams – Darkan and Surrounds community noticeboard	Medium	Medium
	National	Australian publications such as the Australian Financial Review, The West Australian, ABC radio etc.	Low	Low
Federal government	Elected	Current Member for O'Connor –Rick Wilson MP – Liberal member.	Medium	High
	Electricity Infrastructure Commissioner	Appointed by the Minister for Climate Change and Energy to receive and refer complaints from community residents.	Medium	Medium
	Operational staff	Including staff from the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water who would provide Commonwealth approval under the EPBC Act.	Medium	Medium
State government		Premier, Minister for Defence Industries, Tourism, Trade and Investment, Economic Diversification – Hon Roger Cook Shadow Minister for Water, Sport and Recreation Member for Roe – Peter Rundle MLA – deputy leader of the Nationals. Member for Southwest region Collie-Preston – Hon. Jodie Hanns MLA – Labour. Minister for Southwest, Climate Resilience, Water, Aboriginal Affairs – Hon Don Punch Minister for Regional Development, Ports, Science and Innovation, Medical Research, Kimberley - Hon. Stephen Dawson MLC Shadow Minister for Transport, Ports, Communities MLA Steve Martin – Narrogin Office Minister for Planning and Lands, Housing and Works, Health Infrastructure – Hon. John Carey Minister for Agriculture and Food, Fisheries, Forestry, Small Business and Midwest MLC Jackie Jarvis – Margaret River Office	Medium	Medium
	Energy and Decarbonisation Minister	Minister for Energy and Decarbonisation; Manufacturing; Skills and TAFE and Pilbara– Hon Amber-Jade Sanderson MLA	High	High
	Western Power	Manage the transmission and distribution network and facilitate the connection of new generators and loads	High	High

West Arthur Wind Farm Identified Stakeholder Groups				
Group	Sub-section	Description	Interest	Influence
	Department of Planning, Land and Heritage (DPLH)	Administers development assessment panel process along with the local government and DAP independent panel.	Medium	High
	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	Review environmental impact assessment and approve the project under the Environmental Protection Act. Minister for Environment, Climate Resilience, Community Services, Homelessness. – Hon. Matthew Swinborn MLC	Medium	High
	Department of Energy and Economic Diversification (DEED)	Provide policy advice to facilitate the delivery of secure, reliable, sustainable and affordable energy services. Leads the overall energy transition.	High	High
	PoweringWA	State government body created to lead the delivery of the new generation, storage and transmission projects needed to modernise the state's energy systems, cut emissions and provide energy. Involved with community engagement/consultation regarding renewable development and new powerline routes.	Medium	High
	Other agencies and departments	Such as Main Roads, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, WAEPA etc.	Low	Low
Local government	Elected	West Arthur shire council consists of 7 councillors, including potential landowners/ neighbours More information on council members may be found here ³	High	High
	Operational staff	Relevant council departments and employees in relation to the project	Medium	High
Indigenous Groups	South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council	Central services corporation for the South West Native Title Settlement	Low	Low
	Gnaala Karla Booja Aboriginal Corporation	One of the six regional Noongar Corporations set up under the South West Native Title Settlement. Lacour is engaging with the GKB on all heritage matters.	Medium	High
Haulage Route	Private landowners	Stakeholders who live directly on or regularly use roads that will be used for transportation of oversize turbine components.	Medium	Low
	Organisations	Businesses who use roads that will be used for transportation of oversize turbine components, such as Bunge group.	Medium	Low

³ <https://www.westarthur.wa.gov.au/councillors.aspx>

West Arthur Wind Farm Identified Stakeholder Groups				
Group	Sub-section	Description	Interest	Influence
Local Businesses		Businesses within the, West Arthur, Williams, Narrogin, Wagin or Collie LGAs.	Medium	Low
Local Community Groups		Community groups within the West Arthur LGAs such as the Compass Ag Alliance in West Arthur	Medium	Low
Local schools		Schools within the West Arthur LGAs, particularly in townships close to the project.	Medium	Low

2.5 Influence of project and community context on engagement approach

The project and community context are important in tailoring the engagement approach to the local community.

Lacour plan to continue to be proactive in community engagement as this previously has paved a way for positive community support. Rural communities thrive on the ability to meet and discuss topics of interest face to face and committing to this line of communication has been crucial to the project's success.

Notably:

- Community contribution initiatives are informed through community engagement and reflect the stage and nature of the projects as well as the needs of the community
- Accessibility to project employees, either through information sessions or designated role throughout pre construction, construction and operation.

3. Approach

Stakeholder and community engagement is in essence about making better, more sustainable decisions through a process that engenders trust and credibility. Lacour seeks to understand the needs of the project host communities through transparent and ongoing engagement.

Lacour use the four principles outlined below and the IAP2 Spectrum as a framework to underpin the development of this Plan and a subsequent foundation to build effective community engagement tools and processes (these are outlined in detail in section 5).

Reference documents employed for the development of the plan are outlined in section 9.

Table 2. Four Principles for Engagement

Openness	Inclusiveness	Responsiveness	Accountability
Sharing relevant information about the decisions and activities related to the project with local communities in manner that: • uses clear and simple language • is factually accurate, consistent and not misleading, and • proactive and timely.	Identifying and interacting with all project stakeholders to ensure their perspectives are understood. Providing appropriate channels and opportunities for communities to participate in information sharing initiatives and activities related to the project.	Providing mechanisms to collect feedback and questions and provide responses in an open and timely manner. Identify elements of the project that may generate a high level of interest from the community and deliver proactive communications.	Ongoing process of monitoring, evaluating and disclosing information about the project's activities and impacts.

Employing an open, inclusive, responsive and accountable engagement program can, in general, facilitate the following outcomes:

- build respectful relationships allowing stakeholder and community support for and identification with project operations and goals,
- decrease the levels of misinformation about the project and wind energy in general,
- maintain company reputation and reduce the risk of reputational damage, and
- reduce the risk of additional financial and legal costs related to the project.

The IAP2 Spectrum outlines different levels of engagement suitable for varying degrees of impacts within a community. The engagement tools outlined in Table 3 sit across 5 ('inform', 'consult', 'involve', 'collaborate' and 'Empower') areas on the Spectrum. This approach has been determined as a result of the project stage, the level of interest and influence from specific stakeholder groups, with recognition of impacts to the specific stakeholder group and their needs and expectations.

3.1 Goals and desired outcomes

The goals of the Stakeholder and Community Engagement Plan are:

- To maintain a level of acceptance of the WAWF project within the local community.
- To continue to have a culture of openness, inclusiveness, responsiveness and accountability.
- To continue to share benefits of the project and knowledge of the energy transition within the local community.
- To continue to achieve a low or infrequent level of complaints and to achieve all regulatory requirements in relation to community engagement.

The desired community engagement outcome is for the project to continue to be considered as an integrated and valued component of the social and economic fabric of the local community.

4. Engagement toolbox for information sharing

The tools outlined in this section have been selected for the pre-construction and construction phases of the proposed project and are influenced by:

- the goals and desired outcome of this Plan
- the results of the project and community context reviews
- identified risks and issues in relation to community engagement, and
- the stage of project delivery.

Lacour recognises the importance of managing stakeholder expectations by ensuring each engagement tool is underpinned by the principles of openness, inclusiveness, responsiveness and accountability – and therefore the goal of each tool and the 'promise to the public' for each tool is outlined.

Table 3. WAWF engagement toolbox for information sharing

IAP2 spectrum	Engagement tool	Description	Target Stakeholders	Phase of Project
Inform Goal: To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problems, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions. Promise to stakeholders: ‘We will keep you informed’	Project website	Project website, including information on project details, current status, grant programs and community benefits, indicative timeframes, approvals and sub-management plans. Contact details to lodge a complaint or enquiry.	All	All, started from initial community consultation
	Media releases	Provided to relevant media sources as required and in accordance with the media and events plan.	Media and all	As required, focus on construction phase
	Direct letter drops	As required for specific events, such as access requirements and notifications of road works etc.	Targeted stakeholder group	As required, focus on construction phase
	Project updates/ advertisements in local publications	Regular updates on the project as required, outlining events, construction schedules, contact details and ways to obtain more information.	All	As required, focus on construction phases
	Local radio updates	Periodic updates may be provided through local radio stations.	All	Targeted and as required during Construction phase
	Newsletters (and factsheets, infographics etc)	As required, outlining the key engagement events, construction schedules, and project milestones and published periodically. Initial community information sessions held, newsletter created and posted on our website commencing in June 2025. Newsletters have been published in the Bleat and distributed electronically to subscribers of the WAWF	All	All, started from initial community consultation
	Site visits to other wind farms	During the operational phase, ad hoc site visits to other wind farms have been available to interested parties. This has been undertaken on an as needs basis.	All	As required, focused on pre-construction phase.
	Community events	Stakeholder and community events may be arranged to celebrate and acknowledge key project milestones, for example an event to celebrate the first blade being transported to the project site.	All	As appropriate, Pre-construction and Construction phase

Consult Goal: To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions. Promise to stakeholders: 'We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision'.	Local Information Centre	Potentially a local Information centre or presence in retail store/news agency Information centre is a focal point for the project and contains a range of project information including maps, photomontages, project timeline etc.	All	All, Pre-construction and Construction phase
	Dedicated email address	Maintain a dedicated mail@lacour.com.au email address to enable the community to contact the project team at any time.	All	All, started from initial community consultation
	Feedback form	Available continuously on the project website, available in hard copy at the community information sessions.	All	All, started from initial community consultation
	Briefings of federal, state and local government.	As required to ensure elected members and operational staff are up to date with project developments and to assist in building and maintaining effective working relationships.	Elected and operational staff	All, started from initial community consultation
	Briefings to community groups	Offer to present tailored information sessions to interested community groups, where relevant.	Local community groups	All, started from initial community consultation in July 2023
	Attendance at local events	Attendance by a project representative at locally organised events e.g. agricultural shows etc. Provides the opportunity to find out about the project, talk one-on-one with the project staff and provide feedback.	All	All, started at 2024 Sheepfest and again in 2026
Involve Goal: To work directly with the public to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered. Promise to stakeholders: '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'	Community Consultative Committee (CCC)	WAWF CCC may be established prior to construction of WAWF, led by an independent chairperson by the owners' management team. The purpose of the proposed CCC is to provide a forum for open discussion between representatives of the community, local councils, WAWF, and other stakeholders within the local community. The CCC is to run through all phases of the project. It is anticipated that the CCC will run less frequently once the project becomes operational.	CCC and broader community.	As required, All, to be formed prior to construction
	One-on-one meetings	Project employees establish and maintain appropriate contact with all host landowners and provide opportunities to find out more, talk one-on-one with the project team and give feedback.	Host landowners	All, commenced from 2022

Collaborate Goal: To partner with the community in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution. Promise to stakeholders: We will work together with the community to formulate solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.	Government department engagement Council Meeting updates and Community Information Events	Where overlap or alternative ideas are brought to our attention, we will ensure the relevant departments are notified, assist in formulating solutions and pose recommendations for consideration. (ie our work with Western Power) Seeking feedback from all stakeholders, reviewing and responding in a timely manner. ie Any questions raised at council meeting and community information sessions.	All	All, started during pre-construction
Empower Goal: Place final decision making in the hands of the community.	Community Consultative Committee (CCC)	Shared decision making for allocation of community benefit funds.	CCC and Broader Community	Pre construction and construction.

5. Engagement toolbox for benefits sharing

Lacour is committed to implementing a range of benefit sharing initiatives in the local and wider community. Benefit sharing can include monetary contributions (e.g. community fund) as well as regional economic development (jobs, flow on effects etc) and in-kind contributions (time given by project team, e.g. schools program).

Table 4. Benefit Sharing Toolbox

Benefit sharing tool	Description
Pre-construction grants	Our pre-construction grants are operational during the planning and approvals phase (pre-construction) of the project. We focus on supporting initiatives that enhance the community for the long term. Our first Preconstruction grant program commenced in November 2025.
Community Benefit Fund	Wind farm owner to provide Community Contribution within the local region. The community contribution initiatives will be informed through community engagement and reflect the stage and nature of the project, as well as needs of the community. Initiatives may consist of; Community grants or sponsorship, community partnerships, or other initiatives identified through our community consultation and engagement. Funding to be made available once construction commences and has in similar projects been administered by the Community Consultative Committee.
Local Business Participation Program (LBPP)	Lacour recognises the positive impact this project could have on the local economy. As such, the procurement process includes this consideration and local business participation will be facilitated. The proposed Local Business Participation Program (LBPP) will be the key initiative to identify capability and capacity in the local community and maximise opportunities for local subcontractors and suppliers to participate in the project. Following the appointment of the main contractors, an information forum will be held locally to provide businesses with additional information about available work packages and the process of bidding for subcontractor or supply opportunities.
Local Jobs Program and Training	Lacour will seek to maximise opportunities for local jobs through targeted job advertising and engaging with trade subcontractors. Approximately 250 jobs are expected during construction (approximately 3 years).
Employee in-kind contributions	Lacour will be alert and open to opportunities to provide time, labour, equipment and expertise free of charge to assist the local community. Previously, many Lacour projects have delivered information sessions to community groups and schools on request.

6. Monitoring and Evaluation

Lacour understands that regular evaluation of engagement activities (see Table 3) is essential to ensure alignment with goals and desired outcomes. The four goals identified and related success criteria are outlined in the table below.

In broad terms, the community engagement activities are a success if the project is considered as an integrated and valued component of the social and economic fabric of the community.

The success criteria are measured within the evaluation process. Examples of the success criteria are outlined in the table below.

Table 5. Success Criteria

Goals	Example success criteria
To establish and maintain a level of acceptance of the project within the local community.	• Levels of participation and engagement (number of enquiries, attendance at events etc). These may also reduce over time when community is adequately informed. • Community understanding of the energy transition • Number and nature of enquiries and complaints. • Media and social media review. • Community feedback through feedback forms. • Feedback from events, attendance at council meetings and Community Consultative Committee
To have a culture of openness, inclusiveness, responsiveness and accountability.	• Community feedback through feedback forms. • Frequency and accessibility of information updates and variety of communication methods. • Number and breadth of stakeholder groups engaged in the project. Relevant Stakeholders identified and engaged. • Time and location of events and participation levels. • Assessment of response times to enquiries and complaints. • Publish proposed community benefit commitment on website
To share benefits of the project within the local community.	• grant and sponsorship uptake across different sectors of the local community • Levels of participation and engagement in educations and training initiatives. • Understanding of the benefits of the project within the local community.
To achieve a low or infrequent level of complaints and to achieve all regulatory requirements in relation to community engagement.	• Review of number of complaints. • Nature of complaints. (Avoidable or unavoidable and number of new complainants relative to number of known and repeat complainants). • Review of compliance audit data in relation to community engagement.

- To measure the effectiveness of this plan a formal internal evaluation of the engagement process and the outcomes is undertaken annually.

Evaluation will be both quantitative and qualitative and focus on several aspects:

- Review of the success criteria
- Effectiveness of each engagement and benefit sharing tool
- Extent to which engagement has affected project delivery and outcomes; and
- Extent to which engagement efforts have met goals of the plan and desired outcome.

Engagement processes and tools will be evaluated in turn, looking at if they are appropriate, effective, efficient and well managed. Success criteria are detailed in section 3.1.

Ongoing, progressive evaluation of engagement activities and outcomes is undertaken continually across the Lacour portfolio through regular team meetings. Tracking community engagement activities is undertaken regularly including tracking of number and nature of complaints, enquiries and maintaining regular contact with stakeholders.

7. Internal tools to support delivery of this plan

Outlined in the following table are the indicative tools and processes to be used internally to support the implementation of the engagement tools outlined.

