



West Arthur Energy Pty Ltd
West Arthur Wind Farm

Social Impact Assessment

August 2026

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ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviation	Description
CCC	Community Consultative Committee
DCCEEW	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
DEED	Department of Energy and Economic Diversification
DPLH	Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage
DWER	Department of Water and Environmental Regulation
EPA	Environmental Protection Authority
Lacour	Lacour Energy Development Pty Ltd
GKB	Gnaala Karla Booja Aboriginal Corporation
MW	Megawatts
SaCEP	Stakeholder and Community Engagement Plan
SIA	Social Impact Assessment
SWIS	South-West Interconnected System
WAE	West Arthur Energy Pty Ltd
WAWF	West Arthur Wind Farm

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1 INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

This Social Impact Assessment (SIA) has been prepared for the proposed West Arthur Wind Farm (WAWF), a renewable energy project being developed by West Arthur Energy Pty Ltd (WAE), a wholly owned subsidiary of Lacour Energy Developments (Lacour) within the Shire of West Arthur, Western Australia. The purpose of this document is to identify, describe and provide a preliminary assessment of the likely social impacts (both positive and negative) arising from the Proposal, drawing on the extensive stakeholder and community engagement undertaken by Lacour and the Shire since 2022.

The SIA has been guided by the DPHI New South Wales Social Impact Assessment Guideline (2026) as well as Planning for Effective Public Participation guidelines, International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) Public Participation Spectrum and the Clean Energy Council's Community Engagement Guidelines for the Australian Wind Industry (2018), all of which have underpinned the Proposal's engagement approach to date.

This SIA follows accepted SIA practice:

- desktop evaluation of the affected community,
- identifying stakeholders,
- assessing our extensive engagement touch points,
- identifying and rating likely social impacts, and
- determining management and mitigation measures.

2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

West Arthur Energy Pty Ltd (WAE) is proposing to develop the West Arthur Wind Farm (WAWF) centred approximately 10 km to the south of Darkan, Western Australia, within the Shire of West Arthur (the Proposal). A plan showing the location and extent of the Proposal is provided in Figure 1.

The Proposal consists of up to 92 Wind Turbine Generators (WTG) generating up to approximately 500 megawatts (MW), a 500 MW / 4000 MWh Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and associated infrastructure. The Proposal will connect into Western Power's proposed substation referred to as the Cordering Terminal Substation, which will be connected to the existing transmission network (South-West Interconnected System SWIS).

The Proposal and surrounding areas are primarily utilised for agricultural uses and is largely already cleared. The Proposal has been intentionally designed to minimise or avoid disturbance to intact native vegetation.

The Proposal has three broad phases:

Pre-construction (commenced 2022): This phase spans from the origination and planning stage of the project through to the 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, and tendering for a main construction contractor.

