



Macorna Wind Farm

Social and Economic Impact Assessment Report

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Front cover image: View of the Project Area, Macorna, Victoria, 2025

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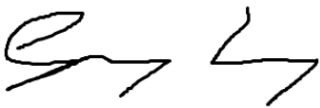
Signature page

Macorna Wind Farm

Social and Economic Impact Assessment

I, the undersigned, hereby declare:

- the qualifications, experience conducting SEIA and professional memberships of authors described on page 2 are true and accurate
- this social and economic impact assessment was completed on 24 April 2026 and contains all relevant information to the best of my knowledge
- that I understand my legal and ethical obligations, and that none of the information in the social and economic impact assessment is false or misleading.



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1. Executive summary

1.1 Project overview

Lecroma Pty Ltd (Lecroma) has prepared this Social and Economic Impact Assessment (SEIA) on behalf of Atmos Renewables (Atmos) on behalf of Macorna SPV - Atmos MWV Pty Ltd as trustee for the Atmos MHV Trust (the Proponent) to support the Environmental Effects Statement (EES) referral in accordance with the Victorian *Environmental Effects Act 1978*. The SEIA assesses the likely social and economic impacts of the Project, including cumulative impacts, and identifies measures to avoid, mitigate and manage adverse effects while enhancing local and regional benefits.

The proposed Macorna Wind Farm is located within and around Macorna in north-west Victoria, spanning the Gannawarra and Loddon local government areas. It would comprise up to 114 wind turbine generators with a generating capacity of about 820.8MW, together with associated infrastructure including access tracks, underground and overhead electrical infrastructure, up to four collector substations with battery storage, construction compounds, concrete batching plants, operations and maintenance facilities, and a potential workers accommodation facility.

The Project Area extends across about 23,000ha of predominantly cleared farming land and is directly connected to the proposed VNI West Tragowel terminal station, placing it within a broader regional energy transition context. Construction is expected to commence from 2029, subject to approvals, and continue for about 3.5 years, with initial operations expected from late 2030.

1.1 Assessment approach

The SEIA has been prepared in accordance with Victoria's "Ministerial Guidelines for the Assessment of Environmental Effects" (2023), while also drawing on broader international best practice, and other state social impact assessment guidance including New South Wales (NSW). It combines desktop review, stakeholder and community engagement, social baseline profiling, social and economic impact prediction, cumulative impact assessment, and the development of mitigation, enhancement and monitoring measures. The assessment applies a structured significance framework considering the likelihood and magnitude of impacts, the sensitivity of affected people and places, and the extent of stakeholder concern.

The social locality for the assessment is defined as the area within about a 55-minute drive of the proposed wind farm. This reflects how people in this rural region travel for work, services and daily life, and captures the main areas likely to experience direct, indirect and cumulative impacts. The baseline presented in the SEIA shows a dispersed rural locality with small nearby townships, strong agricultural identity, existing infrastructure and service constraints, and sensitivity to cumulative housing, workforce and regional change pressures. This means the locality is well placed to capture some project benefits but has limited spare capacity in several areas and will require careful management of construction-stage impacts.

1.2 Stakeholder feedback and insights

Engagement to date has helped shape the Project, identify key concerns and refine the approach to impact management. Consultation with host and neighbouring landholders and local Councils began in September 2023, with the broader community and stakeholder program expanding through 2025 and into early 2026. Feedback from this work has informed ongoing assessment, engagement planning and project refinement, including measures to avoid or minimise impacts such as visual amenity. The Proponent has invested significant effort in building and maintaining relationships with landowners, reflected in an active host landowner group and generally constructive engagement with landholders who elected not to participate. Broader community

feedback has been mixed but mostly constructive, although some localised negative sentiment has emerged, particularly around Pyramid Hill.

Between October 2025 and early 2026, the Proponent implemented a fulsome consultation program with individuals and groups, organisations and agencies, with in-person engagement including door-knocks, a neighbour drop-in session, two community drop-in sessions and Council briefings. Engagement has covered neighbours, community groups, First Nations stakeholders, local Councils and key agencies. A mixed-methods approach, centred on in-person discussions supported by phone and email follow-up, has proven most effective. While some early neighbour engagement was marked by heightened concern and resistance, sentiment generally moderated as information increased and relationships developed. Across stakeholder groups, the clearest message has been the need for timely, transparent and ongoing communication.

1.3 Key social impact findings

The assessment identifies a mix of positive, negative and mixed impacts across the Project lifecycle. The most significant positive impact is the Project's expected economic and related benefits for the social locality and wider region, which are assessed as very high and remain very high after additional measures. These benefits include employment, local procurement, business participation, community benefit sharing and a broader contribution to regional economic activity during both construction and operations.

The most significant adverse social impact is landscape character and visual amenity, assessed as high before mitigation and reducing to medium after mitigation. This is followed by a group of medium-significance impacts, notably workforce, accommodation and housing; First Nations people and culture; roads and traffic; and trust, influence, community cohesion and mental wellbeing. Of these, workforce, accommodation and housing represents the most significant practical management challenge during construction, given the potential for short-term pressure on local housing supply, infrastructure and services.

Overall, the social impact assessment finds that the Project's main social challenges will be managing landscape and visual change over the long term and construction-related pressures on housing, accommodation, roads and community sentiment in the short term, while ensuring that the Project's significant economic and community benefits are shared credibly and transparently.

Table 1: Potential social impacts summary and their evaluated significance

Impact themes	Social impact category	Nature: Positive/negative/mixed	Timing: Construction Operation Decommissioning	Most affected stakeholder group/s	Community perceived significance	Evaluated			Residual impact significance after recommended mitigations
						Likelihood	Magnitude	Significance	
1. Economic and other benefits for the social locality and region	- Livelihoods - Decision making systems	Positive	- Construction - Operation	All	Medium	Almost certain	Major	Very high	Very high
2. Landscape character and visual amenity	Surroundings	Negative	Operation	- Project neighbours - Community members and interest groups	High	Likely	Moderate	High	Medium
3. Workforce, accommodation and housing	- Way of life - Community	Mixed	Construction	- Local business - Local industry - Government and elected representatives	High	Likely	Moderate	Medium	Medium
4. First Nations people and culture	Culture	Mixed	- Construction - Operation	First Nations groups and/or Traditional Owners	Medium	Likely	Moderate	Medium	Medium
5. Roads and traffic	- Accessibility - Way of life	Negative	- Construction - Operation - Decommissioning	- Project neighbours - Government and elected representatives	Medium	Likely	Minor	Medium	Low
6. Trust, influence, community cohesion and mental well-being	Health and wellbeing	Negative	- Construction - Operation	- Project neighbours - Community members and interest groups	Medium	Possible	Moderate	Medium	Low
7. Agriculture and soil	Livelihoods	Negative	- Construction - Operation	Project hosts	Low	Almost certain	Minor	Medium	Low
8. Flood and storm water risk	Surroundings	Negative	- Construction - Operation - Decommissioning	- Project neighbours - Local business - Local industry - Government and elected representatives	Medium	Possible	Minor	Low	Low

Impact themes	Social impact category	Nature: Positive/negative/mixed	Timing: Construction Operation Decommissioning	Most affected stakeholder group/s	Community perceived significance	Evaluated			Residual impact significance after recommended mitigations
						Likelihood	Magnitude	Significance	
9. Noise and operational amenity	Surroundings	Negative	- Construction - Operation	Project neighbours	Medium	Possible	Minor	Low	Low
10. Air quality	Surroundings	Negative	Construction	Project neighbours	Low	Possible	Minor	Low	Low
11. Aviation	Surroundings	Negative	Operation	Project neighbours	Low	Unlikely	Moderate	Low	Low
12. Land values and insurance	Livelihoods	Negative	Operation	Project neighbours	Medium	Unlikely	Minor	Low	Low
13. Waste and decommissioning	Surroundings	Negative	- Construction - Decommissioning	Project neighbours	Medium	Possible	Minor	Low	Low
14. Access to local services	Accessibility	Negative	Construction	- Project neighbours - Government and elected representatives	Low	Possible	Minor	Low	Low
15. Biodiversity/ecology	Surroundings	Negative	- Construction - Operation	- Project neighbours - Community members and interest groups - First Nations groups and/or Traditional Owners	Medium	Possible	Minor	Low	Low
16. Fire and other hazards	Surroundings	Negative	Operation	Project neighbours	Medium	Unlikely	Minor	Low	Low

1.4 Economic impacts

The economic impact assessment presents the impact of the Project on the regional and Victorian economies in both the construction and operation stages. The Project's capital expenditure is approximately \$2 billion dollars. The economic impact modelling was done through an input-output model derived using REMPLAN, with a multiplier effect. The model was developed using the total number of full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs that the Project is expected to create in the construction and operation stages. Three scenarios developed for economic impact modelling based on workforce sourcing zones: conservative case, base case, and optimistic case, were applied in the construction stage analysis. Besides the input-output modelling, a sensitivity analysis (using pulse year approach) and an inflation-based nominal overlay presentation were conducted to capture the Project's operation stage economic impacts more accurately across the project lifespan. Based on the 945 total FTE jobs that the Project is expected to create in the construction stage (with 375 FTE jobs at peak construction), the potential economic impact of the Project during the construction stage of 3.5 years, at the base case scenario is as follows.

Construction stage impacts on the regional economy: at base case scenario				
Impact summary	Direct effect	Supply-chain effect	Consumption effect	Total effect
Output (\$M)	\$302.259	\$219.775	\$84.678	\$606.713
Employment (Jobs FTE)	567	485.13	196.32	1248.45
Household income (\$M)	\$51.199	\$42.753	\$17.013	\$110.965
Value-added (\$M)	\$89.082	\$75.425	\$45.158	\$209.665
Construction stage impacts on the Victorian economy: at base case scenario				
Impact summary	Direct effect	Supply-chain effect	Consumption effect	Total effect
Output (\$M)	\$470.781	\$488.864	\$278.026	\$1,237.670
Employment (Jobs FTE)	850.5	1072.12	634.16	2556.78
Household income (\$M)	\$77.903	\$97.430	\$56.556	\$231.889
Value-added (\$M)	\$135.511	\$174.205	\$137.091	\$446.806

Based on the 18 FTE jobs that the Project is expected to create in the operation stage, the potential economic impact of the Project in an operational year is as follows.

Operation stage impacts on the regional economy				
Impact summary	Direct effect	Supply-chain effect	Consumption effect	Total effect
Output (\$M)	\$32.014	\$18.250	\$4.903	\$55.167
Employment (Jobs FTE)	18.00	26.52	11.37	55.89
Household income (\$M)	\$2.425	\$3.015	\$0.985	\$6.425
Value-added (\$M)	\$5.014	\$7.163	\$2.615	\$14.792
Operation stage impacts on the Victorian economy				
Impact summary	Direct effect	Supply-chain effect	Consumption effect	Total effect
Output (\$M)	\$33.739	\$35.166	\$13.900	\$82.805
Employment (Jobs FTE)	18.00	55.72	31.70	105.42
Household income (\$M)	\$2.548	\$6.218	\$2.827	\$11.593
Value-added (\$M)	\$5.271	\$14.678	\$6.854	\$26.803

The sensitivity analysis based on pulse year approach identifies three pulse events reflecting operations and maintenance cost drivers associated with major maintenance interventions beyond routine project operations, and their impact on regional and Victorian economies. The nominal inflation overlay presents the potential effects that inflation can cause in the project operational life of 35 years, and its impact on regional and Victorian economies, based on the Melbourne Consumer Price Index and the Victorian Wage Price Index. Both pulse sensitivity and nominal inflation overlay



capture the effects that may be caused on the regional and Victorian economies in project operation stage beyond the routine operational economic impacts. Further to the above impacts, the Project is likely to create other positive economic impacts such as price stability, energy security, and resilience to global fuel shocks; wholesale price suppression through the merit-order effect; system reliability and least-cost transition benefits; alignment with Victorian targets and renewable energy demand; regional economic activity, supply chains, and fiscal contributions; maintaining air quality and health benefits which reduces the burden on the healthcare system, thus benefits the wider economy; and avoided outage costs. The cost-benefit analysis reveals that the Project will generate a larger overall economic impact to the region and Victoria than if the Project Area is used for ongoing agricultural purposes.

1.5 Cumulative impact findings

Cumulative impact is relevant because Macorna sits within a part of north-west Victoria already experiencing major renewable energy and transmission change. The strongest cumulative risks are expected to relate to construction-stage workforce demand, housing and accommodation pressure, labour competition, traffic and transport interactions, and broader community sentiment about the pace and distribution of regional change. Cumulative effects are not only negative. The Project is also expected to contribute to a broader pattern of regional investment, local business opportunity, community benefit sharing and renewable energy development already emerging across the district. On balance, the cumulative social impact risk assessed as moderate and manageable, but potentially more significant for specific themes if not actively coordinated. This strengthens the case for a Workforce Accommodation Plan, local procurement and workforce participation measures, coordinated traffic planning, and ongoing transparent engagement with councils, communities, First Nations stakeholders and other relevant proponents.

1.6 Recommended management response

This report recommends five main actions to reduce negative impacts and strengthen positive outcomes. The headline recommendations are:

1. Incorporate recommendations from independent technical assessments to refine project design and implementation.
2. Implement benefit sharing commitments through a transparent and equitable framework.
3. Prepare and implement a Workforce Accommodation Plan before project construction.
4. Prepare and implement a Local Content Plan and set local procurement and workforce participation targets based on identifiable regional capability.
5. Continue consultation with key stakeholder groups and regularly review strategy and implementation of the Community Engagement Plan throughout the life of the Project.

1.7 Conclusion

The SEIA concludes that, provided the recommended mitigation measures, workforce accommodation planning and adaptive monitoring framework are implemented, the Project's social and economic risks can be responsibly managed alongside meaningful regional benefits. Landscape and visual amenity is the highest-rated adverse impact and will require ongoing management into the operational phase. Workforce, accommodation and housing pressures during construction represent the most significant practical management challenge, with the potential to affect local infrastructure, roads and community sentiment if not carefully planned. The Project is expected to support the transition to net zero while contributing to regional economic activity, with the scale of that contribution depending on the effectiveness of local content, benefit sharing and engagement commitments.

2. Project description and context

2.1 Introduction

Lecroma Pty Ltd (Lecroma) has been engaged by Macorna SPV - Atmos MWV Pty Ltd as trustee for the Atmos MHV Trust (the Proponent) to prepare a social and economic impact assessment (SEIA) for the proposed Macorna Wind Farm.

This SEIA aims to:

- identify and analyse the potential social and economic changes against baseline conditions resulting from the development, including impacts on local community wellbeing, amenity, land use, employment, and economic activity
- evaluate the cumulative social and economic effects of the Project, considering the numerous large-scale developments approved or operating in the area
- assess the implications for local services, infrastructure, and the rural character of Macorna and surrounds
- identify stakeholder and community concerns
- assess potential social and economic impacts, develop appropriate and justified avoidance, mitigation and enhancement measures, and assess residual social and economic impacts
- propose arrangements to monitor and manage residual social impacts, including unanticipated impacts, over the life of the Project
- inform decision-making by the Minister for Planning by providing evidence-based recommendations to enhance positive social and economic outcomes and mitigate adverse impacts, in accordance with the requirements of relevant planning frameworks

These objectives ensure that the SEIA provides a robust, transparent, and context-specific evaluation to guide the sustainable development of the Macorna Wind Farm.

2.2 Legislative and policy framework

The individual and combined referral criteria under the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) Ministerial guidelines for assessment of environmental effects (8th edition; 2023) under the *Environment Effects Act 1978* specific to this SEIA are identified in **Table 2**.

Table 2: Individual and combined referral criteria for this SEIA

Individual referral criteria	Combined referral criteria
Individual types of potential effects on the environment that warrant referring a project	A combination of two or more types of potential effects on the environment that warrant referring a project
• Potential for extensive or major effects to human health or the environment, or displacement of residents, from pollution or waste emitted to air, land, water or groundwater • Potential removal, destruction or lopping of 10ha or more of native vegetation, that consists of, or comprises a combination of: – an ecological vegetation class (EVC) classified as endangered; or – an EVC that is classified as vulnerable (with a condition score of 0.5 or more) or	• Potential removal, destruction or lopping of 10ha or more of native vegetation, unless it is authorised for removal under an approved forest management plan or fire protection plan • Matters listed under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988: – potential loss of a significant area of a listed ecological community; or – potential loss of a genetically important population of an endangered or threatened species (listed or nominated for listing), including from loss or fragmentation of habitats; or – potentially significant effects on habitat values of a wetland supporting migratory bird species

– rare (with a condition score of 0.6 or more); and – that is not authorised for removal under an approved forest management plan or fire protection plan • Potential clearing of an area determined as 'critical habitat' under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 • Potential for loss of a significant proportion (e.g. 1% or greater) of known remaining habitat or population of a threatened species within Victoria • Potential for long-term change to the ecological character of a wetland listed under the Ramsar Convention or in A Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia • Potential for extensive or major effects on the use and environmental values of water resources due to changes in water quality, water availability, stream flows, water system function, or regional groundwater levels, or the health or biodiversity of aquatic, estuarine or marine ecosystems, over the long term	• Potential for extensive or major effects on landscape values of regional importance, especially: – where recognised by a planning scheme overlay; – declared as a distinctive area and landscape under the Planning and Environment Act 1987; or – within or adjoining land reserved under the National Parks Act 1975 • Potential for extensive or major effects to the environment due to changes in land stability, disturbance of acid sulphate soils or project induced soil erosion over the short or long term • Potential for extensive or major effects on social or economic well-being due to direct or indirect displacement of non-residential land use activities • Potential for extensive displacement of residents or severance of residents' access to their community resources • Potential for significant effects on the amenity of a substantial number of residents, due to extensive or major, long-term changes in visual, noise and traffic conditions • Potential for extensive or major effects on Aboriginal cultural heritage values protected under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 • Potential for extensive or major effects on cultural heritage places and sites listed on the Victorian Heritage Register or the Victorian Heritage Inventory under the Heritage Act 2017
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Source: Ministerial guideline for assessment of environmental effects (8th edition; 2023), Environmental Effects Act 1978, Victoria

The Draft "Community Engagement and Social Value Guidelines for Renewable Energy and Transmission projects" (Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action, Victoria; VicGrid, 2025) and the "Community Engagement and Benefit Sharing in Renewable Energy Development in Victoria - A guide for renewable energy developers", in line with Second Victorian Renewable Energy Target Auction (VRET2) (Department of Environment, Land, Water, and Planning, 2021) include provisions to assess:

- Social impacts including community quality and way of life (including community cohesion), local culture, heritage, and ability to access cultural resources, community access to, and quality of, infrastructure, services and facilities, community safety, physical and mental health, livelihoods and economic prospects, and social values associated with natural and built assets. The Victorian Community Engagement and Benefit Sharing Guide (2021) outlines the required documentation for VRET2, with the possibility of broadly applying to any renewable energy project to create favourable social outcomes
- Economic impacts including the projects' potential contribution to local and/or regional economic development through employment and supply opportunities, and community benefit sharing. (In Victoria, benefit sharing for renewable energy projects is guided by the Victorian Government's Community Engagement and Benefit Sharing Guide (2021), with updated expectations being developed through VicGrid and the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action's The Draft Community Engagement and Social Value Guidelines for Renewable Energy and Transmission projects (2025) under the Victorian Access Regime

The Victorian Government's "Community Engagement and Benefit Sharing Guide" (2021) references the Social Impact Assessment Guide of the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) (IAIA, 2015) and the SIA guides of New South Wales (DPHI, 2025) and Queensland state governments.



2.3 Project description

The Macorna Wind Farm (the Project) is a proposed approximately 820.8MW wind farm comprised of up to 114 wind turbine generators. The turbines are proposed to be the Vestas V172 7.2MW with a hub height of up to 166m. Atmos Renewables (Atmos) on behalf of the Macorna SPV – Atmos MWV Pty Ltd as trustee for the Atmos MHV Trust (Proponent) is the Project's implementing organisation.

The Project is proposed to be located within and surrounding the locality of Macorna in the Gannawarra Shire and Loddon local government areas, within Victoria's Loddon Mallee Region. The Project comprises approximately 26 landowner groups, within the localities of Macorna, Macorna North, Loddon Vale, Tragowel, Mincha West and Macorna North. The Project Area is approximately 23,000ha, with an expected development or construction footprint of approximately 749.75ha.

Key features of the Project would include:

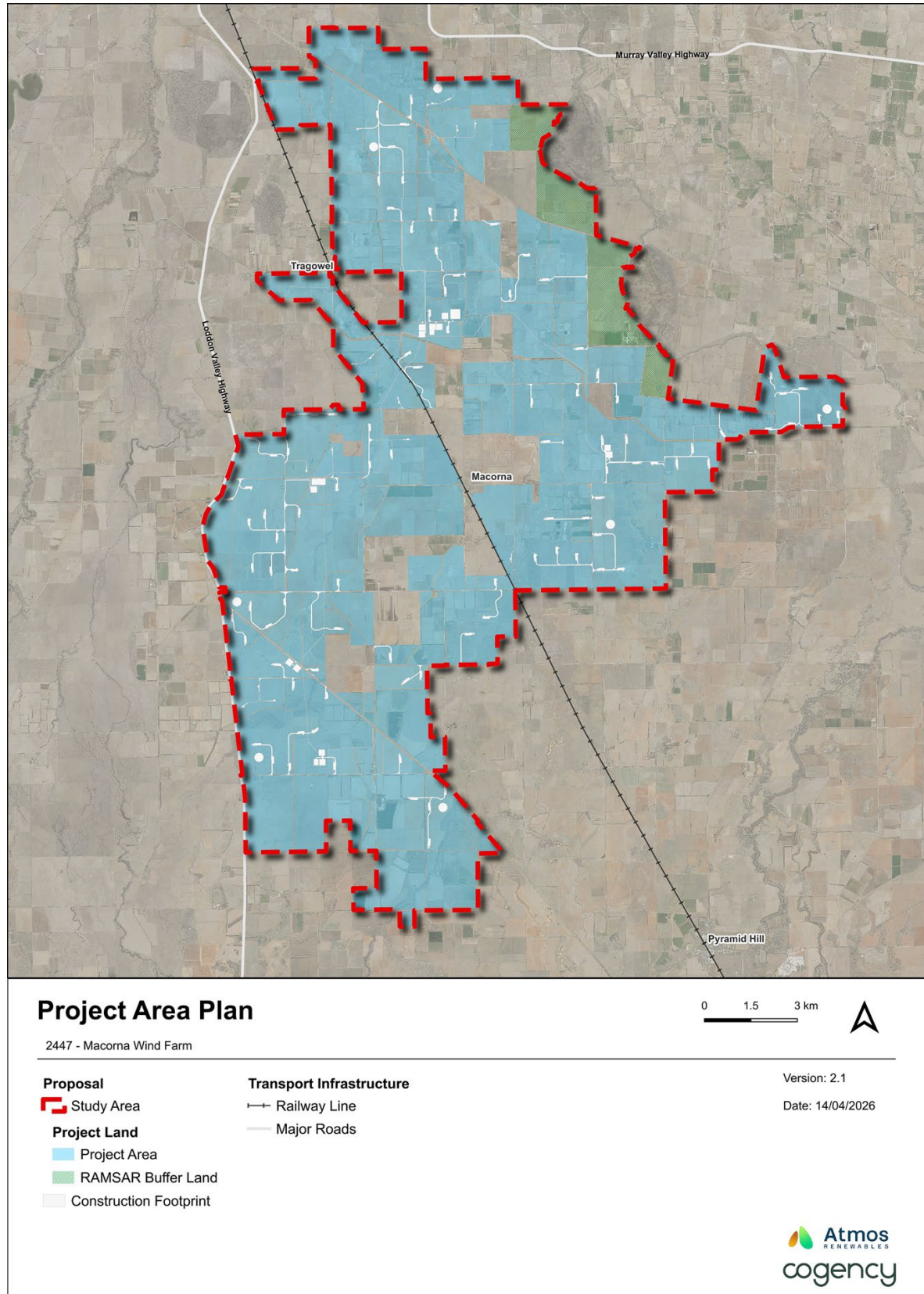
- Foundations, crane hardstand, crane boom laydown blade laydown and a rotor assembly area
- Access tracks, including:
 - new and upgraded tracks within Project Area generally comprising a nominal 6.5m wide access track for light vehicles
 - 30-40m wide corridor for oversize overmass (OSOM) vehicles within the Project Area
- Upgrades to the proposed transport access route, as required
- Underground cabling (low voltage (LV) and medium voltage (MV)) and overhead transmission lines (MV and high voltage (HV)) within the Project Area
- Up to four collector substations, with associated battery energy storage systems (BESS) (size and duration to be determined)
- Connection to the grid via the adjacent proposed Victoria to NSW Interconnector (VNI) West Tragowel terminal station
- Electrical switching station (noting that the switching station infrastructure will be constructed, owned and operated by the electricity provider, rather than the Proponent)
- Up to seven permanent meteorological masts
- Construction compounds and laydown areas
- Concrete batching plants
- Operational and maintenance facilities
- Potential construction workers accommodation facility
- Potential communications towers
- Native vegetation removal and vegetation screening as required and identified by technical assessments
- Fencing, gates and signage.

Construction is expected to commence in 2029 (subject to planning and environmental approvals). The construction phase is expected to be completed over 3.5 years, with initial energisation/operations expected to occur from late 2030. The Project may be delivered in stages. It is also noted that the Project's schedule is currently aligned to the delivery of the VNI West project, which provides the proposed connection point for the Project.

Figure 1 shows the Project Area Plan, outlining the various features of the Project Area including: the Study Area (approximately 26,000ha – the broad area investigated for the Project); the Project

Area (approximately 23,000ha – the properties investigated to include in the Project; and the temporary construction footprint (749.75ha – the land proposed to be disturbed for the purposes of construction of the Project).

Figure 1: Project Area Plan



Of the temporary construction footprint, an estimated 40% of this area will remain as the development footprint for use during operation of the Project.

The Project will perform an important role in supplying large-scale renewable electricity to the grid from the wind farm and supporting the energy transition underway in Victoria and across the National Electricity Market (NEM), where coal-fired generation is being replaced by renewable generation (Australian Energy Market Operator, 2026), supported by storage and transmission upgrades to maintain a secure and reliable power system.

The Project will support local and regional transmission and distribution networks by increasing the availability of low-emissions generation and, through its co-located BESS, helping to enhance grid stability and reliability by smoothing variability in wind generation and improving the capacity of the power system to meet periods of peak electricity demand.

2.4 Site location, characteristics and context

Located in north-western Victoria, on Barapa Barapa Country, the Macorna Wind Farm site is within and surrounding the locality of Macorna and spans the Gannawarra Shire and Loddon local government areas. The site is about 25km south of Kerang and 30km north of Pyramid Hill. The rural localities of Macorna and Tragowel are within and adjacent to the site area respectively. The Project is partially located within the draft North West Renewable Energy Zone identified in the Victorian Transmission Plan.

The Project Area's existing land use is mixed farming, dairy, cropping and grazing, predominantly on cleared farming land. While the area is part of the Goulburn-Murray Water irrigation district, agricultural use is trending away from irrigated farming to more dryland cropping and grazing. Water usage is generally being intensified on remaining irrigated land. Anecdotal discussions with farmers have noted the percentage of land that is irrigated in the Project's land area has drastically reduced in the last 20 years. This is supported by the closure of historic irrigation channels throughout the Project Area that are no longer in service.

There are 51 host landowner dwellings (meaning a dwelling on a property involved in the Project, including the development of wind turbines or associated infrastructure), and six neighbour dwellings (meaning a dwelling on a neighbouring land parcel, not including development of wind turbines or associated infrastructure, but have executed or are in discussions regarding a neighbour agreement).

The site lies adjacent to two wetlands: Hird Swamp and Johnson Swamp, that are part of the internationally recognised Kerang Wetlands Ramsar site.

The site directly abuts the proposed Tragowel Terminal Station. The primary transport corridor servicing the area is the Loddon Valley Highway.

Traditional custodians

The Project Area is located on Barapa Barapa Country, a region that spans across present-day Victoria and NSW and encompassing parts of Gannawarra, Loddon and Campaspe shires. The Barapa Barapa people are the Traditional Custodians of the land on which the Project is located.

The Barapa Country Aboriginal Corporation (BCAC) is one representative of the Barapa Barapa people. BCAC is not recognised as a Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) and the Project Area sits within a non-RAP area.

The Wamba-Wemba Aboriginal Corporation (WWAC), Barapa Land and Water (unincorporated), Barapa Ltd (unincorporated) and Kowang Community and Traditional Owner Group (Kowang Coop Ltd) groups are also identified as having cultural interests in the Project Area (including for engagement purposes).

3. Methodology

This chapter outlines the social and economic impact assessment methods used to prepare this report.

3.1 Social impact assessment method

Social impact assessment (SIA) is a way to predict and evaluate the likely social consequences of a proposed project. It helps develop strategies to mitigate negative impacts and creates opportunities to improve outcomes for affected people and communities. This section sets out best practice SIA methods and shows how the Proponent has applied these methods to the Project.

An optimal SIA process is inclusive, genuine, and transparent, leading to clearer outcomes for the Proponent and community. The SIA affords opportunities to effectively identify, integrate, and address social impacts, while working towards building a social license to operate in the community in which the Project is proposed.

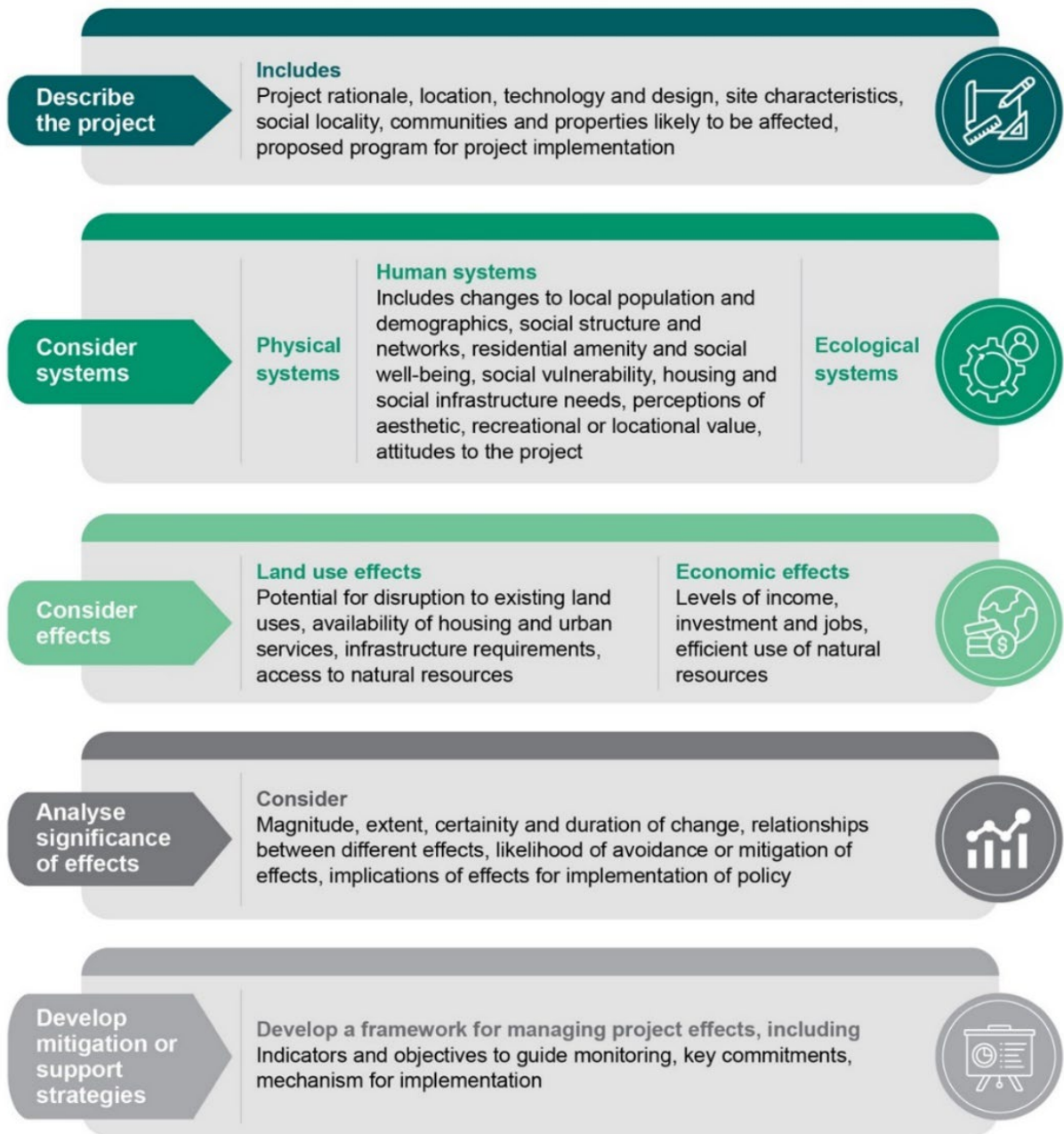
Lecroma's SIA methodology meets the requirements of Victoria's Ministerial Guidelines for the Assessment of Environmental Effects and the NSW's Planning Guidelines for State Significant Development, while also integrating each state's policies on social impact assessment and community engagement. Lecroma's approach to SIA is summarised in **Figure 2**, which draws on the NSW DPHI SIA Guideline's guiding principles (see **Table 3**) and global best practice approaches including the International Principles for Social Impact Assessment (Vanclay, 2003) and Guidance for Assessing and Managing the Social Impacts of Projects (IAIA, 2015).

Table 3: NSW DPHI Social impact assessment guiding principles

SIA Principles	Description
1. Action-oriented	Defines specific actions to deliver practical, achievable and effective outcomes for people
2. Adaptive	Establishes systems to respond to new or different circumstances to support continuous improvement
3. Culturally responsible	Develops culturally informed approaches and methodologies to ensure Aboriginal and culturally diverse communities are engaged appropriately, and their perspectives, insights and feedback are valued
4. Distributive equity	Considers how different groups will experience social impacts differently (particularly vulnerable and marginalised groups, future generations compared with current generations, and differences by gender, age and cultural group)
5. Impartial	Uses fair, unbiased research methods and follows relevant ethical standards
6. Inclusive	Seeks to hear, understand, respect and document the perspectives of all likely affected people. Uses respectful, meaningful and effective engagement activities tailored to the needs of those being engaged (e.g. being culturally sensitive and accessible)
7. Integrated	Uses and references relevant information and analysis from other assessments to avoid duplication. Supports effective integration of social, economic and environmental considerations in decision making
8. Life-cycle focus	Seeks to understand likely impacts (including cumulative impacts) at all project stages, from pre-construction to post-closure/operation commencement
9. Material	Identifies which likely social impacts matter the most for people and/or pose the greatest risk/opportunity to those expected to be affected
10. Precautionary	If there are risks of serious or irreversible environmental damage (including harm to people), avoids using any limits on full scientific certainty as a reason for postponing measures to prevent environmental (including social) degradation
11. Proportionate	Ensures the scope and scale of the SIA corresponds to the scope and scale of the likely social impacts
12. Rigorous	Uses appropriate, accepted social science methods and robust evidence from authoritative and trustworthy sources
13. Transparent	Explains, justifies and makes available information, methods and assumptions so that people can see how their input has been considered

Source: NSW DPHI, 2025

Figure 2: Lecroma's approach to assessing social impacts

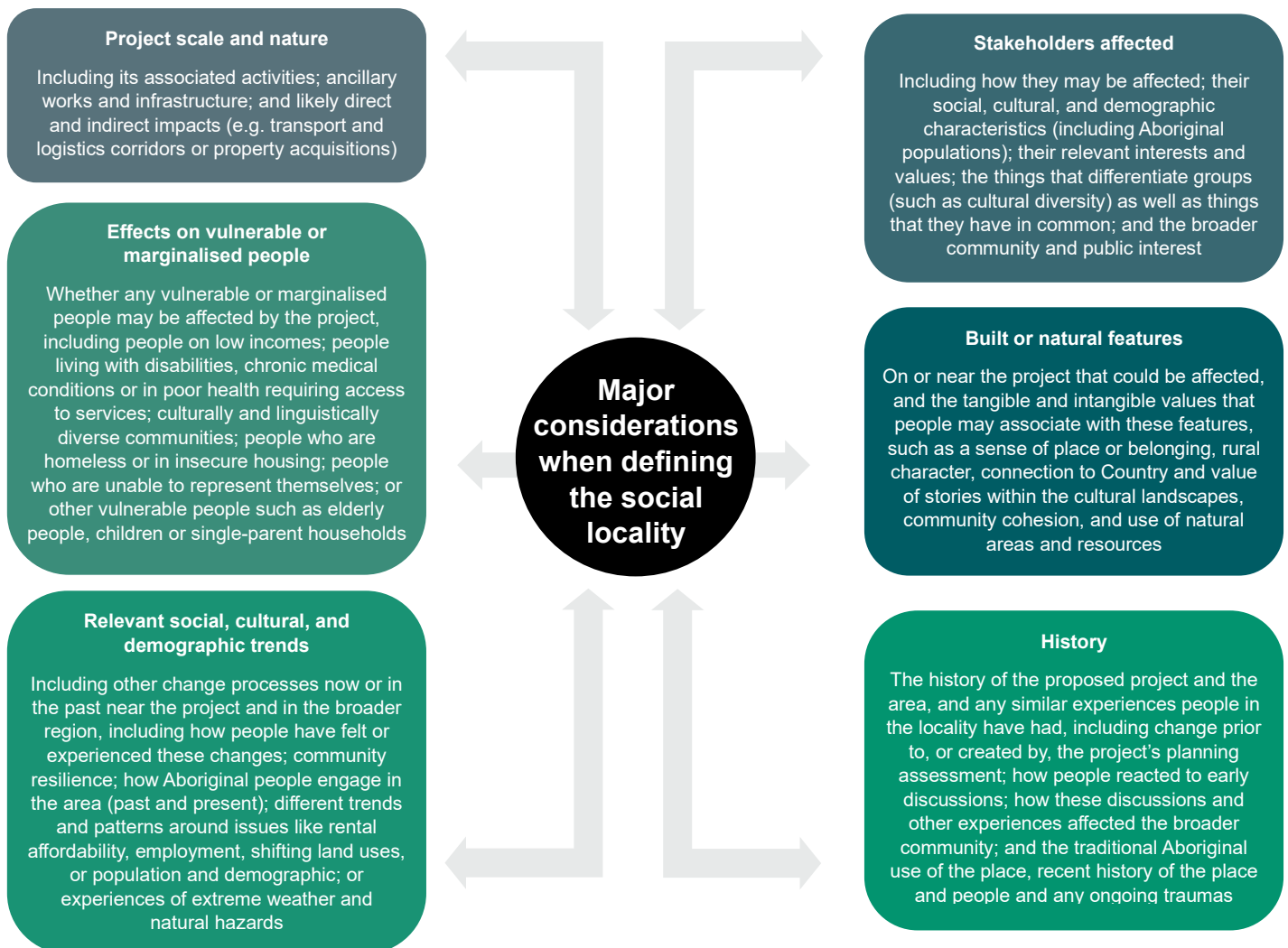


Source: Lecroma, adapted from DPPI, 2025; Vanclay, 2003; IAIA, 2015

Step 1: Define the social locality

Often referred to as the 'area of social influence' in an SIA context, a project's social locality is defined by where people are likely to experience social impacts; it does not have a fixed or predefined geographic boundary. **Figure 3** outlines factors to consider when defining and analysing the social locality. This enables assessors to consider multiple and overlapping impacts.