Table 6. Success Internal Tools

Internal tools	Description
Stakeholder data management system	WAWF uses a stakeholder data management system to capture all relevant contact from external stakeholders. It will be used to record all interactions with stakeholders including: • date and time • type of interaction (phone, email etc.) • any contact details provided • nature of the issue e.g. complaint, and • resolution and actions taken.
Key messages/project FAQs	A series of key messages have been developed to ensure information about the project and the engagement process is clear and consistent. The key messages are updated regularly and provide the basis of all communication material. Employees working on the project will be provided with key messages to ensure that they are aware of key information surrounding the project and that information they disseminate is consistent and accurate.
Media and Events Plan	A program of milestone announcements of interest to the media has been developed (Appendix A). Media releases for WAWF will be provided to relevant local and other media sources as required.
Internal evaluation measures	A report detailing the key findings from evaluation of the SaCEP is prepared (detailed in section 6) and reviewed internally. Actions and enhancements to the plan will be collated and implemented.

8. Roles and Responsibilities

This section briefly details the roles and responsibilities for the WAWF project team in the implementation of the SaCEP. The structure and makeup of the project team remain flexible and may change as the project progresses.

Table 7. Lacour roles and responsibilities

Role	Responsibilities in relation to delivery of this Plan
Director	Media relations spokesperson for the development High level management of all elements of the project. Manage relationships with host landowners, including management of all land agreements. Approve all external project messaging.
Project Director	Overall end-to-end responsibility for the delivery of projects. Notify of all key milestone events for communication
Land Access Manager	Manage relationships with landowners involved in the project ensuring smooth and effective land access. Assists with compliance activities.
Stakeholder & Community Engagement Manager	Overview of community engagement and provision of strategic advice. Manage relationships with key stakeholders. Responsible for the wider implementation of positive community relations for the project and implementation of the SaCEP.
Environmental Approvals Manager	Securing and maintaining all environmental and planning approvals through careful and responsive project design incorporating stakeholder and community considerations.

9. Reference documents

Several good practice guidelines and reports have been referred to during the development of the SaCEP, including:

- Planning for Effective Public Participation guidelines, International Association for Public Participation (IAP2)
- 'Community Engagement Guidelines for the Australian wind Industry', Clean Energy Council (June 2018)
- Australian Standard AS ISO 10002-2006 (formerly AS 2469 Complaints Handling).
- Key Principles for Effective Renewable Energy Development in the Shire of West Arthur November 2024
- Renewable Energy Community Benefit Fund Policy, Shire of West Arthur

Appendix A Media and Events Summary

Media and Events Summary

An initial program of project milestones that could be opportunities to promote the project is provided below. It is anticipated that these may be amended, or other opportunities identified, as the project progresses.

Timing	Opportunity	Form	Indicative Key messages	Target audience	Potential external parties involved
TBC	Local business participation program launch	Media Release	- Commitment to facilitating local business involvement. - Project moving towards construction.	- Local media - Regional/state media	ICN Gateway
	Opening local information centre/joint venture with café/retail store	Media Release	Commitment to community engagement.	Local media	
	Highlighting formation of Community Consultation Committee	Media Release	- Commitment to community engagement. - Local community benefits of the project	Local media	- Local Community - Local Council - Wheatbelt Development Commission
	Local Business Participation Program Industry Briefing Event	Event in local area (plus accompanying media release)	- Significant investment for local area. - Commitment to facilitating local business involvement.	- Local media - Regional/state media	- ICN Gateway rep - Local Council - Balance of Plant contractor
	Ground-breaking Ceremony (commencement of construction)	Event on site (plus accompanying media release)	- Significant investment for local area. - Construction timescales. - Commitment to community engagement.	- Local media - Regional/State media - National media	- State Members - Balance of Plant contractor - Host landowners - Local Council
	Celebration of first blade/tower	Event in local area (plus accompanying media release)	- Significant investment for local area - Construction timescales. - Commitment to community engagement. - Update on project progress	- Local media - Regional/State media - Industry outlets	- State members - Local Council - Local Community - Local schools
	First turbine installed	Media Release	Construction timescales.	- Local media - Regional/State media	Balance of Plant contractor

			Update on project progress		Local Council
	First generation	Media Release	- Significant step towards completion of construction. - Expected timescales to completion.	- Local media - Regional/State media - Industry outlets	
	Recruitment of service team	Media Release	Local economic benefits from the project	Local media	
	Final Blade delivery	Media Release	- Significant step towards completion of construction. - Expected timescales to completion.	- Local media - Regional/State media	- Local Council - Local Community - Local schools
	Project completion	Event on site (plus accompanying media release)	- Successful completion of construction. - Excellent HSE record. - Move to operational phase.	- Local media - Regional/State media - Industry outlets	- State Members - Western Power - Host landowners - Local Council - Balance of Plant contractor

Appendix B Stakeholder Engagement Overview

Wind Farm Stakeholder Engagement Overview

With a team experienced in wind farm development, Lacour Energy understands the importance of early community engagement, as positive community engagement is important for the success of any project. Implementing appropriate levels of stakeholder engagement in a timely manner is a prerequisite.

Stakeholder Engagement Overview

Lacour Energy has undertaken an active role in the community through:

- Collaborating with Shire of West Arthur and contributing to Shire led open community forums
- Council briefings
- Sponsorships and pre-construction grants
- Community Information Events
- Publishing key information via our West Arthur Wind Farm Website and Newsletters
- Attending local community events such as Sheepfest and Woolorama

Primary Stakeholders – Host Landowners

The proposed West Arthur Wind Farm project will be established on parts of freehold lots. Lacour Energy has had ongoing discussions with potential host landowners since 2022. Land Option to Lease agreements have been negotiated with approximately 12 landowners to host wind turbines and associated infrastructure on their land.

Local Community Stakeholders

Lacour has commenced and will continue to liaise with the community during the pre-construction phase, construction and operational phases of the Project via the following mechanisms.

Face to Face meetings

Neighbours with a house within 2km of a wind turbine will be contacted as a priority and offered face to face meetings, to ensure they have a simple line of communication to the project team.

Community Information Events

Lacour has held three Community Information Events in Darkan. Allowing community residents and business representatives to drop-in over an extended period to find out more about the project and ask questions.

West Arthur Wind Farm Newsletters

Project Newsletters have been used to keep the community informed. They have been emailed to everyone on the project register, posted on the project website and published in the local community publication, The Bleat.

West Arthur Wind Farm Website

A project website was established after our first community information day to provide an overview of the project and allow individuals or businesses to contact Lacour to provide feedback on the project or to register their interest in future work opportunities. Each enquiry will be recorded on the project register and all emails kept on file.

Media Releases

Media releases are anticipated to facilitate major announcements associated with the project (including partnerships, sponsorships, milestones etc)

Public Advertising in local shire

Formal public advertising will be required if the Project receives formal development approval. This might include letters, signage and notifications published in local publications and on notice boards.

Wider Community and Authorities Stakeholders

Lacour Energy has engaged with the following organisations:

- Shire Officers and Councillors of the Shire of West Arthur
- Gnaala Karla Booja
- Other Developers
- Local TAFES and Collie Chamber of Commerce
- Shire of West Arthur and the Development Assessment Panel regarding the development application.
- Western Power
- PoweringWA
- Key political stakeholders

Government agencies

As mentioned in section 2, numerous government agencies may be consulted by Lacour Energy from time to time (including the assessment agencies) as part of the development approval, EPA and EPBC referral process. Some examples are listed below.

Development Application	EPA Referral	EPBC Referral
• Local Shire Council • Main Roads WA • Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions • Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage • Airservices Australia • Civil Aviation Safety Authority • Department of Transport • Department of Water and Environmental Regulation • Department of Fire & Emergency Services	• Environmental Protection Authority • Minister for Water • Director General, Department of Water and Environmental Regulation • Chief Executive Officer, Shire of West Arthur	• The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

Table B.1 Examples of government authorities to be consulted during approvals (list not exhaustive)

Appendix B

Key Principles for Effective Renewable Energy Development in the Shire of West Arthur



Key Principles for Effective Renewable Energy Development in the Shire of West Arthur

NOVEMBER 2024



Forest to Wheatbelt

Executive Summary

With the announcement of the Federal and State Government legislation to reach Net Zero emissions by 2050, it has become clear that the Shire of West Arthur will play a pivotal role in the energy transition for the State of Western Australia. The proposed development of renewable energy projects will result in a substantial transformation to the Shire's existing landscape, economy and community.

The Shire, acting on behalf of the community, has assumed a proactive role in ensuring that the community's desires and needs are heard, acknowledged and factored into the decision-making process for all stakeholders through the creation of this document. A transition of this magnitude could present various opportunities and issues for our small community.

The West Arthur Shire Council has endorsed the following position statements in relation to renewable energy developments within the Shire.

Council supports the development of renewable energy in the Shire.

The Shire's main industry is agriculture, and Council considers the development of a renewable energy industry should complement this existing agricultural industry.

Council considers that the transition is a rare opportunity that could bring significant financial benefits and opportunities to the area. It is essential that the energy transition currently underway delivers economic opportunities, ensures reliable and affordable electricity, develops legacy infrastructure and maximises the benefits for the community.

Council acknowledges that the introduction of a new industry also brings with it significant challenges.

Council will support the development of renewable energy projects and endeavour to foster long term positive benefits for the community.

Council will aim to maintain existing community infrastructure that may be impacted as a result of the developments.

Community consultation identified issues and opportunities for our community. Developers involved in renewable energy initiatives, along with professionals in related fields, are urged to ensure they address the following principles throughout their project development process to guarantee their projects are supported by the community and benefit the community both now and in the future.

Partnership – Developers actively partner with the community and West Arthur Shire Council, government and other parties when looking to invest in our region.

Collaboration to create efficiency and coordination: Council will facilitate the collaboration of different project developers with each other, to find efficiencies. The Council commits to working collaboratively with neighboring LGAs to leverage regional opportunities.

Community Participation – Council and developers undertake continuous engagement with the community to ensure that continuous learning about the transition occurs. Like the Hay Shire council in NSW, we want to ensure that the change is “happening with us, not to us,”¹.

Long-term thinking – This transition is a once in a generation opportunity to develop our community. Decisions need to take into account the long-term legacy of the projects for future generations.

Transparency – Council expects clear communication, no hidden agreements.

Economic Diversification - for greater stability and less vulnerability.

Build Resilience - We have the chance to strategize and adjust to these circumstances by capitalizing from the renewable energy transition and through clever management of impacts and opportunities.

Leadership – Shire of West Arthur will lead thinking in relation to multiple developments as part of the clean energy transition and assist other regional Councils and communities to do the same.

Photo credit (front page): Caro Telfer

¹ Fundamental Principles for Successful Renewable Development in Hay LGA, (2024)

Table of Contents

Contents

Executive Summary..... 1

Purpose 4

Context 4

Listening to the Community and Learning about Developments 5

Council’s Position on Renewable Energy Projects 6

Challenges and Opportunities 6

Financial Benefits 8

Council and Community Expectations 9

The Way Forward..... 10

 Timeline 10

 The Integration of Renewable Energy and Existing Sectors..... 10

 Creating efficiencies..... 11

 Community Participation 11

 Principles to apply 11

Conclusion 12

Appendix A – Community consultation..... 13

Appendix B - Informing Documents..... 27



Purpose

This document outlines the position, expectations and priorities of the Shire of West Arthur concerning the advancement of renewable energy transition within the Shire and its neighboring areas. The aim is to ensure that these developments are undertaken in a manner that contributes to the prosperity of the region and establishes a legacy for our community.

It also outlines the impacts, opportunities and challenges of these proposed developments as identified by the community. This document details the Council's position in relation to the development of the wind farms and was endorsed at the December 2024 council meeting.

The information in this document will provide developers with an understanding of our community and the expectations of our community when developing their projects in the area.

Context

Western Australia is undergoing an energy transition that is being driven by the Federal and State Government legislation to reach Net Zero emissions by 2050. The State Government has also committed to reducing its own emissions by 80% by 2030 which includes retiring the State-owned coal fired power station in Collie.

The proximity of our Shire to existing power infrastructure such as power plants, existing 220kV line which extends through the north of the Shire and the two existing 132kV power lines through the southern part of the Shire makes the area attractive to developers (Figure 1).

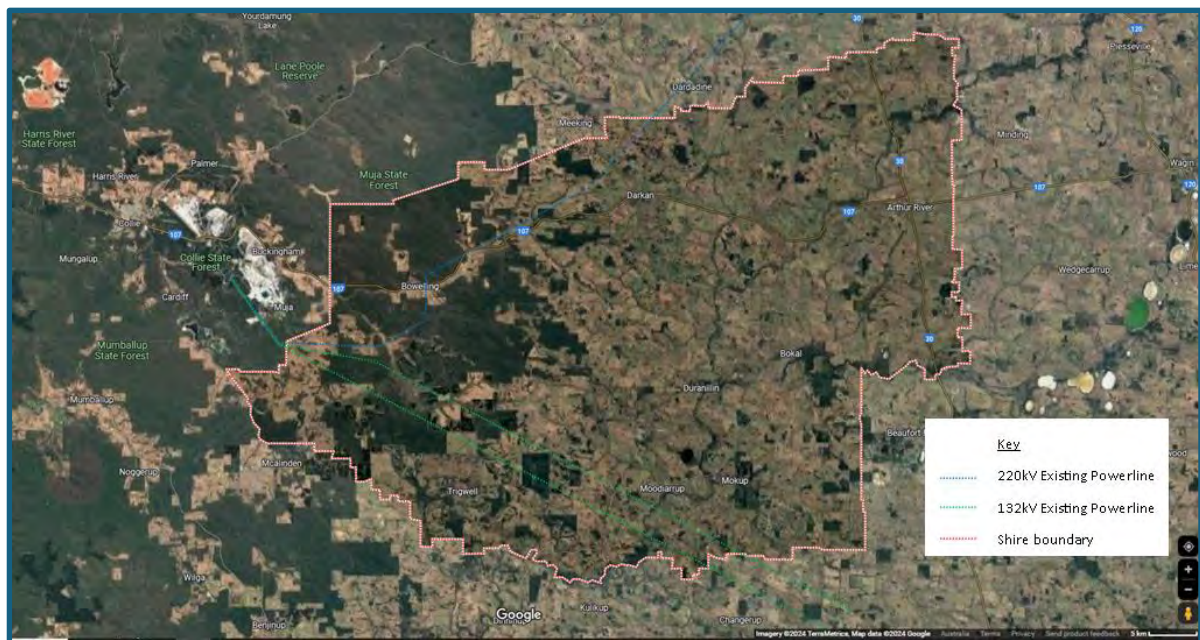


Figure 1: Location of existing power lines in the Shire of West Arthur.

At the time of writing, there had been announcement of two projects within the Shire boundaries; the announcement of a project on the northern boundary of the Shire (but located in the Williams Shire); and two projects in development (but not yet announced). Other developers have also been in discussions with the Shire over the past 18 months. The development of these projects will require the upgrading of existing power transmission

infrastructure, however no formal announcements by the State Government have been made to date.

Energy production is a new industry for the Shire of West Arthur. This will mark a substantial change to the community that will impact individuals, the way land and water resources are managed, and the community's identity. Traditionally, industry in our Shire has predominantly been centered around primary agricultural production. According to the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES) 70% of income in the West Arthur Shire is generated from agriculturally based businesses. Given that the existing sector of agriculture or agriculturally based employment is a major economic driver for the Shire, wind farm proponents need to ensure that renewable energy and agriculture can coexist.

In community consultation undertaken by the Shire, 71% of participants that engaged in the sessions indicated they understood the necessity for a transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy. However, only 37% of individuals demonstrated enthusiasm for the potential opportunities that the shift could offer. This highlights the apprehension within the community regarding these developments.