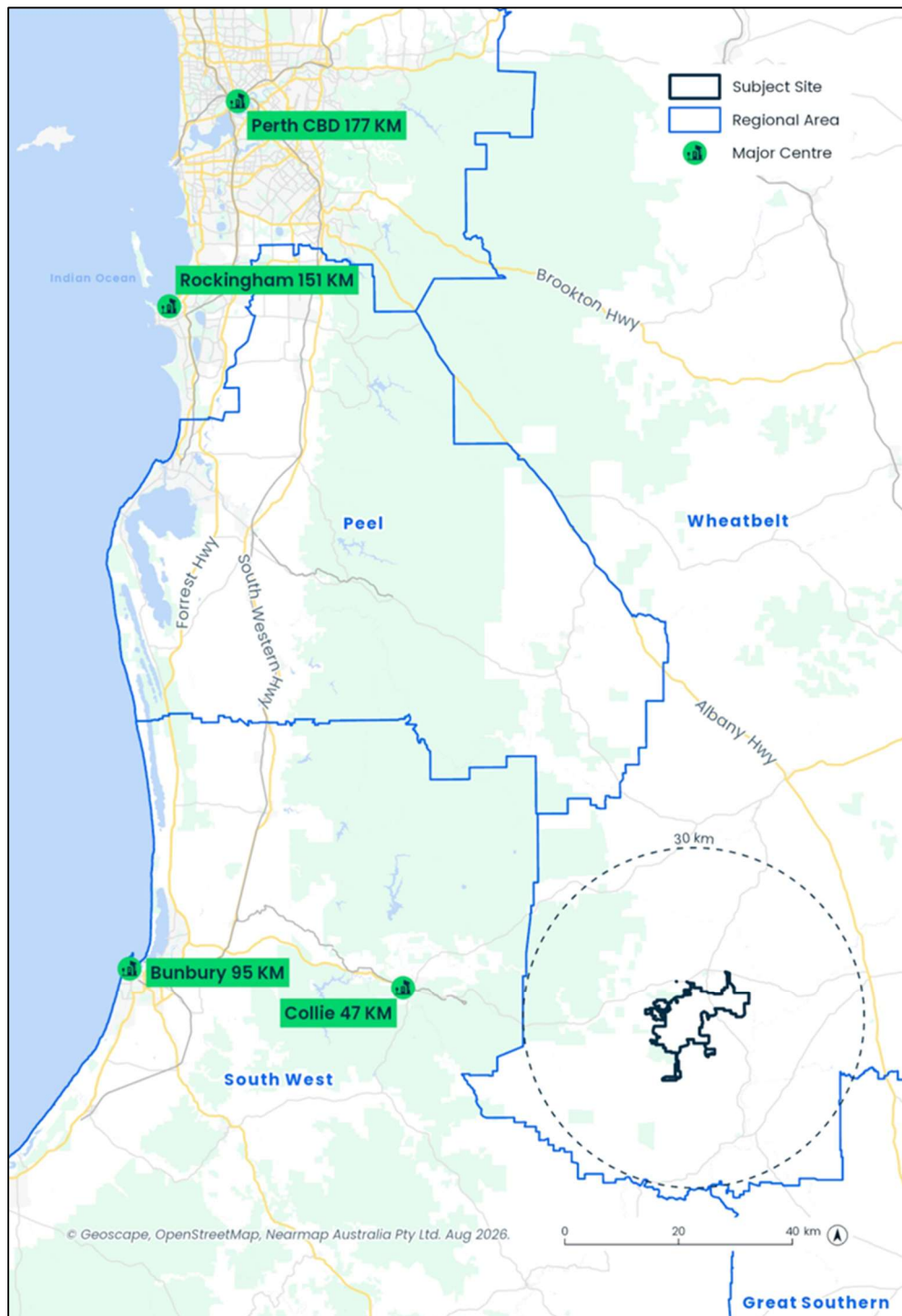
Construction (targeted to commence in 2027): This phase spans from 'Notice to Proceed' to practical completion of the project. The length of this phase is anticipated to be approximately 18-36 months.

Activities during construction include site preparation, civil works, electrical infrastructure, turbine delivery and installation, testing and commissioning and site rehabilitation.

Operations (targeted to commence before 2030): WAWF is targeted to supply electricity into the Southwest Interconnected System (SWIS) before 2030, contributing to the State and Commonwealth transition toward net zero emissions by 2050 and to the retirement of the State-owned coal-fired power station at Collie. This phase spans from practical completion of the construction of the project onwards. The length of this phase is anticipated to be operational for approximately 30 years, after which it may be repowered for another 30 years or decommissioned.

Operations activities will primarily include electricity generation, monitoring and routine maintenance, site inspections and environmental management. Operational traffic and site access is expected to be minimal and will primarily consist of maintenance and service vehicles accessing the site.

Figure 1 – Proposal Location



3 SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY PROFILE

The proposed site is located within the Shire of West Arthur, approximately 190 km south-west of Perth. Insights from our extensive interactions, the Shire of West Arthur forums, the 2021 Census¹ and the Community Strategic Plan: West Arthur Towards 2031 highlight the demographic profile, economic base and community values that shape the Shire of West Arthur.