Figure 3: Factors to consider when defining the social locality



Source: Lecroma, adapted from DPPI, 2025

For this Project, the social locality boundary is within a 55-minute drive from the Project Area and includes:

- associated host landowner and adjacent/near neighbour properties, including residents and local businesses
- localities likely to be impacted and/or benefit from the Project
- localities likely to experience construction-related workforce, procurement, and traffic impacts

A 55-minute drive time to the Project Area (Faulkner Road, Tragowel 3579), has been adopted as a practical basis to define the Project's social locality, reflecting the way people in this rural region routinely travel between towns for employment, services and daily activities. It also aligns with the likely origin of the local construction workforce, which is expected to come largely from within a practical daily commuting distance of the Project, being around 50-60 minutes by road. In this context, a drive time approach provides a more realistic measure of social connection than administrative boundaries alone.

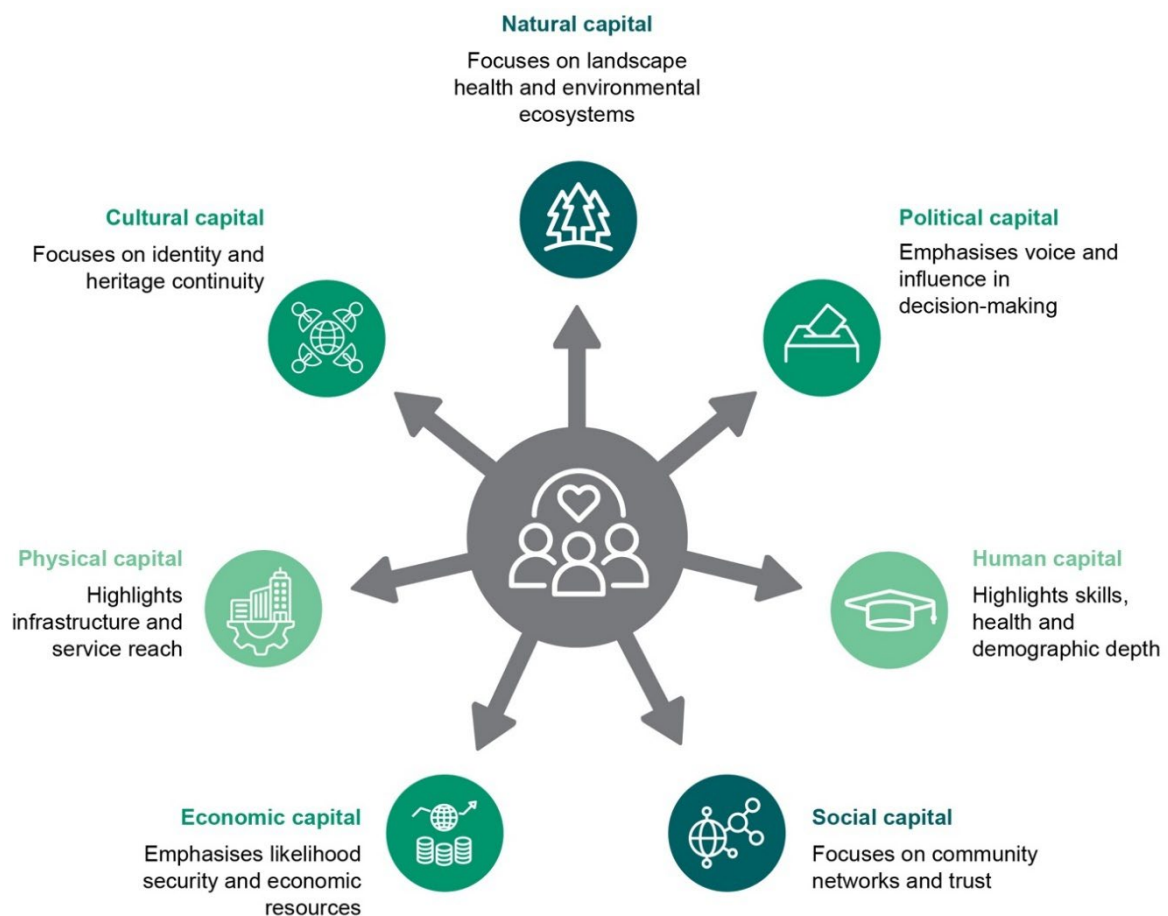
The Project's social locality may change over time, which will be captured in ongoing monitoring, evaluation and reporting efforts, as well as live strategic documentation throughout the project lifecycle. A description of the Project's social locality is at **Chapter 5**.

Step 2: Develop the social baseline profile

The social baseline sets out the “starting position” of the host communities before any project activity begins. It documents the existing social environment, conditions, and trends relevant to the impacts identified. It is a foundational component of the SIA, as it provides a basis from which to predict and analyse direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts.

Lecroma’s model to determine the social baseline profile (**Figure 4**) adapts the Sustainable Livelihoods Approach or ‘community capitals’ analysis by the UK Department for International Development and the Minderoo Foundation’s Resilient Communities Framework, which was developed to support a systemic and whole-of-society approach to understanding and building disaster resilience at a community level.

Figure 4: Model to identify community capitals and resilience factors



Source: Lecroma 2025, adapted from Flora (2004); Coakes and Sadler (2011); Minderoo Foundation (2022)

This model helps identify how the affected community’s natural, human, social, political, economic, physical, and cultural assets or ‘capital’ interact with and contribute to its overall wellbeing and sustainability. It takes a systems approach to understanding rural contexts, recognising that all communities possess these capitals to varying degrees. Applying this model ensures the outcomes of other technical studies undertaken during the assessment process are considered within the broader context.

Similarly to the social locality, the Project’s social baseline was developed by gathering and evaluating information from both primary and secondary data sources. The approach aligns with regulatory expectations of a comprehensive socio-economic profile. Because each indicator is

quantifiable and time-stamped, the baseline typically doubles as the first entry in the Project's Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting framework. A description of the Project's social baseline is at **Chapter 5**.

Step 3: Identify stakeholders

The SIA process draws on people who may have an interest in or be affected by the Project to participate and collaborate. Stakeholders may include groups or individuals who:

- live, work, or recreate near the Project
- have an interest in the proposed action or change
- use or value a resource associated with the Project
- are affected by the Project (e.g. may be required to relocate because of the Project) (Burdge 2004)

Step 4: Collect and analyse data

Lecroma has collected data for this SIA using a range of primary and secondary data sources, including:

- Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Census data
- Local and state government policies, plans, strategies, media
- The Gannawarra and Loddon Shire Council websites
- National Institute of Economic and Industry Research
- REMPLAN (2025)
- SEIFA Index of Disadvantage
- Technical studies undertaken during the EES referral process
- Stakeholder consultation

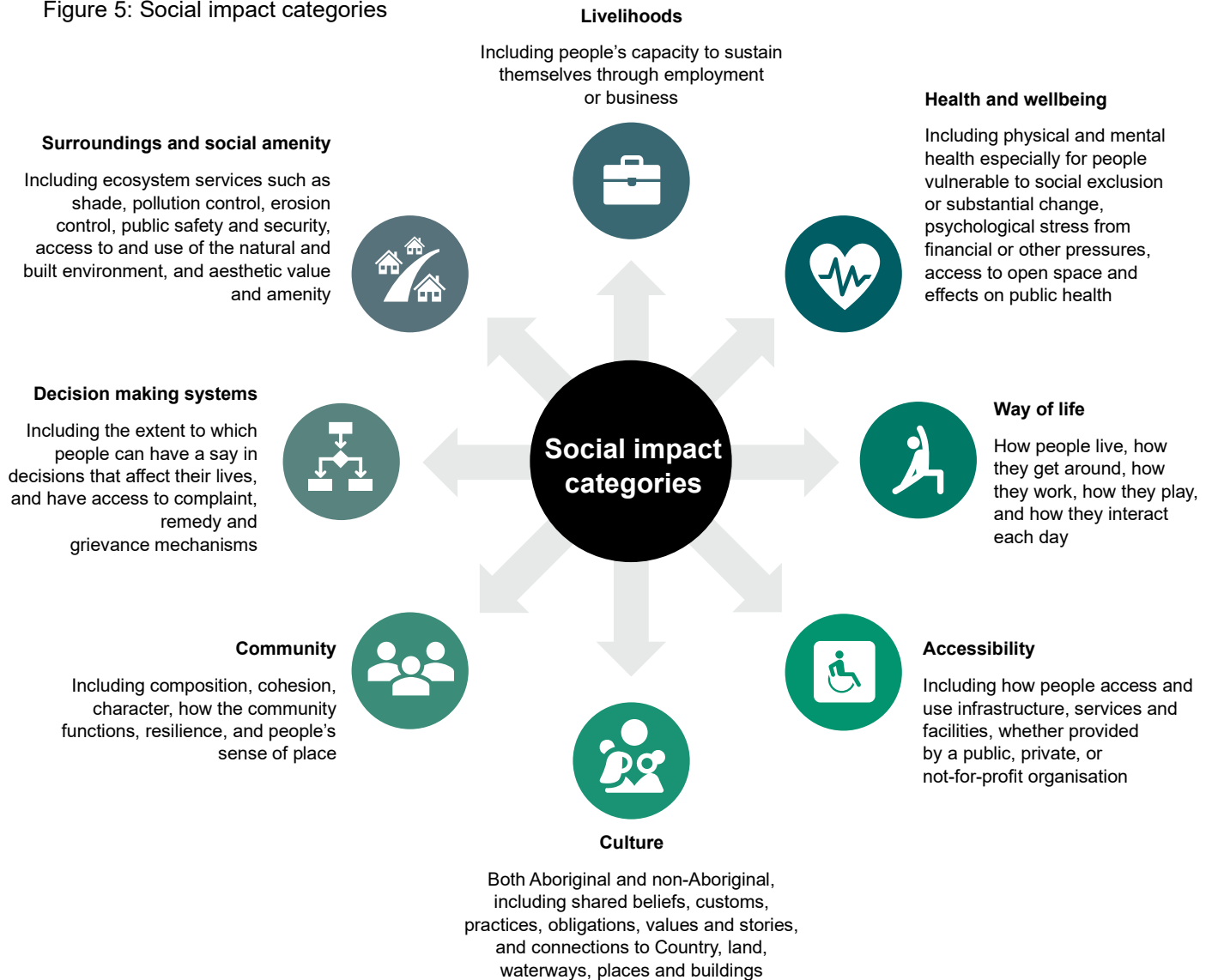
Table 4: Key research questions and indicators of interest

Key research questions	Indicators of interest
1. Demographic profile: What are the key characteristics of the local population (age, culture, income, household type)? 2. Workforce capacity: Does the regional labour market possess the skills needed for construction and operations, or are gaps likely? 3. Perceived value and alignment: What benefits and risks do residents associate with the project, and how well do these match local aspirations and plans? 4. Inclusive engagement: Which stakeholders will need tailored engagement methods (e.g. translation, accessible formats) to participate meaningfully? 5. Broader social trends: What ongoing or emerging social trends (e.g. housing stress, population growth) could amplify or mitigate project outcomes? 6. What is the socio-economic status of the community? 7. What is the level of advantage/disadvantage in the community? 8. Vulnerable groups: Which segments are most sensitive to the project's potential impacts, and how sizable are they?	• Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage (IRSD) • Index of Economic Resources (IER) • Index of Education and Occupation (IEO) • Population trends; age distribution; unemployment; key industries; education levels; housing tenure; household income; vulnerable groups; cost of living • Crime rates
9. How have local residents responded to comparable projects in the region – what patterns of support or opposition have emerged?	• Community sentiment towards largescale projects of this nature
10. Regional and state fit: How does the project integrate with the broader regional and state energy strategies and targets? 11. Council and State priorities: What are the local Councils' stated strategic objectives and priority areas? 12. Strategic alignment: How well does the proposed project align with those priorities and the Councils' overarching strategic plan?	• Number of similar projects proposed in the region and the general response from the communities that hosted them

Step 5: Identify and categorise potential impacts

'Social impact' in the context of large-scale development projects refers to the significant effects these projects may have on communities and societies at large, especially those living in the social locality. The assessment process is used to identify and then analyse both positive and negative social impacts, including the tangible and intangible. Lecroma applies the NSW SIA Guideline's eight categories to help identify all relevant and likely social impacts (**Figure 5**).

Figure 5: Social impact categories



Source: Community Engagement and Benefit Sharing Guide, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (2021), DPHI (2025); Social Impact Assessment Guide, International Association of Impact Assessment (2015)

Lecroma also considers the following factors to identify potential social impacts project activities could induce:

- cumulative impacts of other projects or activities
- the objectives of relevant environmental planning instruments
- the preliminary level of assessment during SIA scoping
- project design refinement in response to findings

For this Project, Lecroma has identified 16 potential socio-economic "impact themes" (impacts).

Step 6: Evaluate potential impacts

Evaluating each social impact identified involves analysing the likelihood, magnitude, and overall significance of each potential social impact. This includes both positive and negative impacts, and both objective and subjective components. The evaluation informs appropriate mitigation or enhancement measures. Residual social impacts are also assessed this way, demonstrating the expected effectiveness of proposed mitigation and enhancement strategies. The impact evaluation matrix used by Lecroma is in **Table 5**, with the outcomes of the evaluation in **Chapter 6**.

Table 5: Social impact evaluation matrix

Likelihood level		Meaning			
Almost certain		Definite or almost definitely expected (e.g. has happened on similar projects)			
Likely		High probability (e.g. analysis suggests it is highly likely, but it has not happened before – no precedence set yet prior to this project proposal)			
Possible		Medium probability (e.g. analysis suggests it is possible, but not likely)			
Unlikely		Low probability			
Very unlikely		Improbable or remote probability			
Dimensions		Details needed to enable assessment			
Magnitude	Extent	Which location(s) and people are affected? (e.g. near neighbours, local, regional, future generations). Who specifically is expected to be affected (directly, indirectly, and/or cumulatively), including any vulnerable people?			
	Duration	When is the social impact expected to occur? Will it be time-limited (e.g. over particular project stages) or permanent?			
	Intensity or scale	What is the likely scale or degree of change? (e.g. mild, moderate, severe)			
	Sensitivity or importance	How sensitive/vulnerable (or how adaptable/resilient) are affected people to the impact, or (for positive impacts) how important is it to them? This might depend on the value they attach to the matter; whether it is rare/unique or replaceable; the extent to which it is tied to their identity; and their capacity to cope with or adapt to change			
	Level of concern/interest	How concerned/interested are people? Sometimes, concerns may be disproportionate to findings from technical assessments of likelihood, duration and/or intensity			
Magnitude level		Meaning			
Transformational		Substantial change experienced in community wellbeing, livelihood, infrastructure, services, health, and/or heritage values; permanent displacement or addition of at least 20% of a community			
Major		Substantial deterioration/improvement to something that people value highly, either lasting for an indefinite time, or affecting many people in a widespread area			
Moderate		Noticeable deterioration/improvement to something that people value highly, either lasting for an extensive time, or affecting a group of people			
Minor		Mild deterioration/improvement, for a reasonably short time, for a small number of people who are generally adaptable and not vulnerable			
Minimal		Little noticeable change experienced by people in the locality			
Social impact significance matrix					
Likelihood/Magnitude Level	1) Minimal	2) Minor	3) Moderate	4) Major	5) Transformational
A) Almost certain	Low	Medium	High	Very high	Very high
B) Likely	Low	Medium	High	High	Very high
C) Possible	Low	Low	Medium	High	High
D) Unlikely	Negligible	Low	Low	Medium	High
E) Very likely	Negligible	Negligible	Low	Medium	Medium

Source: Lecroma, adapted from DPHI, 2025



Step 7: Manage and mitigate impacts

Once social impacts have been identified, analysed and evaluated (**Chapter 6**), the Proponent should take steps to mitigate or eliminate negative impacts, and enhance positive impacts where possible (**Chapter 8**). **Figure 6** sets out a framework to manage likely social impacts.

Figure 6: Framework to manage likely social impacts



Source: Lecroma, adapted from DPHI, 2025

Depending on the project complexity, impact level or consent conditions, a Social Impact Management Plan (SIMP) may be needed. These are used when mitigation and enhancement measures alone cannot adequately manage social impacts. At its simplest, a SIMP should include the desired outcomes and monitoring indicators for each impact. As per the NSW SIA Guideline, it should:

- update or confirm the social baseline and impact assessment from the SIA
- enhance and refine mitigation, enhancement, monitoring and management of social impacts over the life of the project, and explain how unanticipated impacts will be addressed
- set out how the community can provide feedback as part of adaptive management

Mitigation and enhancement measures should be tangible, relevant, deliverable and enduring.

3.2 Economic impact assessment method

Lecroma conducts economic impact assessments using a mixed-methods approach; combining input-output analysis with farm gate revenue estimation. Lecroma also conducts a sensitivity analysis (using pulse year approach) and an inflation-based nominal overlay presentation to capture the project's operational stage economic impacts more accurately across the project lifespan (Hammond and Cooperman, 2022; Martin et al., 2016; Parliamentary Budget Office, 2023). The assessment focuses on quantifying benefits during both the construction and operation stages of the Project.

Figure 7: Economic Impact Assessment Method



Source: Adapted from Miller and Blair (2022); Riar et al. (2024)

The I-O analysis model is suitable for evaluating project-level impacts on local and regional economies, especially in regions where data on supply chain relationships is limited. This model estimates three types of economic effects:

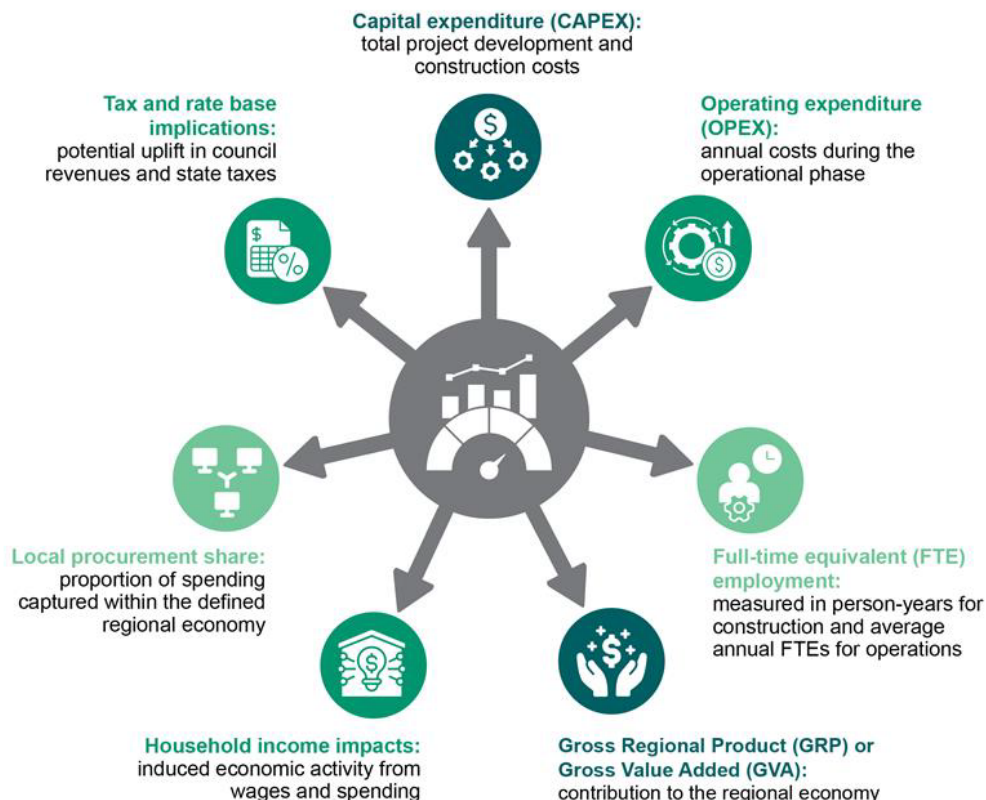
Figure 8: Types of economic effects



Source: Adapted from Miller and Blair (2022)

Lecroma uses the REMPLAN Regional Economic Modelling platform to apply region-specific economic multipliers. REMPLAN incorporates ABS input-output tables and regional labour force data. For this Project, the assumptions based on research and local and international standards in wind farm operational expenditure (OpEX) were used for the sensitivity analysis based on pulse year approach. The nominal inflation overlay was calculated considering the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and Wage Price Index (WPI) statistics provided in the 2025-26 budget update of Victoria (Department of Treasury and Finance VIC, 2025). The modelling process estimates impacts across the following economic indicators set out in **Figure 9**.

Figure 9: Economic indicators used for economic impact modelling



Source: ABS (2021); Department of Treasury and Finance VIC (2025), Hammond and Cooperman (2022), Martin et al. (2016); REMPLAN (2025)

3.3 Social and economic assessment assumptions and limitations

This SEIA has been prepared with the following assumptions and limitations.

Assumptions

- Information collected through both primary sources (e.g. face-to-face interviews) and secondary sources (e.g. technical assessments or peer reviewed academic articles) is assumed to be accurate and valid
- For the economic impact modelling, the estimated construction stage length and forecasted FTE job numbers used for both the construction and operation stages were provided by the Proponent and are assumed to be accurate
- The average construction workforce would be 70% of the peak construction workforce as advised by the Proponent, and the range of 70-72% has been adopted in the analysis, considering the upper 2% above the 70% base assumption, to allow for typical construction delivery variability
- Three scenarios were developed for the economic impact modelling based on the workforce sourcing zones (local/regional, rest of Victoria, rest of Australia). The three scenarios show a conservative case, a base case, and an optimistic case
- The assumptions based on research and local and international standards in wind farm operational expenditure (OpEX) in economic impact modelling were used for the sensitivity analysis based on pulse year approach
- In calculating the nominal inflation overlay, the results derived in economic impact modelling via REMPLAN were indexed applying the out-year Consumer Price Index (CPI: 2.5%) and Wage Price Index (WPI: 3%) projections as steady long-run indexing assumptions across the Project operations period. (These projections are provided in the Victorian Department of Treasury and Finance macroeconomic projections in the 2025-26 Budget Update)

Limitations

- The report cannot capture every idea and perspective put forward during the social impact assessment process and instead highlights themes that emerged through engagement activities
- Community views presented here are informed by a representative sample of community members and stakeholders consulted, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the entire community
- All economic modelling has inherent limitations. In this case:
 - Supply chain complexity: actual local content may vary depending on subcontractor decisions and market conditions
 - Employment intensity: labour efficiency may differ depending on final delivery method (EPC versus staged contractor model)
 - The decommissioning impacts were not quantified as the process and timeframe are uncertain
 - Due to the variability of pulse years and the pulse event expenditure based on diverse external factors, an illustrative pulse sensitivity modelling has been conducted
 - Because CPI and WPI forecasts are only published over a limited forward period and are not available with precision for the full 35-year Project operating life, the nominal inflation overlay applies constant long-run indexation rates (based on the out-year macroeconomic projections of the Victorian Department of Treasury and Finance, as an illustrative assumption. The actual CPI/WPI outcomes over the operating period will vary and the nominal results should therefore be interpreted as indicative rather than a forecast

4. Stakeholder engagement

This chapter identifies and maps the Project's key stakeholders, outlines outcomes of completed engagement activities, and recommends plans for the remaining project stages.

The Proponent has committed to deliver ongoing best-practice engagement, with the overarching objective to ensure that the identified community and stakeholder groups are proactively and meaningfully informed, consulted and involved.

The Proponent's engagement approach is structured to build enduring trust, support genuine relationships and ensure shared benefits for Macorna and the wider region throughout planning, approvals, construction and operation.

The Proponent's engagement approach is set out in its Macorna Wind Farm Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan. Activities have been designed to ensure the Project delivers shared value for the local community, including Traditional Owners, residents, businesses, and other relevant stakeholders. It was informed by best-practice guidelines including:

- Draft Community Engagement and Social Value Guidelines for Renewable Energy and Transmission Projects (VicGrid, 2025)
- Public Participation Spectrum (Engagement Institute, 2018, formerly International Association of Public Participation)
- Best Practice Charter for Renewable Energy Projects (Clean Energy Council, 2021)
- Leading Practice Principles: First Nations and Renewable Energy Projects (Clean Energy Council, 2024).

4.1 Engagement key principles and objectives

The Proponent's key principles

The Project's engagement process is designed to build trust, meaningful relationships and benefits for the community in and around the Macorna region, consistent with best practice stakeholder engagement standards and practices. The Proponent's engagement approach is consistent with their core values of Integrity, Safety, Courage and Humility.

Atmos is a signatory to the Clean Energy Council Best Practice Charter and is committed to:

- engaging respectfully with the local community, including Traditional Owners of the land, to seek their views and input before submitting a development application and finalising the design of the Project
- providing timely information and be accessible and responsive in addressing the local community's feedback and concerns throughout the life of the Project
- consulting the community on the potential visual, noise, traffic and other impacts of the Project, and on the mitigation option
- supporting the local economy by providing local employment and procurement opportunities, where possible
- offering communities the opportunity to share in the benefits of the Project, and consult them on the options available, including relevant governance arrangements.

The Project's engagement objectives

The Project's engagement objectives are ordered by project stage are set out in **Section 1.3** of the Macorna Wind Farm Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan and include success measures. The objectives aim to build and maintain trusted, transparent relationships with landholders, neighbours, Traditional Custodians, local businesses and the broader community across all stages of the Project. They focus on ensuring stakeholders are informed early, concerns

and local values are understood and addressed, and community feedback meaningfully informs project design, impact mitigation, benefit sharing, construction management, operations and decommissioning.

4.2 Community benefit sharing

The Proponent is committed to ensuring that the Project directly contributes to the long-term prosperity and wellbeing of the broader community in the Loddon Mallee region, as evidenced by its Community Sponsorship Fund, Community Benefit Fund, Annual Energy Offset, and Nearby Neighbour Program. Benefit initiatives are described below.

Community Sponsorship Fund (development)

Up to \$50,000/year has been made available during the development phase prior to construction, delivered through sponsorships, infrastructure funding, grants and in-kind contributions. At the time of submission, the Proponent had already committed to the following initiatives:

- Macorna Football Netball Club - resurfacing netball courts (\$25,000)
- Pyramid Hill Community Hub – building fit out (\$25,000)
- Northern District Community Health – investing in community nursing, additional 0.5 days of community nursing for a full year (\$20,000)
- Kerang Show – Platinum Sponsor (\$2,000).

Annual Energy Offset (operations)

During operations, an annual payment of \$1,000 will be provided for each dwelling located within 6km of an installed wind turbine, equating to approximately \$288,000 per annum in energy offsets.

Community Benefit Fund (construction and operations)

The Project will establish a Community Benefit Fund of \$3,000 per turbine per annum during construction and operation. This is expected to equate to approximately \$420,000 per year, delivered through sponsorships, infrastructure investment, grants and in-kind contributions. Noted, while initially the Proponent had indicated that the Community Benefit Fund would amount to \$1,000 per year per turbine, this was increased to \$3,000 per year per turbine following feedback from Gannawarra Council and the community.

Nearby Neighbour Program (operations)

Designed to provide direct benefit to those closest to the Project, eligible dwellings within 3.5km of a wind turbine will receive up to \$20,000 per annum, representing approximately \$1 million in total annual neighbour payments. Participation in the program does not require neighbours to accept higher levels of impact in exchange for compensation.

If fully developed, the Project's total community benefit contribution is estimated to be approximately \$54 million over its 30-year operational life. The program will be further refined once VicGrid guidelines are finalised.

4.3 Complaints management

The Proponent's complaints management policy, titled the "ATMOS Enquiry and Complaint Procedure" (2026) is available on the Proponent's website. The policy sets out a consistent, accessible and accountable process to handle enquiries and complaints across the Proponent's project suite, with the intent to ensure concerns are received respectfully, recorded promptly, investigated fairly, and used to improve both project delivery and community engagement.

It is grounded in recognised complaint-handling standards and commits to clear communication, timely acknowledgement, confidentiality, defined roles and review of complaint trends over time. In practice, it explains how complaints can be lodged, how they are registered and investigated, how unreasonable complaints are managed, and how unresolved matters can be escalated internally and then to the Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner if needed.

4.4 Stakeholder identification and analysis

‘Stakeholders’ are broadly defined as people and groups who may have an interest in, or be affected by, the Project. As set out in Appendix D of the Project’s Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan, the Proponent identified 24 stakeholder groups through a systematic review process. This involved analysing land ownership data; considering the local and broader regional community, industry and service providers; engaging with community organisations and local networks; reviewing media and public notices; using existing newsletter distribution lists and community information sessions; and consulting with relevant government agencies and regulators. For this social impact assessment, these 24 stakeholder groups are rolled into eight higher level categories as shown in **Figure 10**.

Figure 10: Key stakeholder groups

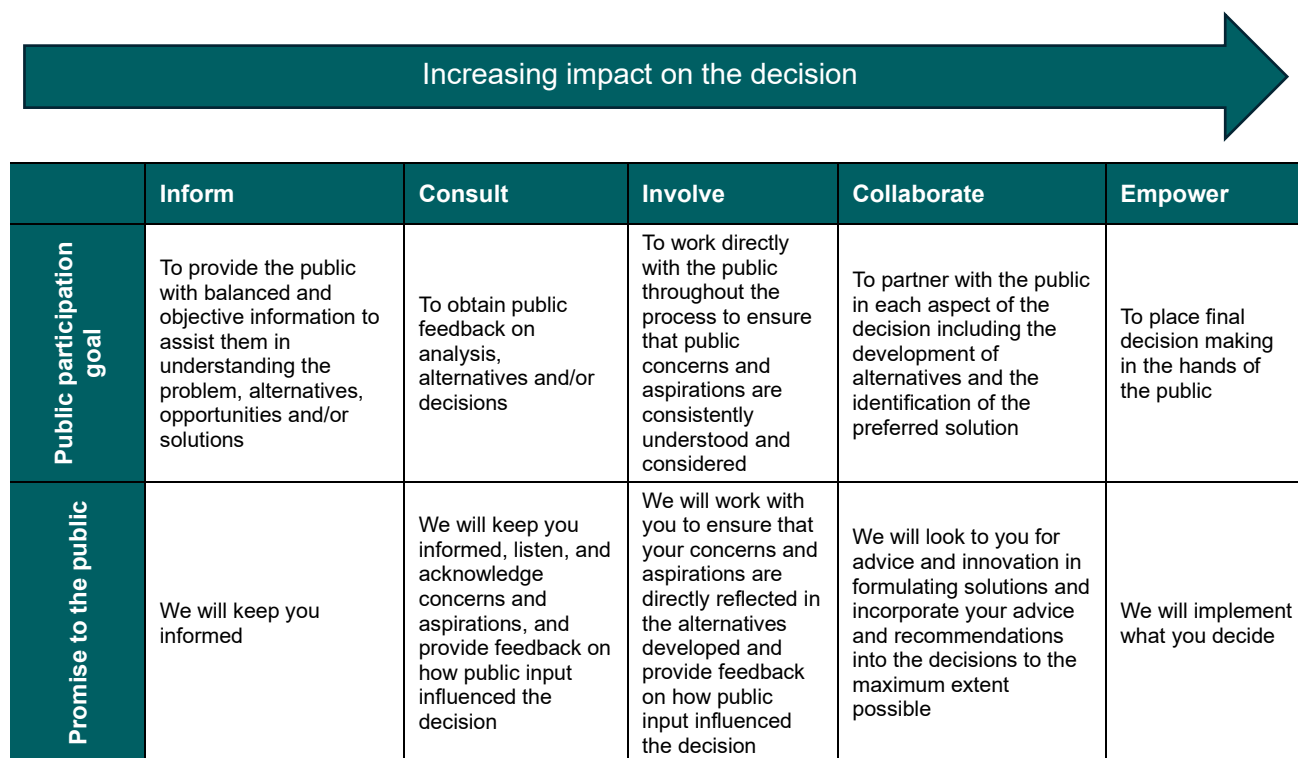


The engagement approach for the proposed Project has been guided by the Engagement Institute (formerly IAP2) Core Values and the Public Participation Spectrum (inform -> consult -> involve -> collaborate -> empower) (see **Figure 11**). The spectrum is founded on the premise that different stakeholders will have varied levels of involvement in decision-making.

The Victorian Government’s “Community Engagement and Social Value Guidelines for Renewable Energy and Transmission Projects” set a clear expectation that developers adopt ‘involve’ as the minimum level of engagement, with strong encouragement to progress toward ‘collaborate’ and ‘empower’ where appropriate. For stakeholders more peripheral to the Project, an ‘inform’ or ‘consult’ approach is proposed, reflecting their lower and more indirect exposure to potential impacts. Future engagement with these groups will focus on providing timely updates and seeking feedback on matters that may affect them. For this Project, the Proponent commits to ‘inform’,

'consult' and 'involve' the appropriate stakeholders through an effective engagement process based on the objectives and promises outlined in the spectrum in **Figure 11**.

Figure 11: IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation



	Inform	Consult	Involve	Collaborate	Empower
Public participation goal	To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution	To place final decision making in the hands of the public
Promise to the public	We will keep you informed	We will keep you informed, listen, and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision	We will look to you for advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible	We will implement what you decide

Source: IAP2 International Federation, 2018

Table 6 replicates the Stakeholder Identification table set out in Appendix C of the CESP and overlays Lecroma's eight key stakeholder groups used for the purpose of this social impact assessment.