Listening to the Community and Learning about Developments

Through a series of community consultation events and surveys, Council has facilitated in-depth discussions about community concerns, expectations and aspirations. Appendix A outlines the community consultation that has been undertaken and the results of this consultation.

Consulting with the community is also a core requirement of the Shire's strategic planning process and information from these strategic documents has also been considered. More details on these can be found in Appendix B.

Energy production is a new industry for our Shire, and Shire staff, Council and community members have had to learn about how a renewable industry develops and operates. We have engaged in discussions with developers, the State Government, as well as other local governments and stakeholders to understand the progression of this emerging industry.



Council's Position on Renewable Energy Projects

Council has had extensive discussions about the development of renewable energy in the Shire of West Arthur. By endorsing this document, Council seeks to inform the community of its position and to communicate to developers its expectations in relation to developer contribution to the community that they are will become part of. Council has endorsed the following position statements.

Council supports the development of renewable energy in the Shire.

The Shire's main industry is agriculture and Council considers the development of a renewable energy industry should complement this existing agricultural industry.

Council considers that the transition is a rare opportunity that could bring significant financial benefits and opportunities to the area. It is essential that the energy transition currently underway delivers economic opportunities, ensures reliable and affordable electricity, develops legacy infrastructure and maximises the benefits for the community.

Council acknowledges that the introduction of a new industry also brings with it significant challenges.

Council will support the development of renewable energy projects and endeavour to foster long term positive benefits for the community.

Council will aim to maintain existing community infrastructure that may be impacted as a result of the developments.

Challenges and Opportunities

Our community identified the following as the main concerns associated with renewable energy development:

- Community division
- Decommissioning
- Change in our community structure (agriculture vs renewable energy)
- Lack of resources for development
- Lack of regulations guiding development
- Environmental Impacts
- Transparency of agreements and discussions
- Housing shortages
- Construction and location of worker accommodation
- Management of waste
- Inconsistency of benefits provided
- Impacts on existing infrastructure such as roads
- Noise pollution
- Potential rate increases

The findings are illustrated in word cloud format in Figure 2, where the larger words represent the most significant concerns of the community.



Figure 2: Community concerns associated with renewable energy development

“We want transparency and a consistent process. We want to be able to trust these wind farm companies” (Shire-led Workshop Session participant)

Refer to Appendix A for a more comprehensive description of community feedback on impacts, challenges and opportunities identified by the community.

Development of a new industry can also bring benefits. Our community identified the following opportunities (Figure 3):

- Population influx
- Legacy infrastructure post construction
- Collaborative initiatives between the Shire and Energy companies
- Advancing local businesses
- Drought-proof land holders (diversification)
- Renewable energy spokesperson
- Assist small land holders
- Assist with the clean energy transition
- Provide job opportunities



Figure 3: Opportunities identified by the local community

“We need to ensure that we capitalise on this, this is a once in a lifetime opportunity” (Workshop participant)

Financial Benefits

The development of renewable energy projects can result in significant financial benefits for a community, allowing strategic projects to be undertaken that would otherwise not be possible. Financial benefits can be delivered in a variety of forms including;

- Payments to landholders hosting the developments
- Payments to neighbours adjacent to the project
- Community Benefit or Enhancement Funds (CBF/CEF) from each project during and after construction
- Council rates or Payments in Lieu of Rates (PILOR)
- Sponsorship during early phases of development

Community benefit funding arrangements are established during the planning process for each project and typically delivered once the operational phase of the project begins. The community has identified projects of strategic importance that could benefit from increased funding as identified by the local community (Figure 4).



Figure 4: Suggested projects to benefit from increases in funding.

Other economic benefits for our region include local jobs, procurement, increased use of local services and businesses, provision of training services and development of new community services.

Council and Community Expectations

Developers are urged to partner with the West Arthur community by interacting with the Council and taking an active role in the community to ensure that their objectives are aligned with expectations of council and the community. These expectations are:

- Open communication
- Transparency
- Striving for inclusivity - preventing division
- Contributing to the community – change in landscape/visual amenity and lifestyle – the whole community needs to reap the benefits
- Being part of the community
- Creating Partnership between the Shire and the renewable energy industry
- Collaboration amongst developers to minimize cumulative impacts
- Long term strategic thinking to develop our community

The Way Forward

Timeline

Most renewable energy projects follow a similar process for development although it is not uncommon for the timelines for these projects to differ. An example project timeline is shown in Figure 5.



Figure 5: Process for the development of renewable energy projects

The Integration of Renewable Energy and Existing Sectors

Our region is beginning to experience a drier climate creating new challenges for the agriculture sector in our community. When farmers are impacted, all businesses in the community are impacted.

The integration of renewable energy projects into our economy will help relieve the impact of changing weather conditions by providing an additional reliable income stream for host landowners. This will create more stable economic conditions.

Developers are urged to engage with land holders, environmental specialists, and other local business stakeholders to seek advice on current agricultural operations within the Shire. This approach will ensure that developments complement existing operations rather than detract from them.

When undertaking socio-economic assessments of proposed wind farm developments, developers are encouraged to involve the Shire and the community through regular meetings, and community consultation sessions to gain an understanding of our community.

“If this is to go ahead, how can we ensure that the services we have in town support this kind of development? We want local businesses to get first opportunity to provide a service rather than developers going and spending their money elsewhere” (Local Business Owner)

Creating efficiencies

The impact of multiple new developments in the Shire can create burdens for local government and the community. Coordination and collaboration will reduce these burdens and make the process easier. We are a very small community, and the impacts of these developments could be minimized through focus and coordination to create efficiencies that make the process easier.

Community Participation

Community participation in the process of development will ensure that there is community ownership of the distribution of the benefits. We encourage the community to actively participate and continuously learn about the renewable energy transition. Council will facilitate conversations to ensure that the community is engaged. Working together, even if we have differing views on the developments, will ensure that we create the best outcomes for our community.

Principles to apply

Developers of renewable energy projects (and other industries if applicable) are asked to apply the following principles to the development of their projects to become genuine members of our community:

1. **Partnership** – Developers actively partner with the community and West Arthur Shire Council, government and other parties when looking to invest in our region.
2. **Collaboration** to create efficiency and coordination: Council will facilitate the collaboration of different project developers with each other, to find efficiencies. The Council commits to working collaboratively with neighboring LGAs to leverage regional opportunities.
3. **Community Participation** – Council and developers undertake continuous engagement with the community to ensure that continuous learning about the transition occurs. Like the Hay Shire council in NSW, we want to ensure that the change is “happening with us, not to us,”².
4. **Long-term thinking** – This transition is a once in a generation opportunity to develop our community. Decisions need to take into account the long-term legacy of the projects for future generations.
5. **Transparency** - clear communication, no hidden agreements.
6. **Economic Diversification** - for greater stability and less vulnerability.
7. **Build Resilience** - We have the chance to strategize and adjust to these circumstances by capitalizing from the renewable energy transition and through clever management of impacts and opportunities.
8. **Leadership** – Shire of West Arthur will lead thinking in relation to multiple developments as part of the clean energy transition and assist other regional Councils and communities to do the same.

² Fundamental Principles for Successful Renewable Development in Hay LGA, (2024)

Conclusion

This document has been prepared by the Shire of West Arthur and conveys a message from our Community to the State Government, other Local Governments, key stakeholders and renewable energy developers associated with the renewable energy transition. The key points we wish to communicate are.

- We are supportive of the renewable energy transition
- We aim to make this a positive experience by continuing to provide support through coordination and collaboration with the community
- We ask developers to apply to the principles set out in this document to enhance collaboration and achieve favourable outcomes for our community
- We want to ensure that renewable energy development compliments existing practices and plays a role in fostering the economic development of the community
- We will place an emphasis on prioritising strategic projects that can be undertaken because of the financial benefits

Appendix A – Community consultation

Wind farm forum

The Shire's initial community engagement occurred in July 2023 after it became aware of developers beginning discussions with local land holders. This session was intended to be an information session for the local community which included presentations from legal experts, government departments, noise experts, wind farm proponents, and other renewable energy professionals. This session was attended by 150 people.

Shire-led Workshop session

Peta Ashworth, the Director of the Curtin Institute for Energy Transition facilitated two community consultation sessions in the second half of 2024. The first session was an initial targeted stakeholder meeting in October 2024. The purpose of the meeting was to gauge community sentiment regarding the proposed developments, assess the level of understanding among the participants, and gather information to share with the broader community. This meeting encouraged a robust, and transparent discussion and provided information to the participants to disseminate to their peers.

This was followed by an open wind farm community consultation session in November 2024 which was informed by the session in October. Again, this was facilitated by Peta Ashworth and the invitation to this event extended to the wider community. Guest presenters included Jai Thomas, Deputy Director General – Coordinator of Energy and leader of Energy Policy WA, and wind farm representatives from Acciona, Lacour, RES, and Green Wind. The evening's agenda consisted of presentations delivered by the guest speakers, which were followed by an interactive session using the application Slido to capture the data. Subsequently, a panel discussion featuring a question-and-answer session took place. The responses are compiled at the end of this Appendix.

Surveys

As a part of the Shire-led community consultation session a survey was distributed to residents in the community in October 2024. The purpose of the survey was to contribute to the research into the social impacts of the renewable energy transition being undertaken by Curtin University.

Other Local Governments

The Shire has also been engaging with other Local Governments that are currently hosting wind turbines or who are likely to host renewable energy projects to gather a comprehensive understanding of their interactions with developers, and the opportunities and issues they see resulting from the developments in their Shire and to provide a coordinated approach to these developments.

Outcomes

Through the forum, community consultation session and surveys the Shire has fostered a comprehensive understanding of the community's concerns regarding the proposed renewable energy developments.

- **Community division** - Will these developments create a division within the community regarding the distribution of benefits among community members?

- **Decommissioning** - As the turbine reaches the end of its life, the question arises regarding the party responsible for its decommissioning. Does the responsibility fall upon the landowner, and if that is the case, does the owner possess the necessary resources or budget to carry out the decommissioning process?
- **Challenges of Change** – people’s strengths and attachment to Darkan is challenged by the change so change management needs to be implemented.
- **Lack of resources** – It will be necessary for the local government to allocate resources towards the development of sewage, water supply, housing initiatives, planning and other related areas to effectively manage the challenges posed by the change.
- **Lack of regulations** – The State Government has offered minimal support for the transition to renewable energy, and due to the absence of regulations and guidelines, wind farm proponents are left without any rules to follow.
- **Environmental impacts** – How will wind farms impact plant and animal life? The ongoing presence of foreign vehicles onto properties may elevate the risk of introducing invasive pests or disease.
- **Transparency** - Landowners, and individuals are receiving contradicting information from wind farm proponents and Western Power. When can the community expect the release of clear maps detailing the location of the turbines, and a map detailing the location of the proposed transmission line? A trust needs to be built between the government, renewable energy developers and the community.
- **Housing shortage** – If existing housing stock is utilized by the wind farm companies this will highlight the housing shortage in Darkan. It is undesirable to construct housing at a minimal cost, as such developments may not be attractive to residents upon completion of the project. Not having housing stock means we are unable to capitalize on the possible benefits such as increasing our population.
- **Construction of worker accommodation** – Is it beneficial to establish a construction camp in the Shire. What opportunities does this present for the community? The community does not want the workers to adopt the fly in fly out (FIFO) lifestyle. Will the construction of this accommodation leave legacy infrastructure?
- **Management of waste** – The expenses associated with the removal of effluent raise the question of how this process will be managed. Additionally, is there a possibility for resource circulation?
- **Challenging the norm (agricultural production)** – The Shire is a prosperous mixed farming region characterized by a diverse range of activities including wool, sheep, grain, and forestry. Need to ensure that the relationship between wind energy and agriculture can co-exist and not work against each other.
- **Inconsistency of benefits** – It is essential for the entire community to reap the benefits of the change, rather than solely the host landowners.
- **Impacts on existing infrastructure** – Who holds the responsibility for the continuous upkeep of roads? How will traffic be regulated to reduce the wear and tear on these surfaces?
- **Noise pollution** – How will this be managed? Who is responsible for ensuring that wind farms adhere to safe separate distances from noise-sensitive premises? And, what about new constructions – how will these be impacted?

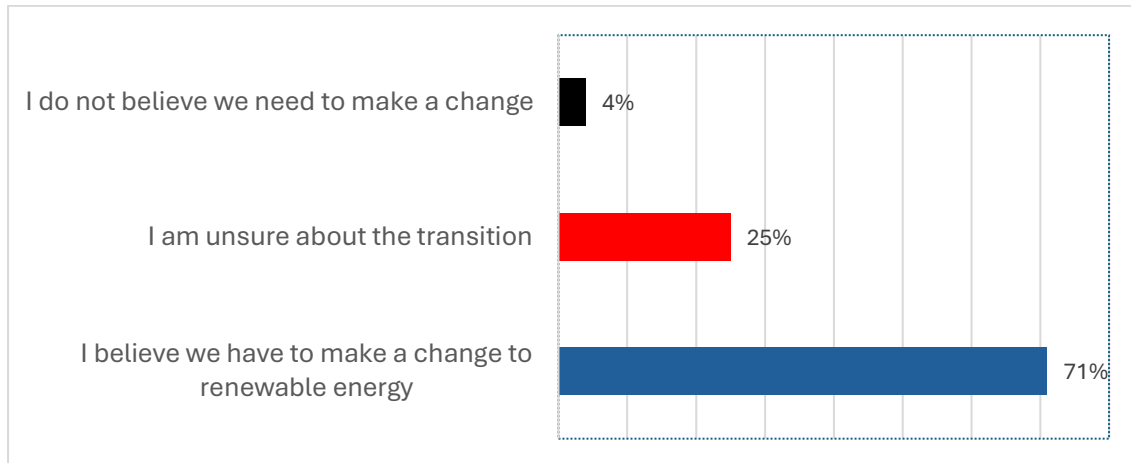
- **Potential rates increase** – Will there be a change in rates as a result of these developments? In the instance of an increase in rates who will be responsible for paying this, the windfarm proponent of the landholder?

Furthermore, through the consultation process listed above the Shire has gained insight into the opportunities recognized by the community that are expected to arise from these developments.