- The Shire of West Arthur has a total population of approximately 773 across eight townships, with Darkan (population ~371) as the shire seat. The median age is 49–50 years.
- The neighbouring Shire of Collie has a population of approximately 8,812 (median age 44) and hosts WA's transitioning coal-fired electricity industry, giving the region an existing relationship with the energy sector².
- Agriculture and agricultural services are the dominant industry, generating approximately 70% of Shire income, with most farms operating a mixed crop and livestock enterprise. The community is actively seeking opportunities for diversification through tourism, new business development and broader economic growth.
- The West Arthur Community Resource Centre (CRC) and the Shire of West Arthur are key contributors to community wellbeing and social connection. The CRC serves as a local hub for information, services, training and community activities, while the Shire supports engagement through local events, programs and partnerships. Together, they help foster social inclusion, volunteer participation and community resilience, contributing to the strong sense of connection and local pride evident across the Shire.
- Community engagement processes indicate a culture of participation and consultation, supporting transparency and accountability in decision making.
- The community values safety, inclusiveness, access to services, economic resilience and preservation of its unique rural character. It has a strong sense of social cohesion, volunteer participation and local pride.
- The community is characterised by strong social ties, a reliance on primary production, and known drought/climate exposure that renewable energy income has been identified as potentially able to offset.
- The Shire collaborates with neighbouring local governments, the Wheatbelt Development Commission and State Government agencies to pursue regional development opportunities.

The introduction of a new industry has the potential to generate both benefits and challenges for the host community. This underscores the importance of a comprehensive stakeholder and community engagement program that begins early and maintains ongoing, transparent communication throughout all stages of the project.

By working in collaboration with the host community, the project can better understand local priorities, respond to community concerns, incorporate local knowledge into project design, and support the delivery of outcomes that provides lasting social and economic value to the region.

¹ [2021 West Arthur, Census All persons QuickStats | Australian Bureau of Statistics](#)

² [2021 Collie, Census All persons QuickStats | Australian Bureau of Statistics](#)

4 STAKEHOLDER IDENTIFICATION

Stakeholders were identified through direct initial engagement in the area, desktop review and benchmarking against other Lacour projects. These were identified and mapped stakeholder groups against interest and influence as part of its own Stakeholder and Community Engagement Plan. A consolidated summary of the principal stakeholder groups relevant to this social impact assessment is provided in Table 1.

Table 1: Identified Stakeholders

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
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

West Arthur Wind Farm Identified Stakeholder Groups				
Group	Sub-section	Description	Interest	Influence
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
	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

West Arthur Wind Farm Identified Stakeholder Groups				
Group	Sub-section	Description	Interest	Influence
	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 employees and volunteers	Relevant council departments and employees in relation to the project. Including Darkan Bushfire Brigade.	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
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

This mapping is used to prioritise engagement effort. Host landowners (high interest/high-medium influence) have received the most intensive one-on-one engagement, whilst the broader community and regulatory stakeholders have been engaged through forums, events briefings and published information.

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

5 SUMMARY OF ENGAGEMENT

Engagement on the WAWF has been continuous since 2022 and has used a graduated toolkit consistent with the IAP2 Spectrum (inform, consult, involve, collaborate, empower). Table 2 summarises the principal mechanisms used to date.

Table 2: Engagement Mechanisms

Mechanism	IAP2 level	Summary of Activity
Shire-led community forums	Inform/Consult	Two community forums (2023, 2024), ~140-150 attendees. Key Principles for effective renewable energy development in the Shire of West Arthur developed by the Shire. Word-cloud sentiment capture of concerns and opportunities
Community Information Sessions (drop-in)	Inform/Consult/Collaborate	Three sessions held 2025-2026. 26 community members attendees over these sessions. More sessions planned.
One-on-one/face-to-face meetings with host landowners and community members	Involve/Consult/Collaborate	Priority engagement with host landowners and community members
Project website and newsletters	Inform	Established May 2025; 13 newsletters distributed via The Bleat and email
Local media (The Bleat, social media)	Inform	Regular articles, milestone announcements
Pre-construction Community Grants	Empower/ benefit-sharing	First round awarded 7 local grants in 2025. Second round currently underway (August 2026)
Community events (Sheepfest, Woolorama)	Inform/Consult/Collaborate	Sponsorship and stall attendance 2024-2026. Over 60 attendees to the Lacour stall at the 2026 Sheepfest.
Government briefings/pre-referral meetings	Consult/ Collaborate	Regular and ongoing meetings with DWER, DCCEEW, DPLH, Western Power, PoweringWA. Regular project updates to various Minister Offices.
Local Business Consultation	Inform/Consult/Collaborate	Meeting with local businesses to provide an update on the project, discuss potential impacts, and identify opportunities for collaboration and local participation
Proposed Community Consultative Committee (CCC)	Involve/Collaborate/Empower	Not yet established. CCC intended to guide benefit fund allocation. PoweringWA have released the WA Community Benefit Guideline and established a pilot group. WAWF will work with PoweringWA and the local community on the pilot.