Table 6: CSEP stakeholder mapping overlayed with SIA higher level key stakeholder groups

SIA high level stakeholder group	Stakeholder group as per CSEP (Appendix C)	Definition	Details	Level of interest	Level of influence
1. Project hosts	Landowners within the Project Area	Major involved landowners	- Landowners that are hosting double digit turbines (up to 25 turbines) 51 host landowner dwellings - Includes Don and Graham, the originators of the Project	High	High
		Smaller involved landowners	Landowners that are hosting single digit turbines	High	High
		Uninvolved landowners within the Project Area	Landowners who have chosen not to host turbines on their land or have properties that couldn't host a turbine but are located within the Project Area	High	High
2. Project neighbours	Neighbours	Landowners within 10 km of Project Area	696 non-involved dwellings within 10km of the Project Area	High	High

SIA high level stakeholder group	Stakeholder group as per CSEP (Appendix C)	Definition	Details	Level of interest	Level of influence
		Local towns	Towns surrounding the Project Area between 10-20km	High	High
3. First Nations groups and/or Traditional Owners	Traditional Custodians	Barapa Country Aboriginal Corporation	The Barapa Barapa people are the Traditional Custodians of the land. The BCAC is not currently formally recognised as a RAP	High	Medium
		Barapa Ltd	Barapa Ltd is an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and land management enterprise based in Victoria, serving Barapa Barapa Country across Gannawarra and Loddon Shires. A registered charity	High	Medium
		Kowong Community and Traditional Owner Group	A recently formed community and traditional owner group representing Barapa Barapa people	High	Medium
		Barapa Barapa people	People who identify as Traditional Owners and Custodians	High	Medium
		Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation	RAP for Yorta Yorta Country ~5.5km east	High	Medium
		Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation (DJAARA)	RAP for Dja Dja Wurrung Country ~12km south	High	Medium
		Wamba Wamba Aboriginal Corporation	RAP of land ~41km west	High	Medium
		Government	First Peoples - State Relations	Medium	High
4. Government and elected representatives	Gannawarra Shire Council	Relevant Councillors	- Mayor - Cr Garner Smith (Nationals) - Deputy Mayor - Cr Ross Stanton - The Council consists of seven councillors, including the mayor and deputy mayor	Medium	Medium
		Governance	- CEO – Geoff Rollinson - Director Infrastructure Services - Wade Williams - Manager, Planning & Regulatory - Fiona Gormann - Council also owns and manages Kerang Airport.	Medium	Medium
	Loddon Shire Council	Relevant Councillors	- Mayor - Cr Dan Straub - The Council consists of five councillors, including the mayor (no deputy mayor)	Medium	Medium
		Governance	- CEO - Lincoln Fitzgerald - Manager Tourism and Economic Development - David Stretch - Manager Assets and Infrastructure - David Southcombe - Manager Development and Compliance - Glenn Harvey	High	Medium

SIA high level stakeholder group	Stakeholder group as per CSEP (Appendix C)	Definition	Details	Level of interest	Level of influence
	Federal Government	Relevant Ministers	- Minister for Climate Change and Energy, Hon Chris Bowen MP - Minster for Environment and Water, Hon Murray Watt MP - Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, The Hon. Catherine King MP - Minister for Industry and Science, Mr. Ed Husic MP - Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Hon. Julie Collins	Medium	Medium
		Local	Dr Anne Webster MP - Member for Mallee (Nationals)	High	High
		Department Officers	Staff in government agencies such as DCCEEW	Medium	High
		Federal Agencies	- Federal DCCEEW - AEMO - Regional Development Australia (RDA) – Loddon Mallee - John Sheldon, Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner - Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA)	Medium	High
	State Government	Relevant Ministers	- Pauline Richards MP – Victorian Minister for Energy and Resources (Labor) - Sonya Kilkeny MP - Victorian Minister for Planning (Labor) - Danny Pearson MP - Victorian Minister for Economic Growth and Jobs (Labor) - Ros Spence MP - Victorian Minister for Agriculture (Labor) - Jaclyn Symes MP - Victorian Minister for Regional Development (Labor) - Lily D'Ambrosio MP - Victorian Minister for Energy and Resources (Labor) - Gayle Tierney MP – Victorian Minister for Water (Labor) - Legislative Council (Upper House) - 11 Members of the Northern Victoria region, including the: - Shadow Minister for Planning - Richard Riordan MP - Shadow Minister for Regional Development and Liveability - Danny O'Brien MP - Shadow Minister for Agriculture - Emma Kealy MP - Shadow Minister for Energy and Resources - David Davis MP - Shadow Minister for Environment - Brad Roswell MP	Medium	High

SIA high level stakeholder group	Stakeholder group as per CSEP (Appendix C)	Definition	Details	Level of interest	Level of influence
		Local	Peter Walsh MP (Nationals) - Member for Murray Plains	Medium	High
		State Agencies	- Victorian Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) - Loddon Mallee Region - Victorian Department of Transport and Planning - Planning Panels Victoria - Victorian Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) - Victorian Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions - Invest Victoria	High	High
	Emergency services		- Country Fire Authority (CFA) District 20 (Kerang, Cohuna, Pyramid Hill brigades) - State Emergency Service (SES) - Kerang and Loddon units - Victoria Police - Kerang, Pyramid Hill, Boort stations - Ambulance Victoria - Kerang and Boort branches	Medium	Medium
	Catchment management authority	North Central Catchment Management Authority (NCCMA)	Macorna is located in the Loddon River Basin. The NCCMA was established in 1997 under the <i>Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994</i> and also has powers and functions under the <i>Water Act 1989</i>	Medium	Medium
	Water provider	Goulburn-Murray Water	Interest in irrigation infrastructure	Medium	Medium
	Transport and road authorities		- Loddon Shire Council - Gannawarra Shire Council - DTP – Transport Division/VicRoads	Medium	Low
	Transmission line operator		- AusNet - existing transmission lines - Transmission Company Victoria - VNI West	High	High
5. Community members and interest groups	Wider communities	Other towns	Community beyond 20km of the Project	Medium	Medium
		Towns within Council Area	Other townships within Loddon and Gannawarra municipalities	Medium	Low
	NGO and local community organisations	Local committees	- North Central Local Learning Employment Network Macorna and District Progress Association - Pyramid Hill Progress Association - Kerang Progress Association - Kerang and District Agricultural Society - Boort Resource and Information Centre (BRIC)	High	Medium

SIA high level stakeholder group	Stakeholder group as per CSEP (Appendix C)	Definition	Details	Level of interest	Level of influence
			Gannawarra Shire Men's Shed groups		
	Environment and conservation groups		- Friends of Kerang Lakes - Gannawarra Landcare Network - Loddon Plains Landcare Network - Local birdwatching groups	High	Medium
	Community action groups	Broad opponent groups	- National Rational Energy Network - Climate And Energy Realists - Reckless Renewables - ADAPT Loddon Mallee - Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance - Farms for Food	High	Medium
	Education and schools	Local providers	- Macorna Primary School (although closed, history relevant) - Pyramid Hill College - Pyramid Hill Preschool - Kerang Technical High School - Kerang Primary School - Kerang South Primary School - Kerang Technical School - St Mary's Primary School (Cohuna and Kerang) - Bendigo Regional Institute of TAFE - Kerang - GoTAFE - SuniTAFE	Low-Medium	Low
	Sports clubs and recreation groups	Local groups	- Macorna Football Netball Club - Pyramid Hill Football Netball Club - Macorna Pony Club - Macorna Cricket Club - Tragowel Cricket Club - Boort Football Netball Club - Kerang Football Netball Club - Kerang Lawn Tennis Club - Kerang Bowls Club - Cohuna Football, tennis and lawn bowls club - Cohuna Golf Club and adjacent bowls club - Leitchville Bowls Club and Tennis Club	Low-Medium	Low
5. Community members and interest groups / 6. Local industry	Other services and referral authorities		- Wimmera Southern Mallee Development (CEO is pro-renewables) - Other renewables and storage operators	Medium	Low
6. Local industry / 7. Local business	Local businesses	Near (10km of Project Area)	Businesses up to 10km from the Project Area (incl. Macorna, Tragowel and Pyramid Hill)	High	Medium

SIA high level stakeholder group	Stakeholder group as per CSEP (Appendix C)	Definition	Details	Level of interest	Level of influence
	and industry associations	Local (10-20km of the Project Area)	Businesses between 10km and 20km from the Project Area (inc. Kerang and Cohuna). Boort is further than 20km away	Medium	Low
		Chambers of Commerce and Industry	- Regional Chambers of Commerce (Kerang, Boort, Pyramid Hill) - Kerang Traders Group - Local real estate agents (important for property value concerns) - Victorian Farmers Federation	Medium	Medium-Low
7. Local business	Aviation	Kerang Airport	Site is located ~4km southeast of the Airport	High	High
		Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA)	CASA have the authority to close the airport should the turbines impact the safety of the operations	Medium	High
8. Local media	Print media	Local	- Local publications and newsletters including: Gannawarra Times, Loddon Times, Country News - North West Farmer, The Guardian (Swan Hill), Riverine Herald, Dairy News. Mallee District Aboriginal Services – Community Newsletter	High	High
		State	Victorian publications such as The Age, The Herald Sun	Low	Medium
		National	National publications such as the Australian Financial Review, The Australian, Renew Economy and The Weekly Times	Low	Medium
	Other media	Local	Local TV and Radio including ABC Mildura-Swan Hill, Mixx FM 107.7 (Swan Hill / Kerang), 3SH 1332 AM (Swan Hill) and KLFM 96.5 FM	Medium	Medium
		State	State TV and Radio including ABC Radio Melbourne, Triple M, Gold FM, and Mixx FM amongst others	Low	Medium
		National	National TV and Radio, including ABC National, 7News, 9News, Sky News, SBS	Low	Medium
	Social media	Facebook	- Macorna FNC Community Hub Facebook group - Kerang Notice Board Facebook group - Tragowel Community Facebook group - Kerang & District Community Page Facebook group - Cohuna area noticeboard Facebook group	Medium	Medium

4.5 Engagement modes and supporting tools used

The Proponent adopted a variety of engagement modes and supporting tools to identify, engage and meet with stakeholders and community members to support maximum accessibility. These are set out in detail in Section 9 of the CSEP and summarised in **Table 7**.

Table 7: The Proponent's engagement methods/tools

Method/tool	Description	Rationale for use	Status	Target stakeholder group(s)
Stakeholder mapping	- Identification and analysis of the key groups and individuals whose decisions can affect or be affected by the Project - Provides an overview of the relevant stakeholders in the community and informs the way developers should approach them in the engagement	Helps ensure all relevant stakeholders are engaged at the appropriate time, in the appropriate way, and their potential concerns can be anticipated and addressed appropriately to optimise relationships and project impacts	- Stakeholders initially mapped during project feasibility stage - Mapping updated during planning and approval stage and will be revisited throughout the project lifecycle	All
One-on-one briefings	- Personal meetings between project team and individuals from the community to discuss aspects of the Project - Medium can be face-to-face, telephone or online (e.g. Zoom/Teams) - This method is relatively informal. - Material should be prepared to share with individuals and project team should be well equipped to respond to possible questions, concerns or expectations - Best commenced as early as feasible, and then at key project milestones and/or upon request. Also, where specific inputs are required from community members including when developing the Project's Community Benefits Program	- Important relationship-building tool - Able to address specific concerns/misinformation without the peer pressure of larger groups - Can deep dive into intricate issues as well as gather data to be used for baseline and other research efforts relevant to the Project - Face-to-face meetings are always preferable, especially for some stakeholder groups (e.g. neighbours, First Nations groups), but online meetings help maintain the relationship when multiple in-region visits are not viable	- Commenced during the scoping stage and used regularly. - Mediums included door knocking, phone calls and one-on-one meetings	- Project hosts - Project neighbours - Government and elected representatives - Community members and interest groups
Written communication	- Written word containing information about the Project, including updates of interest to the community, key steps taken by the Proponent, and avenues for stakeholders to provide input and feedback on the Project - Medium can include emails, fact sheets, myth busters, FAQs,	- Helps stakeholders feel informed and enables the Proponent to anticipate change in the community - Counters misinformation and myths generated by anti-groups - Clear guidance on how concerns can be effectively communicated	- Commenced during preliminary scoping and continued throughout the project cycle Mediums used: 'Sorry we missed you' cards - Letter of introduction - Website content	All

Method/tool	Description	Rationale for use	Status	Target stakeholder group(s)
	- community newsletters, advertisements - Best commenced as early as feasible and then bi-monthly, or as required throughout the project lifecycle	minimises community disharmony, reduces the likelihood of anti-social behaviour, while optimising effective problem solving and positive community impacts	- Emails (including 'closing the loop') - Newsletter (distributed February 2026) - Advertisement/ invitation to community drop in sessions - Project fact sheets and information posters - FAQs - A1 info boards - Presentation and briefing pack - Media releases	
Project website	- An online resource for communities to access information about the Project at any time - Website to include Project details (timeframes, project boundary, contact details, including phone number of project team), printable/distributable factsheets, and key messages	- Allows posting of project updates (e.g. FAQs, community benefits program information, complaints management mechanisms) - Can inform communities while also gathering input from visitors to the site	- Independent website established in June 2025 and has been regularly updated: Macorna Wind Farm - Contact email established in June 2025 (macornawf@atmosrenewables.com.au)	All
Project advertisements	Public notices or displays intended to inform the community about the Project	- Can help developers publicise and enhance the Project's visibility and the opportunities for communities to participate in engagement activities - Complementary benefit by financially supporting local media	- The 18 and 19 November 2025 drop-in sessions were advertised in the Gannawarra Times and Loddon Herald during the weeks beginning November 3 and 10, 2025 - Additional advertisements may be published as necessary throughout the project lifecycle	All
Telephone information lines	- A direct line where stakeholders can contact the Proponent to discuss project matters - The phone number is provided on the Project website and other mediums described in this table	- Enables stakeholders to remain informed and/or make suggestions about the Project to the Proponent - Project team can inform communities and gather input for the Project to inform decision making	Proponent's contact number already established (1800 548 559) and will be retained through the project lifecycle	All

Method/tool	Description	Rationale for use	Status	Target stakeholder group(s)
		Mobile reception is very strong around the Project Area		
Complaints management mechanisms	- A formal process to channel and resolve legitimate issues, concerns, or problems that an individual or group has about the Project. Can be accessed via the Project website - Best to establish as early as possible and used throughout the project lifecycle	- Important for project credibility - Provides an alternative to legal procedures through collaboration between parties to resolve issues in a more efficient and collaborative way that builds community ownership of solutions - Can be used at early signs of discontent, thereby thwarting larger problems later in the project lifecycle	The Proponent's complaints management policy, titled the "ATMOS Enquiry and Complaint Procedure" (2026) is available on the Proponents website.	- Project neighbours - Community members and interest groups
Drop-in session or 'meet and greet' event	- Can be referred to as an 'information' or 'community' day, a casual event for community members, local council and local businesses to visit to ask questions or collect information about the Project, as well as provide comments and feedback to the Project team - Usually hosted in an open space format, with several desks or poster displays with information about specific aspects of the Project so visitors can walk around them - Examples of host locations include a library, community hall or café	- Builds trust with the community and shows transparent engagement - Identifies local concerns early so the project design can be improved and reduces misinformation about wind farm safety and technology - Helps meet state planning and community-engagement requirements - Strengthens relationships with residents, businesses, council and local groups - Provides a chance to present community benefits and gather feedback - Helps refine communication materials based on real community questions. - Humanises the project team and makes future interactions easier	- Drop-in session held 18/11/2025 at Kerang Memorial Hall - Second drop-in session held 19/11/2025 at Pyramid Hill Memorial Hall - Coffee drop-in sessions at café's in Kerang and Pyramid Hill on 14/04/2026 and 15/04/2026	- Community members and interest groups - Project neighbours - Local business - Local industry - Government and elected representatives

4.6 Summary and outcomes of engagement to date

Engagement with host, neighbouring landholders and local Councils commenced in September 2023. Early engagement included a concept introduction meeting attended by around 30-40 community members, followed by a targeted involved landowner session in August 2024 attended by around 60 people, as well as community BBQs, a landowner site visit to Kiata Wind Farm, and a project newsletter circulated in late 2024. The Proponent's broader community and stakeholder engagement program expanded during 2025, supported by the preparation of the CSEP,

Engagement Action Plan, First Nations Communication and Engagement Plan, draft Community Benefit Sharing Framework, and establishment of the Borealis stakeholder, complaints and business register.

A detailed project webpage was launched in October 2025, alongside sponsorship of the Kerang Show, neighbour doorknocking, neighbour and landowner mailouts, and community advertising. Insights and feedback gathered through this early consultation identified key issues including visual impact, turbine scale, noise, financial implications and property value concerns, and have informed ongoing assessment, engagement planning and consideration of design measures to avoid or minimise impacts, including visual amenity.

The Proponent held community drop-in sessions in Kerang and Pyramid Hill on 18 and 19 November 2025, attracting 20 attendees across the two sessions. Feedback was mixed but generally constructive, with sentiment ranging from positive to neutral, sceptical and slightly negative, alongside one or two clear objections. The Proponent undertook to follow-up with invited organisations and community groups that did not attend.

Engagement expanded further in early 2026 through the launch of the Neighbour Newsletter and Landowner Update, a stall at the Kerang Market, and informal coffee catchups in Kerang and Pyramid Hill. During this period, targeted engagement also occurred with First Peoples-State Relations, Barapa Country Aboriginal Corporation, Kowang Community and Traditional Owner Group, Wamba Wemba Aboriginal Corporation, Loddon and Gannawarra Shire Councils, NCCMA, Goulburn Murray Water, DTP, CFA and DEECA.

Table 8 provides a summary of key engagement activities undertaken with the community and stakeholders up to submission of the EES referral, including feedback received. Additional communications, including email correspondence, have occurred throughout the life of the Project but are not comprehensively detailed here for brevity and confidentiality.

The Proponent has invested significant effort in building and maintaining strong relationships with landowners throughout the Project's development. This is reflected in the size and active participation of the host landowner group, and generally constructive interactions with landowners who elected not to participate.

Engagement with the broader community has also been largely positive, although some localised negative sentiment has been identified in the Pyramid Hill area, south-west of the project boundary. The Loddon Valley Renewables Awareness Group, initially established in opposition to a separate nearby proposal, has also raised concerns about the proposed Macorna Wind Farm. The Proponent has engaged with representatives of the group in response to these concerns.

Engagement with near neighbours has been most effective using a mixed-methods approach. In-person discussions were consistently the preferred format, supported by follow-up via telephone and email updates. While some early interactions were characterised by heightened concern and resistance, sentiment generally moderated over time as engagement continued and relationships developed. Across the broader community, stakeholders consistently emphasised the importance of timely, transparent and ongoing communication.

Table 8: Engagement activities and outcomes

Stakeholder group	Specific stakeholder	Date/s	Tools	Details/outcome
Project host	Host landowners	Ongoing since 2023	In-person meetings, emails and phone calls	- Ongoing landowner meetings since project inception to update on progress, milestones, and feedback from key stakeholder groups about the Project - Continuous adaption of the Project to minimise and/or avoid potential impacts on agricultural operations
Project neighbours	All	Ongoing since October 2025	Mixed method	- Project updates and answering questions or discussing concerns - Issues raised included visual impacts and turbine size, noise and fire risk, and financial considerations. Overall sentiment was largely neutral to mixed, with most discussions constructive and reasonable
		October 2025	Neighbour drop-in	- Neighbour drop-in event at Macorna Netball Football Club. About 20-25 people attended - There was mixed sentiment in the room, with some neighbours expressing support for the Project, some neutral, and some expressing objection
		Ongoing since October 2025	Door knocks	Project team door knocked project neighbours within about 5km of the Project Area. If not home, the team left a copy of the newsletter which included an invitation to engage and contact details
		Late 2025	Neighbour meetings	- Face to face meetings held with project neighbours. Initial response was mixed (mostly negative due to a small number of initial attendees at the neighbour drop-in being those most apprehensive about the project – those with neutral or positive views were less likely to attend from the project team's experience). Neighbour discussions provided feedback and local insight, particularly about site layout, which resulted in changes to the layout proposed in the EES Referral. As door knocking commenced, positive and neutral neighbours were interacted with more regularly, according to Project team reporting. - Examples of topics covered included project next steps; project benefits; neighbour concepts; property values; turbine numbers and constraints; and optional restriction - Examples of concerns raised included the potential impact of the Project on community cohesion, property values, farming operations. Other sentiments included distrust of agreement terms and fear of loss of controls - Nearby Neighbour Program was launched with no obligation to participate and no deadline to apply.
Community and interest groups	All	18 and 19 November 2025	Community drop-in sessions	- The Proponent hosted an all-welcome event at the Kerang Memorial Hall and Pyramid Memorial Hall to engage interested stakeholders and local community members who wanted to learn more about the Project - The event was advertised in the Gannawarra Times and Loddon Herald during the weeks beginning 3 and 10 November. Personal invites (email, letters, letterbox drop) were also sent to direct neighbours, and council, select businesses and education institutions were invited. - The events ran for six hours and there were a total of 20 visitors, including several project neighbours and other community members. There was also representation from education institutions such as TAFE NSW, community groups, select Gannawarra and Loddon Councillors, an RFS volunteer, and interest groups - While there were one to two clear objectors to the Project, other conversations ranged from positive to neutral/sceptical/slightly negative - Key concerns were mostly raised by near neighbours, who had concerns about potential noise and visual impacts, whilst others had concerns about potential property price impacts

Stakeholder group	Specific stakeholder	Date/s	Tools	Details/outcome
				and protecting local fauna and birds including the Plains Wanderer and grasslands - Ideas about community and benefit sharing included: extend electricity rebate further; nets to avoid irrigation pumps impacting fish/other fauna; and a suggestion to talk to Northern District Community Health for long-term legacy impacts - The atmosphere during the sessions seemed to vary between attendees towards the Proposal. There were one to two obvious mentions of members objecting to the proposal, however other conversations raised from positive to neutral/sceptical/slightly negative. Key concerns were mostly raised by nearby neighbours
		14 and 15 April 2026	Coffee drop-in sessions	- The Proponent hosted drop-in sessions at local coffee shops in Kerang and Pyramid Hill. - The sessions were an opportunity for Project neighbours and community members to learn more about the Project, including the proposed concept layout. - Broadly positive to neutral atmosphere was experienced throughout these sessions, with some negative sentiment expressed focussed on broad anti-renewable views, rather than those specific to the Macorna Wind Farm project. - The Proponent will hold similar drop-in sessions throughout the development process for the Project.
	Loddon Valley Renewable Awareness Group	Various	Emails, in-person meetings	- The Proponent has exchanged emails with the LVRAG including to share project information, answer questions and offer to meet with representatives in person - Representatives of the group attended the neighbour drop-in event in October 2025 and spent several hours in discussion with the project team - The project team also invited representatives to attend the community drop-in sessions in November 2025, however they did not attend.
	Northern District Community Health	18 November 2025	In-person meeting	- During the drop-in session on 18 November, the project team met with a representative of Northern District Community Health to hear an overview of Northern Districts' activities and share details about the Project and sponsorship opportunities/benefits - Youth health and mental health services were identified as a potential area for collaboration, with all parties
	Macorna Football and Netball Club	2024-2025	Sponsorship and local engagement	The Proponent provided sponsorship support to the Macorna Football and Netball Club, including a \$25,000 contribution towards the resurfacing of the netball courts
First Nations groups and/or Traditional Owners	Barapa Country Aboriginal Corporation	November 2025	Online	- The project team held an introductory meeting with a representative from the Barapa Country Aboriginal Corporation to present the Project and proposed community benefits, and understand their aspirations - The meeting was with the coordinator of the three Barapa groups (BCAC, BLW and Barapa Ltd). Minutes were distributed - The group confirmed availability and booking timeframes to participate in CHMP fieldwork, and was interested in partnership and long-term sustainable economic and social outcomes beyond CHMP fieldwork. For example, full time employment and education pathways - The Proponent responded to the group's questions and concerns about the Project's full disturbance footprint in terms of Aboriginal cultural heritage and its long-term environmental effects on native/endemic flora and fauna
	Wamba-Wemba Aboriginal Corporation	November 2025	In-person	The project team held an introductory meeting with a representative from the Wamba-Wemba Aboriginal Corporation to present the Project and proposed community benefits, and understand their aspirations



Stakeholder group	Specific stakeholder	Date/s	Tools	Details/outcome
				- The meeting was with the RAP and Country Managers. The Chief Executive was not present but Minutes were distributed - The group confirmed availability and booking timeframes to participate in CHMP fieldwork, and wanted to discuss the proposed community benefits internally before providing feedback
	First Peoples-State Relations (FP-SR)	January 2026	In-person	Since the initial heritage advice, changes in representative arrangements have made it harder to identify and contact the right people. The Proponent sought guidance from FP-SR, and a potential contact pathway has been identified to support further consultation
	Kowang Community and Traditional Owner Group (Kowang Coop Ltd)	March 2026	Online	- The project team held an introductory meeting with representatives from Kowang Coop Ltd to present the Project and proposed community benefits, and understand their aspirations - The group confirmed availability and booking timeframes to participate in CHMP fieldwork, and was interested in partnership and long-term sustainable economic and social outcomes beyond CHMP fieldwork.
Government and elected representatives	Gannawarra Shire Council	5 February 2024	In-person meeting	The project team presented to Councillors to introduce the Project, note community engagement efforts, transport networks and project timelines
	Loddon Shire Council	August 2025	In-person meeting	The project team presented to Councillors to introduce the Project, note community engagement efforts, transport networks and project timelines
	Department of Transport and Planning	16 and 25 June 2025	Online meeting	The project team introduced the Project to the DTP Renewables and Impact Assessment teams
	DCCEEW	26 June 2025	Online meeting	The project team introduced the Project to the DCCEEW team
	Loddon Shire Council	12 January 2026	Online meeting	The project team presented to the Council officers regarding local road use. Generally, there were no key concerns
	North Central Catchment Management Authority	16 January 2026	Online meeting	The project team presented to the NCCMA representatives an overview of the Project. Generally, there were no key concerns
	Gannawarra Shire Council	22 January 2026	Online meeting	The project team presented to the Council officers regarding local road use. Generally, there were no key concerns
	Department of Transport and Planning	6 February 2026 and 24 March	Online meeting	The project team provided an update and overview of assessment findings to DTP Renewables and Impact Assessment team
	Country Fire Authority	17 February 2026	Online meeting	The project team presented to the CFA regarding the Project. Generally, there were no key concerns
	Department of Environment, Energy and Climate Action	18 February and 4 th March 2026	Online meeting	The project team introduced the Project to the DEECA biodiversity and rural water teams

4.7 Engagement plan post EES referral-lodgement

Table 9 outlines a typical engagement pathway aligned to each project stage from submission of the EES referral through to the end of the project lifecycle. It incorporates actions required to achieve key objectives, aligning with actions outlined in the CSEP. It provides a high-level framework and should be reviewed and updated regularly in response to project developments and stakeholder feedback.

Table 9: Typical engagement pathway from planning and approval stage onwards

Stage 1: Site selection – Complete	
Stage 2: Project feasibility – Complete	
Stage 3: Planning and approval – In progress	
Objectives	Key actions
1. Ensure public awareness of process: Publicise EES referral submission and next steps clearly	A. Publicise and maintain updated project information and collateral, including external versions of the CSEP and ESR where required to support planning and environmental approval requirements B. Advise the community and other stakeholders via the Project website and a community newsletter that the EES referral submission has occurred C. Share turbine placement information with the community and neighbours as design information becomes available D. Pending approval decision and conditions, publicise via website, print and online advertisements the opportunity to review the EES referral and make written submissions to VicGrid about the Project E. If there is a public exhibition period, host meetings with local stakeholders if requested during the exhibition period, to answer further questions F. If there is a public exhibition period, prepare a submissions report for VicGrid which responds to community and stakeholders' comments on the EES referral. Focus on key and substantial issues raised
2. Retain status as 'active member' of the community: Continue proactive engagement	A. Communicate with previously engaged community members to inform them on next steps for the Project and provide further newsletters for those who opt in for future updates B. Email stakeholders the Proponent has met with to update them on timing and provide responses to their questions or concerns that were raised during consultation C. Continue community information sessions, pop-ups, landholder and neighbour meetings, and proactive outreach in local townships during the approval stage D. Continue benefit sharing and social impact engagement, including collection of benefit-sharing intelligence through consultation E. Maintain feedback and consultation mechanisms for EES scoping/approval feedback F. Prepare and update a Community and Stakeholder Engagement Summary/Consultation Summary Report based on feedback received G. Hold other additional stakeholder meetings and liaison, as required H. Hold meetings with objectors, if required, to respond to key concerns and explain design or assessment changes
3. Refine the Project with stakeholders before construction planning begins	A. Hold refined design consultations, stakeholder briefings and targeted community sessions B. Conduct visual impact and noise assessment engagement and environmental management plan consultation C. Prepare pre-construction information packs D. Conduct workforce and local business engagement E. Establish communication channels for construction phase F. Develop the Community Benefits Program in parallel with refined design and pre-construction planning
Stage 4: Construction	
Objectives	Key actions
4. Ensure engagement is fit for purpose: Reflect on the Project's community engagement process for the construction stage and identify ways it can be improved	A. Engage with select community members and trusted advisors to review and update engagement plan B. Implement more proactive engagement methods based on stakeholder preferences (e.g. newsletter, letter box drop, email) C. Establish a dedicated community contact point for the construction phase and promote contact details to impacted neighbours and communities D. Include complaints management mechanism, making the framework publicly available and report the process and outcomes
5. Minimise construction-stage impacts via communication: Reduce impacts on communities and key stakeholders by proactivity consulting and communicating matters relating to the construction schedule	A. Undertake pre-construction briefings and issue construction notifications B. Use media and social media communications, and update webpage and collateral when required C. Inform communities of the timeframes, schedules, for non-standard disturbing or noisy activity in advance and keep them up to date. Make this information publicly available. D. Monitor and report significant impacts from the construction stage, including complaints handling and processing through the complaints management mechanism E. Install on-site signage and information boards

	F. Hold further stakeholder meetings, if required, during construction and commissioning G. Monitor and report significant construction impacts and mitigation measures, including complaints handling, response times and resolution rates, through regular public reporting
6. Implement the Community Benefits Program and any impact mitigation strategies proposed in EES referral	A. Approve and refine benefit sharing initiatives B. Develop and deliver Impact Mitigation Action Plan, if proposed in the EES and contained within the planning approval. Should include identifying local job and procurement opportunities
7. Retain status as 'active member' of the community: Sustain engagement and implement the Community Benefits Program and Impact Mitigation Action Plan	A. Address concerns by acknowledging and responding to any issues raised in a timely manner B. Continue to implement the Community Benefits Program and Impact Mitigation Program
8. Sustain community support for the Project throughout the construction stage	A. Communicate the positive contribution of the Project to community development B. Consider opportunities to provide tours of the Project Area for interested groups (e.g. schools, community groups) to increase awareness and education about the construction process and benefits of wind farms to the area C. Seek or respond to interest in opportunities for communities created by the construction process
Stage 5: Commissioning and operations	
Objectives	Key actions
9. Ensure engagement is fit for purpose: Reflect on the Project's community engagement process for the commissioning and operation stage and identify ways it can be improved	A. Evaluate the Project's stakeholder engagement approach. Document and distribute evaluation findings and recommendations to key stakeholders and industry interest groups B. Review and update engagement plan
10. Minimise operations-stage impacts via communication: Reduce impacts on communities and key stakeholders by proactivity consulting and communicating matters relating to the project commissioning and operations schedule	A. Inform communities of the timeframes, schedules, for non-standard disturbing or noisy activity in advance and keep them up to date. Make this information publicly available B. Address concerns by acknowledging and responding to any issues raised C. Maintain regular community updates and a community liaison officer/contact point D. Continue environmental monitoring reporting
11. Retain status as 'active member' of the community: Sustain engagement and implement the Community Benefits Program and Impact Mitigation Program	A. Address concerns by acknowledging and responding to any issues raised in a timely manner B. Continue to implement the Community Benefits Sharing Initiatives and Impact Mitigation Program C. Host an Open Day to showcase the Project and provide site tours for select community groups or members. Run an annual community event and identify volunteer days to engage students D. Continue landholder meetings and broader stakeholder relationship management E. Use local media and social media to provide updates on operations, opportunities and benefit sharing delivery F. Deliver education and awareness initiatives G. Announce and report on the Community Benefits Program, fund or initiatives
12. Be a good neighbour: Monitor ongoing community sentiments towards the Project to identify changes in perceptions of the Proponent	A. Sustain the delivery of ongoing engagement activities, including phone calls and in-person engagements. document interactions for future analysis (e.g. evaluation)
Stage 6: Decommissioning and/or replacement	
Objectives	Key actions
13. Ensure engagement is fit for purpose: Reflect on the Project's community	A. Revisit this plan and all subsequent documentation relating to the Project to learn lessons and develop a specific engagement strategy for decommissioning and/or replacing wind farm infrastructure

engagement process for the decommissioning stage and identify ways it can be improved	B. Undertake a site review and evaluation to inform the decommissioning strategy
14. Minimise decommissioning-stage impacts via communication: Reduce impacts on communities and key stakeholders by proactivity consulting and communicating matters relating to the project decommissioning schedule	A. Inform communities of the timeframes, schedules, for non-standard disturbing or noisy activity in advance and keep them up to date. Make this information publicly available B. Address concerns by acknowledging and responding to any issues raised C. Provide project updates and notifications, community information sessions and one-on-one stakeholder meetings D. Continue regulatory engagement E. Offer site tours or visual presentations, where appropriate F. Maintain feedback channels and local media/online updates G. Publicly communicate the decommissioning timeline at least 12 months in advance
15. Retain status as 'active member' of the community: Sustain engagement and implement the Impact Mitigation Program	A. Address concerns by acknowledging and responding to any issues raised in a timely manner B. Continue to implement the Impact Mitigation Program C. Prepare a post-decommissioning community report D. Undertake legacy engagement and close-out with key stakeholders
16. Understand project impact: Assess and understand the overall impact of the Project on the immediate and surrounding community	A. Undertake an evaluation of the Project to assess its overall impact B. Document and distribute evaluation findings and recommendations to key stakeholders and industry interest groups, including VicGrid C. Evaluate environmental restoration outcomes, stakeholder satisfaction, and fulfilment of lease and planning commitments

5. Social locality and baseline

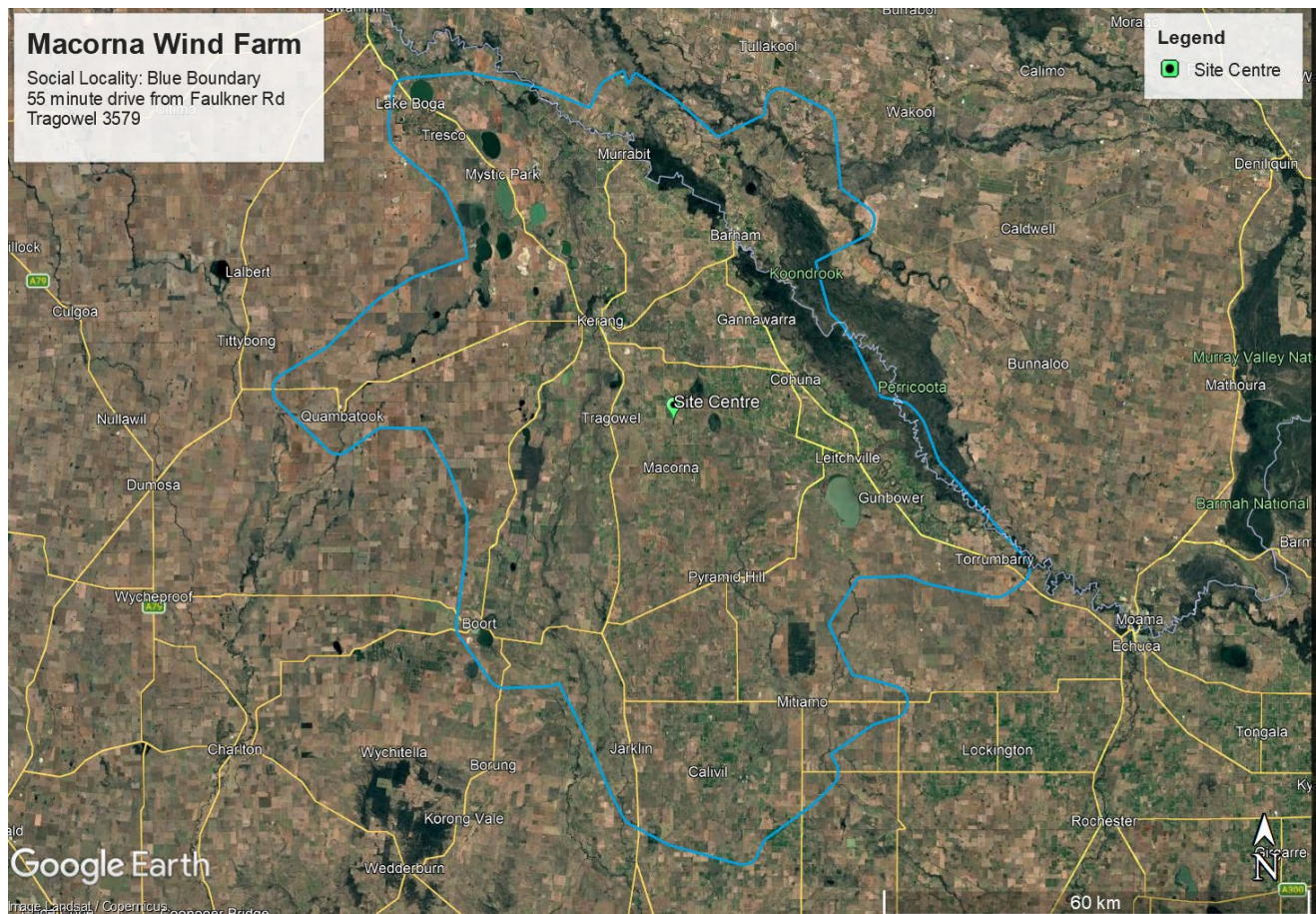
5.1 The Project's social locality

Defining the social locality

As described in Chapter 3, this assessment adopts the concept of social locality to identify the area in which people are likely to experience social impacts arising from the proposed Project. In social impact assessment, the social locality is not a fixed administrative boundary. Rather, it is a functional area defined by where project-related changes may be experienced directly, indirectly and cumulatively through everyday patterns of movement, service use, employment, land use and community life. This approach is consistent with contemporary social impact assessment guidance, (NSW Government, 2023).

Consistent with that approach, a 55-minute drive time from the proposed Project at Faulkner Road, Tragowel 3579, has been adopted as a practical basis to define the Project's social locality. It reflects the way people in regional Victoria routinely travel between towns and rural properties for work, school, services, shopping and social connection (Victorian Government, 2026), and is also consistent with construction workforce planning practice, where towns within about an hour's drive are commonly treated as a practical commuting and accommodation catchment for project workers (Australian Government, 2026).

Figure 12: The Project's social locality boundary



Source: Google Maps 2026 (extracted from REMPLAN)

Project Area, immediate area of social influence, and broader town network

The Project is located in a predominantly rural landscape spanning parts of the Gannawarra and Loddon local government areas, on Barapa Barapa Country. The Project Area is characterised by cleared farming land used for mixed farming, dairy, cropping and grazing, with a flat to gently undulating landscape, extensive agricultural modification, irrigation infrastructure and dispersed dwellings. These features are relevant to the social locality because they shape how people may experience project-related change, particularly in relation to landscape character, visual amenity, traffic movement, rural living amenity and agricultural land use (ABS, 2021; Atmos Renewables, 2026).

Within the 55-minute functional catchment, the Project has an immediate area of social influence comprising those most likely to experience direct or near-field effects during planning, construction and operation. The Proponent has identified 57 dwellings currently involved in the Project, through infrastructure placement, property agreements or neighbour arrangements, and a further 696 non-involved dwellings within 10km of the Project. Many of these stakeholders live in the small rural townships or hamlets of Macorna (population 67), which is within the site boundary; Tragowel (population 83) directly adjacent to the site boundary; and Mincha (population 62) sitting immediately to the south. We note that population figures above represent the broader locality rather than the township or hamlet areas themselves.