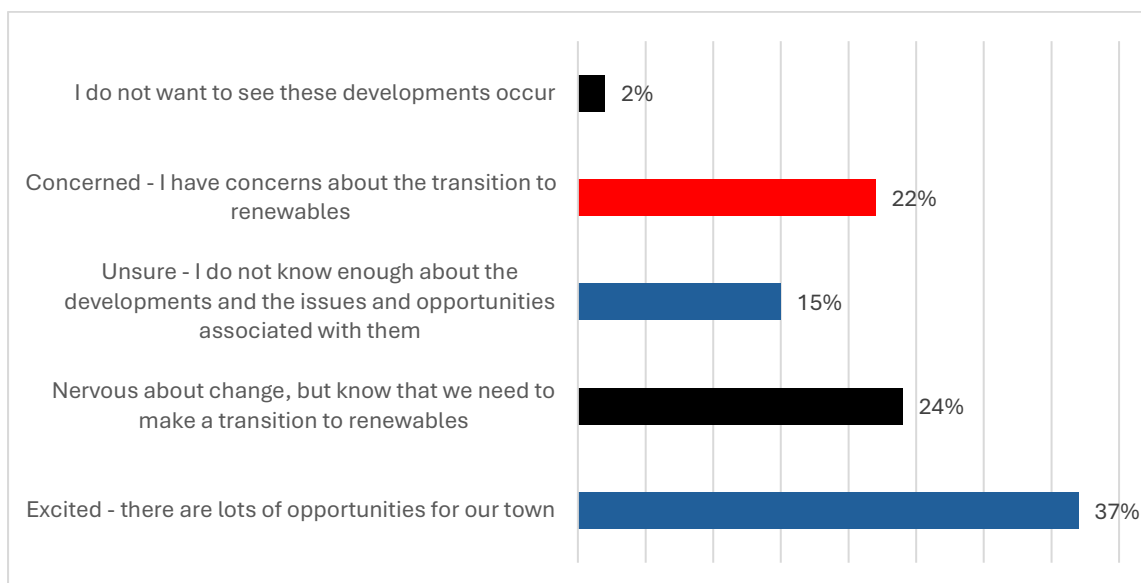
- **Population influx** – If permanent staff reside in the town this may lead to an increase in the number of young families relocating to the town, thereby enhancing enrollment in the school and childcare facility.
- **Legacy infrastructure post construction** – The development of high-quality housing that can be modified or repurposed in the future to address the housing shortage, and provide accommodation for key workers, the elderly or social housing in the community.
- **Collaborative initiatives** – Energy companies and the West Arthur Shire working together to improve existing infrastructure that benefits both the developers and the Shire during the construction phase and further benefits the Shire in the future. For example, educational facilities, childcare facilities, recreation facilities and roads.
- **Advancing local businesses** – Support local businesses through community enhancement funds to strengthen their operations and broaden the range of services they can offer to the developers during the construction phase and to the community moving forward.
- **Drought-proof land holders (diversification)** – With 70% of the community solely relying on agriculture as their main source of income, diversification of agricultural enterprises through renewable energy projects ensures sustainability and longevity of farm businesses during challenging periods.
- **Renewable energy spokesperson** – Engage a person with sound knowledge in the renewable energy sector to represent and advocate on behalf of the community. Assist the community with understanding the transition, and the planning processes.
- **Assist small land holders** – The implementation of renewable energy on farms has potential to render previously unprofitable small businesses economically viable.
- **Clean energy transition** – Assist the government with reaching their net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.
- **Provide job opportunities** – The growth of the renewable energy sector in rural towns could create numerous job opportunities which could contribute to the construction phase or permanent workforce.

Questions formulated by the Shire and presented to the public during the community consultation session held on the 6th of November and the public responses are listed below. Some questions are shown in the main body of this document in the form of “word clouds”

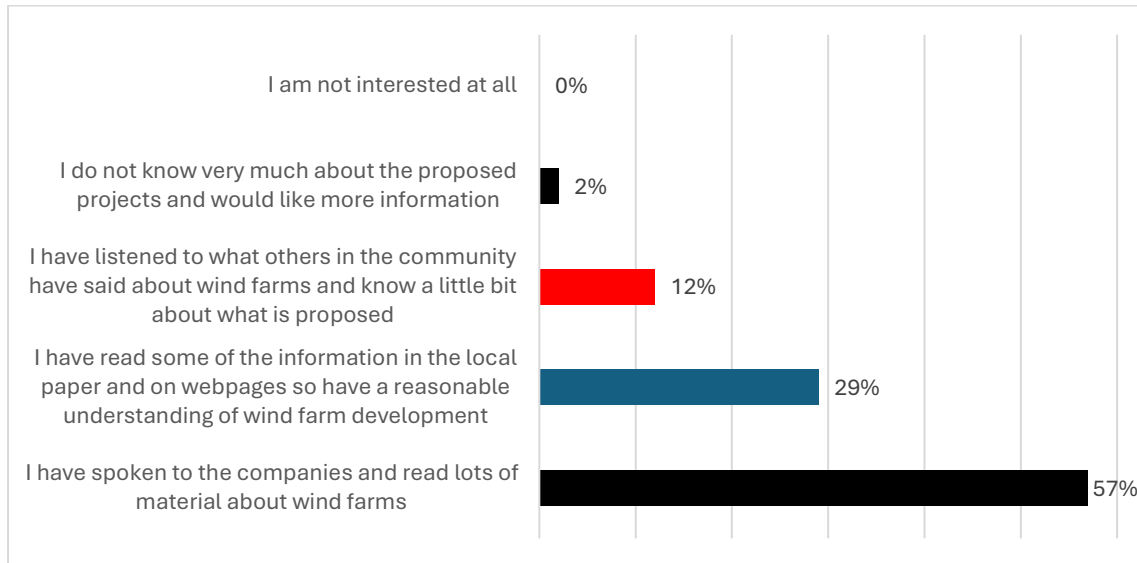
How do you feel about the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy? (48 people responded)



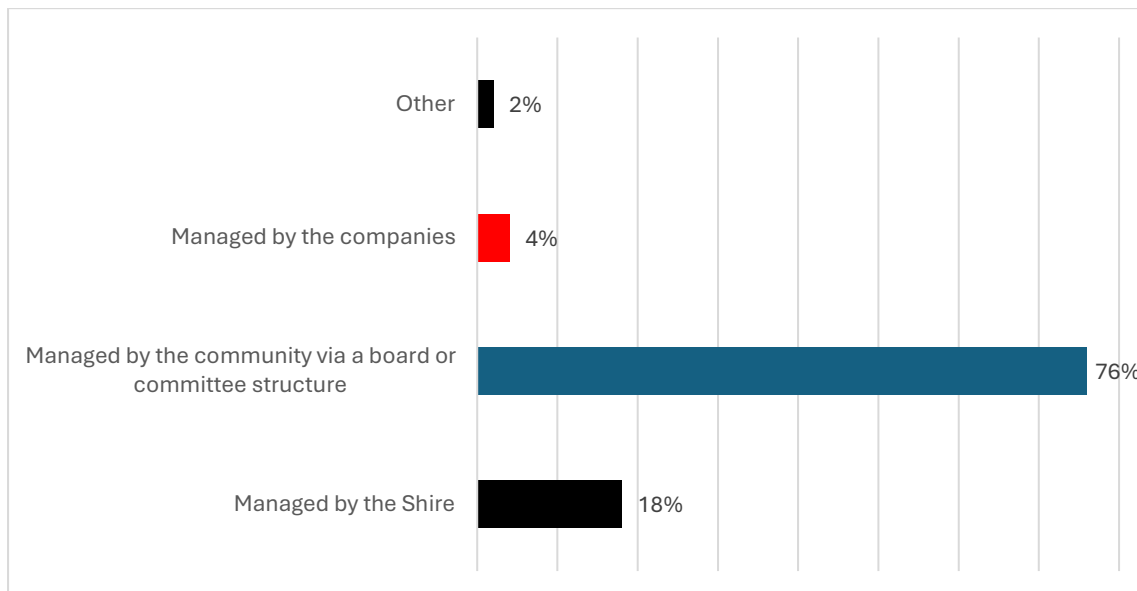
How do you feel about the proposed developments in the Shire of West Arthur? (41 people responded)



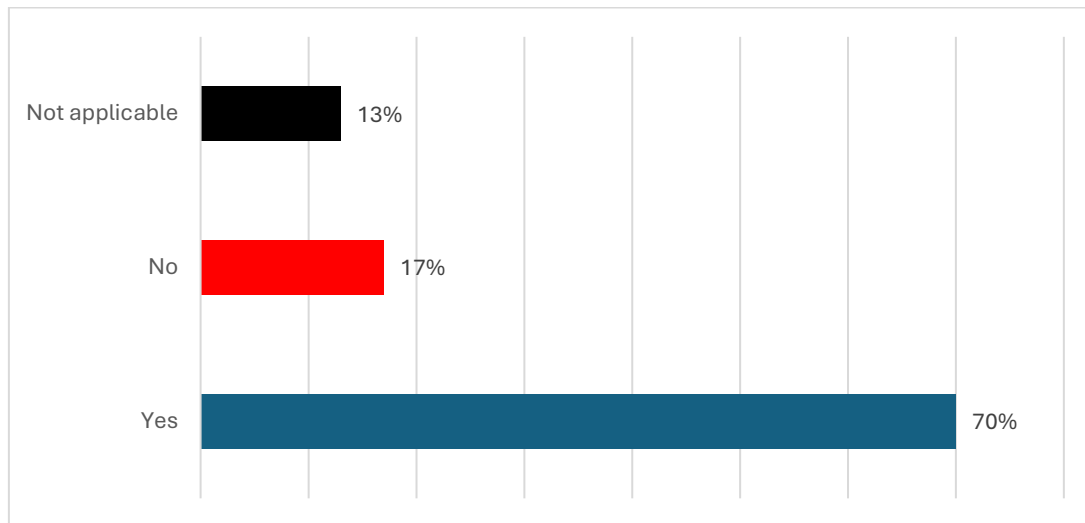
How much do you know about wind farms?



Many companies now provide a community benefit fund - how do you think this should operate?



If you are planning to sign a lease agreement with a wind farm, would you like to have a coordinated "farmer group" to discuss the proposal?



What other issues in relation to the proposed development should the shire consider?
(list three)



Questions that were presented to the panel during the community consultation session held by the Shire on November 6th are listed below. The answers provided are based on responses given by the panel members, Jai Thomas - Deputy Director General – Coordinator of Energy and leader of Energy Policy WA, James Townsend (Lacour Energy), Graham Pearson (Acciona Energy), Farooq Mannan (RES), Patrick Ragan (Green Wind), Vin Fordham Lamont – Shire CEO, and the Shire's planning officer Joe Douglas.

If a landowner signs a contract stating that the wind company is responsible for decommissioning and goes bankrupt will the state overwrite that?

The wind farm developers include a decommissioning bond in their lease agreements. The nature of the bond will vary between developers, but in most cases the bond is valid for at least the last 5 years of the project. Wind farm projects have significant value through their infrastructure, grid connection and landowner agreements making it highly likely that a project can be sold to a new owner if the existing project owner is no longer viable. In this instance, and the project is sold (in whole or in part) the new project owner(s) would be bound by the terms of the lease agreements in place with the host landowners, as well as the environmental, planning approvals and obligations for the project which includes the decommissioning obligations. Despite this, most developers are incentivised to recommission the assets after the initial 25–30-year periods.

Acciona responded to the Shire's request for further information and indicated that it prides itself on developing, building, owning and operating its energy projects in Australia which is also applicable to the Bellwether Wind Farm project. Acciona's lease agreements with landowners, including those related to the proposed Bellwether Wind Farm project specify that the obligations regarding decommissioning, mandate the removal of turbines within 12 months following the lease expiration.

Are proponents working together, and working with the Shire, on the design of community benefit schemes (and any consultation and assessments that inform them) so we can avoid over-consultation, duplication, and potentially conflicting schemes?

The Shire has previously raised the idea of having a combined community benefit scheme where little response was given from the wind farm proponents. The proponents are happy to work together at the right time but indicated that it is currently too early to discuss community benefits.

Not all projects proposed for the Shire will go ahead at the same time, so it is difficult to have a fund that is cooperatively managed by a specific date. As the project is approved, and construction dates are firmed up there is an opportunity to work together for a community benefit fund and construction funds. The wind farm proponents will liaise with the Shire about the structure of the fund.

Longer hotter summers – will windfarm companies provide firefighting equipment if aerial bombing is not possible?

It is a myth that aerial bombing is not possible with wind turbines. Wind farm proponents have indicated that they would support aerial bombing and firefighting procedures. In the instance of a fire the Emergency Response Coordinator on site liaises with emergency services and the turbines can be remotely shut down and parked in a 'Y' shape to assist aircraft conducting water bombing activities.

Acciona indicated that it has prepared an aviation impact assessment which has been submitted to the Shire. This considers the impact of wind farms on planes. Other existing projects owned and operated by Acciona have community benefit funds which have funded water tankers for the local fire brigades.

What safeguards are going to be in place to reduce or repair damage to infrastructure, such as roads, the environment, such as removing vegetation to enable transport of turbines and people's livelihoods, when they need to 'compete' with large convoys, during the build phase?

All these measures are heavily regulated by the State. There is a noise safeguard document in place and proponents must have construction management plans, traffic management plans, and environmental management plans undertaken. These take into consideration the timing of moving equipment, and the roads which the equipment must be moved on. There are environmental approval frameworks if any changes in the environmental status are to occur.

Will any of the wind farm developers be offering neighbourhood agreements to those not hosting wind farms but heavily impacted by the developments. What examples are there of Compensation or Neighbour Agreements, and how can landholders in WA negotiate them with no information, no examples to assess and all details kept secret? When will the compensation and neighbour agreements be offered?

Once the key land for the wind farm is established then neighbours will be spoken to regarding the project. This could provide neighbours with opportunities such as providing resources for the development or potentially joining the project.

As the project progresses, there will be many opportunities for input from the local community to assist with shaping a fund that is specific to both the needs of the community and those of the surrounding communities. Proponents often offer a small grants program, legacy investment programs and scholarship programs to support local people and initiatives.

Acciona indicated that due to the early stage in development details cannot be provided at this time.

Other wind farms indicated that they provide a direct financial offering and landscaping options to screen views to those closest to the wind farms.

What parallels and lessons are we learning from other rural and regional areas in Australia, where renewable energy proponents are engaged in getting projects going, or are we just going to reinvent the wheel, and potentially lose community harmony or projects themselves in all the noise?

In the Eastern States a group called Energy Co. assist with community engagement in relation to the renewable energy transition. This group is made up of 250 employees. A similar structure has formed here in WA called Powering WA. This group has 14 people employed to date and its mission is to provide on the ground engagement which will commence at the end of this year. Events like this consultation evening provide advice and information to the State Government. WALGA are facilitating events with all local governments that have an interest in this area or who are impacted by these developments.

How can Acciona build a 3,000 MW windfarm when the amount cannot be absorbed by the grid?

All renewable energy developers in the area rely on Western Power delivering a new transmission line. Western Power determines the timeframe and the route of the new line. The

existing 220kV transmission line has no capacity to add new generation; the 66 kV transmission line to the east of the Shire of West Arthur is too small to connect a wind farm.

Acciona indicated that its Bellwether project would need to connect into the proposed new transmission line being delivered by Western Power. The preliminary layout of Acciona's projects indicates that it will be approximately 3GW. Currently, the peak demand is 4,500MW which is set to grow to 20,000MW by 2050. It is a long process of building and decarbonising the state and these developments may not all eventuate.

Can all these projects practically be built? Who is going to be left out?

A key factor impacting the ability of a wind farm project to proceed is access to Western Power's proposed new transmission line; a project without access to the new transmission line is unlikely to progress. All renewable energy developers in the area need to undertake two years of continuous bird and bat monitoring, and detailed flora and fauna surveys prior to construction.

Acciona indicated that it is developing the Bellwether Wind Farm with confidence of moving to construction approximately 2028/29.

Would the state government develop a policy around reusing/decommissioning turbines?

Wind farms are high value assets and long-term there needs to be underpinning policies surrounding recycling and decommissioning. Some of this needs to be left to the sector to self-manage. Items such as steel will have a significant value at the end of life of the turbines and will be sold. Solar panels also have a life of 25 years so the recycling process for these needs to be considered as well.

Western Australia erected the first Australian wind turbine in 1987 which was decommissioned recently. Over 37 years why is there not stringent WA State Government policy already in place for wind farm fire control, low frequency illness, neighbour landholder compensation and decommission bonds?

The development of renewable energy guidelines is a part of the State planning engagement, and these guidelines need to be uplifted to reflect the current situation and new technology that emerges. There are other mechanisms to develop community benefit funds, these are not new, and all projects have a form of a community benefit fund. These funds may not be fit for purpose 10 years on so there may be opportunities to review these. Funds need to be consolidated to hit larger infrastructure fund needs.

What measures will be taken regarding accommodation/hospitality taking into consideration money that will come in because of the project?