5.1 Engagement outcomes and observed trends

The following summarises the outcomes and observed trends from engagement activities.

- Attendance at Shire-led forums was strong (approximately 140–150 attendees in 2023 and again in 2024), indicating a high initial level of community interest.
- Shire-commissioned survey data (November 2024) found 71% of respondents understood the need to transition from fossil fuels, but only 37% expressed enthusiasm for the opportunities the transition could bring. Indicates a gap between in-principle acceptance and confidence in local outcomes that is a key social risk for the Proposal. Significant engagement and communications have occurred since this time focussing on Energy literacy and understand of full lifecycle of a Wind Farm Development.
- Attendance at WAWF-led drop-in Community Information Sessions has declined over time (17 attendees in June 2025, 3 in November 2025, 6 in May 2026), which may reflect either increasing comfort/familiarity with the Proposal, engagement fatigue, or a narrowing of active interest to directly affected parties.
- Over 9 host landowner families have entered Land Option to Lease agreements to support the project .
- Regulatory pre-referral engagement with DWER and DCCEEW (2025–2026) suggested technical conditions with social relevance, including community notification of the EPA referral.

6 COMMUNITY VALUES, CONCERNS AND OPPORTUNITIES

A consistent set of themes has been identified following extensive community consultation undertaken since 2022. WAWF have undertaken an active role in the community. Examples of the consultation WAWF has undertaken includes:

- Attending the Shire of West Arthur led open community forums, and contributing through presentations and Q&A sessions
- Council briefings
- Community Information Events
- Publishing key information and updates via our West Arthur Wind Farm Website and Newsletters
- Attending existing local community events such as Sheepfest and Woolorama

The themes have been grouped below as concerns/risks and opportunities/benefits, consistent with standard SIA practice of separating potential negative and positive social outcomes.

Some of the themes raised by stakeholders to WAWF are consistent with those raised at the Shire led community forums.

6.1 Concerns raised most frequently by the community

The following concerns are a summary of all issues from both Shire led forums and WAWF engagement:

- Community division over distribution of benefits between hosts, neighbours and the wider community

- Decommissioning responsibility, cost and land reinstatement at end of project life
- Lack of transparency and consistency between developers, and confidentiality of individual landowner agreements
- Housing shortage and pressure from construction workforce accommodation
- Impacts on local roads from oversize component haulage and construction traffic
- Noise and visual amenity impacts on nearby residences
- Environmental impacts, including native vegetation clearing, black cockatoo and other fauna impacts, and water resources
- Managing the transition to include renewable energy industry into a region traditionally characterised by farming including wool, sheep, grain and forestry.
- State government support and concerns around absence of regulations and guidelines leaving wind farm proponents without rules to follow
- Cumulative burden of multiple concurrent renewable energy proposals in the region
- Concerns current council resources won't be enough to manage transition
- Bushfire management, including aerial firefighting compatibility with turbines
- Understanding on how rates will work as a result of renewable energy industry entry to the Shire
- Pressure on local businesses, services and suppliers
- Disturbance items of cultural heritage and significance
- Concerns around placement of transmission lines

6.2 Opportunities identified by the community

The following opportunities were raised by the community:

- Economic diversification and drought resilience for host landowners
- Local and regional employment during construction (indicatively 200-350 jobs) and indicatively 20-25 during operations.
- Growth in local business activity through a proposed Local Content process
- Community Benefit Fund and pre-construction grants supporting local services and initiatives
- Legacy infrastructure (housing, roads, community facilities) retained beyond construction that may otherwise not have occurred.
- Potential Population growth supporting school enrolments, childcare and local services
- Contribution to State and national energy transition and decarbonisation objectives

7 SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT – MANAGEMENT AND MITIGATION

An assessment of the social impacts identified through both WAWF and Shire led engagement to date is detailed in Table 3.