Everyday social and economic life in this part of northern Victoria is organised through a wider network of nearby towns and service centres. **Table 10** lists the towns within the social locality with a population of 500 or more and shows their approximate distance and travel time to the Project Area. Kerang is the principal nearby service centre within the locality, while Pyramid Hill also plays an important local role. Cohuna, Barham, Boort, Leitchville, Gunbower, Koondrook and Lake Boga form part of the broader functional catchment through employment, retail, recreation, education and community connections. Echuca falls outside the defined social locality boundary but remains relevant as a larger nearby regional centre in the broader context. Northern District Community Health's service footprint across Kerang, Pyramid Hill and Cohuna illustrates this wider pattern of service use and social connection across the locality. These towns are among the principal nearby centres through which project-related social and economic effects are most likely to be experienced, including through labour movement, local spending, accommodation demand, service use and community perceptions of change.

Table 10: Towns within the social locality with populations over 500

Major nearby town/ local areas	Population	Distance from Project Area	Travel time to Centre of Project Area
Kerang (SAL21328)	3,960	21.3km	18 mins
Pyramid Hill (SAL22130)	598	29.6km	22 mins
Cohuna (SAL20604)	2,415	29.9km	22 mins
Barham (SAL10200)	1,569	52.6km	38 mins
Leitchville (SAL21486)	576	32.4km	23 mins
Gunbower (SAL21117)	578	41.2km	29 mins
Koondrook (SAL21384)	1,101	50.6km	35 mins
Boort (SAL20300)	940	58.6km	40 mins
Lake Boga (SAL21427)	982	85.3km	46 mins

Source: Lecroma 2026, Google Maps 2026, ABS Census 2021

These towns are not all expected to experience the Project in the same way. The immediate rural localities are more likely to experience direct changes in landscape, outlook, traffic, land use and day-to-day amenity, while larger nearby centres, especially Kerang and to a lesser extent Pyramid

Hill and Cohuna, are more likely to function as service, logistics, accommodation and workforce nodes during construction and operations.

Framing the social locality this way helps separate the functional area of social influence from the broader municipal and regional baseline described in **Section 5.2**. In other words, this section identifies where project effects are likely to be felt and through what local connections, while **Section 5.2** describes the wider social and economic conditions within which those effects would occur.

From a baseline perspective, the main features of the social locality are its very low-density rural settlement pattern, strong dependence on road travel, functional reliance on nearby service centres (ABS, 2021), and the importance of agricultural land use, landscape character and place attachment in how people experience change (Gannawarra Shire Council, 2025). These features make the locality a useful scale to assess social impacts like visual amenity, road use, workforce and accommodation interactions, access to local services, community perceptions of fairness, and cumulative change associated with major projects and regional infrastructure development.

Key profile data for the social locality

Table 11 provides a high-level functional profile of the Project's social locality. It describes the broad characteristics of the 55-minute drive-time catchment used to define the locality, with a focus on indicators that help explain the locality's scale, settlement pattern and likely pathways of social interaction with the Project. The social locality is best understood as a large, low-density rural catchment organised around Kerang and a small number of functionally linked townships and service centres

Table 11: Key profile data for the Project's social locality

 17,322	 0.3%	 615,547.864ha	 0.03 (persons/ha)	51 years
Total population within the 55-minute catchment	Annualised population growth rate (2016-2021)	Land area	Census population density	Median age
 KERANG	PYRAMID HILL COHUNA BARHAM LEITCHVILLE GUNBOWER KOONDROOK BOORT LAKE BOGA		 Predominantly rural and dispersed, with small townships/hamlets, broad agricultural land uses, and strong reliance on road-based travel between settlements	
Main service centre	Other towns within catchment		Settlement pattern	

Source: ABS 2021 Census Population and Housing, REMPLAN 2026

The wider context is also important because the Project sits within a part of Victoria already identified for renewable energy transition planning. VicGrid's proposed North West Renewable Energy Zone includes parts of the Gannawarra and Loddon municipalities, while the broader area also contains environmentally significant wetlands (Kerang Wetlands) and flood-prone landscapes that are important to local identity, land use and environmental values. These broader characteristics are relevant because they influence how local communities understand land use change, how cumulative effects may be perceived, and which communities may experience indirect social effects even where they are not directly near the site. This Project is likely to be understood by some as an isolated development but by others as part of broader regional change associated with renewable energy, transmission infrastructure and shifting agricultural and water management conditions.

The following section shifts from this locality definition to the broader Gannawarra and Loddon baseline, using the community capitals framework to describe the wider regional conditions within which project impacts would occur (ABS, 2021; REMPLAN, 2025).

5.2 The Project's socio-economic baseline profile

Gannawarra and Loddon Local Government Area social baselines

The Gannawarra and Loddon Local Government Areas provide the main regional context for the Project. Together, they form a broad rural setting in north-west and north-central Victoria characterised by dispersed settlement, small township service centres, a strong agricultural base, and increasing exposure to renewable energy and associated infrastructure change.

Gannawarra Shire had an estimated resident population of 10,404 in 2024 across about 3,732km² (Profile.id, 2026), while Loddon Shire had an estimated resident population of 7,755 across about 6,694km² (profile.id, 2026; ABS, 2021).

The baseline is shaped by a combination of low population density, ageing populations, relatively modest household incomes, and economies anchored in agriculture and regional services (ABS Quick Stats, 2021). Local council strategy documents indicate ongoing pressure related to housing availability, healthcare access, infrastructure condition, and broader liveability challenges common to rural municipalities. These conditions influence both the capacity of the region to capture project benefits and its sensitivity to cumulative change (Gannawarra Shire Council, 2025; Loddon Shire Council, 2025).

Community values and sensitivities

As identified in the Project's Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan, the Gannawarra and Loddon communities are defined by a strong rural identity, deep agricultural roots, and close connections through local sports clubs, volunteer groups and community organisations. Farming is central to local life, and there is a strong expectation that new development should coexist with existing agricultural land uses rather than displace them.

There is heightened sensitivity around water systems, biodiversity, fire risk and pressure on local roads and services, particularly given the area's proximity to the Kerang Lakes wetlands and the broader cumulative change associated with the REZ and transmission-related development (CSEP, March 2026). Consultation fatigue and a desire for clear, tangible local benefits are therefore relevant baseline conditions for the social impact assessment.

5.3 Human capital

Human capital across Gannawarra and Loddon is shaped by small, ageing rural populations with longstanding ties to place and relatively stable settlement patterns. At the 2021 Census, Gannawarra had a population of 10,683 and a median age of 51 years, while Loddon had a

population of 7,759 and a median age of 52 years. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people comprised 275 people in Gannawarra and 167 people in Loddon in 2021. The Barapa Barapa and Wamba Wemba peoples are identified as the Traditional Owners of Gannawarra Shire, and the Dja Dja Wurrung people as the Traditional Owners of Loddon Shire (ABS, 2021; profile.id, 2026).

Locals in Gannawarra LGA reported their wellbeing an average score of 80.3 out of 100, compared with the Victorian average score of 77.3. Furthermore, locals rated their global life satisfaction as slightly lower than the rest of regional Australia (70.9% in Gannawarra, 72.1% in regional Australia). Satisfaction with standard of living was in line with regional Australia, while satisfaction with health was only slightly lower than the rest of regional Australia (University of Canberra, 2023).

Over half of Loddon LGA residents experience moderate to high levels of psychological distress, alongside limited access to local mental health services (Loddon Shire Council, 2025). The Shire also reports elevated rates of obesity, smoking and preventable chronic illness, with only 41% of residents meeting recommended physical activity guidelines (Loddon Shire Council, 2025). Residents of Loddon and neighbouring Campaspe LGAs report an average Personal Wellbeing Index score of 70.8%, slightly below the regional Australian average (71.1%). Global life satisfaction is reported at 71.9%, which is broadly comparable with regional Australia and marginally stronger than Gannawarra, while satisfaction with standard of living is consistent with both Gannawarra and regional benchmarks (University of Canberra, 2023).

The demographic profile suggests communities with strong practical knowledge and local capability, but also some vulnerability associated with ageing, rural service access and health disadvantage. Gannawarra's "2025-2029 Council Plan" identifies liveability, health and wellbeing as core strategic concerns (Gannawarra Shire Council, 2025). Loddon's "Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan" similarly notes that poorer health outcomes in rural communities are magnified by limited access to public transport, internet and phone connectivity, and by environmental challenges such as drought, bushfire and flood. It also identifies good mental health, reduced social isolation and improved access to mental health services as ongoing priorities (Loddon Shire Council, 2021).

5.4 Economic capital

Economic capital across Gannawarra and Loddon reflects a rural economy grounded primarily in agriculture, with regional service, manufacturing, retail, education and health functions also playing important roles. In Gannawarra, agriculture is described by Council as the main economic driver, with a value of around \$284 million per annum and about 1,058 jobs across dairy, cropping, livestock, viticulture and horticulture. Council material also identifies large-scale renewable energy as an emerging industry in the Shire (Gannawarra Shire Council, 2026). In Loddon, Council investment and economic development material states that the Shire's gross regional product is estimated at \$586.7 million, supporting about 2,770 jobs, with agriculture accounting for almost half of economic activity and local employment. Recent employment growth in Loddon has also been concentrated in agriculture, transport/postal/warehousing and public administration and safety, (Loddon Shire Council, 2025) indicating some diversification within an economy that remains strongly land based.

Labour force and income data indicate moderate economic capacity, but also structural constraint. In 2021, labour force participation was 50.5% in Gannawarra and 49.2% in Loddon, both well below the Victorian rate of 62.4%.

Table 12: Gannawarra and Loddon LGAs' participation in the labour force

	Gannawarra LGA		Loddon LGA	
Participation in the labour force	Number of people	% of population	Number of people	% of population
In the labour force	4,551	50.5	3,246	49.2
Not in the labour force	3,715	41.2	2,595	39.3
Not stated	744	8.3	761	11.5

Median weekly household income was \$1,071 in Gannawarra and \$1,039 in Loddon, compared with \$1,759 across Victoria, indicating materially lower household earning capacity across both municipalities. Gannawarra's unemployment rate among those in the labour force was 3.6% in 2021, below the Victorian figure of 5%, while Loddon's was 5%, in line with the Victorian rate.

Table 13: Gannawarra and Loddon LGAs' employment status

	Gannawarra LGA		Loddon LGA	
Participation in the labour force	Number of people	% of population	Number of people	% of population
Work full-time	2,595	57	1,740	53.6
Work part-time	1,502	33	1,071	33
Away from work	293	6.4	276	8.5
Unemployed	163	3.6	163	5

The occupational structure in both LGAs includes relatively high shares of managers, labourers and trades workers, reflecting the agricultural, contracting and small-business character of the local economy, rather than the more professionalised employment profile evident across Victoria as a whole (ABS, 2021).

Table 14: Gannawarra and Loddon LGAs' top five occupations

Occupation	Number of people	Percentage of population
Managers	970	22.2
Labourers	632	14.4
Technicians and trades workers	604	13.9
Professionals	545	12.4
Community and personal service workers	448	10.2

Table 15: Loddon LGA's top five occupations

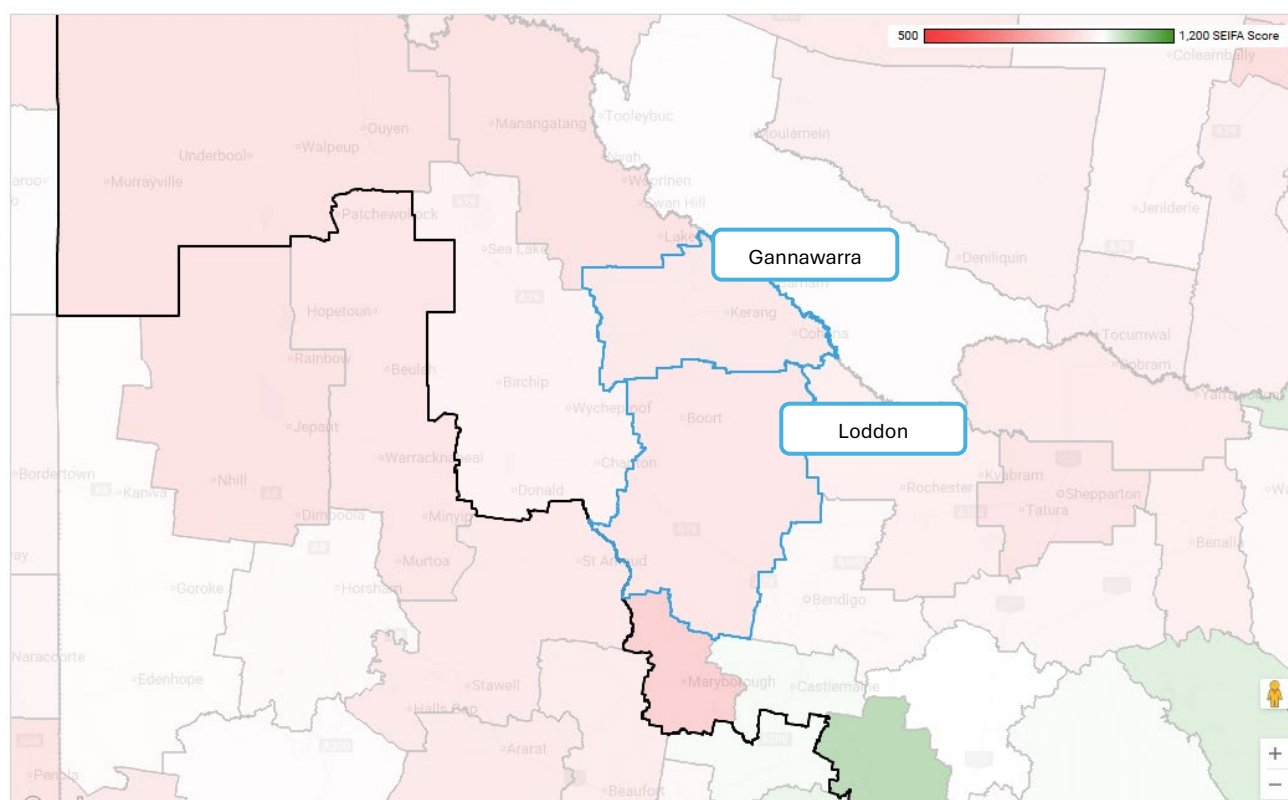
Occupation	Number of people	Percentage of population
Managers	987	32
Labourers	461	14.9
Technicians and trades workers	293	9.5
Community and personal service workers	279	9
Clerical and administrative workers	258	8.4

Additional indicators suggest some underlying vulnerability beneath these headline measures. In July 2025, JobSeeker and Youth Allowance recipients represented 8.4% of the working-age population in Gannawarra and 9.7% in Loddon, both above the regional Victorian benchmark. Travel-to-work patterns also indicate a dispersed regional labour market.

In Gannawarra, 50.5% of workers travel less than 10km to work, while 34.1% travel more than 20km. In Loddon, 43.5% travel less than 10km, 24.8% travel 10km to 20km, and 31.7% travel more than 20km. Loddon material also notes that around one in five residents work in Greater Bendigo. This suggests a relatively shallow local labour market, with employment opportunities spread across the broader region and some households potentially more sensitive to changes in living costs, transport costs and access to work.

Socio-economic disadvantage indicators also point to some underlying constraint. Profile material reports a 2021 SEIFA Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage score of 952 for Gannawarra and 948 for Loddon, both below the Australian benchmark of 1,000. This suggests that, while both municipalities retain productive economic bases and strong land-based industries, they also face material challenges associated with income, labour market depth and service access (profile.id, 2026).

Figure 13: SEIFA Index of disadvantage Gannawarra LGA, Loddon LGA and surrounds



Source: REMPLAN 2026, Google Maps 2026, ABS Census 2021

5.5 Social capital

Social capital in Gannawarra and Loddon appears to be supported by strong place-based identity, local networks, sporting clubs, halls, schools, volunteer groups and other forms of civic participation typical of rural communities. In Gannawarra, Council's strategic planning material emphasises liveability, community connection and inclusion, while the community vision describes a community that is proud, connected and inclusive (Gannawarra Shire Council, 2025). In Loddon, the "Community Vision 2035 and Council Plan 2025-2029" sets out an aspiration for thriving communities where everyone has the opportunity to live, work and thrive (Loddon Shire Council,

2025). These documents suggest that social connection, participation and local belonging remain important parts of the baseline in both LGAs.

However, in dispersed rural municipalities, the strength of social networks can vary significantly between larger service centres and smaller settlements, and council health and wellbeing material points to risks associated with social isolation, limited service access and the uneven availability of local support networks. In Loddon in particular, Council's wellbeing planning identifies reduced social isolation and stronger local connection as important mental health priorities (Loddon Shire Council, 2021). This indicates a baseline with strong community identity and civic attachment, but which may still be sensitive to cumulative pressure or rapid change.

5.6 Physical capital

Physical capital across Gannawarra and Loddon consists of the infrastructure, transport links, community facilities and housing stock that support day-to-day life across large rural municipalities. The ABS recorded 5,317 private dwellings in Gannawarra and 4,305 in Loddon in 2021, with an average of 2.1 motor vehicles per dwelling in Gannawarra and 2.4 in Loddon. This indicates strong dependence on private vehicles and road-based access, which is consistent with the dispersed settlement pattern across both municipalities (ABS, 2021).

Both LGAs are connected by major regional highways and rail, but their physical infrastructure base is spread thinly across large areas. The Loddon Valley Highway, Murray Valley Highway and the Melbourne-Swan Hill railway line are key transport links in Gannawarra. Loddon is served by the Calder Highway and other regional transport links, and is a predominantly rural municipality of many small towns and communities. These transport links support access to services and employment, but councils also face the ongoing challenge of maintaining infrastructure and service quality across low-density rural areas (profile.id, 2026).

Access to education and training services also illustrates the functional interdependence of the area. Macorna Primary School closed in 1990 and Tragowel's local school closed in 1999, with local children now likely attending school in nearby towns such as Kerang or Pyramid Hill. Kerang is also an important vocational training location through the local TAFE presence (CSEP, March 2026).

Housing tenure data suggests relatively high home ownership compared with Victoria more broadly. In Gannawarra, 51.3% of occupied private dwellings were owned outright and 24.8% were owned with a mortgage in 2021. In Loddon, 55.7% were owned outright and 24.8% were owned with a mortgage. At the same time, housing market function in small rural towns is more constrained than headline affordability figures may suggest. Gannawarra recorded 613 unoccupied private dwellings in 2021, representing 11.1% of total dwellings, while Loddon recorded 872 unoccupied dwellings, representing 22.2%. In practice, this does not necessarily indicate readily available housing supply, as some dwellings may be vacant only temporarily, used intermittently, or unsuitable for short-term worker accommodation. This is relevant to the Project baseline because even modest increases in temporary demand can place pressure on rental supply, local accommodation and affordability in smaller regional markets. (ABS, 2021).

5.7 Political capital

Political capital across the host LGAs is shaped by the role of local government in land use planning, infrastructure advocacy, service coordination and community engagement, alongside the influence of state agencies responsible for environmental approvals, water management, agriculture and regional development. In both Gannawarra and Loddon, Council plays an important intermediary role between local communities and higher levels of government, advocating for local priorities, coordinating with public authorities, and responding to community expectations in relation to land use change, infrastructure provision and regional development.

As predominantly rural municipalities with dispersed populations and broad service areas, both councils operate in a context where effective advocacy, partnership building and regional coordination are important forms of political capital. Their capacity to participate in regional collaborations, secure external investment, and represent local interests in state and federal decision-making strengthens their ability to influence outcomes affecting infrastructure, liveability, economic development and environmental management. These governance settings also reflect the practical limits faced by rural councils, whose responsibilities are broad relative to their scale and resource base.

5.8 Natural capital

Natural capital is central to both the identity and economy of Gannawarra and Loddon. In Gannawarra, major natural features include the Murray River, Gunbower Creek, Gunbower Island, the Loddon River and the Kerang Wetlands, including Ramsar-listed wetlands of national and international significance. Native red gum forests, open grasslands and conservation reserves provide important habitat for native flora and fauna while also supporting tourism, recreation and local amenity. In Loddon, natural capital is defined by extensive rural landscapes, productive agricultural land, water resources and environmental features, including the Loddon River system, forests, granite outcrops and lakes and waterways that support irrigation, industry, recreation and community identity.

These natural assets underpin agricultural production, biodiversity, tourism and local liveability, but they also create environmental sensitivity. In Gannawarra, natural capital is closely linked to irrigated agriculture and water resource reliability. In Loddon, key water infrastructure, including the South West Loddon Pipeline, supports agricultural productivity and diversification. Across both LGAs, climate variability, drought, flood risk, water security and storm events are recognised as ongoing challenges requiring strategic management and adaptation. This means natural capital in the study area functions as both a productive asset and a source of vulnerability, particularly where agricultural production, water management, biodiversity values and climate pressures intersect.

5.9 Cultural capital

Cultural capital across Gannawarra and Loddon includes Aboriginal connection to Country, agricultural heritage, township history and the social identity associated with rural community life. Barapa Barapa and Wamba Wemba are the Traditional Owners in Gannawarra and Dja Dja Wurrung are the Traditional Owners in Loddon, indicating that Aboriginal cultural connection remains a living and relevant part of the regional baseline. Non-Aboriginal cultural identity in both LGAs is also closely tied to farming, irrigation, rail, sporting clubs, agricultural shows, volunteer institutions and the routines of small-town life (profile.id, 2026).

Contemporary cultural life is strongly place-based. Council vision and planning material in both LGAs emphasises belonging, local identity and shared community experience (Gannawarra Shire Council, 2025; Loddon Shire Council, 2025). This suggests that cultural capital in the region includes both formally listed heritage places and everyday practices of attachment, participation and memory that shape how people understand change. In social impact terms, this means regional response to major projects is likely to be influenced by measurable economic effects and also how change aligns with local identity, landscape values and expectations of fairness.

5.10 Key insights and trends

Social locality

The Project's social locality is a dispersed, low-density rural catchment organised around a small number of service towns, particularly Kerang, with residents relying on nearby centres for health care, education, retail, training, accommodation and other day-to-day needs. The locality is

characterised by an older age profile, low population growth, relatively low labour force participation and moderate socio-economic disadvantage, which suggest the community may have limited spare capacity to absorb rapid population change, cumulative infrastructure development or sudden pressure on housing and services.

Relatively high rates of home ownership, established agricultural livelihoods, and strong place attachment indicate a degree of household stability and local continuity.

Overall, the social locality appears reasonably resilient in normal conditions, but may be sensitive to change that is fast, unevenly distributed or perceived to disrupt rural amenity, community balance or access to limited local services.

Gannawarra and Loddon LGAs

Gannawarra and Loddon show consistent baseline of small, ageing rural populations, modest household incomes, below-state labour force participation, and economies still anchored in agriculture, with health and community services playing an important secondary role.

Both municipalities show signs of social and economic stability through high rates of home ownership and comparatively low housing costs, but these conditions sit alongside structural constraints, like thin labour markets, workforce attraction difficulties, and ongoing challenges in accessing general practice, mental health and other essential services. This indicates the region has some capacity to capture the benefits of new investment but limited spare capacity to absorb poorly managed or cumulative change.

A key trend across both LGAs is the coexistence of continuity and transition. Agriculture remains the dominant economic, social and cultural foundation of both municipalities, while renewable energy is emerging unevenly as a new source of investment, employment and strategic attention. In Gannawarra this transition is already more visible, while in Loddon it is framed more as a future opportunity.

In both cases, the pace and distribution of is important. New development is likely to be understood by communities both in terms of direct economic benefit and in relation to existing pressures on housing, workforce availability, roads, healthcare access and valued rural landscapes.

Socially, both LGAs are characterised by strong place attachment, community identity and local cohesion typical of dispersed rural settlements. These are important strengths, but they coexist with vulnerabilities linked to ageing, youth retention, chronic health conditions and the long-term viability of services and infrastructure across large geographic areas. Physical infrastructure portfolios are extensive relative to population size, placing ongoing pressure on councils to maintain ageing roads, community assets and service networks.

In conclusion, the baseline suggests two municipalities with meaningful social capital and practical resilience, but also with clear sensitivity to cumulative development, uneven distribution of benefits, and additional demand on already constrained services and infrastructure.

6. Social impact assessment and prediction

This chapter identifies and assesses the likely social impacts of the Project should it proceed, drawing on the social baseline, stakeholder and community feedback, desktop research, and relevant technical assessments prepared for the EES referral. It considers how project-related change may be experienced across the social locality and evaluates the likely significance of the identified impacts.

6.1 Social impacts summary

Lecroma identified 16 impact themes during the SIA study period. These impact themes were informed by the community and stakeholder engagement described in **Chapter 4**, analysis of the social baseline and local context, desktop review of similar projects and regional trends, and by considering findings of other specialist technical assessments prepared for the EES referral. **Table 15** provides a summary of the identified impact themes and their evaluated significance using the method described in **Chapter 3** and maps each impact to the relevant social impact category shown in **Figure 5**.

The rest of this chapter describes each impact theme in more detail and evaluates its nature, likelihood, magnitude and overall expected significance. Recommended mitigation and enhancement measures are in **Chapter 9**, as well as justification for the evaluated residual significance, which assumes recommendations are adopted.

Table 16: Summary of evaluated significance of identified potential social impacts

Impact themes	Social impact category	Nature: Positive/negative/mixed	Timing: Construction Operation Decommissioning	Most affected stakeholder group/s	Community perceived significance	Evaluated			Residual impact significance after recommended mitigations
						Likelihood	Magnitude	Significance	
1. Economic and other benefits for the social locality and region	- Livelihoods - Decision making systems	Positive	- Construction - Operation	All	Medium	Almost certain	Major	Very high	Very high
2. Landscape character and visual amenity	Surroundings	Negative	Operation	- Project neighbours - Community members and interest groups	High	Likely	Moderate	High	Medium
3. Workforce, accommodation and housing	- Way of life - Community	Mixed	Construction	- Local business - Local industry - Government and elected representatives	High	Likely	Moderate	Medium	Medium

Impact themes	Social impact category	Nature: Positive/negative/mixed	Timing: Construction Operation Decommissioning	Most affected stakeholder group/s	Community perceived significance	Evaluated			Residual impact significance after recommended mitigations
						Likelihood	Magnitude	Significance	
4. First Nations people and culture	Culture	Mixed	- Construction - Operation	First Nations groups and/or Traditional Owners	Medium	Likely	Moderate	Medium	Medium
5. Roads and traffic	- Accessibility - Way of life	Negative	- Construction - Operation - Decommissioning	- Project neighbours - Government and elected representatives	Medium	Likely	Minor	Medium	Low
6. Trust, influence, community cohesion and mental well-being	Health and wellbeing	Negative	- Construction - Operation	- Project neighbours - Community members and interest groups	Medium	Possible	Moderate	Medium	Low
7. Agriculture and soil	Livelihoods	Negative	- Construction - Operation	Project hosts	Low	Almost certain	Minor	Medium	Low
8. Flood and storm water risk	Surroundings	Negative	- Construction - Operation - Decommissioning	- Project neighbours - Local business - Local industry - Government and elected representatives	Medium	Possible	Minor	Low	Low
9. Noise and operational amenity	Surroundings	Negative	- Construction - Operation	Project neighbours	Medium	Possible	Minor	Low	Low
10. Air quality	Surroundings	Negative	Construction	Project neighbours	Low	Possible	Minor	Low	Low
11. Aviation	Surroundings	Negative	Operation	Project neighbours	Low	Unlikely	Moderate	Low	Low
12. Land values and insurance	Livelihoods	Negative	Operation	Project neighbours	Medium	Unlikely	Minor	Low	Low
13. Waste and decommissioning	Surroundings	Negative	- Construction - Decommissioning	Project neighbours	Medium	Possible	Minor	Low	Low
14. Access to local services	Accessibility	Negative	Construction	- Project neighbours - Government and elected representatives	Low	Possible	Minor	Low	Low

Impact themes	Social impact category	Nature: Positive/negative/mixed	Timing: Construction Operation Decommissioning	Most affected stakeholder group/s	Community perceived significance	Evaluated			Residual impact significance after recommended mitigations
						Likelihood	Magnitude	Significance	
15. Biodiversity/ecology	Surroundings	Negative	- Construction - Operation	- Project neighbours - Community members and interest groups - First Nations groups and/or Traditional Owners	Medium	Possible	Minor	Low	Low
16. Fire and other hazards	Surroundings	Negative	Operation	Project neighbours	Medium	Unlikely	Minor	Low	Low

6.2 Impact 1 – Economic and other benefits for the social locality and region

Stakeholder perspectives on Project benefits

During the consultation period, the potential economic and other benefits for the social locality was the topic that arose most frequently in discussions across several stakeholder groups including project hosts; project neighbours; community and interest groups; First Nations groups and/or Traditional Owners; Government and elected representatives; and local business and industry.

Engagement records show most stakeholders reacted positively, or at least constructively to information provided about project benefits, including the Nearby Neighbour Program, Community Benefit Fund, Annual Energy Offset and the Community Sponsorship Fund. Hosts and some neighbours were often pragmatic about lease income and neighbour payments, with several indicating that these financial arrangements materially shaped their willingness to participate in, or remain open to, the Project. However, some neighbours indicated no amount of money would change their opposition to the Project, as a project team member noted, “it was quite clear that the only outcome which would be positive for them would be if the Project did not go ahead” (November, 2025).

Community members and some Council representatives were also interested in whether the Project’s benefits would translate into visible local outcomes, with suggestions including communications upgrades, models for direct support with electricity bills, road improvements and health or community initiatives. Some stakeholders, especially from local government and parts of the wider community, questioned whether the current package delivered enough genuinely shared community benefit, distinguishing between private neighbour payments and broader public benefit: “(neighbour) payments are compensation, not community benefit. They address private impacts, not shared community outcomes.” (Gannawarra Shire Council representative, October 2025).

There was also some interest from local business in whether the Project could create local business opportunities and in expected job creation numbers. Overall, engagement showed potential economic benefits were recognised and often welcomed, but stakeholders were keen to see them be fair, tangible and broadly shared across the local area.

While initially the Proponent had indicated that the Community Benefit Fund would amount to \$1,000 per year per turbine, this was increased to \$3,000 per year per turbine following feedback from Gannawarra Council and the community. One Gannawarra Shire Council representative, while welcoming the increase, expressed doubt that the funding on offer was “sufficient to compensate for changing the Gannawarra landscape for the rest of our lives” (October, 2025), and saw the neighbour program as compensation, as opposed to benefit sharing.

Forecasted economic benefits

The forecasted economic benefits for the social locality and region are ample, with most benefits forecasted to be realised from the construction stage onwards. As outlined in **Chapter 7**, the Project is poised to deliver several economic benefits to the community, enhancing local wellbeing and supporting regional development.

For example:

- **Employment generation:** The EIA (**Chapter 7, Table 25**) report notes that, during construction, the Project is expected to create 1,248.45 FTE jobs in the regional economy under the base case scenario, comprising 567 direct FTE jobs and a further 681.45 FTE jobs in flow-on employment through the supply chain and household spending (485.13 supply-

chain FTE and 196.32 consumption FTE). This will provide direct employment opportunities for residents, reduce local unemployment, and attract new workers to the area.

- **Economic security and livelihoods:** Creating stable jobs and \$2.425 million in direct household income (wages to workers employed on-site in operational stage) and a further \$4.000 million supported indirectly through supply-chain activity and household spending (\$3.015 million supply-chain and \$0.985 million consumption) (refer **Chapter 7, Table 33**) will improve household incomes; contributing to economic security for families in the Gannawarra and Loddon LGAs and surrounding regions.
- **Supporting local businesses:** There are local contractors and suppliers that are interested and have the capability to support wind farm project delivery in the region. The Project should generate positive impacts on businesses supplying goods and services to support the construction stage (e.g. materials, equipment, technical contractors, land rehabilitation, fencing, and transport). Benefits are also likely to be realised during construction further afield in the non-residential building construction, heavy and civil engineering construction, construction services, transport, professional, scientific and technical services, and administrative and support services sectors.
- **Increased trade and spending by construction workforce:** Business income is expected to also increase as workers spend on goods and services like accommodation, hospitality, retail, personal services and recreation.
- **Catalyst for local investment:** The Project may attract new businesses, services, and infrastructure investment, further enhancing the social fabric and amenities available to residents.
- **Support for regional growth:** Contributing to local and regional economic activity in the Gannawarra and Loddon LGAs, the Project aligns with Council priorities to support investment, business growth and job opportunities, and with broader policy goals for regional sustainability and growth.

Tables 17-18 show the potential construction and operational stage economic impacts forecasted for the social locality and region, including direct, supply-chain, and consumption effects.

Table 17: Potential construction stage economic impact

Base Case	Direct effect	Supply-chain effect	Consumption effect	Total effect
Output (\$m)	\$302.259	\$219.775	\$84.678	\$606.713
Employment (FTE)	567	485.13	196.32	1248.45
Wages (\$m)	\$51.199	\$42.753	\$17.013	\$110.965
Gross value-added (\$m)	\$89.082	\$75.425	\$45.158	\$209.665

Source: Australian National Accounts Input Output tables 2022-23

Table 18: Potential operation stage economic impact

Base Case	Direct effect	Supply-chain effect	Consumption effect	Total effect
Output (\$m)	\$32.014	\$18.250	\$4.903	\$55.167
Employment (FTE)	18.00	26.52	11.37	55.89
Wages (\$m)	\$2.425	\$3.015	\$0.985	\$6.425
Gross value-added (\$m)	\$5.014	\$7.163	\$2.615	\$14.792

Source: Australian National Accounts Input Output tables 2022-23, IBIS World Reports 2023

While the EIA report focuses primarily on economic impacts, several positive social impacts can also be inferred:

- **Skill development:** The Project's construction and operation stages will require a mix of skilled and unskilled labour, offering modest opportunities for training, upskilling, and career progression for locals.
- **Improved local services:** Increased population and economic activity may justify improvements to local infrastructure, though this is forecasted to be modest noting the lean operation stage staffing requirements.
- **Community cohesion:** By providing jobs closer to home, the Project may help reduce out-migration and strengthen community ties. The influx of new employees could also foster greater diversity and vibrancy in the local population.
- **Community member well-being:** Enhanced economic prospects and job security are linked to improved mental health and overall well-being for individuals and families.

1. Social impact evaluation – Economic and other benefits for the social locality and region	
Community perceived significance	Medium, while the topic arose frequently during consultation, the project team did not receive strong positive or negative feedback from stakeholders.
Social impact evaluation	
Likelihood level	Almost certain, noting the Proponent's community benefits commitments (Near Neighbour Program, Annual Energy Offset, Community Benefit Fund, Community Sponsorship Fund), and the sizable investment needed to build the Project.
Magnitude level	Major, considering the combined positive impact across multiple streams (e.g. community funding, employment, skill development, local content).
Overall social impact significance	Very high

6.3 Impact 2 – Landscape character and visual amenity

Stakeholder perspectives on landscape character and visual amenity

Visual impacts have typically been a headline concern for proposed wind farms in the region and the Victoria-NSW Interconnector (VNI) West (for example, it was a key concern of communities affected by the proposed Meering West Wind Farm and Cannie Wind Farm). Local responses to the proposed Macorna Wind Farm appear shaped partly by that broader context of cumulative landscape change and regional infrastructure transformation.

Engagement records show a relatively high stakeholder interest in this potential impact, along with noise and operational amenity. Several neighbours described visual effects in practical and personal terms, including “not wanting to look at turbines” (Neighbour, November 2025) and concern that they would “dominate [the] landscape” (Community member, November 2025). Notes from the Pyramid Hill drop-in session record that one landowner was “pretty negative about the Project, largely because of the visual impact” (November 2025). These concerns centre on the lived experience of prominent turbines in everyday views from homes, roads and local properties, rather than abstract changes in landscape character.

Not all stakeholders shared these views, visual change was interpreted differently across the community. Some did not regard turbines as visually objectionable and, in some cases, found them aesthetically acceptable or even appealing: “(I) actually think they look fine” (Community member, October, 2025). Some stakeholders felt that the visual impact was justified to support the renewable energy transition.

Landscape character and visual impact assessment findings

The Preliminary Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (PLVIA) (Peter Haack Consulting, 2026) found that the Project would be introduced into a very flat, largely cleared agricultural landscape with generally low scenic quality and limited topographic variation. It noted that the



broader area is already highly modified by farming and existing energy infrastructure, particularly to the north-west near the Kerang Terminal Station, solar farm and associated powerlines.

The PLVIA also identified that more visually sensitive landscapes occur in the surrounding reserves and wetter, more vegetated areas, particularly to the west around the Tragowel Swamp Nature Conservation Reserve and the Loddon River, where scenic quality is higher and the capacity for change is lower. **Figure 14** provides a montage of site photos across most of the site aspects to support the description of the landscape character described above.

Figure 14: Site photo montage describing the current site context in Macorna



Source: Site photos, Atmos Renewables, 2026

Regarding visual effects, the assessment found that the highest potential impacts would occur in the local (0-5km) and sub-regional (5-10km) catchments, beyond which impacts generally diminish.

The PLVIA also found that visual effects would not be experienced evenly. It identified 22 non-involved dwellings within the Project Area, 262 non-involved rural dwellings within 5km, and 340 between 5-10km, excluding towns and settlements. However, it emphasised that the actual extent of impact would vary significantly depending on local vegetation, built form and viewing opportunities. Many residences are partially or heavily screened, meaning some would experience very low or low visual effects, while a smaller number of more exposed dwellings could experience moderate to high impacts.