The Shire has been liaising with the proponents about their proposed locations of housing and accommodation. Until the proponents know that there is a permanent project in place they cannot confirm where the construction camps will be and furthermore cannot pinpoint the accommodation options they wish to pursue. If the Shire is aware of where the construction camps are going, they can look at rezoning the land, to support this kind of development. The proponents indicated that they are aware that this is an opportunity to create jobs, however that they also need to consider the current workforce and don't want to take away workers from farmers, the Shire or other businesses. There is an opportunity to invest in businesses to support them rather than taking away from them or clearing the shelves.

Can Acciona explain how they calculated the size of the project? Are they only short-term access agreements? Why is land under other developers included?

Acciona has entered access licenses with almost forty landowners covering an area of approximately 110,000 hectares. Based on this, the preliminary layout for the Bellwether Wind Farm indicates that the size of the project is approximately 3GW. Until this point, it has not been appropriate to sign 30-year lease agreements and bind landowners.

The access licenses include confidentiality clauses, and the map shown during the wind farm community consultation event on the 6th of November intentionally did not identify specific landowners. The 'blob' map showed Acciona's land area with a buffer around the boundary.

How many is too many turbines for the Shire?

The power in WA does not connect to the east coast. The volume of renewable energy is roughly 36% and the record of renewable energy at one given time is roughly 86%. There is the need for renewable energy in the southwest to match the demand plus more (see slide in Jai Thomas's presentation). The Kojonup wind farm has been listed as the best performing wind farm in the country over the last three months.

Parron wind farm in Badgingarra has committed \$1000/MW/year to a community investment fund. Is there potential to have this fund in this area?

There is a desire from the wind farm proponents to collaborate with the community. The projects are in early stages and what each Community Benefit Fund looks like is still being determined. The fund is developed by the community for the community and will have Shire involvement. The Clarke Creek wind farm is 450MW and has a community benefit fund of \$200,000/year. In WA there is not a prescribed number but there will be a range that has to be hit, or the proponent and the fund won't be looked at very fairly by the community. Best practice from elsewhere is roughly \$500-\$1500/MW.

Acciona indicated that the community will benefit from the Bellwether Wind Farm in numerous ways. While it is too early for Acciona to confirm the exact size of the Community Benefit Fund, as a minimum Acciona will develop a small grants program, legacy investment program and scholarship program to support local people and initiatives. Similar programs are run for other wind farms across Australia. Examples of benefits may include.

- Upgraded roads
- Improved council services through rates contribution
- Community grants
- Tailored neighbour benefit programs and landscape screening
- Scholarship programs
- Approximately 100 jobs during operation, including turbine technician and maintenance jobs
- Approximately 400 jobs during construction and
- Increased economic activity in the local community

Is it ludicrously ironic that small rural towns like Darkan are going to be losing their connection to the state power supply, being fobbed off with limited power alternatives that are proving problematic in other parts of the state, while being expected to host major renewable energy projects?

A total of 3% of power consuming customers are in regional areas. Regional power supply challenges will continue as there is a lot of pressure on Western Power to deliver. The hosting of wind turbines does not necessarily mean good reliability in the town as it is connected to the distribution network. Western Power are currently investigating stand-alone power systems and retiring networks such as those that are on a 6km line which only services one customer.

What impact will turbines have on farmers who will have planes for crop spraying?

Turbines are strategically designed in 'straight' strings to support crop spraying with little disruption. Farmers can notify the wind farm, and the turbines can be remotely shut down and put in park 'Y' shape to assist aircraft conducting crop spraying. When considering the placement of turbines, the wind farm proponents consult with aerial professionals.

The pilots would conduct flight plans considering potential obstacles. Pilots would consider turbines as being like other obstacles such as telecommunication towers.

When you sign a commercial lease suddenly that land is operating commercially on land that is zoned rural. Can this be done?

The use class 'wind farm' is not expressly listed in the Zoning Table of the Shire of West Arthur Local Planning Scheme No.2.

As such any development application received for a wind farm must be processed and assessed in accordance with the following clause in Local Planning Scheme No.2 as it applies specifically to uses not listed in the Zoning Table of the Scheme:

- 4.4.2 If a person proposes to carry out on land any use that is not specifically mentioned in the Zoning Table and cannot reasonably be determined as falling within the type or class of activity of any other use the local government may:
- a) determine that the use is consistent with the objectives of the particular zone and is therefore permitted; or
 - b) determine that the proposed use may be consistent with the objectives of the particular zone and thereafter follow the advertising procedures of clause 9.4 in considering an application for planning approval; or
 - c) determine that the use is not consistent with the objectives of the particular zone and is therefore not permitted.

Any development application received for a use not listed in the Zoning Table of any Local Planning Scheme in Western Australia is classed as complex under the Planning Regulations and must therefore be advertised for public comment for a minimum required period of 28 days irrespective of the abovementioned clause in Local Planning Scheme No.2.

When will the wind farm companies submit Development Applications and confirm to their clients that their projects will proceed?

All renewable energy developers in the area need to undertake two years of continuous bird and bat monitoring, and detailed flora and fauna surveys.

Acciona indicated that it intends to submit a Development Application for its met mast as soon as a cultural heritage survey is completed. They will also submit their environmental approval documents when they are complete.

What confidence should we place in companies & government agencies who are selective in the timing and extent of their environmental surveys, such as waiting until summer, after everything has senesced or reduced their daytime movements, due to high daily temperatures and limited moisture?

All renewable energy developers in the area need to undertake two years of continuous bird and bat monitoring.

Acciona indicated that for a Project the size of the proposed Bellwether project, this means that three seasons of flora and fauna surveys are likely to be required. As a part of the environmental approval submission Acciona will share the results of its bird, bat, and flora and fauna surveys.

We've been told by renewable energy proponents that they can't support local towns who will host renewable energy projects, to access subsidised rooftop solar, battery storage, cheap energy etc, yet a Victorian town will be doing so, with a French wind and solar project proponent. Why can't we?

Acciona indicated that due to the early stage of the projects, these details cannot be provided right now. As the projects progress, there will be many opportunities for input from the local community, to help shape benefits that are specific to their needs and those of the surrounding communities.

Will the developers share the results of their fauna surveys, namely birds and bats with the shire and other landowners? This information should be freely available given the shire is promoting and trying to improve biodiversity.

Acciona has indicated that it will share the results of its bird, bat, and flora and fauna surveys as part of the environmental approval submission. Acciona have just commenced the required two years of continuous bird and bat monitoring.

If CY O'Connor got water to Kalgoorlie over 100 years ago, why can't wind turbines be placed in the middle of WA on non-arable land?

The Shire understands that wind farm developers are interested in developing in the area because of the proximity to the existing infrastructure including power lines and power stations in Collie. Any new power lines are likely to extend through the shire and as a result there is significant interest in developing the wind farms in this area.

If local government is against any wind farm proposal, do they have the power to totally shut it down?

There are three assessment pathways that renewable energy applications can be determined under:

- Local Government development assessment
- Development Assessment Panels (DAPs)
- Development Assessment Unit (SDAU)

Due to the significant scale of these projects, and the limited resources at the Shire applicants primarily choose one of the other pathways to determine their renewable energy applications. The Development Assessment Panel pathway must still take into consideration the local planning framework and give due regard to any local planning policies. The State Development Assessment Unit can make a decision that conflicts the local planning scheme where the scheme is more than 5 years old, and where the application raised matters of State or regional significance. Either of these assessment pathways allow Local Government to have input into the Development Assessment process but will not be the decision-making authority.

The remaining questions have all been noted and passed to the various participants in the community consultation events but have not yet had a response.

What government owned infrastructure needs upgrading and /or locating across West Arthur Shire? What compensation is there for impacted landowners?

What government support & assistance is there for land holders negotiating contracts and agreements with non-transparent wind farm developers in WA?

Why can't government heavily subsidise residential/industrial/business rooftop solar and battery storage avoiding costly transmission line upgrades, rural amenity loss and rural community discord?

What part of WA is the most cost-effective location, per unit of deliverable power + cost of install/running costs to build renewable energy projects? Does locality economic contribution, state investment in infrastructure & opportunity cost during the build phase, form part of this consideration?

Are large wind turbines in Ag regions the ONLY solution for future energy needs in WA? Are all potential generation methods being considered? Such as community owned and managed solar/wind/battery and/or dams as energy store projects.

How will the State Government support small rural and regional towns, who are being expected to plan and provide for increased demands on infrastructure if wind farms or other renewables are established?

The turbines will add value to a property. What is the risk that local farmers can no longer expand their business by buying that local land? Is it possible that only big businesses will be

able to buy the inflated price land, and plant the wind farm to trees resulting in depopulation on the local area?

Will the state government consider a statewide renewable energy planning policy like NSW rather than expecting small under resourced shires to develop individual local planning schemes that developers just ignore?

If there is a change in State Government next year, what are your thoughts regarding the renewable energy transition. Will it still be a top priority for the state? Or will the money already invested in the process just go to waste?

Appendix B - Informing Documents

Community Strategic Plan

The Shire of West Arthur's Community Strategic Plan ([strategic-community-plan-towards-2031](#)) provides the overarching guiding vision for the Shire for the next 10 years and is the Council's commitment to implementing the community's aspirations.

In the process of developing the plan, community engagement was undertaken through various forms, providing all individuals the opportunity to contribute to the strategic direction of the Shire council.

Through that process the community identified the following key aspirations for the next 10 years:

- Our community – safe, friendly, inclusive
- Local Economy – stable, sustainable agricultural industry, a dynamic and growing business sector
- Natural environment – our natural assets are valued and meet the needs of the community
- Built environment – well maintained roads and infrastructure which reflects our identity
- Leadership and management – inspirational, dynamic, transparent

Economic Development Strategy

The Shire of West Arthur's Economic Development Strategy document is a 10-year roadmap which is being used to pursue the Shire's economic development vision. The Economic Development Strategy sets priorities, objectives, and actions based on a multifaceted approach to fully build on our strengths and capture new opportunities for economic growth.

Results of the research and stakeholder consultation undertaken as part of this document will be taken into consideration when considering the renewable energy transition. The document outlines the Shire's existing position and strategic opportunities, whilst showcasing what matters to our community, and the Council's commitment to ensuring this strategy is delivered.

Renewable energy companies can contribute to the direction of the Shire and fulfill key objectives identified in the Economic Development Strategy Document as outlined below (westarthur.wa.gov.au/documents/667/economic-development-strategy):

- **A vibrant town centre and activated spaces within our townsite** – Wind farm proponents offering community benefit/enhancement funds could play a significant role in transforming the town centre into a lively and dynamic space.
- **Built infrastructure that is well maintained and meets the needs of our community** – The availability of additional funds could allow for upgrades to existing infrastructure and the establishment of additional facilities to ensure they adequately support the needs of the permanent workforce associated with these developments, as well as the growing population.
- **A growing and diverse business community** – By leveraging the potential of introducing a new type of business into the community, the Shire is diversifying its source of income, thereby decreasing its dependence on agriculture for the town's economic support.

- **A thriving visitor economy that leverages our natural and heritage assets**
- **Great economic resilience through industry diversification** – Whilst the agricultural sector is the main source of income for the Shire, the over reliance on this sector could have a negative impact during times of hardship. Renewable energy may offer an alternative source of income to assist with economic resilience.
- **New industry development and diversified job opportunities** – There is a loss of labour and economic opportunities as a result of the lack of housing in the Shire, the increase in farm sizes and the automation of farming. Wind farms could increase the number of employment opportunities in the Shire therefore boosting the town's population.
- **Sufficient allocation of resources to successfully drive our strategy forward**

Appendix C

Shire of West Arthurs Renewable Energy Community Benefit Fund Policy

Policy Title	Renewable Energy Community Benefit Fund (CBF)
Policy Type	Corporate and Community Services
Responsible Officer	Chief Executive Officer



Purpose

The Shire of West Arthur is dedicated to ensuring that large-scale renewable energy projects such as wind farms, solar farms, and battery energy storage systems (BESS) provide long lasting positive impacts for the local community. The Community Benefit Fund policy provides a structure for renewable energy proponents to share benefits with the local community, aligning with the Shire's strategic values and following Australia's best practices. This policy should be interpreted alongside the Shire's Wind Farms Local Planning Policy No. 5, which outlines Council's stance on siting of the facility, consultation, environmental concerns, and aviation issues related to renewable energy projects.

The Shire has emerged as a target location for renewable energy projects as Western Australia's need for renewable energy skyrockets in order to meet the State government's goal of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. As renewable energy projects progress, this policy ensures that developers collaborate with the community to create a benefit-sharing initiative that aligns with the Shire's strategic plan and leaves a positive legacy.

Scope

All large-scale renewable energy facilities (greater than 5MW) in the Shire of West Arthur are subject to this policy, including wind farms, solar farms, and battery storage systems (BESS).

During the design, approval, and operational stage of renewable energy projects, it is intended that Shire employees, Council, and developers reference this policy. The policy sets out expectations and conditions for negotiating community benefits and forming Community Benefit Funds. Council will consider this policy when evaluating development applications and any related agreements with proponents.

Definitions

Large-scale projects – The classification of a renewable energy project that exceeds 5 megawatts (MW).

Proponent – The owner, developer or operator of a large-scale renewable energy project in the Shire that uses solar, wind, or batteries. This covers any business or organisation requesting development approval for these kinds of initiatives.

Community Benefit Fund (CBF) – A fund where the proponent commits financial support for the good of the local community. Over the course of the project, contributions are made annually and support initiatives such as infrastructure upgrades, improvement of services, and strategic community projects.

Life of the Project – Unless otherwise specified, the anticipated operational lifespan of renewable energy facilities is estimated to be around 30 years. For as long as the project is in operation, CBF contributions should be provided.

First Nations Fund – A specific portion of the Community Benefit Fund set aside to fund projects that assist the Indigenous populations and the traditional custodians of the district.

Social License – The continuous approval and acceptance of a project by stakeholders and the local community. Gaining a social license requires the proponent to engage with the community, share benefits, and act responsibly to foster goodwill and confidence.

Consumer Price Index (CPI) – A quarterly measure of inflation applied to a Community Benefit Fund (CBF) on an annual basis to ensure the fund increases over time and maintains its real value.

Policy Statement

To guarantee that the entire community benefits from these developments, the Shire of West Arthur anticipates that all significant renewable energy projects will contribute to benefit sharing through a Community Benefit Fund (CBF). The policy establishes a uniform method for negotiating, calculating, overseeing, and distributing the fund.

The policy's guiding concepts include:

Early Engagement & Commitment

According to best practice set out in the New South Wales Benefit Sharing Guidelines developed by that State's Department of Planning, developers are required to consult with the Shire at an early stage of their projects (before submitting a development application). This early engagement calls for developers and Councils to collaborate on benefit-sharing strategies, with the aim of providing the community with certainty by determining a mutually agreed financial contribution to the community before development approval. To guarantee enforcement of this agreement, the agreement should be formalised with a legal document, such as a voluntary planning agreement or memorandum of understanding.

Calculating Community Benefit Funds (CBFs)

The capacity of the asset located in the Shire of West Arthur should be used to calculate the Community Benefit Fund at a rate per megawatt (MW) annually (or per MWh for storage). An appropriate benchmark rate for a Community Benefit Fund, according to best practices described in the New South Wales 2023 Benefit Sharing Guidelines, is \$1,050 per MW/year for wind energy, \$850 per MW/year for solar energy, and \$150 per MWh/year for standalone battery projects that are annually indexed to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) from the 24th of April 2025. This agreed contribution is anticipated to be made annually over the project's operational life (30 years), commencing at the beginning of commercial operations. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) guarantees that the fund will increase over time and offer a consistent flow of revenue for the community.