Table 3: Social Impact Assessment

Social Impact Category	Description	Identified Impact	Mitigation/Actions
Project			
Location and Layout	Road, substation, accommodation, internal transmission lines and turbine layout	Concerns around location of turbines, proximity to airfield, location of accommodation.	• Consultation with landowners and community members at various events and meetings. • Host landowners involved in layout development. • Local Hillman Airfield assed by Aviation impact Assessment.
Decommissioning	Wind Farm operational life is typically 30 years after which time the wind farm will either be extended or decommissioned.	Concerns around what happens after 30 years, who is responsible for decommissioning and where the budget comes from	• WAWF responsible for decommissioning and this is contracted in lease agreements with host landowners. • Decommissioning and rehabilitation plans conditioned as part of DA approval outlines the decommissioning process. • Outline that Decommissioning is included on website as part of FAQ.
Community and Population			
Cumulative Impacts of multiple projects	Concerns around cumulative impacts of multiple projects	Concerns around engagement fatigue, differing information, pressure on council resources, multiple projects proceeding at same time.	• Where possible, coordinate with other proponents and the Shire on shared infrastructure, consultation scheduling and combined community benefit approaches.

Community Cohesion, social relationships and transparency	Will the proposed renewable energy projects create division within the community.	Concerns around creation of division within the community regarding distribution of benefits among community members	• Spread benefit of the project through commitment to community benefit fund. In Oct 2025 WAWF communicated to council that it agreed with Shire Policy of \$1,050 per MW and published this on the website. • WAWF initiated a preconstruction grant to support projects of importance to the community prior to the Community Benefit Fund being active. • Community Benefit to commence from start Construction , which is ahead of the guidance in WA Community benefits Guideline.
Community Cohesion, social relationships and transparency	Community members receiving contradicting information.	Lack of clarity creating division	• Regularly visiting and attending local events. • Holding community consultation events, publishing and communicating fund amounts early on website and in newsletters. • Participating in Shire led community events. • Early publishing of FAQ.
Challenges of Change	Ensuring the relationship between wind farms and agriculture can co-exist	Managing the transition to include Renewable Energy Industry to a region traditionally characterised by farming including wool, sheep grain, and forestry	• Early and ongoing engagement including participation in Shire led forums, Community information events, regular site visits to landowners, regular newsletters outlining contact details and promoting employment and contractor register
Lack of Resources	Resources required by local government to manage development of sewage, water supply, housing initiatives, planning and other related areas associated with the wind farms.	Concerns current resources won't be enough.	• The reasonable costs to increase resources to provide services provided by the Shire due to the wind farm are expected to be recovered from the wind farm. • WAWF has been communicating resource constraints the Shire has identified to all levels of Government to encourage greater support from Powering WA, and Western Power.

			• Providing information at community events that regulation has and does exist is important to provide confidence. • Impacts are being managed consistently with other windfarms across the state. Wind farms have been operational in Western Australia for over 30 years. • Wind farms have been governed by various planning regulations over time. ○ May 2004 to 2020 Western Australian Planning Commission: Planning Bulletin 67, Guidelines for Wind Farm Development (May 2004) ○ Western Australian Planning Commission's Position Statement (March 2020): Renewable energy facilities are the current regulations
Government 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 rules to follow	
Economic and Employment			
Housing Shortage	Rural housing is a common concern in WA. Concerns existing housing stock will be utilised by proponents reducing opportunities for population growth. Estimated 20-25 opportunities overall (200-350 during construction)	Limiting opportunity for population growth and retention of population	• Council secured funding for additional housing and subdivision of land in Darkan that will produce new potential accommodation opportunities. • Ongoing discussions with community and council on worker accommodation.