The assessment also considered cumulative effects with other regional energy projects and found sequential cumulative impacts along the Loddon Valley Highway are anticipated to be very low to low due to distances and reduced sensitivity with separation. Lighting impacts are also likely to be limited because security lighting would typically be shielded and directional, and any aviation lighting (if required) would be dispersed points of light rather than creating broader glow.

From a social impact perspective, these findings indicate that landscape character and visual amenity will remain an important issue primarily because of how visual change may be experienced by nearby residents in their day-to-day surroundings. The main social implication is therefore concentrated rather than widespread. While the Project is not expected to generate severe regional-scale visual effects, it could affect residential amenity, outlook and perceptions of rural character for a smaller group of neighbours with more direct and less screened views.

2. Social impact evaluation – Landscape character and visual amenity	
Community perceived significance	High , noting visual impact has been a prominent concern for project neighbours and was also raised by some community members during engagement, particularly in practical discussions about outlook, turbine scale and change to everyday views.
Social impact evaluation	
Likelihood level	Likely , noting the PLVIA identified a range of nearby dwellings with potential views of the Project and found that partially or minimally screened residences, particularly closer to the Project, may experience moderate to high visual impacts.
Magnitude level	Moderate , noting that vegetation around many rural residences will substantially screen views and reduce effects, but a smaller number of exposed residences are likely to experience a noticeable and ongoing change in visual amenity and landscape outlook.
Overall social impact significance	High

6.4 Impact 3 – Workforce, accommodation and housing

Stakeholder perspectives on workforce, housing and accommodation

Consultation indicates that workforce, accommodation and housing was understood mainly as a question of how any temporary influx would be managed in an already constrained rural housing market. Discussions with both Gannawarra and Loddon councils revealed a broadly open or pragmatic attitude to additional workers and economic activity, but targeted concern about where construction workers would be housed and whether short term demand could add pressure to local accommodation, rental availability and services.

This aligns with the broader baseline, which identifies housing availability as an existing concern and notes that even modest temporary demand can affect affordability and local access in small rural market. Research also indicates that housing markets across the study area are already characterised by very low rental vacancy, rapid rent growth, limited dwelling diversity and low levels of commercial accommodation, meaning even moderate overlapping construction demand may generate disproportionate local pressure (Urban Enterprise, 2026). Council concerns also extended beyond housing supply to labour market effects, particularly the risk that local workers

could be drawn away from existing industries, including farms, by higher-paying construction work.

Among neighbours, these concerns were expressed in practical terms. One neighbour wrote that “Currently, there are only two rental properties available across Kerang, Pyramid Hill, and Cohuna, which appears insufficient to house such a large workforce” (October 2025), linking this to possible pressure on “the local housing market, community infrastructure, and disruption to existing residents” (October 2025). The engagement records suggest stakeholders sought a clear and credible accommodation strategy. In response to questions, the Proponent outlined several possible approaches, including an onsite accommodation camp, temporary worker accommodation serving multiple regional projects, transport from larger regional centres, and local housing that could potentially be repurposed after construction. One neighbour later noted it was “good to hear that a range of strategies will be considered to avoid putting pressure on local rentals and to minimise impacts on the community” (December 2025).

Discussion about workforce impacts

The Project’s construction stage will see a temporary transformative change for the area that may last 3.5 years but will dissipate post-construction. It will likely impact all key stakeholder groups at various levels of intensity, with unpredictable effects post-construction as the situation returns to ‘normal’ in the area.

During the construction stage, the workforce is expected to be around 375 FTE workers. This is approximately 8.81% of the full-time workforce in the social locality (there are 4,254 full-time workers within the social locality as at the 2021 Census) or 2.03% of the full-time workforce in the Gannawarra and Loddon Regional LGAs (total of 18,442 full-time workers) (REMPLAN, 2026).

The cascading effects of these temporary population increases during the construction stage include but are not limited to:

- **Increased employment opportunities in the social locality:** As indicated in the estimated workforce sourcing zones (**Table 19**), the workers will be sourced locally where practicable, which could reduce the unemployment rate in the Gannawarra and Loddon LGAs; 4.7% and 5% respectively at the 2021 Census (Informed decisions, 2026a, 2026b).
- **Reduced access to skilled workers and trades by local service providers and businesses:** This could also lead to salary or wage inflation resulting from surges in short-term competition during construction stage.
- **Reduced access to services:** An influx of workers may place pressure on schools, transport, water supply, waste management and health services, requiring proactive planning to ensure community needs are met.
- **Increased demand for local goods and services:** This may cause short-term cost inflation as demand outstrips supply, and local supply adjusts to increased demand.
- **Increased demand for housing and accommodation.**

As the Project shifts to the operational stage, the population impact will diminish significantly, with 18 FTE ongoing operations jobs proposed. The cascading effects described above are expected to be minimal.

There may be challenges integrating this workforce into the established Gannawarra and Loddon LGA communities, highlighting the need for inclusive community engagement and support initiatives to build social license in these areas. Social cohesion between the existing and new populations, particularly during the construction stage will likely come from being clear about opportunities to be engaged on the Project, or for stakeholders to directly influence factors or decisions about the mitigations and management program recommended.

Estimating Project accommodation and housing needs

According to the “Gannawarra Council Plan 2025-2029”, while earlier projections suggested a population decline of 0.04% annually, the population has instead grown modestly, from 10,366 in 2011 to 10,683 in 2021. **Chapter 5** provides a detailed breakdown of the demographics, which suggest future stagnation given the median age is ~51 years. The plan notes housing availability is a community concern and that affordable housing is increasingly difficult to secure, with development restrictions making it harder. It also points to growing demand pressures, noting that attracting new and diverse projects can drive demand for additional housing and worker accommodation. The plan identifies housing as a key enabler of growth, with Council prioritising investment and housing outcomes that support Gannawarra to grow. This broader regional priority was reflected in Gannawarra and Loddon Shire Council discussions about the Project, with targeted questions about how the Proponent intends to house workers.

Increased demand for local accommodation and housing will be felt primarily during the construction stage but is unlikely to be felt during the operation stage. This may cause more cost inflation and further ‘crowd out’ local access and affordability in the short-term.

Table 19 describes the three workforce sourcing zones: Zone 1 Local/Near region; Zone 2 ACT, rest of NSW and Victoria; and Zone 3 Rest of Australia. It is assumed that most of local/near region construction stage workforce will reside in nearby towns and villages within a 60-minute drive of the Project Area (Zone 1). Some of the construction stage workforce may come from further afield within NSW or Victoria (Zone 2) or the rest of Australia (Zone 3).

Table 19: Estimated workforce sourcing zones

Zone 1 Local/Near region	Zone 2 Rest of Victoria	Zone 3 Rest of Australia
Much of workforce will reside in an LGA within about one hour's drive of the Project Area, which includes parts of the LGAs of Gannawarra, Loddon, Swan Hill Rural City, Campaspe and Buloke. No additional local accommodation is needed.	Some of the workforce will reside in the rest of Victoria and require accommodation closer to the Project Area.	Some of the workforce will reside in other areas around Australia and require accommodation closer to the Project Area.

Table 20 shows impact modelling of accommodation requirements using these zones in three scenarios (conservative, base and optimistic cases) and applying the Project's estimate for the construction stage of 375 FTE workers. Given the relatively lower number of FTE operational roles, it is assumed in all scenarios there is sufficient local housing to meet this minor increase in demand.

Table 20: Scenarios developed for this modelling based on estimated workforce sourcing zones

Scenario	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Accommodation requirement	Outcome
1. Conservative case	30% of the workforce (112.5 people)	40% of the workforce (150 people)	30% of the workforce (112.5 people)	262.5 people	Moderate impact on local accommodation facilities
2. Base case	60% of the workforce (225 people)	30% of the workforce (112.5 people)	10% of the workforce (37.5 people)	150 people	Low-moderate impact on local accommodation facilities
3. Optimistic case	80% of the workforce (300 people)	15% of the workforce (56.25 people)	5% of the workforce (18.75 people)	75 people	Low impact on local accommodation facilities

In a base case scenario, it is expected 60% of the construction workforce will reside within Zone 1 (225 people) and therefore already have secure long-term accommodation. The remaining 40% of the construction workforce would come from Zone 2 (112.5 people) and Zone 3 (37.5 people), totalling 150 people requirement accommodation. This would have a low to moderate impact on local accommodation facilities.

Estimating accommodation options

To address workforce demand while avoiding impacts on local housing supply, the Project will deliver workforce accommodation (should use of accommodation facilities be unsuitable or unviable), either through a temporary camp in the Macorna Wind Farm Project Area, or preferably by working collaboratively with councils to establish accommodation offsite that can be adapted post construction to community housing and integrated into future local infrastructure needs. There are several short-term accommodation options in neighbouring townships such as Kerang and Barham largely made up of motels and caravan parks (see **Table 21**). While the combined capacity is difficult to determine via desktop analysis, there are about 400 beds available in the facilities listed in **Table 21** alone, suggesting that in the base-case scenario, the construction-stage workforce of 150 people requiring accommodation could be comfortably be housed.

Table 21: Accommodation facilities identified

Accommodation provider	Location	Estimated drive time to Project Area	Estimated capacity
Kerang Holiday park	Kerang	16 min	~ 39 guests, 7 rooms
Kerang Valley Resort	Kerang	18 min	~ 82 guests, 30 rooms
Kerang Motel	Kerang	19 min	~ 29 guests, 10 rooms
Loddon River Motel Kerang	Kerang	21 min	~ 23 guests, 11 rooms
BIG4 Kerang Riverfront Holiday Park	Kerang	22 min	~ 35 guests, 8 rooms
Happy Wanderer Motel Cohuna 70s style	Cohuna	23 min	~ 16 guests, 6 rooms
Cohuna Waterfront Holiday Park	Cohuna	27 min	~ 34 guests, 9 rooms
Murray Waters Motor Inn & Apartments	Koondrook	32 min	~ 30 guests, 12 rooms
Barham Bridge Motor Inn	Barham	33 min	~ 35 guests, 8 rooms
Acacia Rose Motor Inn	Barham	33 min	~ 39 guests, 15 rooms
Barham Riverland Motel	Barham	34 min	~ 18 guests, 8 rooms
Comfort Suites Clubarham Golf Resort	Barham	38 min	~ 18 guests, 3 rooms
Total estimated capacity (excludes Airbnb type options)			~ 398 guests

Because the final workforce accommodation model has not yet been confirmed, the impact assessment should be treated as conditional. A higher level of impact may occur if workers rely heavily on existing local rental and short-stay markets, particularly in a cumulative development context. Conversely, the impact would likely reduce if the Project delivered dedicated accommodation, whether through an on-site camp, purpose-built off-site accommodation with post-construction legacy use, coordinated use of existing short-stay facilities, or a combination of these measures. On that basis, the current rating reflects both the credible construction-stage risk and the capacity for effective mitigation, while noting that the final significance will depend on the accommodation strategy ultimately adopted.

3. Social impact evaluation – Workforce, accommodation and housing	
Community perceived significance	High , noting potential impacts of the Project on housing, population and local industries was raised as a key concern by both Councils during consultation.
Social impact evaluation	
Likelihood level	Likely , during construction, unlikely during operation, noting a temporary construction workforce of up to 375 FTE is expected and there is a credible risk of added pressure on local accommodation, housing and labour markets unless a dedicated accommodation solution is implemented.
Magnitude level	Moderate , noting impacts may be material over the 3.5-year construction period but could be reduced through measures such as an on-site workers camp, purpose-built off-

	site accommodation with legacy use, coordinated use of short-stay facilities, or other managed workforce housing solutions.
Overall social impact significance	Medium

6.5 Impact 4 – First Nations people and culture

As noted earlier, the Project Area is located on Barapa Barapa Country, a region that spans across present-day Victoria and New South Wales and encompassing parts of Gannawarra, Loddon and Campaspe shires. The Barapa Barapa are the Traditional Custodians of the land on which the Project is located. The Proponent met with a representative of the Barapa Country Aboriginal Corporation (BCAC) who was also the coordinator of two other unincorporated groups: the Barapa Land and Water and Barapa Ltd. BCAC is not recognised as a Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) and the Project Area sits within a non-RAP area. The Proponent also met with representatives of the Wamba-Wemba Aboriginal Corporation.

The groups expressed interest in participating in cultural heritage management planning (CHMP) fieldwork and in partnerships and long-term sustainable economic and social outcomes beyond this, for example, full time employment and education pathways for First Nations people. One stakeholder voiced concerns that the Project may result in destruction of Country and noted concerns about the cumulative impact of all projects occurring in the region on native and/or endemic species (November, 2025).

The draft Desktop Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) (Extent, 2026) confirmed that a mandatory CHMP is required under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* because the Project is a high impact activity and includes areas of cultural heritage sensitivity, including registered Aboriginal Places and waterways. The desktop assessment concluded that it is reasonably possible that additional unregistered Aboriginal cultural heritage is present within the Project Area. At the time of assessment, eight registered Aboriginal Places were identified within the activity area, comprising scarred trees, earth features and artefact scatters, all generally associated with floodplain landforms and proximity to waterways around the boundary of the activity area.

More broadly, the CHMP found that the wider landscape has a strong association with Aboriginal occupation and use, with cultural heritage in the broader region commonly concentrated near waterways, swamps and other resource-rich environments. While the CHMP noted that much of the Project Area has been modified by long-term agricultural land use, it identified waterways and other sensitive landforms as retaining higher archaeological potential.

In social impact terms, this indicates the Project could affect places and values of cultural significance if not carefully managed, and that further assessment, avoidance, minimisation of harm and compliance with CHMP conditions will be important to reducing impacts on Country and cultural heritage.

This Project presents economic opportunities for First Nations people and First Nations owned businesses. The Proponent, through its Community Benefit Fund and Community Sponsorship Fund, intends to provide funding to support First Nations stakeholders including through direct programs, and investment in apprenticeships, skills and development training.

4. Social impact evaluation – First Nations people and culture	
Community perceived significance	Medium , noting First Nations stakeholders raised concern about potential impacts on Country and cumulative ecological change, expressed interest in participating in CHMP fieldwork and longer-term partnerships, and the CHMP identified registered Aboriginal Places within the Project Area.
Likelihood level	Likely , noting the draft CHMP confirms the Project intersects areas of cultural heritage sensitivity, identifies eight registered Aboriginal Places within the activity area, and

	concludes it is reasonably possible that additional unregistered Aboriginal cultural heritage is present.
Magnitude level	Moderate , noting the Project has potential to affect places and values of cultural significance if not carefully managed, but also presents opportunities for economic participation, partnerships and capacity-building for First Nations people and businesses.
Overall social impact significance	Medium

6.6 Impact 5 – Roads and traffic

Potential impacts of the Project on roads and traffic was raised occasionally by neighbours, who queried plans for road management or rehabilitation, particularly for narrow, dirt or flood-prone roads, and was discussed with both Gannawarra and Loddon Councils in the context of use and upgrades.

The main state arterial road through the area is the Loddon Valley Highway. Access to the Project Area is proposed via several roads connecting to Loddon Valley Highway, including Mincha-Canary Island Road, Mitiamo-Kerang Road, Campbells Road, Macorna Road and Old Echuca Road. Some light vehicles may also access the site via Leitchville-Kerang Road. Other local roads would then be used to access individual turbine sites.

The Preliminary Traffic Impact Assessment (Amber, 2026) report confirmed that project traffic would be highest during construction, with lower traffic expected during operation and decommissioning.

During peak construction, the Project is expected to generate up to 650 vehicle trips per day, comprising 500 light vehicle trips and 150 heavy vehicle trips, with up to 281 vehicle trips per hour during the morning and evening peak construction periods and an average of 179 peak hour trips across the construction period.

Outside peak periods, traffic would be predominantly heavy vehicles, averaging about 15 trips per hour, with up to 30 heavy vehicle trips per hour adopted conservatively for assessment. The report assumed no on-site accommodation facility at this stage, noting that any future worker accommodation or shuttle bus arrangement could reduce light vehicle traffic.

The report provided more specific detail on the road upgrades required to support safe access. It proposed BAR and BAL turn treatments at the Loddon Valley Highway intersections with Mincha-Canary Island Road, Mitiamo-Kerang Road and Campbells Road, and CHR(s) and AUL(s) treatments at Macorna Road and Old Echuca Road. It also identified the need for upgrades across parts of the local road network, including widening roads to around 6-7m where required, upgrading dry-weather roads to all-weather standard, intersection widening, hardstands for OSOM turning movements, and pre-condition and dilapidation surveys. The report also noted that some cumulative construction traffic impacts may arise on Loddon Valley Highway if construction overlaps with nearby projects such as Tragowel Solar Farm or VNI West.

Overall, the report concluded that the road network is expected to accommodate project traffic during construction, operation and decommissioning, subject to the identified upgrades and traffic management measures. It recommended a detailed Traffic Management Plan before construction, including community notification, driver protocols, school bus timing avoidance, OSOM scheduling and escort arrangements, and measures to manage road safety, dust and road condition.

From a social impact perspective, traffic impacts are likely to be temporary, localised and manageable, but indicate road condition, access disruption and perceptions of road safety will remain important issues for nearby residents and councils during construction.

5. Social impact evaluation – Roads and traffic	
Community perceived significance	Medium, noting this concern was raised by both neighbours and councils during consultation.
Likelihood level	Likely, noting the Project will generate a substantial but temporary increase in construction traffic, including up to 650 vehicle trips per day during peak construction, with associated road upgrades and traffic management measures required to maintain safe access.
Magnitude level	Minor, noting the assessment concludes the road network can accommodate project traffic, with intersections expected to continue operating at good service levels and traffic effects largely confined to the construction period and manageable through upgrades and a Traffic Management Plan.
Overall social impact significance	Medium

6.7 Impact 6 – Trust, influence, community cohesion and mental health

Consultation indicates that trust, perceived influence and community wellbeing are closely linked for this Project. Early engagement generated some scepticism among a small number of neighbours and members of the Loddon Valley Renewable Awareness Group, including concern that the process would not be transparent or that key decisions had already been made. One project objector shared specific concerns about the Project on mental health:

“We are also concerned about the potential mental health impacts on neighbouring residents. The construction and operation of a large wind farm including noise, shadow flicker, constant visual intrusion, and large-scale industrial activity can contribute to stress, anxiety, and reduced quality of life for people living and working nearby. We request that the developer considers measures to minimise these impacts and clearly communicates how affected residents’ wellbeing will be protected” (October, 2025)

Some people expressed a sense of limited agency over outcomes, reflected in comments that there was “nothing I can do about it”. These concerns appear to have been addressed through subsequent engagement efforts, including the Neighbour Day, where the Proponent clarified several myths, including about neighbour agreements. Some stakeholders shared appreciation for emailed follow-up information, open and productive discussions, and a visible local presence that was seen as better than other developers’ engagement.

As discussed in **Chapter 8**, these issues sit within a broader regional context of cumulative renewable energy and transmission activity. The Project is entering a social setting already shaped by concern about the pace and scale of regional change, including VNI West and other proposed wind energy developments. The “North Western Victoria Energy and Mining Impact and Readiness Strategy” found that community uncertainty, strong opposition in some areas, and perceived inequities in benefit distribution are already detrimentally affecting community cohesion in parts of the wider region, with mental health impacts and misinformation identified as associated risks (Urban Enterprise, 2026). This shows apprehension about the Macorna Wind Farm is not occurring in isolation. Nearby neighbours raised concerns about noise, visual change, biodiversity and fairness, and these concerns align with issues raised in relation to other wind farm proposals in the area (e.g. the Normanville and Meering West wind farms have an established community concerns page on Facebook).

These risks are real but manageable. The Proponent’s continued engagement appears to have reduced some early scepticism, with later interactions indicating that at least some community members considered the information provided to be clearer and more accessible than they had expected. The broader engagement material also shows a deliberate emphasis on transparent

communication, trust-based relationships with landholders, and early, respectful engagement with both directly affected and more peripheral stakeholders. The Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan explicitly recognises that building and maintaining trust and open dialogue is critical, especially in a setting affected by consultation fatigue and broader regional change. This is supported by the proposed benefit-sharing model, which includes community funding priorities that extend beyond narrow compensation to support local infrastructure, health and wellbeing, youth, education and cohesion. While these measures will not remove disagreement about the Project, they do provide a credible basis to reduce perceptions of procedural unfairness and support a more constructive social environment over time.

Overall, the Project may contribute to localised tension, reduced trust and some strain on community cohesion, particularly among nearby landholders and others who feel most affected but least able to influence outcomes. The main pathway to mental wellbeing effects is indirect, through stress, uncertainty, perceived unfairness and social division rather than direct health effects. However, these impacts are unlikely to be widespread or severe across the broader social locality if engagement continues to be demonstrably responsive, and if the links between community feedback, project refinement and benefit-sharing decisions continue to be clear.

6. Social impact evaluation – Trust, influence, community cohesion and mental health	
Community perceived significance	Medium , noting moderate degree of scepticism across several stakeholder groups at the beginning of the consultation process, and that there has been some community upset, including to a small number of neighbours.
Likelihood level	Possible , noting concerns about trust, influence and fairness were raised by some neighbours and local stakeholders, and the Project is entering a wider regional context already affected by cumulative renewable energy and transmission development, where community uncertainty, opposition and perceived inequity are contributing to tension and reduced cohesion.
Magnitude level	Moderate , noting the potential effects extend beyond individual dissatisfaction to broader issues of community cohesion, perceived procedural unfairness and indirect mental wellbeing impacts through stress, uncertainty and social division, even though these effects are expected to be localised rather than severe across the full social locality.
Overall social impact significance	Medium

6.8 Impact 7 – Agriculture and soil

Consultation records indicate that agriculture and farm operations were a material concern for some hosts and neighbouring landholders, particularly where irrigation, aerial spraying, land access and day-to-day farm management could be affected. Several stakeholders asked whether the Project could “interfere with standard farming activities, including spraying programs or other routine operations” (Neighbour, October 2025), with one neighbouring landholder group also identifying “our ability to use aerial spraying” as a particular concern and later seeking reassurance that turbine placement would not compromise “flight paths, spray coverage, or pilot safety” (Neighbour, December 2025). The same neighbour also asked what measures would prevent disruption or stress to livestock (Neighbour, October 2025).

Most land within the Project Area would remain available for existing agricultural uses during construction and operation, with impacts concentrated around turbines, access tracks, transmission infrastructure, benched areas and associated temporary works. The Proponent has discussed infrastructure layout design options with project hosts at length to minimise and avoid impacts on existing farming operations, including about irrigation and access. There was an occasional comment from community members during consultation that infrastructure should not be built in irrigation areas, but one Loddon Shire Council representative shared the view that the Project location was most suitable, compared to other landscapes of the LGA.

Consultation records reveal little direct concern about soil impacts in a contamination sense, but they do show some concern about soil-related agricultural productivity, particularly where irrigation, crop growth conditions, and construction in sensitive ground conditions could affect farming outcomes.

The Technical Assessment and Potential Agricultural Impact report (Ag-Challenge Consulting, 2026) assessed the Project's impact on agricultural enterprises across the Project Area, which include dairy, beef and sheep grazing, broadacre cropping and piggery operations. The Project Area lies within the Torrumbarry and Loddon Valley irrigation districts, though only approximately 22% is currently irrigated. The report assumes a total construction disturbance footprint of approximately 745ha, of which approximately 406ha will be rehabilitated. The permanent operational footprint is assumed to be approximately 338ha, or 1.5% of the Project Area. Of the 114 proposed turbines, 25 are sited in actively irrigated areas. Turbines have been sited in consultation with landholders to minimise impacts on productivity, with a preference for dryland paddocks and aligning access tracks with existing laneways.

The report identified five main categories of potential impact: temporary loss of production and ability to irrigate, severance of farm access, capital improvement losses, land degradation from poor rehabilitation, and ongoing paddock fragmentation. A gross margin analysis estimates annual production losses at approximately \$496,000 during construction and \$197,000 during operation, representing around 1.08% of total agricultural production across the Project Area. At a regional scale, these losses are not considered significant (0.278% during construction, 0.11% during operation).

In social impact terms, the agricultural effects of the Project are modest at a regional level but unevenly distributed. Turbine hosting income (\$40,000-\$50,000 per turbine per annum, totalling \$4.56m-\$5.7m across the Project) substantially exceeds estimated opportunity-cost of agricultural production (assuming agricultural production is resulting in profit, which is unpredictable in the region). The report notes that localised impacts at the individual farm scale may be more significant, particularly for properties with multiple turbines on irrigated land, and that the effectiveness of mitigation depends heavily on the quality of rehabilitation and the adequacy of ongoing landholder engagement. Construction also could disrupt seasonal operations (calving, lambing, sowing and harvest) and affect dairy cattle sensitive to changes in routine if not considered as part of the projects development.

7. Social impact evaluation – Agriculture and soil	
Community perceived significance	Low , noting the issue was raised mainly by hosts and landholders rather than the broader community, but is materially important for directly affected farm businesses.
Likelihood level	Almost certain , noting construction will disturb approximately 745ha of agricultural land, with impacts on production, irrigation functionality, farm access and seasonal operations highly probable for directly affected properties. These effects are consistent with experience on comparable wind farm projects in agricultural settings, and the Ag-Challenge report itself rates loss of agricultural land as "almost certain" and several other sub-impacts (irrigation disruption, reduced feed availability) as "likely." While the permanent operational footprint of 338ha (1.5% of the Project Area) has not yet been tested on this specific landscape, the construction-phase impacts are near-certain for affected properties given the scale of works proposed.
Magnitude level	Minor , noting the impacts represent a mild deterioration for a relatively small number of directly affected landholders who are generally adaptable. Production losses of approximately 1.08% of the Project Area total during operation are modest, regional impacts are not significant (0.11%), and turbine hosting income substantially exceeds production losses. However, impacts are not evenly distributed: individual farm-level effects may be more noticeable for properties with multiple turbines on irrigated land, and the effectiveness of mitigation depends on rehabilitation quality and ongoing landholder engagement. Affected landholders will also bear additional management time and effort during construction and rehabilitation.
Overall social impact significance	Medium

6.9 Impact 8 – Flood and storm water risk

During the consultation period, project neighbours occasionally asked questions about how the Proponent would address flooding in the project design, noting “several areas of the proposed Project are located in zones that were historically affected by major flooding, including events in 2011 and 2022” (Neighbour, October 2025).

The Preliminary Hydrogeological Assessment report (SLR Consulting, 2026) found that the Project is underlain by a shallow, saline groundwater system with limited beneficial use value, and identified only a small number of potential receptors, including nearby groundwater dependent wetlands and one registered groundwater user within the Project Area. The report concluded that the risk of significant groundwater impact is negligible, based on the expectation that active dewatering will generally not be required, any groundwater interaction during construction would be minor, localised and short term, and no material operational impacts on groundwater levels, quality or flow are anticipated.

The report recommended confirming through detailed design whether any groundwater take or localised dewatering is required, and managing any such works through standard environmental and contamination controls. From a social impact perspective, this suggests limited potential for meaningful effects on groundwater users, wetland values or broader community water concerns, provided groundwater protection measures are implemented during construction.

The Hydrology and Stormwater Constraints Investigation report (SLR Consulting, 2026) found that the current wind farm layout avoids key waterways and sensitive wetlands. All turbines are located outside the buffer distance applied to Ramsar-listed wetlands, and they are also set back from larger creeks and smaller natural waterways. A small number of turbines were initially identified as being close to mapped irrigation or farm drainage channels, but the report notes these maps can be inaccurate and recommends confirming the exact locations with landowners and the local water authority and adjusting turbine positions if needed.

Flooding is identified as an important constraint across much of the wider site area, with many turbines located in areas that have flooded previously or are mapped as flood-prone. The report notes that detailed design will need to demonstrate that project works do not reduce the land’s ability to store and safely convey floodwater, and that existing floodwater pathways are not blocked or redirected in a way that increases impacts elsewhere.

8. Social impact evaluation – Flood and storm water risk	
Community perceived significance	Medium , noting a number of neighbours raised the issue during consultation.
Likelihood level	Possible , noting flooding is a real design constraint across parts of the site, with many turbines located in mapped flood-prone areas, but the technical reports indicate impacts can be avoided or reduced through layout refinement, detailed design, continued liaison with the CMA, and standard groundwater and stormwater controls.
Magnitude level	Minor , noting the main social effect is likely to be concern about how flooding and stormwater will be managed rather than a substantial change in day-to-day community conditions, with the current layout avoiding major waterways and Ramsar wetland buffers and the groundwater assessment finding negligible risk to identified receptors.
Overall social impact significance	Low

6.10 Impact 9 – Noise and operational amenity

On this impact theme, community concerns typically focus on noise during construction and haulage activities or vibrations from ongoing operations, and how this may impact amenity for residential or business uses near a project.

During the consultation period, while there was minimal interest in construction noise impacts, several neighbours and community members queried the noise impacts during operation and the Proponent's proposed mitigations. Most were simply interested to learn "how noisy" the turbines would be and sought real-world comparisons, with one or two stakeholders expressing a high degree of concern about noise and links to adverse health impacts. This feedback likely reflects the rural/peri urban setting of the Project, where the low background noise levels are highly valued.

The Noise Impact Assessment (SLR Consulting, 2026) found that operational noise from the Macorna Wind Farm is expected to comply with the applicable Victorian criteria for non-involved and involved dwellings, based on the current indicative layout and conservative modelling assumptions. One host receiver was predicted to marginally exceed the 45dBA screening threshold by 0.4dB, but the report noted this is unlikely to be perceptible and that host dwellings are not required to meet the minimum regulatory limit. The report also considered the possible high amenity area limit for about nine dwellings in Macorna township and indicated that predicted noise levels there would remain comfortably below the 35dBA criterion at the relevant lower wind speeds.

The report recommended that the final turbine selection, layout and tonal performance be confirmed as design progresses, and noted that noise can be further managed if needed through layout refinement, noise management modes, sector management and post-approval monitoring. It also found that cumulative noise from the proposed substations and BESS would comply with the applicable night-time protocol limits at all assessed receivers, and that construction noise is likely to be low and manageable with standard controls and a Construction Noise and Vibration Management Plan.

In social impact terms, the main implication is that noise effects appear technically manageable, but continued communication, monitoring and responsive mitigation will still be important to maintain confidence among nearby residents.

The Shadow Flicker Assessment (SLR Consulting, 2026) found that shadow flicker is unlikely to result in a significant amenity impact for non-involved sensitive receivers around the Macorna Wind Farm. The report assessed up to 114 proposed turbine locations against 30 sensitive receivers using both a theoretical worst-case model and an expected real-world model. No exceedances were predicted. Under the theoretical scenario, the highest modelled result was 26 hours and 28 minutes per year with a maximum of 27 minutes in a day, while the highest expected result was 6 hours and 35 minutes per year.

The report recommended no further mitigation because the applicable shadow flicker requirements are already met. Although it noted that possible mitigation measures could include turbine relocation, screening, or a shadow flicker control system, it found these unnecessary for the current layout. On that basis, shadow flicker is unlikely to have a material effect on residential amenity or day-to-day wellbeing for nearby non-involved dwellings. The report also noted that, while shadow flicker can cause annoyance, particularly at residences closer to turbines, the evidence reviewed did not identify health effects from shadow flicker or related visual stimuli, and driver distraction risk was considered negligible.

9. Social impact evaluation – Noise and operational amenity	
Community perceived significance	Medium , noting the topic was raised by several neighbours and community members during consultation, although concern was generally low and focused mainly on operational noise and how it would be managed.
Likelihood level	Possible , noting some short-term construction noise is expected, but the technical assessments indicate ongoing operational noise and shadow flicker impacts are likely to comply with relevant criteria and be manageable.
Magnitude level	Minor , noting the Project is expected to comply with applicable operational noise limits for non-involved and involved dwellings, construction noise is predicted to be low and manageable, and shadow flicker is not expected to result in a significant amenity impact.

Overall social impact significance	Low
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6.11 Impact 10 – Air quality

Air quality is typically a community concern during construction due to dust and vehicle emissions, and at times due to smoke associated with bushfire risk management. Consultation records show air quality concerns were rarely raised by neighbours. During operation, air emissions are expected to be minimal, as wind farms do not generate ongoing plant emissions and operational traffic is limited.

The Project's Air Quality Assessment (SLR Consulting, 2026) identified construction dust as the primary potential air quality impact, with diesel exhaust emissions from plant and vehicles expected to be minor. Construction activities may cause temporary dust deposition on surfaces and short-term increases in suspended particulate matter. The assessment identified over 250 sensitive land uses within 5km of the Project, with the nearest sensitive human receptor located 400m from Project infrastructure.

No human or ecological receptors were identified within the relevant IAQM screening distances, and no particularly dust-sensitive ecological receptor was identified within the Project area. While Ramsar wetlands adjoin the northeast boundary of the broader area, there is an approximate 2km separation to the nearest proposed turbine. The assessment concluded that dust-related impacts at sensitive receptors during construction are negligible, subject to implementing good-practice dust controls. Temporary concrete batching plants will be sited at least 300m from sensitive receptors.

Emissions to air during operation are expected to be limited to minor vehicle exhaust and wheel-generated dust from Project-related traffic, which will be small in scale and short in duration. As a result, air quality at nearby sensitive receptors is unlikely to be affected and no further assessment is required.

The report noted that decommissioning would generate similar but generally lower magnitude air emissions than construction. As details of decommissioning are not yet available, a further assessment should be undertaken closer to that stage, supported by a decommissioning-specific Dust Management Plan. With these measures, residual air quality impacts during decommissioning are expected to be minor to negligible.

10. Social impact evaluation – Air quality	
Community perceived significance	Low, noting concern rarely raised by neighbours during consultation.
Likelihood level	Possible, noting there will possibly be short-term construction stage air quality impacts, namely dust, which can cause a nuisance to neighbours.
Magnitude level	Minor, noting impacts would be short-term during the construction stage and there are clear mitigations to minimise them.
Overall social impact significance	Low

6.12 Impact 11 – Aviation

The consultation records indicate project neighbours occasionally shared concerns about impacts of nighttime turbine lighting, spraying and one stakeholder raised it in the context of firefighting.

Concerns about aviation safety in terms of wind farm projects generally emerge from local communities when there are nearby aerodromes/airstrips, agricultural aviation, helicopter and military operations, or emergency response flight activity (Civil Aviation Safety Authority,

Australian Government, 2022), but such concerns did not emerge from broader engagement activities on this Project.

The National Airports Safeguarding Framework (NASF) in Australia specifically includes guidance for managing wind turbines given their tall structures and potential risk to low flying aircrafts and due to low visibility. The wind farm structures can also impact the navigation, communications, and surveillance equipment operated by the Defence and Airservices Australia (NASF, 2012).

The Aviation Impact Assessment (Aviation Projects, 2026) identified the Kerang Airport as the key certified aerodrome receptor for aviation safeguarding and procedure assessment. The report indicated that there is no infringement to Kerang airport's obstacle limitation surfaces and the airport's circling procedures will not be affected by the Project. The report also stated that proportional changes may be required for associated procedure altitudes/minima such as the holding/missed approach altitudes). The report identified obstacle safeguarding and publishing minima updates as primary ways to manage aviation risk. The Project has no conflict with controlled/special-use airspace boundaries, and wake turbulence is unlikely to affect known aerodromes in the Project Area.

Overall, the report indicates that the Project can proceed without compromising aviation safety, provided that the recommended protocols, stakeholder engagement, and data submissions are completed.

11. Social impact evaluation – Aviation	
Community perceived significance	Low , noting consultation records show only one two project neighbours raised the issue during consultation.
Likelihood level	Unlikely , noting that while the aviation impact assessment identifies Kerang airport as being within 30nm of the Project Area, the report concludes that the proposed WTGs would not require obstacle lighting to maintain an acceptable level of safety to aircraft. CASA will determine whether obstacle lighting is recommended for the approved WTGs.
Magnitude level	Moderate , noting potential noticeable impact to what people value and localised but potentially persistent where visible.
Overall social impact significance	Low

6.13 Impact 12 – Land values and insurance

During consultation, potential impacts of the Project on land values or insurance premiums was not frequently raised, but the few neighbours who did raise it were quite concerned about land value impacts specifically. There can be social concerns that proximity to large-scale developments like wind farm may reduce the desirability or perceived value of neighbouring properties due to noise or visual impacts. Even where such risks are well-managed, perceptions alone can influence decisions about property sales, leasing, or agricultural investment.

It is difficult to verify whether the Project is likely to adversely affect land values. Residential land values for Regional Victoria have risen substantially over the past decade (according to the *Valuer-General Victoria* property sale statistics, 2024). Additionally, over the last five years, median house prices in have grown by 80% (approximately 12.5% per year) in Gannawarra Shire alone. In Loddon Shire, the increases in prices have been even greater compared to its starting point. Refer to **Figures 15-16**.