Minimum Levels of Contribution

The above-mentioned expectations—\$1,050 per MW/year for wind energy, \$850 per MW/year for solar energy, and \$150 per MWh/year for standalone battery projects—must be met or surpassed by a proponent's contribution to the Community Benefit Fund (CBF). Higher contributions or other benefit-sharing strategies are welcome from proponents.

Governance of a Community Benefit Fund (CBF)

It is recommended that a community board be established to manage the Community Benefit Fund (CBF) disbursement. Members of the local community, the president and CEO of the Shire, a representative from the windfarm company, and a financial, banking, and legal expert should all be on the board. The board's duties would include providing input on funding priorities and assessing grant applications and project concepts. It is anticipated that proponents would contribute annually to the board-managed fund. To guarantee that decisions are transparent, fair and consistent with the fund's goals, the board should enter into a formal agreement. While community representation guarantees that the needs of the community are met, the proponents' focal points for the distribution of a community benefit fund are taken into consideration with their position on the board. It is advised that reporting procedures be established to guarantee that the wider community are aware of the location of the distribution of funds and project outcomes.

First Nations Fund

The expectation is that an Indigenous Nations sub-fund will be negotiated with the First Nations people. Typically, 5% of the yearly contributions to the Community Benefit Fund goes towards this fund. This fund is to acknowledge the First Nations people's rights and interest over the land. Alternative agreements

such as employment, training opportunities, or cultural heritage and environmental protection provisions may also be formed. This fund should be formed in conjunction with Gnaala Karla Booja (GKB), the fund administrator, and the proponent.

Recommended Uses of Funds

Funding for initiatives and activities that serve the public should be the Community Benefit Fund's primary focus. Alongside this, it must concentrate on projects that further the goals of the Shire's Economic Development Strategy. The CBF seeks to provide funding for projects that offer long-term sustainable benefits that leave a lasting legacy for the community, rather than concentrating on one-off expenditures. To identify priority areas for investment, the Shire has and will continue to engage with the community via a variety of channels. These areas may include but are not restricted to.

- The development of new community services
- Supporting community health services
- Sport and recreation infrastructure (including community co-located facility and swimming pool)
- Improvements and expansion of local businesses
- Increased and improved housing stock
- Improved road infrastructure
- Alternative industry development (diversification)

Like the community's priority areas, the objectives of the Shire's Economic Development Strategy provide guidance on where renewable energy developers should focus their efforts:

- A vibrant town centre and activated space within our townsite
- Built infrastructure that is well maintained and meets the needs of our community
- A growing and diverse business community
- A thriving visitor economy that leverages our natural and heritage assets
- Great economic resilience through industry diversification
- New industry development and diversified job opportunities
- Sufficient allocation of resources to successfully drive our strategy

Acknowledgement

When contributing to the Community Benefit Fund (CBF), it is anticipated that the fund administrator will formally acknowledge the renewable energy proponent. This could be done through press releases or articles detailing the initiatives made possible by the grant. Acknowledgement of and invitations to activities pertaining to the CBF-funded initiatives may also fall under this category. In exchange, it is anticipated that the local community will share with the wider region the ways in which renewable energy has assisted the town.

This policy is a positive step for a proponent to obtain a social license, and assist with community acceptance whilst providing tangible, long-lasting benefits to the community. This policy may be reviewed as necessary to maintain compliance with best practices (proposed state legislation) and community standards.

Neighbourhood Benefit Schemes

Neighbourhood Benefit Schemes (NBS), or an agreement of similar nature between individual land holders and the proponent are to have no impact on contributions towards a Community Benefit Fund (CBF).

Neighbourhood benefit schemes are not generalised and are on a project-by-project basis. They are designed to compensate neighbouring land holders directly impacted by the project. Various forms of neighbourhood benefits could be considered by a developer. These include:

- Minor capital works and enhancements, and
- Neighbourhood subsidies e.g. investment/co-ownership opportunities

The Community Benefit Fund (CBF) aims to deliver residual benefits to the broader community rather than compensating individual landowners for the impact on their visual amenity.

Therefore:

- Renewable energy proponents are encouraged to use both Neighbourhood Benefit Schemes (NBS) and Community Benefit Funds (CBF) to ensure that these projects have a lasting positive impact on the community
- The Community Benefit Fund should be based on figures specified within this Policy
- The Neighbourhood Benefit Scheme (NBS) will not reduce or offset the agreed Community Benefit Fund that a proponent agrees upon

Sources:

- Shire of West Arthur - Key Principles for Effective Renewable Energy in the Shire of West Arthur Document westarthur.wa.gov.au/documents/875/key-principles-for-effective-renewable-energy-development-in-the-shire-of-west-arthur
- Shire of West Arthur Local Planning Policy No.5 – Wind Farms (2025) [LPP No 5 - Wind Farms - 27 March 2025 - V2.pdf](#)

Appendices:

- Appendix 1 – Advocacy Statement: Renewable Energy Guidelines & Framework for Western Australian Local Governments.

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History	
Delegation	
Relevant Legislation	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i>
Related Documentation	

Item 1: West Arthur Wind Farm Website and [video link](#)



THE PROJECT

Lacour Energy are progressing feasibility studies for a potential wind farm development across the Shires of West Arthur and Wagin

The project is located relatively close to the Western Power high voltage network infrastructure at Collee, which is a crucial advantage as it reduces connection cost and new powerline easements required. [Watch the video to find out more.](#)

The West Arthur Wind Farm has been in development for approximately three years and is now more than halfway through its feasibility phase. The project will likely be progressed in up to 3 stages to allow for the ongoing development of the power network in the region.

We are progressing feasibility studies for a potential first stage of the wind farm, which will inform the size of this project. The first stage is centered approximately 10km south west of Darkan. It is currently estimated that the first stage will comprise 70-100 wind turbines.

Current workstreams underway on the project include:

- Wind monitoring and wind energy modeling
- Environmental surveys
- Project definition development
- Stakeholder engagement
- Grid connection assessments

As the development process progresses, we will engage with all stakeholders in a manner consistent with industry best practice to build an understanding of the project and any potential impacts as well as seek input on the development concept. As part of the development process of the first stage, we are speaking with neighbours, the local Council and the wider community on the proposed project design.

Over time, further stages of the project may be developed, which will have their own consultation and approval process. Should the entire 3 stage wind farm be constructed it will be over 1,000 MW in size.

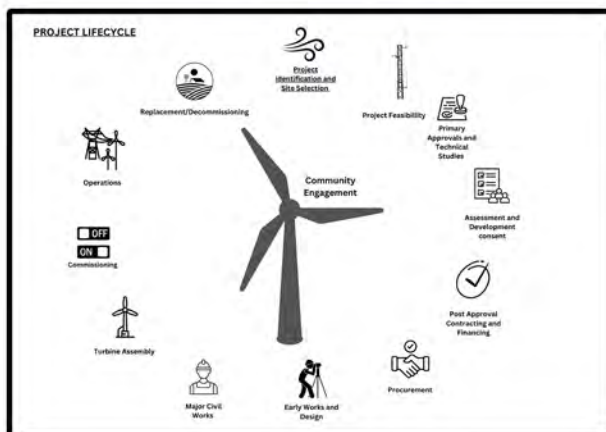
Timelines

The West Arthur Project has been under investigation since 2022, and the project is currently in the [planning and approvals](#) stage of development.



Source: Clean Energy Council Wind Farms Guide for Communities

If the feasibility is successful, construction is planned to commence in 2027, with the construction period for the project of around 24 months. The wind farm is targeted to supply electricity into the Western Power network before 2030.



We acknowledge the people of the Gnaaria Karla Booja area as Traditional Owners of the land our proposed renewable energy venture stands. We recognise their connection to land, waterways and community and pay our respect to their Elders past and present.



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BENEFITS

We aim to contribute to host communities in ways that are of mutual benefit for the wind farm project and the community.

Community Benefits

Pre-Construction Community Grant Program

At Lacour, we care about building genuine, long-lasting relationships with our stakeholders and the communities in which we work.

Through our community grants, we endeavour to look out for each other, our environment, and provide benefits to the communities we work in. We focus on supporting initiatives that enhance communities for the long term—programs that are educational, sustainable, and aligned with the specific needs of each community. We aim to provide diversity in our grants so that they reach a broad cross section of the local community.

Pre-Construction Community Grants cover the period during the planning and approvals phase (pre-construction) of the project. Should the wind farm be granted approval, an annual Community Benefit Fund will commence during construction. We anticipate that Pre-Construction grants are typically between \$500-\$2,000 per award.

To learn more, please refer to the [Lacour Energy Pre-Construction Community Grant Guidelines](#).

Applications for the first Pre-Construction Grant Scheme closed in November 2025, and we were thrilled to receive such a strong pool of submissions. We're delighted to announce the programs we are supporting and look forward to highlighting some of these exciting initiatives in our upcoming newsletters.

West Arthur Seniors Luncheon

Darkan Community Christmas Tree Event

Southern Agcare

Darkan Primary School 2026 Art Exhibition

Darkan Primary School Year 5/6 Camp

West Arthur Cottage homes – garden maintenance

Darkan Playgroup Giggle and Grow

Regional Early Education & Development - Waterwise children Program.

Our next round of community grants will open mid 2026.

Long Term Community Benefit Fund

- Lacour Energy has made commitments to community contributions in each of the renewable energy projects it has developed.
- We have reviewed the Shire of West Arthur Renewable Energy Community Benefit Fund (CBF) and are broadly supportive.
- The State Government body, PoweringWA, is currently undertaking statewide consultation on Community Benefits for Renewable Energy Projects.
- We are committed to ensuring the project delivers overall community benefits in the order of \$1,050 per MW of installed wind farm capacity.
- The final community benefit amount per year will therefore be dependent on the overall size of the wind farm project being constructed but based on a likely project size of between 300MW and 500 MW, this would be approximately \$315,000 to \$525,000 a year.
- Community benefits from a renewable energy project, such as a wind farm, can be delivered in a number of different forms including:
 - Direct financial contributions (e.g. annual contribution to a Community Benefit Fund); and/or
 - One-off contributions to specific local infrastructure projects (e.g. significant grant to a specific community project); and/or
 - Construction of legacy infrastructure that benefits the whole community (e.g. new temporary or permanent accommodation, telecommunications towers).

Once the scale of the project is finalised and the State government have finalised their guidance, the overall Community Benefit Fund amount will be confirmed.

Please [get in touch](#) and tell us what benefits you would like to see a wind farm bring to your community.

Employment Opportunities

The proposed project offers significant employment opportunities locally and regionally, during Construction and Operations. At its peak, the workforce involved in construction is expected to be at least 250 people. Service providers, individuals and contractors can register their interest via the project website, and will be kept up to date on the latest opportunities. When the project proceeds, the principal contractor appointed to build this project will be required to ensure local businesses and individuals are given every opportunity to be involved in the project.

During the 30 year operational period we expect that there will be 15-20 people employed on operating and maintaining the wind farm project.

If you are a local business wanting to supply services to the project now, or during construction and operation, please [register your interest and tell us what you do](#).

We acknowledge the people of the Gnaarla Karla Booja area as Traditional Owners of the land our proposed renewable energy venture stands. We recognise their connection to land, waterways and community and pay our respect to their Elders past and present.



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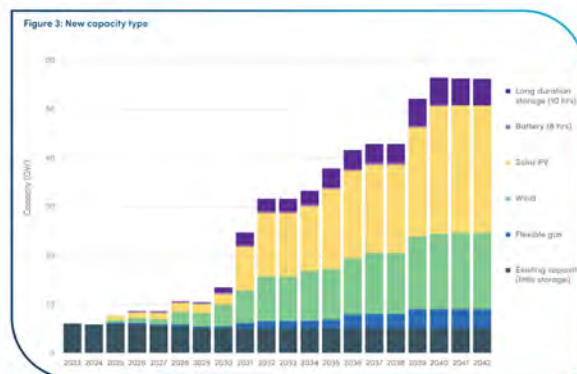


FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why are there so many wind farm proposals?

The Western Australian State Government has committed to closing the publicly owned coal fired power stations at Collie as part of the process of transitioning the electricity supply in the from coal generation towards renewables supported by gas and large-scale battery energy storage systems. The closures at Collie will result in an estimated demand of approximately 2,000 MW (2 GW) of new renewable energy to be built and installed across the Western Power network prior to 2030.

Beyond 2030, the State Government has worked with major electricity customers, suppliers and industry experts to forecast the increasing demand for electricity out to 2042. The 2023 study, called the SWIS Demand Assessment (SWSDA), forecast that by 2042 a total of over 15,000 MW (15 GW) of wind power would be required.



Source: [SWIS Demand Assessment 2023 to 2042](#)

Where does the electricity go?

The power from the wind farm will be fed into the Western Power transmission network, and then on to users of electricity connected throughout the South West Interconnected System (SWIS) which connects all electricity users from Albany to Kalbarri.

The team at Lacour has strong working relationships with Western Power developed over the past 15 years and has been involved with the network connection process for three other wind farms and two solar farms with Western Power.

The network connection process is long and complex and, among other things, requires knowledge of technical engineering and Western Power processes to be successful. We are working with Western Power on options to connect the wind farm to the Western Power network.

What is the energy payback from a wind farm?

It takes energy to build a wind farm. The energy used in the manufacturing of the wind turbines, transport to the project site, construction of turbines foundations and associated electrical infrastructure is typically paid back within 6-12 months of operation.

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) which considered the energy payback period for Wind Turbines: "Among 50 estimates from 20 studies passing screens for quality and relevance, the median report energy payback time for wind power plants is 5.4 months, with a 25th to 75th percentile range of 3.4 to 8.5 months."

Source: [Page 571, Section 7.6.1.2 of Chapter 7: Wind Energy from the IPCC Special Report on Renewable Energy Sources and Climate Change Mitigation](#)

What happens during feasibility?

During the feasibility study period, which usually takes 4 - 6 years, Lacour undertakes a number of studies on the land involved. The studies inform the wind farm design, allow the approval documents to be prepared and submitted and inform all project stakeholders about the impacts and mitigation measures associated with the project.

These studies include:

- measuring the wind with a SODAR and/or tall wind monitoring mast
- environmental studies such as flora, fauna, vegetation, visual impact assessment, noise study, cultural heritage investigations
- cultural heritage assessments
- aerial photography to get accurate topography contours, road/fence boundaries; and
- stakeholder engagement surveys, telecommunications links and aviation impact assessment.

Can you locate wind turbines in the trees/vegetation?

We aim to ensure that any environmental impacts are mitigated through the planning process. Avoiding clearance of trees or vegetation for locating wind turbines is the preferred approach.

Where removal of vegetation for powerline and road routes cannot be avoided, appropriate assessment, environmental approvals and mitigation will be sought.

What percentage of land do you use?

Once constructed, we estimate 1-2% of land is utilised in the development of a wind farm.

Can the access roads use existing tracks and minimise impact by running parallel/perpendicular to GPS lines?

Use of existing tracks depends mainly on track width and slope (grade) of existing tracks. Where laneways exist for sheep and vehicle movement on a property then if the landowner agrees we aim to upgrade these for use in the wind farm as a first preference.

Transport on public roads requires coordination with Main Roads WA and the local Council. A Traffic Management Plan will be developed to help ensure that transportation can occur safely and mitigate any potential impacts on the local community.

The road requirements, in terms of bend radius and slope, are the most stringent during construction due to the delivery of the very long blades and very heavy generators. The road specifications required may result in some temporary works on existing roads and laneways - particularly at corners. Once construction is finished the wind farm traffic is predominantly light vehicles and service vans.

Who pays for the upgrades to roads?

The wind farm project pays for any required upgrades to State/Local Government/landowner roads used for transporting wind turbine parts to site. Before construction starts a road dilapidation survey will be carried out to determine the state of the existing roads. In the event that roads are damaged in the delivery or construction process, the project will undertake the repairs.