Temporary construction of worker accommodation	Should a construction camp be established in town/shire and what opportunities would this bring ie legacy infrastructure. Concerns of fly in/fly out lifestyle.	Fly in fly out lifestyle, lack of legacy infrastructure	- Discussions are ongoing. WAWF was provided potential construction camp locations within Darkan town by the Shire and has screened these locations. None of the locations were suitable for a sufficiently sized camp of up to 13 Hectares. However, WAWF open to considering other accommodation locations proposals in Darkan if they are proposed by the Shire and community as an acceptable location. - WAWF have included a plan for a main construction camp on Cordering Road, where the sewage can be managed and treated or transported to a suitable licenced facility. - WAWF continue to explore a small temporary accommodation in the town that can provide legacy infrastructure. Further consultation on location to occur.
Rate increases	Understanding how rates will work as a result of renewable energy industry entry into the Shire	Will there be a change 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?	- Any rates increase to host landowners levied by the Council should be limited to the amount of increased services to the wind farm by the Shire. - Any changes in rates for host landowners due to the wind farm on their land will be covered by WAWF.

Local Employment and training	Estimated 20-25 roles during operations and 200-350 during construction.	Opportunities for employment	• Information on Employment & Contractors at all Community events. • Information included on website. • Meeting held with TAFE to discuss training opportunities. Employment and Contractor register on website and advertised in the Bleat. • Participation at Collie Chamber of Commerce Procurement Event planned. • Local Content workshops planned.
Local Businesses and Suppliers	Opportunities and concerns for local businesses and suppliers	Pressure on local businesses and suppliers as well as benefits for local businesses and suppliers	• Wind Farm development will bring opportunities to the area. Local Content workshop planned for 2027. • Employment and Contractor register on website and advertised in the Bleat. • Participation at Collie Chamber of Commerce Procurement Event planned. • Ongoing discussions with local businesses.
Health, Safety and Wellbeing			
Noise impacts	Any perceived or actual noise impacts. Understanding who is responsible for compliance.	Potential noise impacts of wind turbines on local community.	• Noise impact assessments conducted by Marshall Day Acoustics, to demonstrate compliance. • Operational Noise monitoring plan to be a condition of approval, which includes initial and ongoing compliance. • Information on noise is included as part of FAQ on website, and on posters at community events.
Health, emergency services and wellbeing	Concerns around local access to medical and wellbeing services	Pressure on local services with increase in temporary and permanent population.	• Increases in temporary population may increase demand on medical services in the region. • Increases in expected demand need to be considered with local health service providers to manage demand.

Health, emergency services and wellbeing	Concerns around local access to medical and wellbeing services	Concerns around volunteer local emergency services being required to assist with wind farm emergencies	- The wind farm will have its own Emergency Response Plan (ERP) and have its own first responders in the event of an incident during construction. - WAWF will agree in advance of construction, the process to contact emergency services to provide urgent care. - Emergency ambulance services will be expected to come from Collie.
Traffic and road safety during construction	Wind Farm traffic causing local disruption and damage	Delays and damage to roads	- Traffic Impact Assessment has been undertaken. Recommendations are: specific access points to the project, road dilapidation survey prior to construction, with ongoing road maintenance throughout the project life, with costs covered by WAWF. - Roads returned to same or better standard after construction.
Amenity			
Management of Waste	How will wind farm waste be managed	Expenses associated with the removal of effluent and solid waste raise the question of how this will be managed. The current tip too small to manage.	The project does not intend to use the Shire's waste facility for construction waste. Waste, including liquid waste, would be transported to appropriately licensed facilities outside the Shire. Final waste arrangements will be confirmed through contractor proposals and relevant regulatory requirements.
Environmental Impacts	Wind Farm effects on plant and animal life	Presence of foreign vehicles on properties elevating the risk of introducing invasive pests or disease.	Surveys have been completed of the flora and fauna within the project area to influence design of the wind farm to avoid significant areas of vegetation and fauna habitat. The wind farm has been specifically designed to minimise the impact to vegetation within the project area by utilising existing cleared land.