Figure 15: Residential price statistics 2004-25 Gannawarra Shire

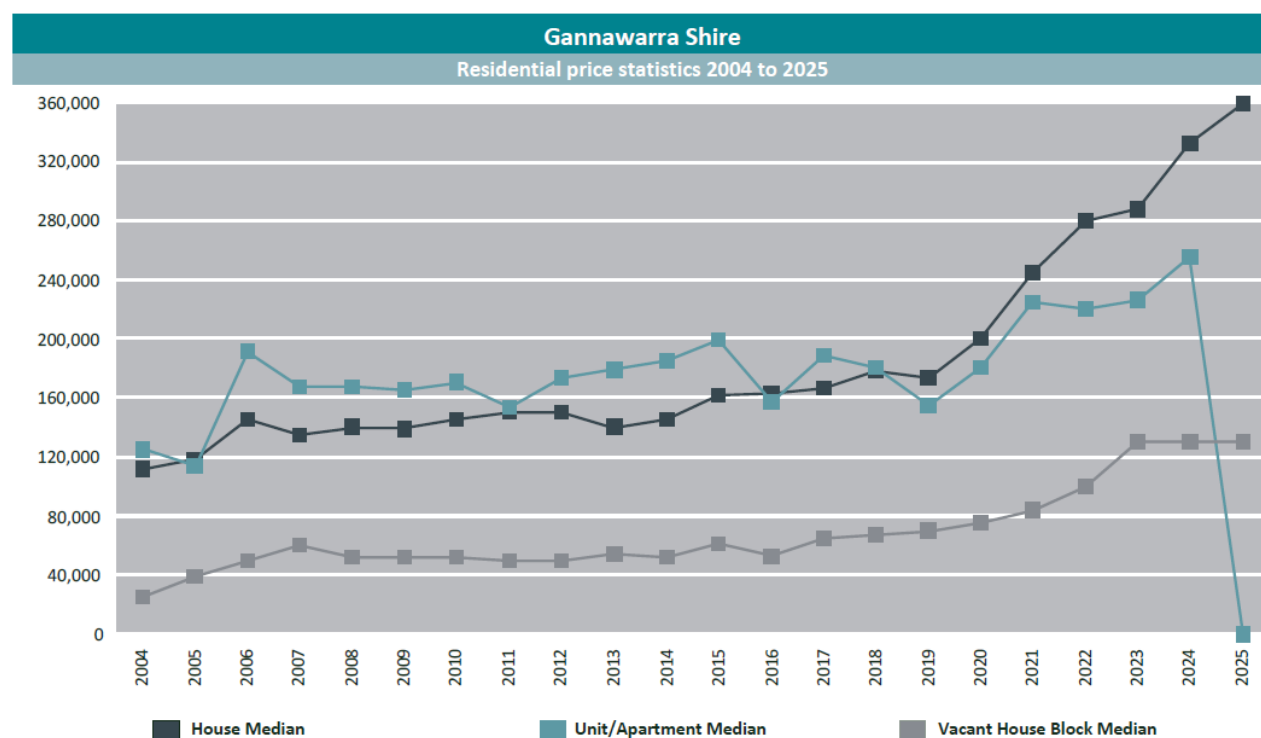
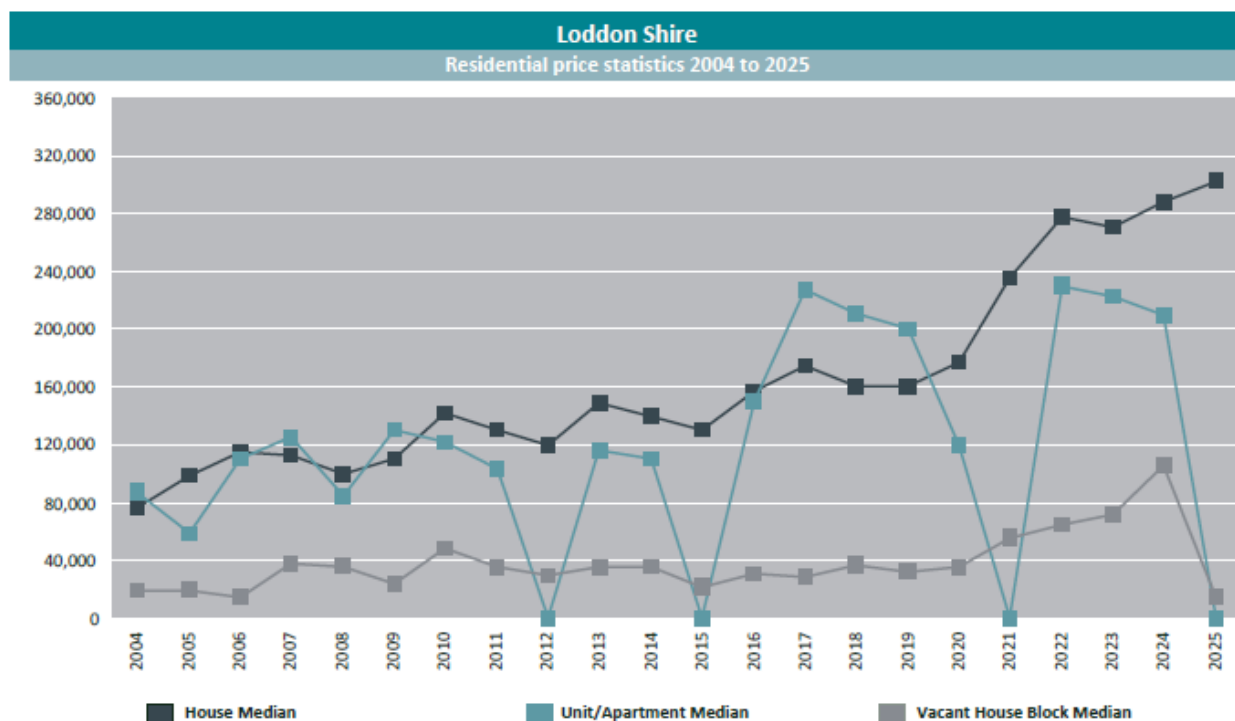


Figure 16: Residential price statistics 2004-25 Loddon Shire

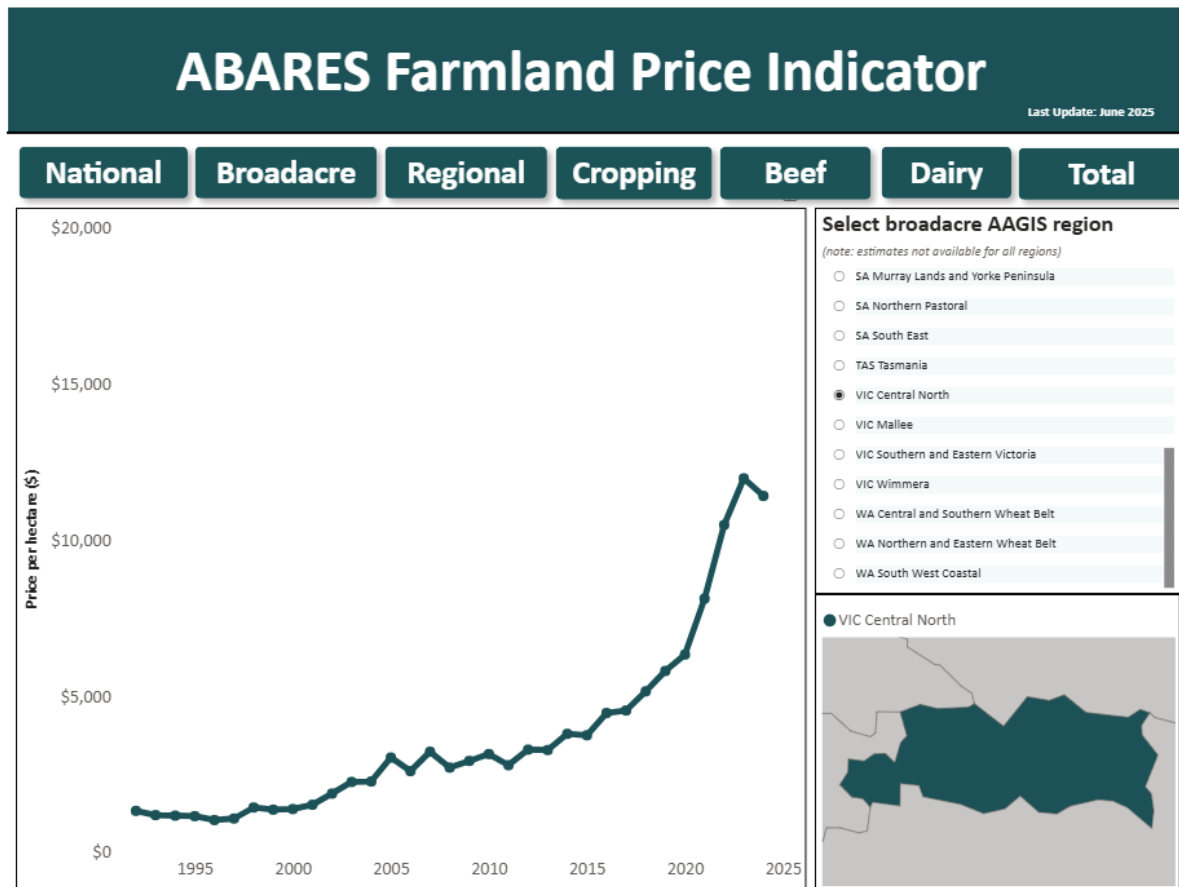


Broadacre farmland prices in Australia have also generally experienced strong growth since 1992, continuing to accelerate in recent years. Prices, however, have flattened in the last two years (ABARES Farmland Price Indicator, 2025).



Farmland affordability is increasingly becoming a headline concern when coupled with a combination of high-property prices and increasing interest rates and cost of doing business. Combined, these effects are impacting farmers' risk appetite for buying land. Refer to **Figure 17**.

Figure 17: ABARES Farmland Price Indicator June 2025 – Central North (VIC)



Source: ABARES Farmland Price Indicator online tool

Insurance premium wise, project neighbours may fear that the Project will change the risk profile that influences how insurance is assessed. However, insurers do not typically adjust premiums solely due to proximity to a new electricity infrastructure enterprise. The peak body for general insurance in Australia, The Insurance Council of Australia (ICA), has stated that premium prices are impacted by extreme weather costs, inflation, labour and materials, taxes, and development in high-risk locations (particularly flood-prone areas) (ICA 2025), and that there are no known cases of insurance premium increases in Australia as a result of renewable energy projects (ICA 2024).

The ICA 2023-24 Catastrophe Resilience Report highlights that extreme weather – bushfires, floods, storms – has led to almost 157,000 claims and over \$2.2 billion in insured losses across Australia for the 2023-24 period alone. Projections indicate insurance may become unaffordable or unavailable in high-risk regions as extreme weather becomes more frequent and severe, with climate change converting what was once insurable risk into near certainty for some areas. Therefore, the proposed Project is unlikely to be a key contributor to local insurance premium price increases; it may be the case that the Project reduces risk to local assets and infrastructure due to industry standard mitigations required to enable construction and operations.

12. Social impact evaluation – Land values and insurance	
Community perceived significance	Medium , noting concerns raised by some stakeholders during community consultation.
Social impact evaluation	
Likelihood level	Unlikely , noting the appreciating land value trends in recent years and ICA advice about factors that impact insurance premiums.
Magnitude level	Minor , noting windfarms are unlikely to negatively impact on the value of surrounding land in an agricultural setting, and noting ICA advice about factors that impact insurance premiums.
Overall social impact significance	Low

6.14 Impact 13 – Waste and decommissioning

During the consultation period, some neighbours expressed concern that the Proponent may not honour decommissioning obligations, however, after further information was provided about contractual obligations, permit requirements and decommissioning bonds, these concerns were somewhat allayed.

The potential waste impacts of the Project are well understood, relatively easy to predict, and can be mitigated. Waste will be generated on site primarily during construction and decommissioning, with only a very limited amount of waste expected during operation. Further, impacts during decommissioning are likely to be short-term, temporary and limited to within standard working hours.

The Project has a finite life span. At the end of the operational period, the Project may be repowered (replacing the wind turbines with new models) or decommissioned. Repowering may involve a new permit for the project to install new or modify the existing turbines to provide for a further 30 years of operations. Repowering would seek to use as much of the existing wind farm infrastructure as possible. If the Project is decommissioned the land will be restored to its previous state to allow for agricultural practices to resume. At the end of the operating life of the Project, all above ground infrastructure is removed. Access tracks will be rehabilitated or left if they assist farming operations if requested by the host landholder.

The Proponent is fully responsible for decommissioning the wind farm under the development permit. In addition, land agreement requirements include a bond to be established to ensure that sufficient funding is available to cover the costs of decommissioning.

13. Social impact evaluation – Waste and decommissioning	
Community perceived significance	Medium , noting neighbours asked questions about decommissioning obligations.
Social impact evaluation	
Likelihood level	Possible , noting the decommissioning (or repurposing) process will generate some unrecyclable waste.
Magnitude level	Minor , the potential waste impacts are well understood and can be mitigated.
Overall social impact significance	Low

6.15 Impact 14 – Access to local services

As noted in **Chapter 5**, while there is limited social infrastructure in the small localities in and around the Project Area, the Gannawarra and Loddon LGAs offer a suite of local facilities. However, projects such as these can increase the demand for social infrastructure due to the influx of a non-local workforce.

Table 22: Potential negative impacts on local services

Service area	Potential negative impact
Health	Increased demand on GP and hospital services, longer wait times, pressure on staff and appointments, particularly during construction workforce peak. The Proponent is collaborating with Northern District Community Health to increase nursing in the area and outfit a health centre in Pyramid Hill.
Education	Temporary increase in enrolments if workers relocate with families, added pressure on classrooms, staffing and support services; potential need for additional resources or facilities.
Childcare	Increased demand and limited places, longer waitlists, reduced access for local families and shift workers.
Housing	Reduced availability of rentals and short-term accommodation, upward pressure on rents/prices, flow-on demand for housing support and welfare services.
Transport/utilities	Increased heavy vehicle movements and commuter traffic on local roads, potential congestion and safety concerns; added demand on water/power services at workforce accommodation and work sites.
Emergency/aged care	Greater call volumes and service demand, potential longer response times, pressure on volunteer capacity (where relevant) and aged care support services.
Telecommunications	Network congestion and reduced mobile or data service quality during construction peaks, particularly in rural coverage areas; increased reliance on limited bandwidth for work and home use.

Assuming the base case scenario for workforce sourcing zones outlined above, 60% of the construction workforce (375 FTE) will likely live within a 55-minute drive of the Project Area and will therefore presumably already access services from the Gannawarra and Loddon LGAs. This leaves a further load of 40% of the remaining construction workforce (or 150 people) potentially accessing those services, which is not considered to be significant given the total combined population of Gannawarra and Loddon LGAs of 18,450. On the positive side, increased population and economic activity can justify investment in new or expanded local services, improving long-term access for all residents.

Electromagnetic Interference Assessment

While it was not raised frequently during consultation, records show one or two neighbours asked questions about whether the Project would impact on internet usage or TV reception. The Electromagnetic Interference (EMI) Assessment (SLR Consulting, 2026) found that the proposed Project is unlikely to cause significant electromagnetic interference to existing radiocommunications services if the recommended avoidance and design measures are applied. The main potential risk relates to six point-to-point microwave links crossing or passing near the Project Area, and the report recommends minimum turbine setback distances of about 114m to 301m from those links, with an added 100m compliance margin where practicable.

The report concluded that, with these setbacks, targeted micro-siting, and follow-up consultation with affected service providers, no unacceptable EMI impacts are expected. It also recommended a final pre-construction screening check, including an updated ACMA search, to confirm that no new or changed radiocommunications infrastructure has created additional risk before works begin. The report indicates EMI is unlikely to be a material long-term social impact if the recommended setbacks, consultation and pre-construction checks are implemented, though it is still relevant to community confidence, service continuity and clear complaints management if reception issues arise during operation.

14. Social impact evaluation – Access to local services	
Community perceived significance	Low, noting only mild concerns raised by one or two stakeholders during consultation.
Social impact evaluation	
Likelihood level	Possible, noting there is a comparatively small increase in demand forecasted for services across all three scenarios proposed.

Magnitude level	Minor , noting the workforce will be sourced locally where practicable and that impacts would be relatively short-term, being confined to the construction stage.
Overall social impact significance	Low

6.16 Impact 15 – Biodiversity/ecology

Engagement records show there were limited concerns raised about the biodiversity impact of the Project on the site itself, with some occasional questions about bird strike and habitat fragmentation. Some neighbours and community members queried potential disruption to bird-watching activities in the wider area, and the risk of compounding existing threats to the Plains-wanderer (*Pedionomus torquatus*), which is listed as Critically Endangered under the Environment Protection and *Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cwlth) and the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* (Vic).

Flora and fauna assessment

The Flora and Fauna Assessment (Nature Advisory, 2026) identified a modified agricultural landscape that still supports extensive biodiversity values across the Project Area. The report recorded 443 native vegetation patches, totalling about 1,657ha, including Plains Grassland, Chenopod Grassland, Riverine Chenopod Woodland, Lignum Swamp and Lignum Swampy Woodland, as well as 36 scattered trees. It recorded one threatened flora species, Spiny Lignum, and found that 49 listed flora species have potential to occur. For fauna, the report found a relatively constrained but still important habitat mosaic of grassland, woodland, waterways and wetlands, including habitat links to the Kerang Wetlands Ramsar site and the adjoining Hird and Johnson Swamps. It identified 55 listed fauna species (including the Plains-wanderer) as known, likely, or potentially present, with 14 recorded during field surveys, including Black Falcon, Blue-winged Parrot, Brown Treecreeper, Little Eagle, Magpie Goose, Plumed Egret and Bearded Dragon.

In impact terms, the report noted that the Project would remove 45.469ha of native vegetation in patches and five scattered trees and would affect two listed ecological communities: 25.679ha of Natural Grasslands of the Murray Valley Plains and 32.956ha of the Northern Plains Grassland Community. It also identified habitat loss, fragmentation, roadkill, habitat degradation, and bird and bat collision risk as the main pathways of effect, while noting that layout amendments have already reduced native grassland removal from more than 100ha to about 44ha and avoided woodland areas where possible. Recommended measures included further micro-siting of infrastructure, avoiding hollow-bearing and scattered trees, protecting wetland buffers, rehabilitating fragmented habitat, targeted flora and ecological community surveys, continued bird, bat and Brolga surveys, and detailed construction management measures.

Most of the native vegetation proposed for removal is located within actively managed agricultural land that is periodically cropped during periods of higher water allocation and/or used for grazing. Based on these land use patterns, a substantial proportion of the vegetation is likely to comprise regrowth rather than intact remnant vegetation, although this is still subject to ongoing field verification.

This distinction is material to impact assessment. If confirmed as regrowth, the ecological value and associated impact significance may be lower than for remnant vegetation, which in turn influences the approvals pathway and the scale and type of mitigation required. Where remnant vegetation is identified, higher impact thresholds and more stringent offset or avoidance measures are likely to apply.

Further assessment is underway to confirm vegetation classification, extent and condition. The impact assessment, regulatory implications and proposed mitigation measures will be refined and updated once this classification is finalised.

Socially, the main implication is potential concern about ecological change in a landscape that retains recognised grassland, wetland and habitat values despite long agricultural modification. The report indicates that biodiversity impacts will require further assessment, permitting, offsets and mitigation, particularly in relation to threatened grassland communities and fauna habitat. For the social impact assessment, this suggests the Project may contribute to community concern where people value remnant vegetation, wetlands, birds and broader landscape condition, although the significance of these effects will depend on how effectively the recommended avoidance, mitigation and survey measures are carried through in the final design and approvals process.

On a broader social impact reading, the Project does not appear likely to result in a perceptible change to ecosystem services, landscape character or community experience of the surrounding rural environment. With the implementation of standard mitigation measures, the overall social impact associated with biodiversity and ecological values is expected to be low.

15. Social impact evaluation – Biodiversity/ecology	
Community perceived significance	Medium , noting community consultation identified concerns about biodiversity specific to the Project Area, namely about birdlife.
Social impact evaluation	
Likelihood level	Possible , noting the assessment confirms real habitat and ecological community impacts but also shows these have been reduced through layout changes and are intended to be further managed through micro siting, surveys and mitigation.
Magnitude level	Minor , noting the main social effect is likely to be concern about ecological change, with most residual biodiversity risks expected to be managed through the recommended mitigation measures.
Overall social impact significance	Low

6.17 Impact 16 – Fire and other hazards

Engagement records show a small number of stakeholders raised concerns about fire risk, mainly relating to whether turbines or associated infrastructure could start fires, broader bushfire risk, and battery fire risk. There are guidelines from fire authorities specifically for Renewable Energy Facilities that set out requirements for emergency prevention and response.

The risk of fire at wind farms is very low due to:

- the location of turbines within cleared construction hardstand areas which reduce available fuel load
- lightning protection devices installed on every turbine, which in turn reduce ground strikes that might otherwise have started fires
- monitoring systems being installed in turbines to detect temperature increases that automatically slow or shut down the turbine if the temperature or windspeed exceeds an assigned threshold
- any flammable elements being located high above the ground.

Modern wind turbines include built in fire detection, arc flash detection and suppression systems. If smoke is detected, the turbine immediately shuts down and alerts are sent to 24/7 monitoring teams. The suppression system will activate in the event of fire. In this case, a gas suppressant is released to extinguish any fire. The turbine cannot run if the fire detection or suppression system is not functional.

The Proponent will collaborate closely with stakeholders and authorities when and developing the Project's Bushfire Mitigation plan.

Blade throw risk assessment

The Blade Throw Assessment (SLR Consulting, 2026) found that blade throw is a very low-likelihood hazard for nearby sensitive receptors and is not expected to result in a significant safety impact for the Project. This indicates any community concern or risk perception is unlikely to translate into a material safety effect if the Project proceeds as per the assessed layout and any design refinements are checked against the same risk framework.

16 Social impact evaluation – Fire and other hazards	
Community perceived significance	Medium , noting some neighbours and community members raised the issue during consultation.
Social impact evaluation	
Likelihood level	Unlikely , noting consultation suggests this was a secondary concern rather than a dominant issue, and the technical material indicates residual risks to dwellings, road users, rail users and agricultural workers are all below the adopted acceptable risk threshold.
Magnitude level	Minor , noting the main effect is likely to relate to risk perception rather than material safety consequences, with the available assessment finding no significant direct safety impact if the Project proceeds broadly in accordance with the assessed layout and emergency planning commitments.
Overall social impact significance	Low

7. Economic impact assessment and prediction

This chapter assesses the impact of the Project on the regional and Victorian economies in both the construction and operation stages.

7.1 Economic impact modelling

The estimated Capital Expenditure (CAPEX) of the Project is \$2 billion dollars. The Project is forecasted to create economic benefits to both the regional and Victorian economies in the construction, operation, and decommissioning stages. The potential direct and indirect impact of the Project to both the regional and Victorian economies was assessed using an input-output model derived using REMPLAN, with a multiplier effect. This model has captured the interdependency of industries and how this Project will directly (e.g. trades involved in the Project's construction and the suppliers), and indirectly (e.g. manufacturers of construction materials) enhance the activity in certain industries.

7.2 Construction stage

The Proponent has advised that the Project would create 375 FTE jobs across four different employment sectors at peak construction, and that the average construction workforce would be 70% of the peak construction workforce. In line with this, the annual FTE jobs were calculated using a range of 70-72%, of peak construction FTE jobs (375), for each employment sector and each year up to year three. Given the project construction period of 3.5 years, the year four FTE jobs were adjusted to reflect six months. In the range of 70-72%, the upper 2% was included as a contingency above the 70% base assumption to allow for typical construction delivery variability. The total FTE jobs expected to be created in the construction stage is 945. This value aligns with the other wind farm projects in Victoria.

The total FTE jobs expected to be created in the project construction stage is 945. This value aligns with the other wind farm projects in Victoria.

Table 23 presents a breakdown of FTE jobs in the project construction stage across employment sectors and years of construction. This breakdown was used to develop the input-output model to derive the Project's potential economic impact during the construction stage.

Table 23: Breakdown of project construction stage FTE jobs

Employment category	Peak FTE Jobs	Year 1 (72% of peak FTE Jobs)	Year 2 (72% of peak FTE Jobs)	Year 3 (72% of peak FTE Jobs)	Year 4 (72% of Peak FTE Jobs/2)	Total
Construction (including non-residential building construction, heavy and civil engineering construction, and construction services)	311	223.92	223.92	223.92	111.96	783.72
Transport	18	12.96	12.96	12.96	6.48	45.36
Professional, scientific and technical services	32	23.04	23.04	23.04	11.52	80.64
Administrative and support services	14	10.08	10.08	10.08	5.04	35.28
Total FTE jobs in construction stage						945

The main sectors affected with subsequent supply chain economic benefit multipliers include the following as per the ABS: ANZSIC 2006, Rev 2.0 (2013):

- **Non-residential building construction:** businesses engaged in the construction, alteration, or renovation of non-residential buildings such as commercial or institutional and the management of those works
- **Heavy and civil engineering construction:** businesses engaged in constructing heavy infrastructure and civil works, including roads and bridges, rail permanent way, pipelines, dams, irrigation systems, harbours and river works, electricity/communications distribution lines, tunnels, and similar projects, and the organisation and management of these activities
- **Construction services:** businesses that provide specialist services to support construction, including land development and site preparation, building structure services, building installation services, building completion services, and other construction services
- **Transport:** businesses engaged in transporting passengers and freight by road, rail, water or air, and covers postal services, pipeline transport, scenic and sightseeing transport, warehousing and storage, and support services like stevedoring, harbour services, navigation, airport operations and customs agency services
- **Professional, scientific and technical services:** businesses in which workers' specialised expertise are they key driver of the work and requires advanced training and formal (often tertiary) qualifications
- **Administrative and support services:** businesses that provide daily operational support including office administration, recruitment and labour hire, document preparation, call-centre order taking, credit reporting and collections, and travel and tour arrangements

On a conservative basis, it is assumed that all original equipment manufacturing (OEM), mainly turbines in this case, takes place outside the region and Victoria. Where practicable, this means the 'balance of plant' (everything outside of OEM turbine supply and install activities) workforce will be drawn from the local region, with the balance sourced from elsewhere. **Table 24** shows three scenarios for workforce sourcing zones, based on the socio-economic baseline identified for this Project and the residential distribution of the current construction workforce (balance of plant).

Table 24: Scenarios developed for economic modelling based on workforce sourcing zones

Scenario	Zone 1: Local/near region	Zone 2: Rest of Victoria	Zone 3: Rest of Australia
1. Conservative case	30% of the workforce	40% of the workforce	30% of the workforce
2. Base case	60% of the workforce	30% of the workforce	10% of the workforce
3. Optimistic case	80% of the workforce	15% of the workforce	5% of the workforce

Tables 25-29 show the forecasted direct and indirect impact of these workforce numbers on the regional and Victorian economy during the 3.5 years construction stage.

Type 1 and type 2 multipliers were generated in this economic impact modelling. In REMPLAN's input-output framework, a Type 1 multiplier takes an initial impact (e.g. project spending or FTE jobs; FTE jobs in this case) and adds the flow-on activity that occurs as local businesses buy from their suppliers, which results in the total impact: the direct impact plus the indirect (supply-chain) impact. Type 2 multipliers extend this further by also incorporating induced effects from households' spending of the income generated in the direct and indirect rounds, so that total impacts comprise direct, indirect, and induced components (Office for national statistics, 2022; REMPLAN 2025).

Compared to the regional economy, Victoria retains a greater share of both direct and indirect expenditures within the state, resulting in stronger local production and consumption effects. As indicated in **Tables 25-29**, this leads to higher overall economic impacts for the Victorian

economy. Furthermore, due to the greater degree of sectoral interdependencies within the state, the associated multipliers are larger, reflecting more substantial flow-on effects across the Victorian economy.

Output

Table 25: Construction stage output impacts on the regional and Victorian economies

Construction impacts of the Project on the regional economy: Output (\$M)				
Scenario	Direct effect	Supply-chain effect	Consumption effect	Total effect
Conservative	\$151.130	\$109.888	\$42.339	\$303.357
Base	\$302.259	\$219.775	\$84.678	\$606.713
Optimistic	\$403.012	\$293.034	\$112.905	\$808.951
Construction impacts of the Project on the Victorian economy: Output (\$M)				
Conservative	\$366.163	\$380.228	\$216.242	\$962.633
Base	\$470.781	\$488.864	\$278.026	\$1,237.670
Optimistic	\$496.935	\$516.023	\$293.472	\$1,306.430

Employment

Table 26: Construction stage employment impacts on regional and Victorian economies

Construction impacts of the Project on the regional economy: Employment (FTE jobs)				
Scenario	Direct effect	Supply-chain effect	Consumption effect	Total effect
Conservative	283.5	242.55	98.17	624.22
Base	567	485.13	196.32	1248.45
Optimistic	756	646.84	261.76	1664.6
Construction impacts of the Project on the Victorian economy: Employment (FTE jobs)				
Conservative	661.5	833.88	493.22	1988.6
Base	850.5	1072.12	634.16	2556.78
Optimistic	897.75	1131.69	669.38	2698.82

Table 27 shows that employment (FTE jobs) peak gain during the project construction stage occurs in Year 1.

Table 27: Construction stage employment impacts on regional and Victorian economies in peak gain year

Construction impacts of the Project on the regional economy: Employment (jobs FTE) in peak gain - year 1				
Scenario	Direct effect	Supply-chain effect	Consumption effect	Total effect
Conservative	81.00	69.30	28.05	178.35
Base	162.00	138.61	56.09	356.70
Optimistic	216.00	184.81	74.79	475.60
Construction impacts of the Project on the Victorian economy: Employment (jobs FTE) peak gain - year 1				
Conservative	189.00	238.25	140.92	568.17
Base	243.00	306.32	181.19	730.51
Optimistic	256.50	323.34	191.25	771.09

Household income

Table 28: Construction stage household income impacts on regional and Victorian economies

Construction impacts of the Project on the regional economy: Household income (\$M)				
Scenario	Direct effect	Supply-chain effect	Consumption effect	Total effect
Conservative	\$25.599	\$21.376	\$8.506	\$55.482
Base	\$51.199	\$42.753	\$17.013	\$110.965
Optimistic	\$68.265	\$57.004	\$22.684	\$147.953
Construction impacts of the Project on the Victorian economy: Household income (\$M)				
Conservative	\$60.591	\$75.779	\$43.988	\$180.358
Base	\$77.903	\$97.430	\$56.556	\$231.889
Optimistic	\$82.231	\$102.843	\$59.698	\$244.772

Value-added

Table 29: Construction stage value-added impacts on regional and Victorian economies

Construction impacts of the Project on the regional economy: Value-added (\$M)				
Scenario	Direct effect	Supply-chain effect	Consumption effect	Total effect
Conservative	\$44.541	\$37.713	\$22.579	\$104.833
Base	\$89.082	\$75.425	\$45.158	\$209.665
Optimistic	\$118.776	\$100.567	\$60.211	\$279.554
Construction impacts of the Project on the Victorian economy: Value-added (\$M)				
Conservative	\$105.397	\$135.492	\$106.626	\$347.516
Base	\$135.511	\$174.205	\$137.091	\$446.806
Optimistic	\$143.039	\$183.883	\$144.707	\$471.629

7.3 Operation stage

The Project is expected to create a total of 18 FTE jobs in the operation stage across three different employment sectors as indicated in **Table 30**. This breakdown was used to develop the input-output model to derive the Project's potential economic impact during an operational year, and this can then be applied across the operational period of the Project of 35 years. All staff are assumed to reside in the region.

Table 30: Breakdown of project operation stage FTE jobs

Employment category	FTEs
Electricity generation	16
Professional, scientific and technical services	1
Administrative and support services	1
Total FTE jobs in operation stage	18

Tables 31-34 show the forecasted direct and indirect impact of these workforce numbers on the regional and Victorian economies. Type 1 and type 2 multipliers were generated in this economic impact modelling. As with the construction stage, compared to the regional economy, Victoria retains a greater share of both direct and indirect expenditures within the state, resulting in stronger local production and consumption effects. As indicated in **Tables 31-34**, this leads to higher overall economic impacts for the Victorian economy. Furthermore, due to the greater

degree of sectoral interdependencies within the state, the associated multipliers are larger, reflecting more substantial flow-on effects across the Victorian economy.

Output

Table 31: Operation stage output impacts on regional and Victorian economies per year

Operation impacts of the Project on the economy: Output (\$M)				
Economy	Direct effect	Supply-chain effect	Consumption effect	Total effect
Regional	\$32.014	\$18.250	\$4.903	\$55.167
Victoria	\$33.739	\$35.166	\$13.900	\$82.805

Employment

Table 32: Operation stage employment impacts on regional and Victorian economies per year

Operation impact of the Project on the economy: Employment (jobs FTE)				
Economy	Direct effect	Supply-chain effect	Consumption effect	Total effect
Regional	18.00	26.52	11.37	55.89
Victoria	18.00	55.72	31.70	105.42

Household income

Table 33: Operation stage household income impacts on regional and Victorian economies per year

Operation impacts of the Project on the economy: Household income (\$M)				
Economy	Direct effect	Supply-chain effect	Consumption effect	Total effect
Regional	\$2.425	\$3.015	\$0.985	\$6.425
Victoria	\$2.548	\$6.218	\$2.827	\$11.593

Value-added

Table 34: Operation stage value-added impacts on the regional and Victorian economies per year

Operation impacts of the Project on the economy: Value-added (\$M)				
Economy	Direct effect	Supply-chain effect	Consumption effect	Total effect
Regional	\$5.014	\$7.163	\$2.615	\$14.792
Victoria	\$5.271	\$14.678	\$6.854	\$26.803

7.4 Sensitivity analysis

Given that the Project's operational period of 35 years is relatively longer than the construction period of 3.5 years, a sensitivity analysis has been conducted to capture the Project's operational stage economic impacts more accurately across the project lifespan. The sensitivity analysis was conducted using the pulse year approach (Hammond and Cooperman, 2022; Martin et al., 2016).

Pulse year sensitivity

While the Project's routine operations can be relatively stable in each operational year, there can be periodic major maintenance or refurbishment tasks in certain operational years that can cause short-term uplifts in contractor activity such as in turbine maintenance or replacement,

electrical works, transport/logistics, and specialist maintenance, leading to additional economic activity in relevant years. These years are therefore identified as pulse years and presented in the analysis as an illustrative sensitivity (Hammond and Cooperman, 2022; Martin et al., 2016).

Pulse sensitivity timeframes

Research indicates three distinct timeframes during a wind farm's operational period, where the need for major maintenance may emerge. First, Winkler (2025) states that large components of wind farms such as gearboxes, main bearings, generators, and blades can reach wear limits and may require replacement after 10 to 20 years of operation, often involving specialist cranes and logistics. Second, historically, the designed service life of wind turbines has been identified as 20 years Ziegler et al. (2018) which leads for lifetime extension decision making, maintenance of ageing assets, assessment of structural integrity and decommissioning of turbines. The National Renewable Energy's operations and maintenance cost modelling for wind turbines also considers 20 years as expected project life due to circumstances like lightning strikes, operational errors, manufacturers defects, and serving omissions and errors leading to the failure of yaw and pitch bearings, generators, blades, main, and yaw drives. Third, IEA Wind TCP Task 42 (2022) focuses on the continued operation/lifetime extension and component failure probability upon continued operation of wind turbines highlighting the need for additional maintenance when wind turbines operate beyond design life.

However, Vestas (2020; 2026) state that at currently turbines can operate for 30 years or even longer, as opposed to the traditional average lifetime of 20 to 25 years which includes the point of installation to the point of decommissioning. Noting the above historical and contemporary design life periods of turbines, 20 years has been used as the threshold in this analysis to capture any potential major pulse event expenditures during Project lifespan. Accordingly, this analysis conservatively considers the pulse sensitivities of the Project to occur in operational years 10 (reflecting the tendency for major component replacement), 20 (based on historical design-life/life-extension decision point), and 30 (based on further intervention requirements under continued operation beyond design-life).

Given the turbine life of 30+ years at present (Vestas 2020;2026), it is likely that pulse expenditure associated with turbine replacement will not be incurred during the Project's operational life, which will be cost-effective for the Applicant and be beneficial for the end consumers in-terms of electricity prices.

Pulse event expenditure

A study published in the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (Wiser et al., 2019) indicates that the operating expenditures (OpEx) of wind farms range between \$33 to \$59 per kW-year, with a typical value of approximately \$40/kW-year. The Project's nameplate capacity expressed in kilowatts is 828,000kW. Based on this, the indicative central annual OpEx of the Project is \$33.12 million per year ($40 \times 828,000$) and is expected to range between the lower threshold of \$27 million per year ($33 \times 828,000$) and upper threshold of \$49 million per year ($59 \times 828,000$).

A central pulse uplift of 15% of annual OpEx was then adopted as a material but not dominant increase in activity above routine operations and maintenance, representing a coordinated major maintenance event. This yields an indicative pulse magnitude of approximately \$5 million per event ($0.15 \times \33 million), rounded for reporting. A pulse event therefore represents approximately 10 to 18% of the Project's typical OpEx per year.

Pulse sensitivity modelling

Pulse years represent additional major maintenance activity of the Project delivered primarily through contracted services and logistics. Therefore, in this modelling, the pulse-event expenditure has been allocated to the employment sectors that are likely to deliver these major maintenance activities, rather than steady employment categories applicable in routine project operations reflecting the ongoing operational workforce (Winkler, 2025).

The pulse-event expenditure split was designed to reflect recognised wind farm operations and maintenance cost drivers associated with major maintenance interventions, including mobilising heavy servicing equipment like cranes, specialist maintenance resources, and the logistical and technical planning required for large-component works. This approach is consistent with the event simulation approach adopted in modelling in the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's Windfarm Operations and Maintenance Cost-Benefit Analysis Tool, which considers wind farm repair tasks that occur in port, which rely on equipment separate from that used at the wind power plant site (Hammond and Cooperman, 2022). **Table 35** presents the pulse-event expenditure split across employment sectors applicable to major maintenance interventions of the Project.