ABOUT US

Lacour Energy is a renewable energy development company which utilises its expert knowledge to develop successful renewable energy projects.

Since 2016, the team at Lacour has originated and developed several large-scale renewable projects across Australia, including Kondinin Wind and Solar Farm (WA), Clarke Creek Wind and Solar Farm project (QLD), and Banana Range Wind Farm (QLD).

Our practical and commercial knowledge is supported by degree qualifications in renewable energy, electrical engineering and project management as well as collaborating in the energy and renewables industry through peak body organisations and committees.

[Click here to find out more about our experience.](#)

We acknowledge the people of the Gnaarla Karla Booja area as Traditional Owners of the land our proposed renewable energy venture stands. We recognise their connection to land, waterways and community and pay our respect to their Elders past and present.



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CONTACT US

As we progress through this project we will hold regular meetings with the community to ensure we keep you up to date and provide an opportunity to get your ideas and suggestions. Please contact us below to ask a question or register your interest:

Name

First Name (required)

Last Name (required)

Email Address (required)

☐ Sign up for news and updates

☐ Sign up to contractor & employment register

Phone Number

Comments

(required)

☐ By selecting this box you agree you have read the Privacy Policy included below

SUBMIT

We acknowledge the people of the Gnaarla Karla Booja area as Traditional Owners of the land our proposed renewable energy venture stands. We recognise their connection to land, waterways and community and pay our respect to their Elders past and present.



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WINDFARM FORUM

The Shire of West Arthur hosted 13 different speakers on July 31st, who spoke about various topics associated with the proposed windfarm developments within the Shire. The day started with a presentation from Jason Froud from Western Power about the State Decarbonisation strategy and how much power is likely to be needed into the future. Gair Landsborough from Synergy then discussed the current network of power transmission lines and the proposed upgrades required into the future. Peta Ashworth from Curtin Institute of Energy Transition spoke about the various forms of renewable energy including solar, hydro, wind and nuclear and the social impacts of the transition into the production of renewable energy. Department of Planning Lands and Heritage's Zoe Hendry outlined the development assessment process and when the community can be involved and have their say. The final two speakers of the morning were Tim Hayter from Midwest lawyers and Julian Nichols from Opteon Solutions who outlined the impact on land values and the things that landowners need to consider when negotiating with proposed developers.

The afternoon session was focused more on the windfarms developers and the impact of the windfarms themselves. Jeff Nitsch from Acciona, Gran Aldersen from Green Wind Renewables, Greg Allen from Vestas and Mark Rayner from Lacour all talked about the companies they represented and the benefits to not just the land owners but the community as a whole. Dr Kristoffer McKee from Curtin University discussed the latest research into vibration and noise impacts. He played the audience a you tube video of the turbines and the noise that they made and indicated that current research shows that there is no impact from noise on surrounding residents. The other speaker for the afternoon session was Anthony Middleton, CEO from the Shire of Broomehill Tambellup who discussed the Flat Rocks Windfarm development in Kojonup and Broomehill Tambellup Shires. He discussed the issues that the Shire needed to address along the way and impacts of the development on the two Shires.

Following both the morning and afternoon sessions, the audience was able to ask questions of the speakers and there was a lot of interest in the legal implications of the projects and the impact of network upgrades on the power lines in the Shire.

Approximately 140 people attended the day and the engagement from those that attended was great. Feedback about the day was overwhelmingly positive. Difficult questions were asked of proponents and whilst not all questions could be answered, it provided an opportunity for attendees to outline any concerns and, for the windfarm developers to be able to take this input away and address the issues raised as part of their due diligence process.

Some of the presentations from the day will be made available by emailing the Shire office (Shire@westarthur.wa.gov.au).



Forest to Wheatbelt

Useful links

- South West Interconnected System (SWIS) Demand Assessment — <https://www.wa.gov.au/government/document-collections/swis-demand-assessment>
- Video of a wind turbine and the noise it makes — https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v-sUDSwsE_w (go to 3 minutes and 52 secs to hear the noise that the turbine makes depending on where you are standing)
- Toolkit for land owners produced by the Queensland Farmers Federation — <https://www.qff.org.au/projects/renewable-energy-landholder-toolkit/>
- Acciona — <https://www.aciona.com.au/>
- Green Wind Renewables — <https://greenwind.com.au/index.html>
- Vestas — <https://www.vestas.com/en>
- Lacour — <http://www.lacour.com.au/>
- Neoen — <https://neoen.com/en/>

Books

- Wind Turbine Syndrome - A Communicated Disease by Chapman and Crichton, 2017
- Powering Up by Alan Finkel. There will be a launch of this book at the State Library which the public are welcome to attend. Please register here if you are interested <https://research.curtin.edu.au/ciet/dr-alan-finkel-ac-book-launch/>
- The Big Switch by Saul Griffiths



Left: Shire President Neil Morrell with speakers Peta Ashworth, Jason Froud, Gair Landsborough, Julian Nichols and Tim Hayter.

Above (left to right): Mark Rayner, Anthony Middleton, Grant Aldersen, Graeme Peirce, Jeff Nitsch, Greg Allen (hidden) and Dr Kristofer McKee

Shire Notes 19 November 2024

Shire of West Arthur
PO Box 112
31 Burrowes Street
Darkan WA 6392
T: (08) 9736 2400
E: shire@westarthur.wa.gov.au



Windfarm Community Consultation Session

The Shire held a consultation session on November 6th to obtain community input into the impact of windfarms on our community. The session featured State Government official Jai Thomas (Deputy Director General – Coordinator of Energy and leads Energy Policy WA) who discussed the State Government's reasoning behind the renewable energy transition. This is the first opportunity that the community has had to hear the State Government perspective on the energy transition. Presentations from windfarm proponents and Shire CEO Vin Fordham Lamont followed. After a light dinner (sponsored by Lacour) the Shire tried a new way of engaging with the general public through a series of interactive questions on an app called Slido. People were also able to ask their own questions through Slido. Opportunities were also provided for those without a phone to write their questions down to be asked to the panel of speakers. Time did not permit all of the questions to be answered however the Shire has followed up with the presenters for answers to these questions and the results from the event are available for viewing on our website - <https://www.westarthur.wa.gov.au/your-community/environment/windfarms-in-the-shire-of-west-arthur.aspx>. The Shire continues to encourage community members to ask questions and to engage with developers to better understand the projects and how they may impact our community.

Peta Ashworth from Curtin University facilitated the evening and is undertaking research into the social impacts of the renewable energy transition. If you are interested in participating you can complete the survey here <https://tinyurl.com/yuvzyzah> or by scanning the QR code to the right.



Item 4: Screenshot from Shire of West Arthurs Renewable Energy Page on website

Shire Role in Development

Early engagement between wind farm proponents and the Shire has been pivotal to determine the impacts and opportunities that wind farms could present to the community. The Shire held its first windfarm forum in July 2023 where roughly 150 people were in attendance. Since then, regular meetings have taken place with wind farm proponents to ensure that they understand what is in the best interests of the community, and for the Shire to understand the magnitude of these developments. In November 2024 the Shire engaged with Peta Ashworth, Director of Curtin Institute for Energy Transition to facilitate two community consultation sessions. The purpose of these meetings was to gauge community sentiment regarding the proposed developments. This was followed by an open community consultation session. The outcome of these sessions allowed the Shire to formulate their **Key Principles for Effective Renewable Energy Development in the Shire of West Arthur**.

The Shire will continue to engage with the community through community consultation events, surveys, and other means of communication which will be advertised in the Bleat, and on the Shire website and Facebook page.

All members of the community are encouraged to contact the Shire, and provide comment on the opportunities, concerns and questions they have in relation to these projects. Alternatively, if you were wanting project specific details the Shire encourages you to contact the windfarms companies directly.

Important Note:

The owners of properties that host wind farms or other renewable energy developments may be subject to higher property rates and, consequently, should ensure that agreements signed with developers enable any additional rates levied as a result of the construction of the related infrastructure to be passed on to the developer. The Shire recommends that land owners seek expert legal advice before signing any agreements.



Participants at the Shire-led Windfarm Forum in July 2023 (Approximately 150 people in attendance)

Principles to Address

To ensure that a developer's projects are supported and benefit the whole community now and into the future, the following principles should be adhered to.

Partnership – Developers actively partner with the community and West Arthur Shire Council, government and other parties when looking to invest in our region.

Collaboration to create efficiency and coordination - Council will facilitate the collaboration of different project developers with each other, to find efficiencies. The Council commits to working collaboratively with neighbouring LGAs to leverage regional opportunities.

Community Participation – Council and developers undertake continuous engagement with the community to ensure that continuous learning about the transition occurs. Like the Hay Shire council in NSW, we want to ensure that the change is "happening with us, not to us,"

Long-term thinking – This transition is a once in a generation opportunity to develop our community. Decisions need to take into account the long-term legacy of the projects for future generations.

Transparency – Council expects clear communication, no hidden agreements. Economic Diversification - for greater stability and less vulnerability.

Build Resilience - We have the chance to strategize and adjust to these circumstances by capitalizing from the renewable energy transition and through clever management of impacts and opportunities.

Leadership – Shire of West Arthur will lead thinking in relation to multiple developments as part of the clean energy transition and assist other regional Councils and communities to do the same.

Item 5: Developer Information Sheet, Opportunities and Issues

Information Sheet for Windfarm Developers

Shire of West Arthur
PO Box 112
31 Burrowes Street
Darkan WA 6392
T: (08) 9736 2400
E: shire@westarthur.wa.gov.au



The Shire and community would like to welcome proposed developers to the district and invite you to become an active member of our community throughout your project's development and construction. The Shire would like to encourage open communication between developers, Council and the community, and has developed this information sheet to support that goal.

Contacts

We have an open door policy and suggest that you make use of this accessibility. Don't hesitate to drop into our office when you visit Darkan. A list of contacts is provided for you below:

Chief Executive Officer
Vin Fordham Lamont
ceo@westarthur.wa.gov.au
0473 072 017

Project Officer
Kerryn Chia
projects@westarthur.wa.gov.au
0429 631044

Shire President
Neil Morrell
Cr.Morrell@westarthur.wa.gov.au
0429 629 066

Shire Deputy President
Graeme Peirce
Cr.Peirce@westarthur.wa.gov.au
0419 765 196

Our community

As a small rural community, we face many challenges. The community is heavily reliant on agriculture and, as a result, is vulnerable to climate change and other issues facing farmers. The development of renewable energy projects is seen as an opportunity to diversify our economy and reduce that risk.

Our community is very tight knit and will respond positively to being included in the journey of project development. Indications from our community consultation are that most people would love to see our community grow to a size where we see basic businesses providing the services that are required on a day to day basis. Your proposed development provides an opportunity for us to potentially realise that growth.

Due to the large areas of State forest and other Crown land within our Shire, our rates revenue is small in comparison to other local governments of a similar size. As a result, we rely on grants from State and Federal government to undertake those projects which are outside core Shire business.

Issues facing our community and how you could assist

Accommodation and population growth

Currently, any growth in the community is hampered by housing and land availability. The Shire has land available but needs to undertake the headworks for this land to be released. There are a number of reserves in the townsite that could be converted to freehold to enable housing to be developed on these sites. The Shire is limited in its financial capacity to release and develop this land.

Opportunities for your company to improve housing would be welcomed. Examples could include:

Construction Phase

- Constructing some additional cabins in our caravan park for construction personnel (potentially supervisors or project managers).

Forest to Wheatbelt

Information Sheet for Windfarm Developers

Shire of West Arthur
PO Box 112
31 Burrowes Street
Darkan WA 6392
T: (08) 9736 2400
E: shire@westarthur.wa.gov.au



- Ensuring the construction camp is located close to the townsite to ensure that construction crews make the most of businesses within our community. The Shire is investigating possible locations for construction camps within and adjacent to the town site and is open to discussing this further.
- Considering "gifting" any construction buildings at the end of the construction period to the Shire or the Darkan Hotel for future use as key worker accommodation.
- Consider contributing to the construction of hotel/motel style accommodation for the construction crew rather than a "donga" style camp. This could be undertaken in partnership with the Darkan Hotel which is currently in the process of being redeveloped. Karen Harrington is the Chairperson for this community owned facility and she can be contact on 0458 853 506 or at admin@darkanhotel.com.au.

Operational Phase

- Constructing permanent housing for your employees in Darkan and encouraging them to live in Darkan through subsidised housing.
- Assisting financially with a land release and constructing permanent housing for your operational employees on this land.

Business development

The lack of new business development in our town in past years has meant that our population has shown a steady decline which is also detrimental to businesses on our main street. The Shire is always looking for opportunities to assist businesses with development and you could assist in the following ways:

- Providing an office on the main street of town – currently the main street requires an upgrade and some new office spaces (even if they are not always manned) will improve the main street façade.
- Ensuring that as much of your business as possible is done with local businesses. This could include catering, mechanical work, office space hire through the CRC, food purchases, manufacturing and engineering, transportation of smaller items, purchase of agricultural type items or even a haircut! Please make sure you introduce yourself to the main street businesses and ask them to show you what products they stock so that you are aware of what is available. We would be happy to facilitate introductions.

Other opportunities for contributions

There are also many other smaller opportunities to contribute to our community and these include, but are not limited to:

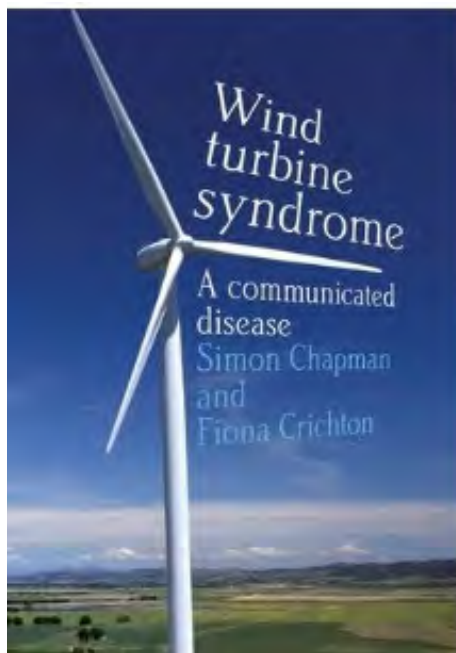
- Providing cheap power to local residents and builders.
- Contributing to maintenance/refurbishment of the local swimming pool.
- Lobbying for improved mobile phone coverage to address current black spot areas.
- Funding a study to determine the best option moving forward to provide all residents in the Shire with a fast and reliable internet service.
- Contributing to a community fund that could be used to develop community facilities.

We look forward to working with you in the future.



Forest to Wheatbelt

Item 6: image of book donated to Shire of West Arthur library by Lacour Energy



Item 7: Images of Sheepfest 2024 and 2026
2024







Item 8: First Community Information Event advertisement



WEST ARTHUR WIND FARM COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION

Lacour Energy invites you to attend our community information session for the West Arthur Wind Farm.

Come and meet the team, follow our information trail and get answers to any questions you may have.

Drop in any time during the session times below.

WHERE :

Shire of West Arthur CRC, Darkan

MONDAY 16 JUNE 2025

4.00 pm - 7.00 pm

TUESDAY 17 JUNE 2025

7.30am - 1.00pm

www.westarthurwindfarm.com.au



WEST ARTHUR WIND FARM COMMUNITY SESSION THANK YOU

We would like to extend our thanks to everyone who attended our recent Community Information Sessions held at the West Arthur CRC on the 16 & 17 of June. Your engagement, questions and feedback are appreciated.

We look forward to more opportunities to inform, collaborate, and work together. If you have any feedback or ideas for future sessions, please don't hesitate to reach out.