Environmental Impacts	Wind Farm effects on water resources	Concerns there is a lack of water to supply the wind farm.	- The completed Surface Water Assessment indicates that no impact to the water resources are likely due to the implementation of the Project. - The completed Water Resources assessment identified sufficient groundwater resources are likely to be available to construct the project.
Cultural and Aboriginal Heritage			
Cultural values and heritage protection	Disturbance items of cultural heritage and significance	Disturbance items of cultural heritage and significance. Opportunities for employment and benefit funding.	- Undertaking of heritage surveys - Early and ongoing consultation with GKB. Working together to identify broader opportunities for participation and community benefit.
Stakeholder and Community Engagement			
Stakeholder identification and mapping	Understanding and mapping all project stakeholders.	Inadequately identifying and mapping stakeholders.	Included in the Stakeholder and Community Engagement Plan that is reviewed regularly throughout the project lifecycle.
Community Acceptance and social licence to operation	Consultation and community engagement undertaken to create community acceptance and social licence.	Lack of understanding of Energy transition and lifecycle of wind farms	Early and ongoing engagement including: Participation in Shire led forums, Community information events, regular site visits to landowners, regular newsletters outlining contact details, promoting employment register and providing information on wind farm development.
Feedback, Questions and Enquiries	Pathways for communication for Feedback, Questions and Enquiries from all stakeholders including landowners, residents, businesses, traditional	Failure to understand feedback, questions and complaints from community members and stakeholders	Welcoming feedback and ensuring responses are timely. Provision of a published Feedback, Enquiries and complaints procedure.

	owners, councils and government agencies		
Infrastructure and services			
Road Conditions and maintenance impacts	Who holds responsibility for the continuous upkeep of roads? How will traffic be regulated to reduce the wear and tear on these surfaces	Wear and tear of roads	Traffic Impact Assessment has been undertaken. Recommendations include: • specific access points to the project, • road dilapidation survey prior to construction, with ongoing road maintenance throughout the project life, costs covered by WAWF. • Roads returned to same or better standard after construction. • Prepare Traffic Management Plan including commitment to road condition survey pre/post construction and remediation of any damage.
Bushfire Management	Impacts from wind farm on bushfire management	Increased demand on local Bush Fire Control Officers	• Development and implementation of Bushfire Management Plan (BMP). Emergency Management Plan (EMP) to detail bushfire control measures to implement by the construction team; equipment and training required to tackle fires on construction sites and identify hazardous conditions. • Ongoing consultation of EMP and BMP with the Chief Fire Control Officer.
Bushfire Management	Impacts from wind farm on bushfire management	New and additional risks of potential bushfire.	• Development and implementation of Bushfire Management Plan including the provision of water tanks and access tracks. • Ongoing consultation with Chief Fire Control Officer.

Transmission infrastructure	Placement of the transmission lines	Concerns around location of transmission lines connecting Wind Farm to Western Power network	- Through consultation with potential powerline host landowners- we received feedback a smaller number of shared powerlines is preferable to multiple powerlines. - Feedback was then provided to Western Power.
Community Benefits and Opportunities			
Community Benefit Funds	Community Benefit Funding allocated to the local community in which the wind farm is located.	Funding for community to allocate to identified initiatives benefiting the local community.	Work with PoweringWA and local community on the Community Benefits Pilot.
Local Investment and grant programs	Prior to construction commencing a Pre-construction Grant program is implemented to support local community initiatives	Funding provided through the small grants program has enabled local groups to deliver programs that have built on local skills, supported activities that promote community and enhanced social inclusion.	Delivery of Pre-construction Grant Program leading into launch of Community Benefit Fund at start of construction
Landholder lease payments and compensation	Lease payments and compensation for hosting renewable energy infrastructure on their land.	Providing a stable and diversified income source for participating landholders. Lease and compensation payments have helped ensure that those directly impacted by development receive benefits, contributing to acceptance and long-term co-existence with renewable energy projects.	Extensive consultation with landowners and their legal advisors resulting in the finalisation of lease terms acceptable to both parties for those landowners wishing to host.