Table 35: Pulse-event expenditure split across employment sectors

Employment sectors	Share (%)	Allocation (M)
Electricity generation (OEM/turbine maintenance activity)	35%	\$1.75
Construction services (cranes, rigging, installation, electrical contractors)	30%	\$1.5
Heavy and civil engineering construction (crane pads, access tracks, hardstands)	10%	\$0.5
Transport/logistics (component freight, escorts, laydown logistics)	15%	\$0.75
Professional, scientific and technical (engineering, inspections, and testing)	10%	\$0.5
Total	100%	\$5

Based on the pulse-event expenditure split across employment sectors indicated in **Table 35**, **Table 36** demonstrates the pulse sensitivity impacts of one pulse event on the regional and Victorian economies.

Table 36: Pulse sensitivity impacts of one pulse event on the regional and Victorian economies

Pulse sensitivity impacts of one pulse event on regional economy				
Impact summary	Direct effect	Supply-chain effect	Consumption effect	Total effect
Output (\$M)	\$5.000	\$2.929	\$1.288	\$9.217
Employment (Jobs FTE)	8.84	5.88	2.99	17.71
Household income (\$M)	\$0.864	\$0.565	\$0.259	\$1.688
Value-added (\$M)	\$1.479	\$1.087	\$0.687	\$3.253
Pulse sensitivity impacts of one pulse event on the Victorian economy				
Impact summary	Direct effect	Supply-chain effect	Consumption effect	Total effect
Output (\$M)	\$5.000	\$4.650	\$2.804	\$12.454
Employment (Jobs FTE)	8.62	9.20	6.40	24.22
Household income (\$M)	\$0.856	\$0.912	\$0.570	\$2.339
Value-added (\$M)	\$1.453	\$1.809	\$1.383	\$4.644

Table 37 presents the total pulse sensitivity of the three pulse events across the Project's operation period, and the total standard and pulse sensitivity impacts on the regional economy based on pulse sensitivity modelling.

Table 37: Total standard and sensitivity impacts on regional economy based on pulse sensitivity modelling

Standard operational impacts for the region		Total predicted impact for 35 years (standard total effects x 35) for the region		Total pulse impacts for the region	Total standard and pulse sensitivity impacts for the region
Impact measure	Total effect	Impact measure	Total effect	Total effect of one pulse event x 3	Total predicted impact for 35 years + total pulse impacts
Output (\$M)	\$55.167	Output (\$M)	\$1,930.85	\$27.65	\$1,958.50
Employment (FTE)	55.89	Employment (FTE)	1,956.15	53.13	\$2,009.28
Household income (\$M)	\$6.425	Household income (\$M)	\$224.88	\$5.06	\$229.94
Value-added (\$M)	\$14.792	Value-added (\$M)	\$517.72	\$9.76	\$527.48

Table 38 presents the total pulse sensitivity of the three pulse events across the Project's operation period, and the total standard and pulse sensitivity impacts on Victorian economy based on pulse sensitivity modelling.

Table 38: Total standard and sensitivity impacts on Victorian economy based on pulse sensitivity modelling

Standard operational impacts for Victoria		Total predicted impact for 35 years (standard total effects x 35) for Victoria		Total pulse impacts for Victoria	Total standard and pulse sensitivity impacts for Victoria
Impact measure	Total effect	Impact measure	Total effect	Total effect of one pulse event x 3	Total predicted impact for 35 years + total pulse impacts
Output (\$M)	\$82.805	Output (\$M)	\$2,898.18	\$37.36	\$2,935.54
Employment (FTE)	105.42	Employment (FTE)	3,689.70	72.66	\$3,762.36
Household income (\$M)	\$11.593	Household income (\$M)	\$405.76	\$7.02	\$412.78
Value-added (\$M)	\$26.803	Value-added (\$M)	\$938.11	\$13.93	\$952.04

7.5 Nominal inflation overlay

The results derived in economic impact modelling via REMPLAN in this report (**Tables 31-34**) are expressed in constant dollars and represent real economic activity (i.e. they do not capture the effects of general price escalations). Therefore, considering the Project operational period of 35 years, a nominal inflation overlay (Parliamentary Budget Office, 2023) was produced in line with nominal financial reporting conventions to better reflect the Project's operation stage economic impacts and it expresses the same constant-dollar impacts in nominal dollars for each year of operation.

CPI and WPI indexing

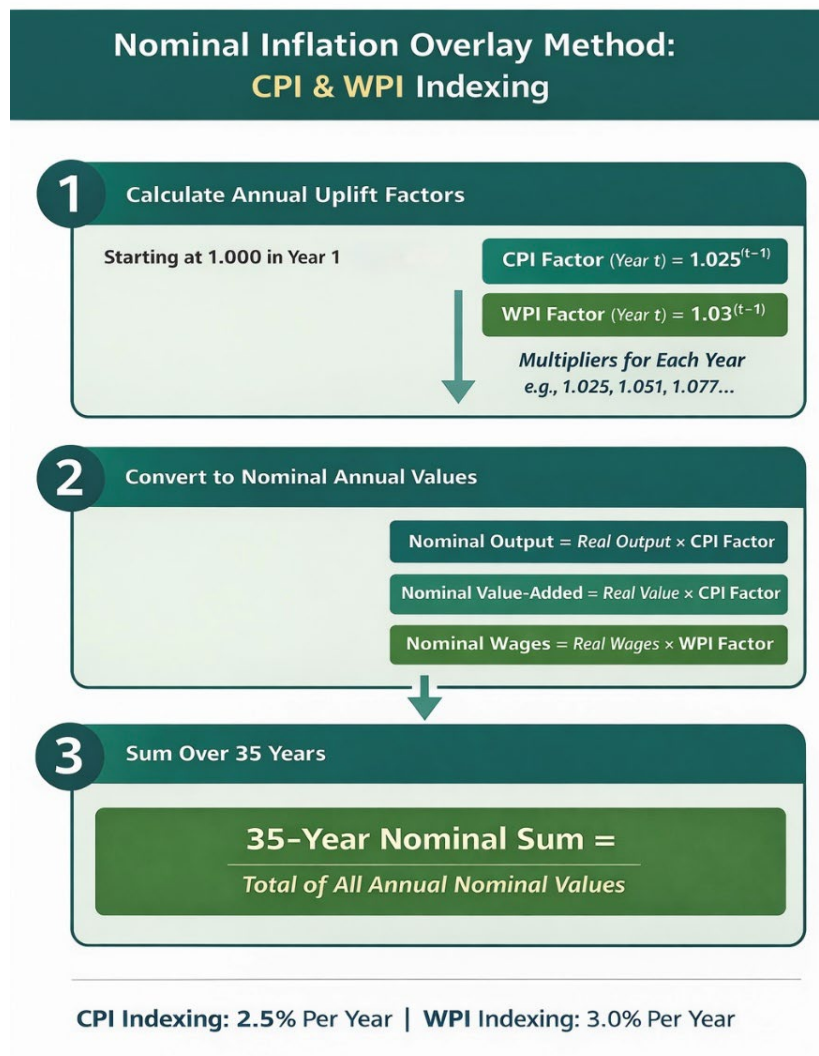
Victorian Department of Treasury and Finance's (2025) macroeconomic projections in the 2025-26 Budget Update - Table 2.1 shows the Melbourne Consumer Price Index (CPI) at 2.5% in the out-years and the Victorian Wage Price Index (WPI) moderating to 3%. The results derived in the economic impact modelling via REMPLAN (**Tables 31-34**) were indexed applying these out-year CPI and WPI projections as steady long-run indexing assumptions across the Project's operation period. This analysis:

- has not changed the REMPLAN multipliers or input-output relationships used in the economic impact modelling
- does not represent additional real economic activity, and only the constant-dollar values have been converted to nominal values through indexing
- has not indexed employment impacts (FTE jobs).

Figure 18 shows the method adopted to calculate the nominal inflation overlay using CPI and WPI indexing. Considering the Project target construction start year is 2029 and the construction duration of 3.5 years, 2032 is identified as the first operational year and FY2032-33 is treated as Year 1 (the reference year) in the analysis. Therefore, the uplift factors are set to 1.000 in Year 1 as no escalation is applied in the reference year. For each subsequent year, uplift factors compound annually at the assumed rates: a CPI uplift factor is calculated as $1.025^{(t-1)}$ and a WPI uplift factor as $1.03^{(t-1)}$, where t is the year number from 1 to 35. These factors are multipliers (not percentages) and represent the cumulative escalation relative to Year 1.

Nominal annual values are then calculated by multiplying the constant-dollar annual impacts by the relevant uplift factor: output and value-added are multiplied by the CPI uplift factor for that year, and wages and salaries are multiplied by the WPI uplift factor for that year. Employment is not indexed. To present a single nominal figure over the operating life, the nominal annual values are summed across all 35 years to provide an undiscounted 35-year nominal sum.

Figure 18: Nominal inflation overlay method



Operational stage nominal impacts

Table 39 presents the undiscounted sum of nominal impacts in Project's operation stage for the Victorian and regional economies. **Appendix 13.1** presents the calculations of annual nominal impacts for the operational period of 35 years for the Victorian and regional economies.

Table 39: Total nominal impacts in operation stage for Victorian and regional economies

Economy	Impact measure	35-year total (constant \$)	35-year total (nominal)
Regional	Output (\$M)	\$1,930.85	\$3,030.097
	Household income (\$M)	\$224.88	\$388.483
	Value-added (\$M)	\$517.72	\$812.519
Victoria	Output (\$M)	\$2,898.18	\$4548.369
	Household income (\$M)	\$405.76	\$700.905
	Value-added (\$M)	\$938.11	\$1472.22

7.6 Other economic impacts

Other than the Project's construction and operation stage impacts on output, employment, household income and value-added in the regional and VIC economy, the Project is likely to create other economic impacts as discussed below.

Price stability, energy security, and resilience to global fuel shocks

Given that wind farms generate electricity involving low marginal cost with no ongoing fuel input (IEA Wind, 2025), the Project will help to balance supply and demand, reduce energy price volatility, and contribute to grid stability. Increasing wind generation can create a merit-order effect where the wind generation can reduce wholesale electricity prices by displacing higher-cost generators in dispatch. Cserekyei, Qu and Ancev (2019) found that an extra GW of dispatched wind capacity decreases the wholesale electricity price by 11 AUD/MWh at the time of generation, while solar capacity by 14 AUD/MWh.

This can be beneficial particularly during periods of geopolitical disruption like the Russia-Ukraine war which has caused a 30-40% increase in the European gas and thermal coal prices since early February 2022 (Reserve Bank of Australia, 2022). Accordingly, wind generation supports more stable wholesale electricity outcomes over time by reducing reliance on fuel-priced generators during high-price periods and by reducing the need to dispatch higher-cost thermal generation.

Least-cost transition benefits

Australian Energy Market Operator's (2024) Integrated Systems Plan indicates that the least-cost pathway to supply electricity to homes and businesses as coal-fire power stations retire, is a portfolio dominated by renewable generation enabled by transmission and distribution investment, firmed with storage, and supported by dispatchable gas-powered generation during the transition to a net zero economy.

Alignment with Victorian targets and renewable energy demand

In Victoria, legislated policy settings provide a clear demand and investment certainty for new renewables. Victoria's Renewable Energy Target under the Renewable Energy (Jobs and Investment) Act 2017, is set at 65% renewable electricity by 2030 and 95% by 2035 (Energy, Environment and Climate Action Victoria, 2026), which supports ongoing need for additional large-scale generation such as onshore wind. Accordingly, the Project will support to achieve broader state goals and meet the increasing demand for renewable energy in the state.

Regional economic activity, supply chains, and fiscal contributions

During operations, a wind farm typically delivers steady local expenditure through operations and maintenance contracting, landholder lease payments, procurement of goods and services, access-track upkeep maintenance, vegetation management, security, and compliance monitoring, and major maintenance interventions beyond routine operations causing pulse expenditure (Hammond and Cooperman, 2022; Martin et al., 2016). It also contributes fiscal flows like council rates and other local charges where applicable), supporting local government revenues and community services over the asset life. Also, the ongoing spend can help enhance regional capability in high-voltage electrical work, blade and turbine maintenance, logistics, and specialist inspection services, skills that are transferable across the development of other wind farm projects.

Maintaining air quality and health benefits

By increasing supply of low-emissions electricity and reducing dispatch from higher-emitting generation at the margin, wind projects can contribute to lower air-pollution exposure. This can contribute to public health benefits for nearby communities through reduced respiratory and cardiovascular harm. Therefore, the proposed Project can also be expected to contribute to lowering the burden on the healthcare system, which benefits the wider economy.

7.7 Cost-benefit analysis

Opportunity cost of using agricultural land for the Project

A cost-benefit analysis of the Project was conducted using agriculture as an alternative land use for the Project Area. The analysis indicates that the Project will generate a larger overall economic impact than if the Project Area is used for ongoing agricultural purposes. The Project Area is approximately 23,000ha. The Project's Technical Assessment and Potential Agricultural Impact report (Ag-Challenge Consulting, 2026) indicates that the total estimated disturbance footprint during Project construction is approximately 745ha. Of this, approximately 406ha will be rehabilitated following construction. The long-term operational footprint of the Project is estimated at approximately 338ha, representing around 1.5 per cent of the total Project Area. Based on these disturbance footprints, **Table 40** shows the opportunity cost of using the proposed land for the Project instead of agriculture during the construction and operation stages. (The Project's Technical Assessment and Potential Agricultural Impact report indicates approximately 8 per cent higher values for the annual gross margin loss, and this analysis has used the values as demonstrated in **Table 40** in line with the margins adopted in other similar projects.

Table 40: Opportunity cost of using agricultural land for the Project in construction and operation stages

	Construction phase	Operation phase
Estimated annual gross margin loss	\$496,084	\$196,539
Estimated annual gross loss from benched areas	\$43,559	\$24,176
Annual opportunity cost	\$539,643	\$220,715
Total opportunity cost	\$1,888,750.50	\$7,725,025
	(\$539,643 x 3.5 years)	(\$220,715 x 35 years)

Cost-benefit outcomes

Based on the opportunity cost of using agricultural land for the Project, **Tables 41** and **42** present the projected total impacts on the regional and Victorian economies, during the construction and operation stage if the Project Area were used for agriculture.

Table 41: Total construction stage economic impacts if the Project Area were used for agriculture

Impacts on the regional economy if the Project Area is used for agriculture				
Impact summary	Direct effect	Supply-chain effect	Consumption effect	Total effect
Output (\$M)	\$1.890	\$0.942	\$0.249	\$3.080
Employment (Jobs FTE)	4	2	1	7
Household income (\$M)	\$0.125	\$0.151	\$0.050	\$0.326
Value-added (\$M)	\$0.861	\$0.365	\$0.133	\$1.359
Impacts on the Victorian economy if the Project Area is used for agriculture				
Impact summary	Direct effect	Supply-chain effect	Consumption effect	Total effect
Output (\$M)	\$1.890	\$1.303	\$0.573	\$3.766
Employment (Jobs FTE)	4	3	1	8
Household income (\$M)	\$0.128	\$0.233	\$0.116	\$0.478
Value-added (\$M)	\$0.862	\$0.527	\$0.282	\$1.672

Table 42: Total operation stage economic impacts if the Project Area were used for agriculture

Impacts on the regional economy if the Project Area is used for agriculture				
Impact summary	Direct effect	Supply-chain effect	Consumption effect	Total effect
Output (\$M)	\$7.730	\$3.851	\$1.017	\$12.598
Employment (Jobs FTE)	15	8	3	26
Household income (\$M)	\$0.509	\$0.619	\$0.204	\$1.333
Value-added (\$M)	\$3.520	\$1.494	\$0.542	\$5.557
Impacts on the Victorian economy if the Project Area is used for agriculture				
Impact summary	Direct effect	Supply-chain effect	Consumption effect	Total effect
Output (\$M)	\$7.730	\$5.331	\$2.342	\$15.402
Employment (Jobs FTE)	16	11	6	33
Household income (\$M)	\$0.522	\$0.954	\$0.476	\$1.953
Value-added (\$M)	\$3.527	\$2.155	\$1.155	\$6.837

Income for hosting each turbine is in order of \$40,000-\$50,000 per annum, which equates to \$4,560,000-\$5,700,000 annually across the Project Area. This is between 23-29 times greater than the proposed losses during Project operation (Ag-Challenge Consulting, 2026). The income from hosting turbines as \$40,000 per turbine per annum across the Project's operation stage of 35 years, has been applied in economic impact modelling in REMPLAN under the employment category of non-residential property operators, and the results are presented in **Table 43**.

Table 43: Total impacts of the income from turbine hosting in operation stage

Total impacts on the regional economy from the income of turbine hosting in operation stage				
Impact summary	Direct effect	Supply-chain effect	Consumption effect	Total effect
Output (\$M)	\$1.400	\$0.580	\$0.344	\$2.324
Employment (Jobs FTE)	2	1	1	4
Household income (\$M)	\$0.249	\$0.133	\$0.069	\$0.451
Value-added (\$M)	\$0.747	\$0.273	\$0.183	\$1.204
Total impacts on the Victorian economy from the income of turbine hosting in operation stage				
Impact summary	Direct effect	Supply-chain effect	Consumption effect	Total effect
Output (\$M)	\$1.400	\$1.000	\$0.770	\$3.170
Employment (Jobs FTE)	2	2	2	6
Household income (\$M)	\$0.249	\$0.236	\$0.157	\$0.642
Value-added (\$M)	\$0.747	\$0.482	\$0.379	\$1.609

Tables 44 and **45** compare the total projected economic impact of the Project to the potential economic impact that would be created if the Project Area were used for agricultural purposes instead over the Project construction and operation periods. The total impacts of the income from turbine hosting in operation stage as demonstrated in **Table 43** has been applied in this analysis. **Tables 44** and **45** also present the cost-benefit outcome that will be created if the Project proceeds, instead of using the Project Area for agriculture.

Table 44: Cost-benefit outcome for the regional economy

Impact Summary	Impact on regional economy								
	Construction stage	Operation stage			Total agricultural impacts		Overall cost/benefit outcome		
	Total construction stage impacts (base case scenario):	Total operation stage impacts (base case scenario):	Total impacts from hosting turbines	Overall operation stage impacts: Total operation stage impacts (base case scenario) + Total impacts from hosting turbines 35 years					
	3.5 years	35 years	35 years		Construction stage: 3.5 years	Operation stage: 35 years	Construction stage: 3.5 years	Operation stage: 35 years	Outcome
Output (\$M)	\$2,123.50	\$1,930.85	\$2.32	\$1,933.17	\$3.08	\$12.60	\$2,120.42	\$1,920.58	Benefit
Employment (Jobs FTE)	1,248.45	1,956.15	4.00	1,960.15	7	26.00	\$1,241.45	\$1,934.15	Benefit
Household income (\$M)	\$388.38	\$224.88	\$0.45	\$225.33	\$0.33	\$1.33	\$388.05	\$224.00	Benefit
Value-added (\$M)	\$733.83	\$517.72	\$1.20	\$518.92	\$1.36	\$5.56	\$732.47	\$513.37	Benefit

Table 45: Cost-benefit outcome for the Victorian economy

Impact Summary	Impact on Victorian economy								
	Construction stage	Operation stage			Total agricultural impacts		Overall cost/benefit outcome		
	Total construction stage impacts (base case scenario):	Total operation stage impacts (base case scenario):	Total impacts from hosting turbines	Overall operation stage impacts: Total operation stage impacts (base case scenario) + Total impacts from hosting turbines 35 years					
	3.5 years	35 years	35 years		Construction stage: 3.5 years	Operation stage: 35 years	Construction stage: 3.5 years	Operation stage: 35 years	Outcome
Output (\$M)	\$4,331.85	\$2,898.18	\$3.17	\$2,901.35	\$3.77	\$15.40	\$4,328.08	\$2,885.95	Benefit
Employment (Jobs FTE)	2,556.79	3,689.70	6.00	\$3,695.70	8	33	\$2,548.79	\$3,662.70	Benefit
Household income (\$M)	\$811.61	\$405.76	\$0.64	\$406.40	\$0.48	\$1.95	\$811.13	\$404.45	Benefit
Value-added (\$M)	\$1,563.82	\$938.11	\$1.61	\$939.72	\$1.67	\$6.84	\$1,562.15	\$932.88	Benefit



8. Cumulative impact assessment

Cumulative impact is a material issue for the Macorna Wind Farm because it is proposed in a part of north-west Victoria already experiencing substantial renewable energy and transmission change. Cumulative impacts arise where the Project's effects combine with those of existing, approved or proposed developments, or with broader social, economic and land use change already underway in the region.

For this Project, the most relevant cumulative pathways are labour and skills competition, housing and accommodation pressure, contractor and supplier competition, roads and traffic, landscape and visual change, local services and council capacity, community sentiment, trust and fairness, and the regional distribution of benefits. The clearest cumulative risks are expected during construction, especially where major project timing overlaps. During operations, cumulative effects are more likely to centre on landscape change, community perceptions and the longer-term distribution of costs and benefits.

8.1 Regional renewable energy and transmission context

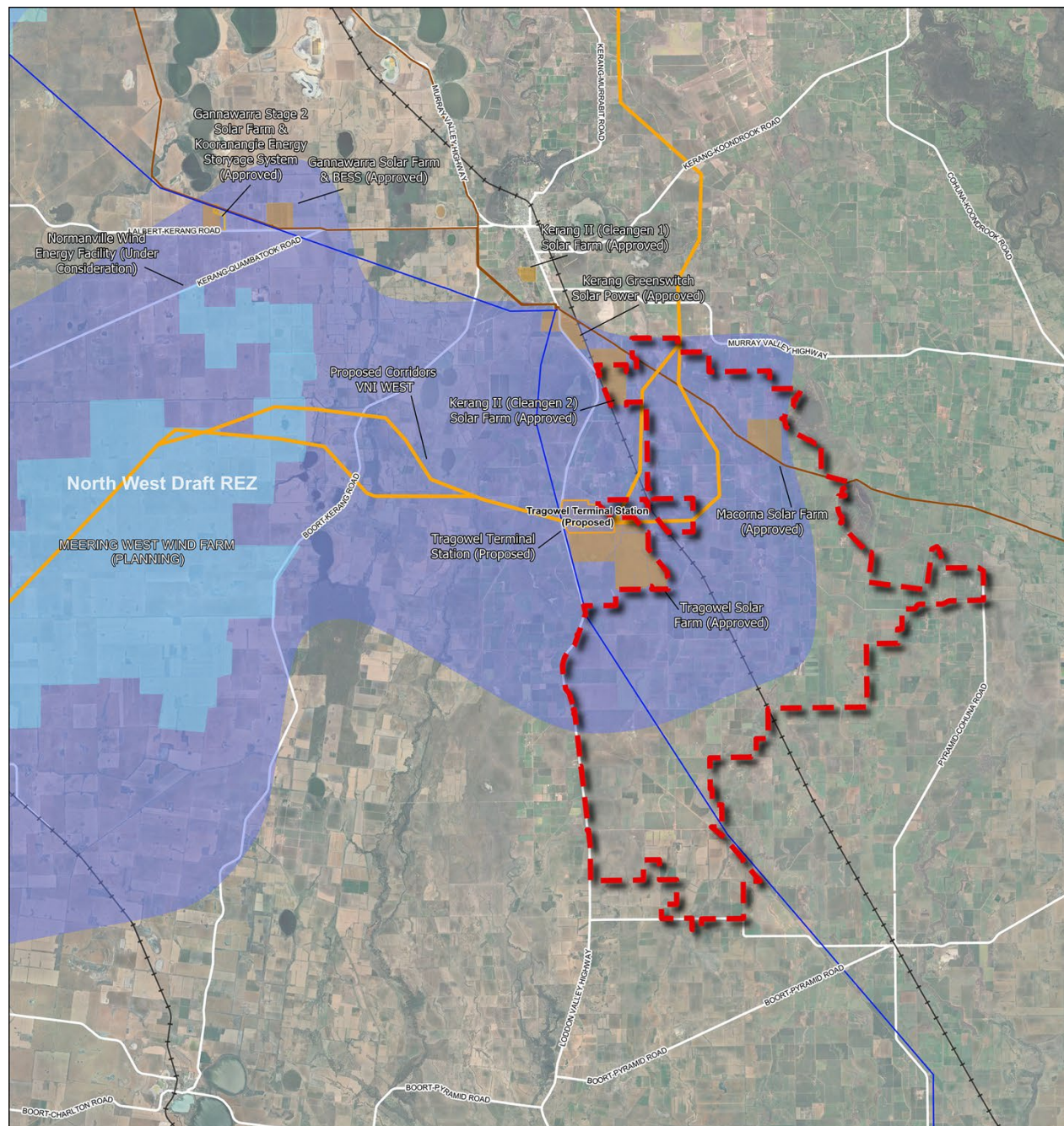
At a regional scale, the Project sits within a major renewable energy and transmission transition area in Victoria. The "2025 Victorian Transmission Plan" sets out the transmission infrastructure proposed over the next 15 years and identifies six Renewable Energy Zones to indicate where wind, solar and battery development should be concentrated. A substantial portion of the Project Area falls within the proposed North West REZ (see **Figure 19**).

VNI West is also a central part of the regional cumulative context and is directly relevant because its proposed route passes through the wind farm site and the town of Kerang in Gannawarra. The associated terminal station site at Tragowel directly abuts the Project Area, and the Project's current timing aligns with VNI West as its proposed connection point. This means transmission timing and delivery are central to understanding cumulative effects. The first phase of regional impacts is likely to be driven mainly by transmission projects and the smaller number of renewable projects able to proceed without additional network capacity, with later phases depending on expanded transmission (Urban Enterprise, 2026).

The broader regional context is also socially sensitive. VNI West has generated significant community debate within the region. Gannawarra Shire Council has formally opposed the Project (Gannawarra Shire Council, 2026), citing concerns about insufficient community benefits (including the absence of reduced electricity pricing), limited social licence, inadequate consultation and community awareness, and the potential impact of the proposed Echuca river crossing on prime agricultural land (Gannawarra Shire Council, n.d.). Council has also emphasised that any housing developments associated with VNI West should deliver enduring benefits for local communities. Farmers in areas like Wycheproof (approximately 120km from the Project) have reportedly restricted property access for VNI West environmental surveys (Verley, 2025).

Regional infrastructure projects can also generate substantial economic opportunity. They create employment, support local and regional spending, attract workers and their families, and can contribute to labour force participation and regional economic activity. In places that have experienced structural adjustment or economic decline, large-scale renewable energy investment may support economic revitalisation. However, this upside needs to be balanced against the short-term pressures that can arise when multiple projects compete for the same labour, contractors, materials and accommodation. Construction demand can increase wages, draw workers away from other sectors and raise business costs where wage increases are passed through to consumers. These effects will depend on workforce mix, including the proportion sourced locally, from outside the region, or through DIDO/FIFO arrangements, as well as on broader market adjustment over time.

Figure 19: Existing infrastructure plan



Existing Infrastructure Plan

2447 - Macorna Wind Farm

0 5 10 km

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Study Area | Tragowel Terminal Station |
| Railway Line | North West Draft REZ |
| Major Roads | Nearby Energy Projects |
| Existing Energy Infrastructure | Solar |
| Existing 66 KV Transmission Line | Wind |
| Existing 220 KV Transmission Line | Battery |
| Proposed VNI West Corridor | |

Version: 1.3
Date: 19/03/2026

This broader regional context establishes why cumulative impact is relevant to the Project, but the likely significance of cumulative effects still depends on the scale of project overlap, delivery timing and the effectiveness of coordination across proponents, councils and government.

It is also important to note the project-specific technical studies conducted for the EES referral did not identify significant cumulative impacts attributable to the Project in technical terms. The Traffic Impact Assessment concluded that cumulative traffic impacts from nearby renewable energy projects are expected to be minimal, with no extra projects likely to generate concurrent vehicle movements along the Loddon Valley Highway or local road network during the Project's construction phase. The PLVIA found the Project is unlikely to be a distinguishable feature beyond 10km from the site, meaning limited potential for combined visual effects. The Noise Impact Assessment concluded that operational noise impacts are unlikely to be significant and that construction noise will be low and manageable, without materially compounding existing noise-generating activities.

8.2 Cumulative impacts in Gannawarra and Loddon LGAs

The most relevant cumulative effects for the Project are those likely to be experienced across Gannawarra and Loddon LGAs, where renewable energy and transmission development may combine with existing regional constraints in housing, labour, roads and local service capacity. In this context, cumulative relevance depends mainly on whether projects proceed, whether construction periods overlap, whether they draw on similar workforce and accommodation catchments, and how effectively proponents, councils and government agencies coordinate their responses.

Tables 46 and 47 identify the main nearby operating, approved and proposed projects with potential cumulative relevance to the Macorna Wind Farm in the two host LGAs. Not all these projects will proceed, and the extent of overlap will depend on timing, approvals, transmission access and final delivery models. There is a concentration of renewable energy, storage and transmission activity in Gannawarra, with Loddon also relevant through shared workforce, road, service and community catchments.

Table 46: Operating projects in Gannawarra and Loddon LGAs with cumulative impact relevance

Project name	LGA	Proponent	Energy type	MW
Gannawarra Solar Farm	Gannawarra	Edify Energy and Gentari	Solar/battery	55
Gannawarra BESS	Gannawarra	Energy Australia/Edify Energy/Gentari	Battery	25
Scato Plus Compost Heliostatic Solar Plant	Loddon	Raygen	Solar	0.5
Cohuna Solar Farm	Gannawarra	Potentia Energy	Solar	34.2
Yawong Wind Farm	Loddon/Buloke	Epic Energy	Wind	7.2
Kerang Solar Farm	Gannawarra	British Solar Renewables	Solar	37

Table 47: Proposed projects nearby with cumulative impact potential

Project name	LGA	Proponent	Energy type	MW	Status
Normanville Energy Park	Gannawarra	Westwind Energy	Wind	122	Cwltb approval required (bilateral agreement). Planning application lodged with Vic Govt
Meering West Wind Farm	Gannawarra/Loddon	Virya Energy Pty Ltd	Wind	1500	Referred to Cwltb 02/12/2025. Planning Application lodged with Vic Govt

Project name	LGA	Proponent	Energy type	MW	Status
Cannie Wind Farm	Gannawarra	Renewable Energy Systems (RES) Australia	Wind	1300	Cwltb approval required (bilateral agreement). Vic Govt EES required – scoping requirements finalised
VNI West	Various	Transmission Company Victoria	Transmission	n/a	Cwltb approval required (bilateral agreement). Vic Govt EES required – scoping requirements finalised

Source: Urban Enterprise, 2026

8.3 Construction-stage cumulative effects

Construction is expected to be the period of greatest cumulative sensitivity because this is when demand on labour, accommodation, contractors, roads and local services is most likely to overlap. For the Project, cumulative pressure would increase if multiple major projects moved into active delivery at similar times.

Table 48 shows that the cumulative construction profile is mixed rather than uniformly negative. Overlapping construction may increase local spending, short-term employment and demand for regional goods and services, but it may also intensify pressure on housing and accommodation, contractor availability, roads, local services and perceptions about the pace and fairness of regional change.

Table 48: Potential cumulative impacts for the proposed Project

Potential cumulative impact theme	Construction	Operation
Economic benefits for the surrounding community and region	Positive: Overlapping project construction can increase local spending, demand for goods and services, and short-term employment across trades, transport, accommodation and hospitality. This may strengthen regional business turnover and procurement opportunities if local firms can access the work	Positive: Cumulative operational spending, maintenance activity and community benefit-sharing may add to the longer-term regional benefit stream from energy infrastructure, though at a much smaller scale than construction
Accommodation and housing	Mixed: Additional demand from construction workers may benefit some accommodation providers, but overlapping projects are likely to intensify pressure on rental housing, short-stay accommodation and worker housing, with potential flow-on effects for affordability, vulnerable households, agricultural workers and local service access	Low/mixed: Operational workforces are much smaller, so cumulative housing effects are expected to be limited. If any worker accommodation or housing enabled by major projects is retained or repurposed, there may be some longer-term local benefit, but this would depend on final delivery and legacy arrangements
Local content, labour availability and suppliers	Mixed: Concurrent construction can increase demand for local contractors, suppliers and workers, but may also draw labour from existing employers, reduce contractor availability for other sectors, and increase wage and service costs. The main cumulative risk is labour competition across energy, transmission, agriculture and local government functions	Low/positive: Ongoing operations and maintenance work may support a modest, longer-term uplift in regional capability, particularly for electrical, mechanical, vegetation management and servicing roles. Cumulative labour pressure during operations is expected to be materially lower than during construction, but some competition for skilled trades may remain if several projects operate at once
Roads, traffic and transport corridors	Mixed: Construction traffic from overlapping projects may increase pressure on shared roads and haulage routes, with higher road safety risk, heavier wear and reduced amenity for residents and agribusinesses along key corridors. There may also be positive cumulative effects where project activity supports road upgrades or other transport improvements	Low: Operational traffic is expected to be comparatively minor, so cumulative traffic effects during operations are likely to be limited. Impacts are more likely to relate to intermittent maintenance
Landscape character and visual amenity	Low to moderate: Construction-stage cumulative visual effects are temporary but may reinforce perceptions of rapid industrialisation and landscape change	Moderate: This is likely to be the main cumulative operational issue. If multiple wind, solar, battery and transmission projects proceed, the Project may be experienced as contributing to a broader and more permanent pattern of energy infrastructure and landscape transformation across the district
Community sentiment, trust and fairness	Negative risk: Repeated exposure to major project construction can heighten perceptions that change is occurring too quickly, with cumulative concerns most likely where workforce, accommodation, traffic or road impacts are visible and poorly coordinated	Moderate: Over time, cumulative social response is likely to depend on whether communities perceive benefit-sharing, complaints handling, communication and ongoing engagement to be fair, transparent and proportionate to the scale of regional change
Local services, infrastructure and council capacity	Negative risk: Where major projects overlap, cumulative demand may increase pressure on local roads, telecommunications, water, wastewater and community services. Councils may also face added strain because they are often the first point of contact for communities during project change, despite limited resources and existing financial constraints	Low to moderate: Operational infrastructure pressure is expected to be lower than during construction, but cumulative effects may persist where multiple projects create ongoing demand for road maintenance, council oversight, complaints handling and community liaison over a long period

8.4 Operation-stage cumulative effects

Operational cumulative effects are expected to be narrower and less intense than construction-stage effects. Once major construction activity is complete, cumulative demand on labour, accommodation, local services and transport should fall substantially.

The main operational cumulative issue is likely to be how the Project is experienced as part of a broader and more permanent pattern of energy infrastructure across the district. If multiple wind, solar, battery and transmission projects proceed, the Project may be understood as contributing to wider landscape transformation and to community perceptions about whether the scale, pace and distribution of regional change are fair and proportionate.

Some ongoing cumulative effect may also persist relating to road maintenance, complaints handling, community liaison and council oversight where multiple projects operate over a long period. However, these pressures are expected to be a lot lower than during active construction.

Overall, the cumulative picture will depend on project overlap, timing and coordination. If managed well, the regional transition presents substantial potential for employment, procurement, community benefit-sharing and broader regional investment. If poorly coordinated, it may intensify pressure on labour, housing, transport corridors, local services and public trust. Many of these impacts are inherently cumulative and extend beyond the influence of a single proponent, so effective management will require coordinated action across proponents, local councils and the Victorian Government.

9. Enhancing and mitigating social impacts, and residual impacts

This chapter proposes measures to enhance or mitigate Project impacts and predicts a residual impact, should those mitigations be implemented.

9.1 Recommendations to mitigate negative social impacts and enhance positive social impacts

Based on the findings of this assessment, this report makes five key recommendations, supported by supplementary considerations, to help reduce likely negative social impacts of the Project and enhance its positive impacts.

1. Incorporate recommendations from independent technical assessments to refine project design and implementation

- 1.1 Incorporate relevant recommendations from independent technical assessments into detailed project design, construction planning and operational management, with particular attention to matters that are socially material to affected stakeholders, including landscape and visual amenity, workforce and accommodation, roads and traffic, Aboriginal cultural heritage, and noise and operational amenity.
- 1.2 This should include documenting how technical findings have informed siting, layout refinement, access arrangements, construction methods and mitigation commitments, and communicating those outcomes in clear, accessible language to affected stakeholders.
- 1.3 Where technical assessments identify impacts requiring site-specific responses, the Proponent should develop property-specific or stakeholder-specific management measures rather than relying only on project-wide commitments. This recommendation supports improved understanding, trust and perceived fairness in project decision-making.

2. Implement benefit sharing commitments through a transparent and equitable framework

- 2.1 Implement benefit sharing commitments through a clear, transparent and equitable framework that responds to the distribution of both benefits and impacts across the social locality. The framework should set out guiding principles, eligibility, governance arrangements, decision-making processes and reporting requirements for the Annual Energy Offset and Community Benefit Fund and any other benefit-sharing initiatives.
- 2.2 The framework should include a clear pathway for near neighbours and other directly affected non-host landholders, recognising that perceptions of fairness are likely to influence trust, social licence and community cohesion.
- 2.3 Continue co-design of benefit sharing measures with relevant stakeholders, and where relevant, support and align activities with local council economic development plans, such as the “Gannawarra Economic Development Strategy 2019-2024” and the “Loddon Shire Economic Development Strategy 2025-2029.”
- 2.4 Report publicly on the allocation of funding, local employment outcomes, local procurement outcomes, training participation and other realised social benefits. This recommendation is intended to strengthen the positive impacts associated with regional economic participation while reducing risks of perceived inequity or exclusion.