To register for news/updates or our contractor and employment register please go to the contact us section of our website. www.westarthurwindfarm.com.au



Item 9: West Arthur Wind Farm Newsletters 1-11

LACOUR WEST ARTHUR WIND FARM NEWSLETTER 1



PROJECT OVERVIEW

Lacour Energy are progressing feasibility studies for a potential wind farm development known as West Arthur Wind Farm.

The proposed West Arthur Wind Farm project is located relatively close to the Western Power high voltage network infrastructure at Collie. This is a crucial advantage as it reduces connection costs and new powerline easements required.

The West Arthur Wind Farm has been in development for approximately three years and is now more than halfway through its feasibility phase. The project will likely be progressed in up to 3 stages to allow for the ongoing development of the power network in the region.



The first stage is centered approximately 10km south west of Darkan. It is currently estimated the first stage will comprise 70-100 wind turbines.

Current workstreams underway on the project include:

- Wind monitoring and wind energy modelling
- Environmental surveys
- Project definition development
- Stakeholder engagement
- Grid connection assessments

As part of the development process, we are speaking with neighbours, the local Council and the wider community on the proposed project design.

If the feasibility is successful, construction is planned to commence in late 2027, with the construction period for the project of around 24 months.

The wind farm is targeted to supply electricity into the Western Power network before 2030.

ABOUT US

Lacour Energy is investigating opportunities for renewable power developments in the southwest of Western Australia.

Proudly headquartered in Western Australia, we bring together our diverse capabilities including:

- The Lacour team's extensive experience in developing wind sites across Australia
- Collaborating with landowners on wind farm design
- Demonstrated experience in partnering with local communities and delivering community benefits

WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY

We care about building genuine long-lasting relationships with stakeholders and the communities in which we work.

We endeavour to look out for each other, our communities and the environment.

The Lacour Energy team has been in the community for a while, presenting at the Darkan Wind Energy forums in mid 2023 and late 2024. As the project progresses, more frequent and detailed engagement on the project will take place to ensure community awareness and involvement.

We will be holding a series of community information sessions. The next event is being held 17 and 18 June 2025 at the West Arthur CRC in Darkan. Members of the project team will be available to discuss the project.

DID YOU KNOW?

In FY2024 renewable generation connected to the Western Power network was over 35%?

The generation mix

Annual generation by fuel type from 1 July 2023 - 30 June 2024



REFERENCE: AEMO WHOLESALE ENERGY MARKET FACT SHEET

KEEP IN TOUCH

As we progress through this project, we will hold regular meetings with the community to ensure we keep you up to date and provide an opportunity to get your ideas and suggestions.

If you have any questions about the project, or would like to register for updates, please contact us at:

www.westarthurwindfarm.com.au or call to speak to a member of our team on (08) 9321 6632

9321 6632

mail@lacour.com.au

www.westarthurwindfarm.com.au

LACOUR WEST ARTHUR WIND FARM NEWSLETTER 2



Project Overview

The proposed West Arthur Wind Farm project is located approximately 10km south west of Darkan relatively close to the Western Power high voltage network infrastructure at Collie. This is a crucial advantage as it reduces connection costs and new powerline easements required.

The West Arthur Wind Farm has been in development for approximately three years and is now more than halfway through its feasibility phase, and on track to begin construction in 2027. It is currently estimated that the first stage will comprise 70-100 wind turbines.



Contact Us

If you have any questions about the project, or would like to register for updates, please contact us at: www.westarthurwindfarm.com.au or call to speak to a member of our team.

What we've been up to

On the 16th and 17th of June 2025, we hosted a project exhibition at the West Arthur CRC. Four members of the Lacour team were in town to present an interactive information trail focused on wind farms and renewable energy. The exhibition provided an opportunity to share details about the project and explain the feasibility work completed so far. It was a great chance to connect with the community and answer questions. If you missed it, come and see us at our **next exhibition**, on Thursday 27 November at the CRC Hawthorn Room from 3pm to 7pm.

We also launched our **Pre-Construction Community Grant Program**. Pre-Construction Community Grants cover the period during the planning and approvals phase (pre-construction) of the project. Full details on how to apply can be found on our website by clicking [here](#).

Did you know?

In FY2024 renewable generation connected to the Western Power network was over 35%?

The generation mix

Annual generation by fuel type from 1 July 2023 - 30 June 2024



Reference: AEMO Wholesale energy market fact sheet

LACOUR WEST ARTHUR WIND FARM NEWSLETTER 3



Project Overview

The proposed West Arthur Wind Farm project is located approximately 10km south west of Darkan relatively close to the Western Power high voltage network infrastructure at Collie. This is a crucial advantage as it reduces connection costs and new powerline easements required.

The West Arthur Wind Farm has been in development for approximately three years and is now more than halfway through its feasibility phase, and on track to begin construction in 2027. It is currently estimated that the first stage will comprise 70-100 wind turbines.

What's coming up?

Our next Community Information event is on **Thursday 27 November** at the CRC Hawthorn Room. Drop in anytime between 3pm - 7pm.

Pre-Construction Grant Applications Close Soon

Don't miss out—applications close on 21 November 2025. Please reach out if you have any questions.

Contact Us

If you have any questions about the project, or would like to register for updates, please contact us on the details below or call to speak to a member of our team.

What we've been up to

The Lacour Energy team were proud to sponsor the very first Western Australian **Motherland Event** in Darkan on Sunday 21st of September. Congratulations on the local team who worked hard to make this event the success it was.



Photo credit: Lisa Jackson Photography

You may have seen our **ecological experts** in and around the area over the last few months. They have been studying birds, bats plants and other animals. These studies help us design the wind farm to minimise impacts.

Did you know?

The energy used in the manufacturing of the wind turbines, transport to the project site, construction of turbines foundations and associated electrical infrastructure is typically paid back within 6-12 months of operation.

You can find out the answers to other questions like this by visiting our FAQ page on our website:

www.westarthurwindfarm.com/faq

LACOUR WEST ARTHUR WIND FARM NEWSLETTER 4



Project Overview

The proposed West Arthur Wind Farm project is located approximately 10km south west of Darkan relatively close to the Western Power high voltage network infrastructure at Collie. This is a crucial advantage as it reduces connection costs and new powerline easements required.

The West Arthur Wind Farm has been in development for approximately three years and is now more than halfway through its feasibility phase, and on track to begin construction in 2027. It is currently estimated that the first stage will comprise 70-100 wind turbines.



Contact Us

If you have any questions about the project, or would like to register for updates, please contact us on the details below or call to speak to a member of our team.

What we've been up to

At the October 2025 Council meeting our application for a Meteorological Mast west of Cordering Road North was approved.

This mast is 160m tall and is fitted with wind measurement devices, that will inform us of the wind conditions and allow us to select the right wind turbine for the project. Bush fire risk management was discussed and agreed in advance of construction with the Chief Bushfire Control Officer for the Shire. The mast construction has now been completed.

Last week on the 27 of November, the Lacour Energy team were back in Darkan for a Community Information Session. This builds on our presentations to community at the July 2023 and Nov 2024 Shire led forums and the information session held in June 2025. Community consultation will be ongoing as the project progresses through the approvals phase.

Did you know?

The wind farm project pays for any required upgrades to State and Shire managed roads used during construction. In the event that roads are damaged and degraded by the project during wind farm construction or operation, the project will pay for the repairs as required and keep the roads in at least the same condition as when the project started.

You can find out the answers to other questions like this by visiting our FAQ page on our website: www.westarthurwindfarm.com/faq

LACOUR WEST ARTHUR WIND FARM NEWSLETTER 5



West Arthur Wind Farm 2025

As the year comes to an end, we would like to thank the local community and Shire of West Arthur for your feedback and advice in 2025.

We've accomplished important project milestones and valued the opportunity to spend time in West Arthur, getting to know more about the people, businesses and organisations that play such an important role in the local community.

We look forward to continuing to work together in 2026. Wishing you all a safe and happy festive season.

James, Mark, Ben, Colin, Greg and Rhonda



Pre Construction Grant Scheme

Applications for the first Pre-Construction Grant Scheme closed in November 2025, and we were thrilled to receive such a strong pool of submissions. We're delighted to announce the programs we are supporting and look forward to highlighting some of these exciting initiatives in our upcoming newsletters.

- West Arthur Seniors Luncheon
- Darkan Community Christmas Tree Event
- Southern Agcare
- Darkan Primary School 2026 Art Exhibition
- Darkan Primary School Year 5/6 Camp
- West Arthur Cottage homes - garden maintenance
- Darkan Playgroup Giggle and Grow
- Regional Early Education & Development - Waterwise children program

Contact Us

If you have any questions about the project, or would like to register for updates, please contact us on the details below or call to speak to a member of our team.

LACOUR WEST ARTHUR WIND FARM NEWSLETTER 6



West Arthur Wind Farm 2026

Happy 2026! We hope you all had a great break and start to the new year.

As you know we have been working on the West Arthur Wind Farm for 3 years now and remain on track to begin construction in 2027.

This year we will continue to progress through planning, environmental studies, and further engagement with the community.

We are delighted to share that Lacour is proudly sponsoring the 2026 Darkan Sheepfest. As part of our continued commitment to supporting local communities, our team will also be hosting a stall at the Darkan Sheepfest.

Please come by and meet the team, ask any questions you might have, share your feedback and keep up to date with the latest on the project.

Contact Us

If you have any questions about the project, or would like to register for updates, please contact us on the details below or call to speak to a member of our team.

Pre Construction Grant Scheme

Over the course of this year we will support a number of projects/initiatives that were successful in receiving a pre construction grant.

In December we were pleased to support the Darkan Community Christmas Tree Event and look forward to showcasing more initiatives in the coming newsletters.

Our next round of grants will open mid 2026.



Photo supplied by Darkan and District Sports Club

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LACOUR WEST ARTHUR WIND FARM NEWSLETTER 7



West Arthur Wind Farm

Work on the West Arthur Wind Farm is steadily progressing, and we remain on track to begin construction in late 2027.

We continue to target first electricity into the Western Power network in 2029.

Just a reminder our team will be at this year's Darkan Sheepfest on 14th March, please come by our stall and say hello!

Collie-Darkan Rail Trail

As part of our ongoing commitment to the communities in which we work, we were pleased to respond to a request for financial sponsorship for a necessary inspection of built infrastructure along the Collie-Darkan Rail Trail.

Supporting this important community tourism asset aligns with our focus on strengthening local facilities and promoting community wellbeing.

Contact Us

If you have any questions about the project, or would like to register for updates, please contact us on the details below or call to speak to a member of our team.

LIDAR?...Whats that?

Short for Light Detection and Ranging, a LIDAR is used to measure wind speed and direction at various heights using laser pulses.

The LIDAR (pictured below) is the newest addition to our monitoring fleet and is used to support our wind resource measurement for the West Arthur Wind Farm.

The LIDAR data is used together with data being gathered from the meteorological mast and the several mobile SODARs (Sonic Detection and Ranging units) which have been in place and measuring wind speed and direction since 2022.



Source: Lacour Energy

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LACOUR WEST ARTHUR WIND FARM NEWSLETTER 8



Darkan Sheepfest 2026

What a weekend in Darkan! The Lacour team and our families had a great time at the 2026 Darkan Sheepfest.

Congratulations to the Darkan Sheepfest Committee on hosting such a fun, well-organised and vibrant community day. We were thrilled to once again be a proud sponsor of this much-loved local event.

Thanks to everyone who stopped by to say hello and take part in our "Pin the Blade on the Turbine" competition. The top five closest pins went into a draw — and we're excited to congratulate our winners:

Adults

- Vicki from Boyup Brook, who takes home the Fridgy packed with goodies

Kids

- Rowland, winner of the Yeti



Well done, and thanks again to the community for another fantastic Sheepfest.



West Arthur Wind Farm

Work on the West Arthur Wind Farm continues to steadily progress, and we remain on track to begin construction in late 2027.

We continue to target first electricity into the Western Power network in 2029.

Contact Us

If you have any questions about the project, or would like to register for updates, please contact us on the details below or call to speak to a member of our team.

LACOUR WEST ARTHUR WIND FARM NEWSLETTER 9



Staying Connected

Since 2022, we've been actively engaging with the local community to share information and listen to feedback about the proposed West Arthur Wind Farm.

This has included presenting at the Shire Wind Farm Forums in 2023 and 2024, attending Sheepfest events in 2024 and 2026, and hosting community information sessions in June and November 2025.

In May, we'll be back in Darkan over two days to answer your questions and provide an update on the progress of the West Arthur Wind Farm.

West Arthur Community Resource Centre (CRC)

- **Wednesday 6 May** 2.30pm – 6.30pm
- **Thursday 7 May** 7.30am – 10.30am

This will be a drop-in session, and all community members are welcome.

Contact Us

If you have any questions about the project, or would like to register for updates, please contact us using the QR code below or call to speak to a member of our team.



Giggles all round!

There were plenty of smiles, laughter and fun at the West Arthur Wind Farm—sponsored Giggle and Grow sessions held in Darkan across four mornings in February and March.

We were delighted to support this fantastic play-based program, which helps children build confidence, strength and social skills in a nurturing environment.

The funding was provided through the West Arthur Wind Farm Pre-Construction Grant Scheme and included an opportunity to catchup over morning tea supplied by the Great Awakening Cafe.

A big thank you to everyone involved in coordinating and delivering this local initiative.



LACOUR WEST ARTHUR WIND FARM NEWSLETTER 10



Community Information Event 6 & 7 May

Since 2022, we've been actively engaging with the local community to share information and listen to feedback about the proposed West Arthur Wind Farm.

This has included presenting at the Shire Wind Farm Forums in 2023 and 2024, attending Sheepfest events in 2024 and 2026, and hosting community information sessions in June and November 2025.

In May, we'll be back in Darkan over two days to answer your questions and provide an update on the progress of the West Arthur Wind Farm.

West Arthur Community Resource Centre (CRC)

- **Wed 6 May** 2.30pm – 6.30pm
- **Thurs 7 May** 7.30am – 10.30am

This will be a drop-in session, and all community members are welcome.

Pre-Construction Grant – Round 2 coming soon.

Our first round of Pre-construction grants saw the West Arthur Wind Farm award grants to the following community initiatives/events:

- Motherland Event – connecting rural mothers 2025
- Darkan Community Christmas Tree 2025
- West Arthur Senior Christmas Lunch 2025
- Darkan Primary School Art Exhibition 2026
- REED Waterwise children 2026
- Southern Agcare – Rural Counselling and support 2026
- West Arthur Cottage homes 2026
- Darkan Primary School Yr5/6 Camp 2026

Our second round of grants will open in the second half of 2026. Keep an eye on our upcoming newsletters for more information.



Contact Us : If you have any questions about the project, or would like to register for updates, please contact us using the QR code below or call to speak to a member of our team.

9321 6632

mail@lacour.com.au

www.westarthurwindfarm.com

LACOUR WEST ARTHUR WIND FARM NEWSLETTER 11



The West Arthur Wind Farm is located south west of Darkan and has been in development since 2022. It is now well progressed through its feasibility phase.

It is currently estimated that the first stage will comprise 70-100 wind turbines. We remain on track to begin construction in late 2027.

Out and about

The Lacour team were back at the West Arthur CRC on 6 & 7 of May for our third Community Information Event.

It was great to see some familiar faces and enjoy a cuppa and a chat.

We had 6 members of the community pop in and we will have more opportunities throughout the year to get project updates, meet the team and answer any questions you may have.

In the meantime, if you would like to contact us, please reach out using the details included at the bottom of this newsletter.



Contact Us : If you have any questions about the project, or would like to register for updates, please contact us using the QR code below or call to speak to a member of our team.

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Item 10: Photograph from first Community Information Session showing set up of visual banners.