8 BENEFIT SHARING FRAMEWORK

The Proposal's approach to benefit sharing has been a central social impact mitigation and enhancement mechanism. Key elements identified through engagement include:

- Pre-construction Community Grant Program — first round awarded November 2025 to seven local initiatives (e.g. Darkan Community Christmas Tree, West Arthur Senior Christmas Lunch, Darkan Primary School programs, Southern Agcare rural counselling, West Arthur Cottage Homes).
- Long-term Community Benefit Fund — early communication of a position aligned with the Shire's policy benchmark of \$1,050 per MW of installed wind farm capacity per year, payable once construction commences. The project may be built in stages, with a project size of 400–500 MW as a first stage. This would equate to approximately \$420,000–\$525,000 per year from the start of construction. Future stages which increase the overall MW built, will further contribute to the fund amount.
- Local Content Participation Program — intended to identify local capability and maximise subcontractor and supplier opportunities during construction.
- Local Jobs Program and Training — targeted local job advertising, with approximately 200–350 jobs expected during the 2–3-year construction period.
- Proposed Community Consultative Committee (CCC) — not yet established; intended to provide a forum for shared decision making on community benefit fund allocation. To be determined as part of Community Benefit Pilot.
- Opportunity for a First Nations Partnership Agreement with Gnaala Karla Booja Aboriginal Corporation.

9 PROJECT DEVELOPMENT IN THE REGION

A number of renewable energy developments are estimated to be undergoing planning and development within the Shire of West Arthur. Cumulative social impacts may occur creating both opportunities and challenges.

WAWF will co-ordinate with other proponents and the Shire on shared infrastructure, consultation scheduling and combined community benefit approaches where practicable.

10 TRADITIONAL OWNER AND CULTURAL HERITAGE CONSIDERATIONS

Gnaala Karla Booja (GKB) Aboriginal Corporation has been engaged as the Traditional Owner stakeholder since October 2023. A Noongar Standard Heritage Agreement has been entered into and in August 2025 an Activity Notice was lodged for heritage surveys.

An onsite heritage survey for the meteorological mast (October 2025) was completed noting 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. WAWF continue to work with GKB.

11 Monitoring Evaluation and Review

Monitoring of the Social Impact Assessment will involve the ongoing collection, analysis, and reporting of social performance indicators to evaluate the effectiveness of mitigation measures,

track emerging social issues, and ensure project impacts and benefits are managed adaptively throughout the project lifecycle.

Recommended monitoring measures include:

- Maintaining the stakeholder data management system to track enquiries, complaints and their resolution, with periodic reporting of volume and nature of enquiries
- Regular internal evaluation of engagement activities against the goals and success criteria in the SaCEP
- Work with local community and PoweringWA regarding a formal process for the identification and administration of the Community Benefit Fund initiatives. including development of transparent reporting of Community Benefit Fund allocation.
- Coordination with other renewable energy proponents active in the Shire to monitor and manage cumulative social impacts, as encouraged in the Shire's Key Principles for Effective Renewable Energy Development

12 CONCLUSION

Engagement undertaken for the West Arthur Wind Farm since 2022 by both WAE and The Shire of West Arthur has been extensive and has generated a substantial evidence base of community sentiment, concerns and identified opportunities.

This Social Impact Assessment has outlined the identified social impacts, opportunities and risks associated with the proposed wind farm project and assessed how these may affect the local community throughout the development, construction and operational phases. While some concerns relating to issues such as visual amenity, construction impacts, traffic, and perceived changes to community character have been identified, the assessment also highlights significant opportunities for local economic participation, investment, employment, community benefit initiatives and broader regional development.

This SIA finds that the Proposal offers material potential positive social outcomes: economic diversification for host landowners, employment, local business activity, and a substantial Community Benefit Fund.

The findings indicate that identified impacts can be effectively avoided, minimised or managed through ongoing stakeholder engagement, transparent communication, responsive mitigation measures and monitoring throughout the life of the project. Importantly, the success of the project will depend on maintaining meaningful relationships with landowners, neighbouring residents, community organisations, businesses, Traditional Owners, local government and other stakeholders.

By implementing and monitoring the mitigation measures, and by continuing to work collaboratively with the host community, the project has the potential to deliver lasting social and economic benefits while managing potential adverse impacts. Ongoing engagement and adaptive management will be critical to ensuring community perspectives continue to inform project decisions and that social outcomes are maximised over the life of the wind farm.

13 REFERENCES

West Arthur Wind Farm — Engagement Strategy and Outcomes report (2026)

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International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) — Planning for Effective Public Participation guidelines / IAP2 Spectrum

Australian Bureau of Statistics (2021 Census) QuickStats, West Arthur and Collie

Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (March 2026), Social Impact Assessment Guideline

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