3. Prepare and implement a Workforce Accommodation Plan before Project construction

- 3.1 Prepare and implement a Workforce Accommodation Plan prior to construction mobilisation. The plan's aim should be to ensure safe, sufficient and affordable accommodation for the Project's construction workforce while minimising disruption to the local housing market and tourism capacity and enhancing local economic activity.
- 3.2 Co-design plan with key stakeholders, for example the Gannawarra and Loddon Shire Councils, tourism associations, and accommodation providers to refine accommodation arrangements and manage cumulative regional pressures. Engagement should occur early enough to influence procurement and workforce mobilisation decisions.
- 3.3 The Plan should set out the proposed accommodation model, expected workforce numbers over time, workforce source regions, accommodation demand by project phase, and the measures that will be used to avoid or minimise impacts on local housing availability, affordability, tourism accommodation and community wellbeing.
- 3.4 As an alternative to building a temporary construction accommodation facility for this Project, continue to explore other options like negotiating arrangements with existing commercial accommodation providers or partnering with Council to build legacy housing. The Plan should avoid material reliance on private rental stock and set a clear cap or threshold for contractor use of private rentals, to reduce risks of crowding out local residents and key workers.
- 3.5 The Plan should establish practical controls like caps on contractor use of private rental housing, booking protocols for accommodation providers, and early response triggers linked to indicators such as rent escalation, declining vacancy, displacement from short-stay accommodation, or increased demand for homelessness and emergency housing services. Where triggers are exceeded, implement additional mitigation, for example securing extra dedicated rooms, pausing further bookings in local rentals, or revising roster timing to smooth peak demand. Regularly monitor and report during construction against those indicators, with results shared internally and summarised publicly where appropriate.
- 3.6 Prioritise hiring locally (within a 60-minute drive of the site) to reduce pressure on local accommodation and housing requirements. Where practicable, focus on individuals with relevant skillsets or straightforward upskilling needs who already live in the area. This should be linked to realistic local capability assessments and staged workforce planning (refer to **Recommendation 4** to develop a Local Content Plan and appropriate targets for local procurement).
- 3.7 Coordinate with other nearby major energy projects to minimise cumulative impacts, as construction stage requirements with these project timelines may overlap. Engage early with the proposed contractors for engineering, procurement and construction to plan across projects to enhance local employment. Share workforce and accommodation requirement forecasts to avoid concurrent peaks.
- 3.8 Consult with housing providers and community services, for example Mallee Family Care, Bendigo Health Carers Support and Salvation Army Housing, that support vulnerable groups like seniors, and low-income renters. Monitor early warning indicators like rent escalation and displacement from short-stay accommodation. Include a simple escalation protocol with Council, housing providers and community services if housing stress indicators worsen. Consider mitigation measures including rental support partnerships, and caps on private rental uptake by contractors.



4. Prepare and implement a Local Content Plan and set local procurement and workforce participation targets based on identifiable regional capability

- 4.1 Prepare and implement a Local Content Plan prior to construction, setting realistic targets for local employment, local procurement and training participation, informed by identifiable regional capability and supply constraints.
- 4.2 Identify work packages suitable for local and regional businesses and publish procurement pathways early enough to allow businesses to prepare, including through supplier briefings, ICN Victoria listings and tender-readiness support.
- 4.3 Prioritise local and regional workforce participation (particularly workers living within a reasonable commuting distance of the Project) where it does not worsen labour shortages in essential sectors, to strengthen local benefit and reduce unnecessary accommodation demand.
- 4.4 Consider offering training/upskilling in energy sector construction industries for residents living in the Gannawarra, Loddon and surrounding LGAs to further increase local capability. This could be done in partnership with other projects and local institutions (e.g. with VIC TAFEs and La Trobe University).
- 4.5 The plan should account for the benefit to local business of the temporary population increase during construction, especially local accommodation providers. This Project could be seen as an opportunity to showcase regional lifestyle, liveability, tourism and economic opportunities for those working on the projects to improve longer term local skills retention. The local spend possibilities resulting from temporary workforce increases during construction stage should not be underestimated.
- 4.6 The plan could incorporate a deliberate workforce diversity focus that opens meaningful employment pathways for local businesses and workers, such as youth, apprentices/trainees, Aboriginal businesses and workers, people transitioning from or other regional projects, and women in construction and support roles. Note that diversity includes skills, industries, and training pipelines as well as demography. This should be balanced with measures to manage potential downsides, such as competition for a limited pool of skilled labour, ensuring the Project strengthens rather than strains the local workforce.
- 4.7 Mindful of cumulative labour competition, the Plan could include rolling six-month and twelve-week workforce and procurement forecasts that are shared with Councils and relevant industry groups. Coordinate with other major regional projects and time measures to reduce avoidable overlap with agricultural peaks and local service demand.
- 4.8 Monitor and report on implementation of the Plan during construction, including performance against local employment, supplier participation, training and workforce diversity indicators, and use this reporting to adapt measures where local benefit is not being realised as intended. Other indicators could include: percentage of local/regional labour; value and number of contracts awarded locally; participation by different groups; unresolved barriers raised by local suppliers; and stakeholder perceptions of whether benefits are fair and visible.

5. Continue consultation with key stakeholder groups and regularly review strategy and implementation of the Community Engagement Plan throughout the life of the Project

- 5.1 Maintain inclusive and responsive engagement with key stakeholder groups throughout the life of the Project and regularly review and update the Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan to reflect emerging issues, stakeholder feedback, and changing project stages.



- 5.2 Provide regular, accessible consultation and feedback opportunities at key project milestones, with clear pathways for stakeholders to influence project decisions, mitigation measures, and management responses.
- 5.3 Prioritise ongoing engagement with project neighbours and the near community about potential impacts, proposed mitigations, construction activities, and timing, to address misinformation, reduce uncertainty, and minimise disruption to agricultural operations and other nearby land uses.
- 5.4 Continue engagement with First Nations representatives to ensure cultural heritage is protected, project benefits are realised, and concerns are appropriately heard and addressed. This should include building on the CHMP process and supporting meaningful employment opportunities for local First Nations people.
- 5.5 Work with local councils, authorities, service providers, and regional stakeholders to identify, monitor, and respond to increased demand on infrastructure and services during construction, including in health, education, childcare, housing, and transport.
- 5.6 Consider a contribution and partnership model to support local services and infrastructure where project demand may create temporary pressure during construction. This may include contributions to road maintenance and upgrades, and targeted support for health, education, and childcare services.
- 5.7 Support local and regional businesses, suppliers, and service providers to be procurement-ready and able to participate in project delivery. This should include early communication of opportunities, practical capability-building support, and coordination with local industry to strengthen regional supply chain capacity and share project benefits locally.
- 5.8 Coordinate project planning and workforce management with local service providers, major regional events, agricultural production cycles, and tourism peaks and troughs, to reduce avoidable pressure on local communities and services during construction and operations.
- 5.9 Ensure the Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan clearly communicates key project activities, likely impacts, mitigation measures, and management actions across all project stages, using a mix of communication channels suited to different stakeholder groups.
- 5.10 Maintain a well-publicised, accessible, and responsive complaints management process for neighbours and the broader community, and provide timely project updates to address misinformation, resolve concerns early, and reduce potential impacts on community cohesion and wellbeing.
- 5.11 Prepare and maintain a targeted communications package for the impact themes that are most likely to drive ongoing concern, uncertainty or misinformation, particularly: landscape and visual amenity; workforce accommodation and housing; roads and traffic; noise and operational amenity; telecommunications and access to local services; land values and insurance; waste and decommissioning; and fire and other hazards.
- 5.12 Target communications could include plain-English fact sheets, FAQs, property or locality-specific information where relevant, clear explanation of what is known and not yet known, how technical assessment findings relate to lived experience, and how stakeholder feedback has influenced project design, mitigation or management.
- 5.13 Communications should be timed to key project milestones and delivered through channels suited to affected stakeholders, including direct neighbour briefings, newsletters, the project website, and one-on-one follow-up where concerns are specific or persistent.



9.2 Social impact significance evaluation and residual impacts

Table 49 summarises the evaluation of the identified social impact themes and the response measures proposed to manage them. For each impact theme, the table identifies whether the impact is positive, negative or mixed, records its perceived significance based on community feedback, and presents the evaluated impact rating using likelihood, magnitude and overall significance.

The table then cross-references the relevant Lecroma recommendations and applicable technical assessment recommendations, identifies the expected residual impact significance if those measures are implemented, and provides a brief justification for that residual rating.

In this way, **Table 49** brings together the impact evaluation and the proposed management response and shows how implementing the recommended measures is expected to influence the remaining level of impact.

Table 49: Social impact evaluation and response measures proposed

Impact themes	Nature: Positive/negative/mixed	Community perceived significance	Evaluated			Lecroma and technical impact assessment recommendations (response measures)	Residual impact significance after recommended mitigations	Justification for residual impact rating assuming recommendations are implemented
			Likelihood	Magnitude	Significance			
1. Economic and other benefits for the social locality and region	Positive	Medium	Almost certain	Major	Very high	Lecroma recs: 2 (2.1-2.4), 3 (3.6), 4 (4.1-4.8)	Very high	- Implementing the recommended measures would support retaining a very high positive residual impact by increasing the likelihood that project benefits are visible, shared more equitably and retained locally - Benefit sharing, local procurement, workforce planning and ongoing reporting would strengthen access to employment, business and community funding opportunities while also supporting trust and social licence
2. Landscape character and visual amenity	Negative	High	Likely	Moderate	High	- Lecroma recs: 1 (1.1-1.3), 5 (5.1-5.3, 5.9, 5.11-5.13) - Preliminary Landscape and Visual Impact and Visual Assessment recs	Medium	- Implementing the recommended design refinement, targeted neighbour engagement and PLVIA recommendations would likely reduce the residual impact from high to medium, but not below that level, because visual change would remain ongoing for some nearby residents with more open views - The Macorna landscape is described as flat, cleared and already modified by farming and existing energy infrastructure, so the main social effect is concentrated rather than widespread, although still material for a smaller group of affected neighbours
3. Workforce, accommodation and housing	Mixed	High	Likely	Moderate	Medium	Lecroma recs: 3 (3.1-3.8), 4 (4.1-4.8),	Medium	Implementing the Workforce Accommodation Plan, local hiring and local content measures, and coordination with councils and accommodation

Impact themes	Nature: Positive/ negative/ mixed	Community perceived significance	Evaluated			Lecroma and technical impact assessment recommendations (response measures)	Residual impact significance after recommended mitigations	Justification for residual impact rating assuming recommendations are implemented
			Likelihood	Magnitude	Significance			
						5 (5.5, 5.8, 5.11-5.13)		providers would likely keep the residual impact at medium by addressing the main risk pathways identified in the social impact assessment The impact would not reduce to low because construction demand would still occur in a rural area with limited spare accommodation and some sensitivity to cumulative pressure
4. First Nations people and culture	Mixed	Medium	Likely	Moderate	Medium	- Lecroma recs: 1 (1.1-1.3), 2 (2.3), 4 (4.4, 4.6), 5 (5.1, 5.4) - Cultural Heritage Management Plan recs	Medium	- Assuming the relevant cultural heritage and technical recommendations are implemented, together with ongoing culturally appropriate engagement and benefit-sharing measures, the residual impact would likely remain medium - This is because the measures can reduce avoidable harm and improve participation and recognition, but they do not remove the underlying cultural sensitivity of the Project Area as part of a broader Aboriginal cultural landscape
5. Roads and traffic	Negative	Medium	Likely	Minor	Medium	- Lecroma recs: 1 (1.1-1.3), 5 (5.3, 5.5-5.6, 5.8-5.9, 5.11-5.13) - Preliminary Traffic Impact Assessment recs	Low	- Implementing the traffic and transport recommendations, route and timing controls, consultation with affected stakeholders and clear communications would likely reduce the residual impact from medium to low - This is because the main impacts are expected to be concentrated in construction, time-limited and responsive to standard management measures, even though some disruption and concern may remain for directly affected neighbours and road users
6. Trust, influence, community cohesion and mental well-being	Negative	Medium	Possible	Moderate	Medium	Lecroma recs: 1 (1.2-1.3), 2 (2.1-2.4), 5 (5.1-5.3, 5.9-5.10, 5.12-5.13)	Low	- Implementing the engagement, complaints handling, targeted communications and MERL measures would likely move the residual impact to low by directly addressing the procedural and relational drivers of concern - Some residual mistrust or opposition may remain among parts of the community, but the likelihood and intensity of broader cohesion impacts should be materially reduced if communication is timely, transparent and ongoing

Impact themes	Nature: Positive/negative/mixed	Community perceived significance	Evaluated			Lecroma and technical impact assessment recommendations (response measures)	Residual impact significance after recommended mitigations	Justification for residual impact rating assuming recommendations are implemented
			Likelihood	Magnitude	Significance			
7. Agriculture and soil	Negative	Low	Almost certain	Minor	Medium	- Lecroma recs: 1 (1.1-1.3), 5 (5.3, 5.12-5.13) - Technical Assessment and Potential Agricultural Impact report recs	Low	- Assuming the agricultural impact report recommendations are implemented, including soil profile segregation and reinstatement, laser levelling irrigated paddocks, construction scheduling around key farming periods and maintaining farm access, the residual impact would likely reduce from medium to low because the permanent operational footprint is small (338ha, 1.5% of the Project Area), production losses are modest at both project and regional scale, and turbine hosting income substantially exceeds estimated production losses for hosting landholders - The rating would not reduce below low because some residual effects would remain for directly affected properties, particularly where multiple turbines are sited on irrigated land.
8. Flood and storm water risk	Negative	Medium	Possible	Minor	Low	- Lecroma recs: 1 (1.1-1.3), 5 (5.2-5.3, 5.9, 5.12-5.13) - Preliminary Hydrogeological Assessment report recs - Hydrology and Stormwater Constraints Investigation report	Low	- Assuming hydrology, drainage and stormwater recommendations are incorporated into final design and management plans, the residual impact would likely remain low - The main remaining social effect is likely to be concern about risk rather than substantial day-to-day disruption, provided site-specific controls are implemented and communicated clearly
9. Noise and operational amenity	Negative	Medium	Possible	Minor	Low	- Lecroma recs: 1 (1.1-1.3), 5 (5.2-5.3, 5.9, 5.11-5.13) - Noise Impact Assessment recs - Shadow Flicker Assessment recs	Low	- Assuming the noise assessment recommendations and any relevant operational controls are implemented, the residual impact would likely remain low - The technical work indicates that impacts can be managed within applicable standards, so the remaining social effect is likely to be limited to a smaller number of neighbours who remain sensitive to operational amenity change
10. Air quality	Negative	Low	Possible	Minor	Low	Lecroma recs: 1 (1.1-1.2), 5 (5.9, 5.12-5.13)	Low	Implementing standard dust suppression, construction management and any air quality recommendations would likely mean the residual

Impact themes	Nature: Positive/negative/mixed	Community perceived significance	Evaluated			Lecroma and technical impact assessment recommendations (response measures)	Residual impact significance after recommended mitigations	Justification for residual impact rating assuming recommendations are implemented
			Likelihood	Magnitude	Significance			
						Air Quality Assessment recs		impact remains low and may in practice be closer to negligible This is because the identified effects are short-term, construction-related and already expected to be minor with good-practice controls
11. Aviation	Negative	Low	Unlikely	Moderate	Low	- Lecroma recs: 1 (1.1-1.3), 5 (5.9, 5.11-5.13) - Aviation Impact Assessment recs	Low	- Assuming the aviation assessment recommendations and any required lighting, shielding and safeguarding measures are implemented, the residual impact would likely remain low - The principal remaining social effect is likely to be local concern about lighting or aviation interactions rather than a substantial ongoing amenity or safety effect
12. Land values and insurance	Negative	Medium	Unlikely	Minor	Low	Lecroma recs: 5 (5.11-5.13)	Low	- The residual impact would likely remain low because this issue is socially important to some neighbours but remains uncertain and difficult to verify as a widespread measurable effect - Clear information, ongoing engagement and responsive complaints handling may reduce concern, but are unlikely to remove it altogether for some affected residents
13. Waste and decommissioning	Negative	Medium	Possible	Minor	Low	Lecroma recs: 5 (5.11-5.13)	Low	- Assuming the Waste Management Plan and Decommissioning Plan include the recommended communications approach and clear end-of-life obligations, the residual impact would likely remain low - This is because most impacts are long-term, predictable and capable of being managed through planning, regulation and transparent communication, although some concern may persist
14. Access to local services	Negative	Low	Possible	Minor	Low	Lecroma recs: 3 (3.1-3.8), 4 (4.1-4.8), 5 (5.5-5.8, 5.11-5.13)	Low	Implementing workforce accommodation, communications and service coordination measures would likely keep the residual impact at low because projected demand on local services appears modest and manageable

Impact themes	Nature: Positive/ negative/ mixed	Community perceived significance	Evaluated			Lecroma and technical impact assessment recommendations (response measures)	Residual impact significance after recommended mitigations	Justification for residual impact rating assuming recommendations are implemented
			Likelihood	Magnitude	Significance			
						Electromagnetic Interference Assessment recs		Some temporary pressure may still arise during construction, but it should be limited if reliance on local housing and services is actively managed
15. Biodiversity/ ecology	Negative	Medium	Possible	Minor	Low	- Lecroma recs: 1 (1.1-1.3), 5 (5.1, 5.4, 5.9, 5.12-5.13) - Flora and Fauna Assessment recs	Low	- Assuming biodiversity avoidance, mitigation and offset recommendations are fully implemented, the residual social impact would likely remain low - This is because the main remaining social effect is likely to relate to stakeholder concern about ecological change rather than a broad-based direct effect on day-to-day community life, although the issue may remain important for some neighbours and Traditional Owner groups
16. Fire and other hazards	Negative	Medium	Unlikely	Minor	Low	- Lecroma recs: 1 (1.1-1.3), 5 (5.9, 5.11-5.13) - Blade Throw Risk Assessment recs	Low	- Assuming bushfire, emergency management and other hazard recommendations are implemented, the residual impact would likely remain low - The main remaining social effect is likely to be continued concern and the need for reassurance, rather than a substantial residual safety or amenity impact, provided planning, emergency access and communications are robust

10. Monitoring and management framework

This chapter sets out a practical framework to monitor and manage the Project's material residual and emerging social impacts. It is intended to support implementation of the mitigation and enhancement measures identified in **Chapter 9**, provide a process to identify and respond to unanticipated social impacts, and support appropriate reporting and adaptive management.

The framework is designed to be proportionate to the scale and likely impacts of the Project. It does not attempt to monitor every issue identified in the social impact assessment. It focuses on the social matters most likely to affect community experience and project performance during construction and early operations, and the key systems needed to respond effectively if conditions change. This approach aligns with best practice guidelines which emphasise materiality, proportionality, action-oriented responses, adaptive management and clear arrangements to manage post-approval impacts (NSW Government, 2025).

The framework should be read alongside the Project's Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan, complaints management process, Workforce Accommodation Plan, Local Content Plan, traffic management measures and relevant technical management plans prepared for the Project. If consent conditions were to require more detailed post-approval social impact management, this framework could be used as the basis for a proportionate Social Impact Management Plan.

10.1 Purpose and scope

The purpose of this framework is to:

- monitor implementation of the mitigation and enhancement measures identified in **Chapter 9**
- monitor residual and emerging social impacts across project stages
- identify circumstances that would prompt review of mitigation and management measures if new issues arise or performance is not meeting project expectations
- support proportionate internal and external reporting, where appropriate
- ensure engagement, complaints handling and social monitoring operate as an integrated system

This framework applies across pre-construction, construction, operation and, where relevant, decommissioning or repowering. Monitoring effort should focus on construction and early operations, when the most material social impacts are likely to occur.

10.2 Approach

Consistent with the rest of this impact assessment, monitoring should focus on social impacts that are material, sensitive, or which may change over time. In practice, this means as well as monitoring the highest residual impacts, it should cover the cross-cutting issues that commonly indicate whether social management is working effectively, including complaints, stakeholder responsiveness and emerging pressure on housing, roads and local services.

The framework is intended to be practical, not onerous. It relies primarily on data the Proponent or contractors would ordinarily collect during project delivery, like workforce and procurement reporting, complaints logs, engagement records, accommodation records and contractor traffic reporting. External data should only be used where it adds value and can be gathered efficiently.



10.3 Governance and reporting

The Proponent should have overall responsibility for implementing this framework. During construction, the principal contractor should provide relevant workforce, accommodation, traffic and incident information to support regular review of social performance. The community engagement function should maintain complaints and stakeholder records and support issue tracking and response.

Social performance should be reviewed at intervals proportionate to the intensity of construction activity and the level of issues arising. More frequent review may be appropriate during mobilisation, peak construction or where complaints or incidents indicate a material issue requiring attention. During operations, monitoring and review can be reduced and undertaken as needed, depending on the nature of residual impacts and any consent requirements.

The Proponent may provide periodic updates on relevant social management matters through existing project communication channels, particularly during construction and early operations.

10.4 Priority issues to monitor

For this Project, the recommended monitoring focus is:

- local and regional economic participation and benefit-sharing
- workforce accommodation and housing pressure during construction
- landscape and visual amenity, particularly for near neighbours
- First Nations participation and cultural heritage commitments
- roads, traffic and construction-related disruption
- complaints, stakeholder responsiveness and emerging community concerns

This focus reflects the impact assessment and recommendations already set out in **Chapters 6 and 9**, including the emphasis on benefit-sharing, workforce accommodation, local content, ongoing engagement, First Nations values and communications around construction-related impacts.

The indicators in **Table 50** are intended to be practical and proportionate. More detailed investigation should only be undertaken where routine project information and stakeholder feedback indicate a material issue that cannot be adequately understood or managed through standard project systems.

Where a trigger for review is met, the Proponent should investigate the cause, determine whether existing mitigation remains adequate, and implement extra or revised measures where needed. Adaptive responses may include targeted neighbour engagement, refining workforce accommodation arrangements, changing traffic scheduling or route communication, adjusting procurement outreach, or additional coordination with Council, service providers or other regional stakeholders.



Table 50: Monitoring, evaluation, reporting and learning framework

Issue to monitor	Key management link	Desired outcome	Practical indicators	Trigger for review / adaptive response	Method / data source	Frequency	Responsibility
1. Local and regional economic participation and benefit-sharing	- Benefit-sharing commitments - Local Content Plan - Local procurement measures	Local communities experience visible and fair project benefits, and local/regional businesses have reasonable opportunity to participate	- Proportion of workforce from local/regional areas - Value and number of local/regional contracts - Number of local businesses engaged through procurement processes - Progress in delivering community benefit commitments	- Local procurement or workforce participation materially below project expectations for two reporting periods - Repeated stakeholder feedback that benefits are not visible or fairly distributed	- Contractor workforce reporting - Procurement records - Benefit fund records - Engagement feedback - Complaints log	Quarterly during construction, annually during operation	- Proponent, procurement lead - Community engagement lead
2. Workforce accommodation and housing	- Workforce Accommodation Plan - Contractor mobilisation planning	Construction workforce is accommodated in a way that minimises pressure on local rental housing and visitor accommodation	- Workforce accommodation source and type - Use of private rentals by non-local workers - Housing/accommodation-related complaints - Any reported difficulties from local providers or Council	- Evidence of higher-than-expected use of private rental stock - Repeated complaints from accommodation providers, Council or residents - New evidence of local housing pressure linked to the Project	- Contractor accommodation records - Complaints register - Liaison with Council and accommodation providers - Periodic local market scan if needed	Reviewed regularly during construction, with frequency scaled to the intensity of construction activity and issue levels	- Proponent - Principal contractor - Community engagement lead
3. Landscape character, visual amenity and near neighbour experience	- Design refinement - Neighbour engagement - Visual communications	Near neighbours and affected residents receive timely information and concerns are responded to consistently and transparently	- Number and type of visual amenity complaints - Number of direct neighbour briefings/meetings - Delivery of committed visual information and updates - Repeat complaints from the same area or group	- Increase in near neighbour complaints over a reporting period - Repeated complaints about the same unresolved issue - Evidence that agreed communication commitments have not been met	- Complaints register - Engagement records - Direct correspondence - Project update records	Quarterly during construction and first two years of operation, then annually	- Proponent - Community engagement lead

Issue to monitor	Key management link	Desired outcome	Practical indicators	Trigger for review / adaptive response	Method / data source	Frequency	Responsibility
4. First Nations participation and cultural heritage commitments	- CHMP process - Cultural heritage management - Ongoing First Nations engagement	Cultural heritage obligations are implemented appropriately and First Nations stakeholders remain informed and able to raise concerns	- Implementation status of agreed heritage and engagement actions - Number of meetings or engagement activities with relevant Aboriginal stakeholders - Participation of First Nations businesses/workers where relevant and feasible - Any heritage incidents or unexpected finds	- Any heritage incident, unexpected find, or significant concern raised by Aboriginal stakeholders - Failure to implement agreed consultation or management actions	- Heritage management records - Engagement records - Contractor incident reporting - Procurement/workforce records where applicable	As required during pre-construction and construction, with quarterly review summaries	- Proponent - Heritage lead - Community engagement lead
5. Roads, traffic and construction disruption	- Traffic management measures - Construction communications - Contractor controls	Project traffic is managed safely and disruption to local road users and nearby landholders is minimised	- Number and nature of traffic-related complaints - Project traffic incidents - Delivery of route notifications and traffic updates - Corrective actions implemented in response to issues	- Repeated complaints about the same route, timing or behaviour - Any serious traffic incident involving project vehicles - Evidence of avoidable disruption not addressed	- Contractor traffic records - Incident reports - Complaints register - Engagement records	Monthly during peak haulage, then quarterly	- Principal contractor - Proponent - Community engagement lead
6. Complaints, stakeholder responsiveness and emerging social issues	- Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan - Complaints management process - Adaptive management	Complaints are handled promptly and fairly, and emerging issues are identified early	- Number and category of complaints - Response time - Closure time - Proportion resolved within target timeframe - Repeat complaints - Key enquiry themes - Issues escalated for management review	- Complaint response times not met - Unresolved or repeated complaints on the same issue - Trend increase in complaints from a specific stakeholder group or locality	- Complaints register - Stakeholder database - Internal review meetings	Monthly during construction, annually during operation unless issue levels require more frequent review	- Proponent - Community engagement lead

10.5 Engagement, complaints and adaptive management

Engagement and complaints handling should not operate separately from social monitoring. For this Project, they are among the main ways emerging social issues will be identified and managed. The Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan and complaints management process should therefore be implemented as core components of this framework.

At a minimum, the Project should:

- maintain accessible and well-publicised channels for enquiries, feedback and complaints
- record and categorise complaints and enquiries consistently
- review trends, not just individual matters
- provide timely responses and close the loop with stakeholders where appropriate
- report back, in general terms, on how stakeholder feedback has informed project design, mitigation or management responses
- review engagement methods as the Project moves from planning into construction and operations

This approach is consistent with the draft “Community Engagement and Social Value Guidelines for Renewable Energy and Transmission Projects”, which emphasise transparent, ongoing engagement, effective complaints handling, and clear feedback loops.

10.6 Reviewing the framework

This framework should be reviewed and, if necessary, updated at key transition points in the lifecycle of the Project, including:

- before construction, once the final workforce, construction methodology and contractor arrangements are confirmed
- during peak construction, if monitoring identifies unanticipated or cumulative social impacts
- before operations, to ensure indicators are still relevant to the lower-intensity operational phase
- before decommissioning, repowering or major modification, where a refreshed social impact review may be required



11. Conclusion

This SEIA provides an analysis of the likely social and economic impacts associated with the proposed Macorna Wind Farm, drawing on baseline research, technical studies and consolidated outcomes from stakeholder consultation.

On balance, this SEIA concludes that the potential positive impacts of the Project are expected to outweigh the potential negative impacts identified, particularly when considered alongside broader renewable energy development occurring across north-west Victoria. Headline conclusions:

- Identified potential negative social impacts can be managed and/or mitigated to reduce their significance.
- Identified positive impacts are significant at a local and regional level, particularly economic activity, employment generation and community benefit sharing.
- Many impacts are cumulative in nature and will require coordination with councils, state agencies, industry and other renewable energy proponents operating in the region.

Landscape character and visual amenity is the highest-rated adverse impact identified in this assessment, reflecting the permanent and visible nature of wind farm infrastructure in a predominantly open rural landscape. This impact is assessed as high before mitigation and medium after mitigation, and will require ongoing management into the operational phase. Workforce, accommodation and housing pressures during construction represent the most significant practical management challenge. While these impacts are time-bound, they may place short-term pressure on local housing supply, infrastructure, roads, services and community sentiment if not carefully planned and communicated.

The economic modelling demonstrates substantial construction-stage benefits for both the regional and Victorian economies, with flow-on effects across supply chains and household spending. Ongoing operational employment and community benefit contributions are expected to provide a sustained, though more modest, long-term contribution. Importantly, the cost-benefit analysis indicates that the Project is likely to generate a greater overall economic outcome than continuation of agricultural land use alone, noting the landholders intend on continuing farming alongside the Project into the future.

The assessment recognises that not all community members view the Project positively. Landscape and visual change, along with perceptions of fairness and equitable distribution of benefits, will continue to influence community attitudes. For this reason, transparent communication, adaptive management and meaningful implementation of benefit-sharing commitments will be critical.

Overall, provided that the recommended mitigation measures, workforce accommodation planning, local content initiatives, and adaptive monitoring framework are implemented, the Project is considered capable of delivering a net social and economic benefit to the region. The scale of investment, combined with structured community benefit mechanisms, positions the Project to leave a positive legacy beyond the construction period, supporting regional resilience and contributing to Victoria's renewable energy transition.



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13. Appendix

13.1 Annual nominal impacts for the operational period

Table 51: Undiscounted sum of nominal impacts for regional economy for the operational period

FY	CPI uplift factor (from FY2032–33)	Nominal output (\$M)	Nominal value- added (\$M)	WPI uplift factor (from FY2032–33)	Nominal household income (\$M)
2032–33	1.000	55.167	14.792	1.000	6.425
2033–34	1.025	56.546	15.162	1.030	6.618
2034–35	1.051	57.960	15.541	1.061	6.816
2035–36	1.077	59.409	15.929	1.093	7.021
2036–37	1.104	60.894	16.328	1.126	7.231
2037–38	1.131	62.416	16.736	1.159	7.448
2038–39	1.160	63.976	17.155	1.194	7.672
2039–40	1.189	65.575	17.584	1.230	7.902
2040–41	1.219	67.214	18.023	1.267	8.139
2041–42	1.250	68.895	18.474	1.305	8.383
2042–43	1.281	70.617	18.936	1.344	8.635
2043–44	1.313	72.382	19.410	1.384	8.894
2044–45	1.346	74.191	19.895	1.426	9.161
2045–46	1.379	76.046	20.392	1.468	9.436
2046–47	1.414	77.947	20.902	1.512	9.719
2047–48	1.449	79.896	21.424	1.557	10.011
2048–49	1.485	81.893	21.960	1.604	10.311
2049–50	1.522	83.940	22.509	1.652	10.621
2050–51	1.560	86.038	23.071	1.702	10.940
2051–52	1.599	88.189	23.648	1.753	11.268
2052–53	1.639	90.394	24.239	1.805	11.606
2053–54	1.680	92.653	24.845	1.860	11.954
2054–55	1.722	94.969	25.466	1.916	12.312
2055–56	1.765	97.343	26.103	1.973	12.681
2056–57	1.809	99.776	26.755	2.032	13.061
2057–58	1.854	102.270	27.424	2.093	13.453
2058–59	1.901	104.827	28.109	2.156	13.856
2059–60	1.948	107.448	28.812	2.220	14.272
2060–61	1.997	110.134	29.532	2.287	14.700
2061–62	2.047	112.887	30.270	2.355	15.141
2062–63	2.098	115.709	31.027	2.427	15.595
2063–64	2.150	118.602	31.803	2.500	16.063
2064–65	2.204	121.567	32.599	2.575	16.545
2065–66	2.259	124.606	33.414	2.652	17.041
2066–67	2.315	127.721	34.250	2.732	17.552
Total		3030.097	812.519		388.483



Table 52: Undiscounted sum of nominal impacts for VIC economy for the operational period

FY	CPI uplift factor (from FY2032–33)	Nominal output (\$M)	Nominal value- added (\$M)	WPI uplift factor (from FY2032–33)	Nominal household income (\$M)
2032–33	1.000	82.805	26.803	1.000	11.593
2033–34	1.025	84.875	27.473	1.030	11.941
2034–35	1.051	86.997	28.160	1.061	12.299
2035–36	1.077	89.172	28.864	1.093	12.668
2036–37	1.104	91.401	29.585	1.126	13.048
2037–38	1.131	93.686	30.325	1.159	13.439
2038–39	1.160	96.029	31.083	1.194	13.842
2039–40	1.189	98.430	31.860	1.230	14.258
2040–41	1.219	100.891	32.656	1.267	14.685
2041–42	1.250	103.413	33.472	1.305	15.126
2042–43	1.281	105.998	34.309	1.344	15.579
2043–44	1.313	108.648	35.167	1.384	16.047
2044–45	1.346	111.365	36.046	1.426	16.528
2045–46	1.379	114.149	36.947	1.468	17.024
2046–47	1.414	117.003	37.870	1.512	17.534
2047–48	1.449	119.928	38.817	1.557	18.060
2048–49	1.485	122.926	39.788	1.604	18.602
2049–50	1.522	125.999	40.783	1.652	19.160
2050–51	1.560	129.149	41.803	1.702	19.735
2051–52	1.599	132.378	42.848	1.753	20.327
2052–53	1.639	135.688	43.919	1.805	20.937
2053–54	1.680	139.080	45.017	1.860	21.565
2054–55	1.722	142.557	46.143	1.916	22.212
2055–56	1.765	146.121	47.296	1.973	22.878
2056–57	1.809	149.774	48.479	2.032	23.564
2057–58	1.854	153.518	49.691	2.093	24.271
2058–59	1.901	157.356	50.933	2.156	24.999
2059–60	1.948	161.290	52.206	2.220	25.749
2060–61	1.997	165.322	53.511	2.287	26.522
2061–62	2.047	169.455	54.849	2.355	27.318
2062–63	2.098	173.689	56.221	2.427	28.139
2063–64	2.150	178.031	57.627	2.500	28.983
2064–65	2.204	182.482	59.067	2.575	29.853
2065–66	2.259	187.044	60.544	2.652	30.749
2066–67	2.315	191.720	62.058	2.732	31.671
Total		4548.369	1472.22		700.905



13.2 Villages/townships (SAL 1) within a 55-min drive of project with a population >500

No.	Village/township (SAL)	Approximate time to drive (from Project Area)	Population	Travel distance (from Project Area)
1	Tragowel (SAL22568)	0 min	83	0 km
2	Macorna (SAL21565)	15 min	67	19km
3	Macorna North (SAL21566)	15 min	31	19 km
4	Kerang East (SAL21329)	16 min	44	20 km
5	Appin South (SAL20051)	17 min	38	21km
6	Mead (SAL21633)	17 min	102	22 km
7	Koroop (SAL21398)	17 min	63	21 km
8	Appin (SAL20050)	18 min	12	22km
9	Loddon Vale (SAL21530)	18 min	24	22km
10	Mincha (SAL21689)	19 min	62	24km
11	Mincha West (SAL21690)	19 min	16	23km
12	Lake Meran (SAL21539)	21 min	22	26km
13	McMillans (SAL21632)	21 min	87	26 km
14	Dingwall (SAL20759)	23 min	99	29km
15	Horfield (SAL21205)	25 min	93	32km
16	Teal Point (SAL22475)	25 min	54	31 km
17	Cullen (SAL20691)	25 min	36	32 km
18	Gannawarra (SAL20963)	25 min	110	32 km
19	Wandella (SAL22670)	26 min	67	32 km
20	Keely (SAL21313)	27 min	57	34km
21	Leaghur (SAL21481)	27 min	20	33km
22	Gladfield (SAL21003)	29 min	32	36km
23	Daltons Bridge (SAL20704)	31 min	57	39km
24	Normanville (SAL21961)	31 min	34	38km
25	Reedy Lake (SAL22158)	31 min	26	39 km
26	Wee Wee Rup (SAL22735)	32 min	31	40 km
27	Myall (SAL21855)	32 min	98	40 km
28	Yarrowalla (SAL22918)	33 min	78	42 km
29	Westby (SAL22760)	33 min	27	41 km
30	Burkes Bridge (SAL20414)	34 min	14	42km



31	Fairley (SAL20903)	34 min	14	43km
32	Durham Ox (SAL20817)	35 min	60	43km
33	Sylvaterre (SAL22415)	35 min	22	44 km
34	Capels Crossing (SAL20477)	35 min	54	44 km
35	Mologa (SAL21725)	38 min	20	48km
36	Lake Charm (SAL21430)	41 min	147	51km
37	Patho (SAL22046)	42 min	138	53km
38	Jarklin (SAL21257)	44 min	49	55km
39	Mystic Park (SAL21865)	44 min	212	55 km
40	Murrabit (SAL21840)	44 min	230	55 km
41	Gonn Crossing (SAL21062)	46 min	50	57 km
42	Mitiamo (SAL21709)	47 min	116	58km
43	Murrabit West (SAL21841)	47 min	41	59 km
44	Gonn (SAL11701)	49 min	42	61 km
45	Benjeroop (SAL20211)	49 min	56	61 km
46	Calivil (SAL20445)	50 min	178	63km
47	Quambatook (SAL22131)	50 min	229	62 km
48	Bears Lagoon (SAL20179)	51 min	53	63km
49	Torrumbarry (SAL22553)	54 min	257	67 km
50	Tresco (SAL22579)	54 min	162	67 km
51	Pompapiel (SAL22095)	56 min	38	69 km
52	Tresco West (SAL 22580)	59 min	153	74 km
53	Fish Point (SAL20922)	60 min	11	75km

Source: Lecroma 2026, Google Maps 2026, ABS Census 2021



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