

Dardadine Wind Farm

COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION: OUTCOMES SUMMARY - November 2024



This document provides a summary of the key topics discussed during the community information sessions held in Darkan and Quindanning on October 2024.

RES is proposing to develop Dardadine Wind Farm, 40 km north east of Collie, located within the Shire of Williams. At our recent community information sessions held in October at Darkan and Quindanning, members of our project team spoke with about 30 community members to better understand local views about the proposed project.

The main topics / questions raised by community members at the sessions included:



VISUAL
IMPACT



NOISE
IMPACT



ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACTS



COMMUNITY
BENEFITS



FIRE
SAFETY



DECOMMISSIONING



THE PROJECT
NAME



TRANSMISSION LINES
AND CONNECTION

Information shared with the community at the sessions is available on the project website here:

<https://www.dardadinewindfarm.com.au/>

What we've heard

We are committed to understanding and responding to the questions or concerns of community members throughout the design and evolution of the proposed project. Some of these questions include:

What are the next steps to address any impacts from the proposed turbines and how will they effect the local community/area ?

Concerns about impacts such as impaired views, aviation safety, lighting and shadow flicker are commonly received in relation to wind farm development. These impacts will be thoroughly assessed during the planning process. RES is currently undertaking predictive assessments, in consultation with potentially affected landholders and neighbours, some of these include:

- Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
- Shadow Flicker Assessment
- Bird and Bat Assessments
- Noise Assessments
- Aviation Assessment

These assessments will identify potential impact and propose refinements to the project, such as positioning of turbines, and recommend mitigations including vegetation screening.

In July 2020 a peer-reviewed article was published in the Australian Planner that focused on visual impacts and community acceptance of wind farms in Australia. The study found that the community is very tolerant of the visual impact of wind farms. 18 wind farms in NSW, Victoria and South Australia were included in the study.

Will we be able to hear the turbines?

Wind farm noise is managed through regulations and standards which vary by state. For wind farm projects in Western Australia, the Planning Approval states noise from an operational Wind Farm shall not exceed 45dB(A) or background +5dB whichever is the higher. What does that compare too? Most modern refrigerators operate between 40 dB and 50 dB. A fridge at 45 dB would be comparable to a soft whisper or the ambient noise of a quiet library.

We will be undertaking both preliminary and detailed noise assessments through a third-party provider throughout the design phase and while we are finessing turbine location.

Dardadine Wind Farm

COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION: OUTCOMES SUMMARY - November 2024



This will include the installation of noise loggers at strategic locations to capture baseline data, helping us evaluate and manage potential noise impacts as part of our project planning process.

What is the distance assessed from turbine location for environmental impacts?

Our environmental consultants are assessing direct and indirect biodiversity impacts 200 metres from the location of all project infrastructure, including turbines.

As turbines age, what are the effects (if any) to the surrounding environment, waterways and soil, will it be monitored for microplastics and other pollutants?

Wind turbine blades' protective coatings are non-toxic and contain negligible amounts of BPA. The blades are specifically designed to have a high resistance to weathering to minimise degradation over time. You can read more about this here: <https://cleanpower.org/resources/microplastics-and-bpa-in-wind-turbine-blades/>

How will the community benefit from the Project and what does a community benefit program look like?

RES is committed to supporting the communities that host our renewable energy projects. As part of the development of the Dardadine Wind Farm, a community benefit sharing strategy will be established to ensure that benefits from the Project are shared meaningfully in a manner informed by the local community. The strategy, which may incorporate a range of benefit programs, will provide positive and lasting benefits to the local community that extend beyond the life of the Project.

As part of the benefit sharing programs, input is sought from interested members of the community to inform and shape how our proposed Project could deliver meaningful, targeted benefit.

RES is currently seeking ideas and feedback on how the community benefits could best help the community through an online survey on the benefits page of the website: <https://dardadinewindfarm.com.au/benefits/>

The Clean Energy Council has also released a research report on benefit sharing options for renewable energy projects. This report highlights some examples of different schemes developed on previous projects, including community benefit funds, electricity rebates, neighbour payments, landscaping programs, and scholarships etc. The guide serves as a practical tool to assist project proponents, financiers, policy makers and communities in understanding the range of benefit sharing methods available.

The Wheatbelt Development Commission has also outlined their approach to renewable energy projects, how they are working to support the industry and help Wheatbelt communities benefit long-term from the renewable energy transition.

What if a wind turbine catches fire?

Fire prevention is a critical product function in modern built turbines. Monitoring systems are installed in turbines to detect temperature increases and will automatically slow or shut down the turbine if the temperature or wind speed exceeds an assigned threshold - any flammable elements are located high above the ground. In the case one does occur, CFS and wind farm operators have comprehensive emergency response plans and training in place.

Could wind farms make fighting a bushfire harder?

Wind farms are not considered to increase fire risk. In fact, in most cases wind farms benefit the community via their large access track network, which also act as fire breaks, additional personnel on site during construction and operation, additional water access points and tanks, and the fire mitigation measures required by the responsible authority.

Wind farms are planned and constructed in consultation with the appropriate fire authorities. The Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council's [Wind Farms and Bushfire Operations](#) document says "wind farms are not expected to adversely affect fire behaviour, nor create major ignitions risks".

It says wind farms may actually reduce the risk of bushfires starting from lightning since the lightning would hit the turbines rather than the ground because they are tall, metal structures.

https://www.energy.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2022-08/2018_10_AFAC_windfarmsbushfiresoperations.pdf



Dardadine Wind Farm

COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION: OUTCOMES SUMMARY - November 2024



What if the project owners go broke, will the turbines be there forever?

Decommissioning of infrastructure is a fundamental stage of any renewable energy project. The expected operational life of a wind farm is approximately 30 years. After this time, the project owner will either decommission the site, restoring the area to its previous land use, or negotiate with landowners to repower or upgrade the equipment and extend the wind farm's operational lifespan.

Decommissioning plans are now increasingly required by planning approval conditions, and it is expected that the Project will have a decommissioning plan which details the rights and responsibilities of parties during decommissioning, including any new project owner.

Why is the Project called Dardadine ?

Dardadine was the first township RES started investigating. Although the scope and boundary has grown and changed to

areas outside of Dardadine, the project name is still relevant. We are proud of its name and history.

How will the energy generated from Dardadine Wind Farm feed into the grid ?

The energy generated from the Dardadine Wind Farm will connect to the transmission network via the Clean Energy Link East, a corridor proposed by Western Power as part of the SWISDA (South West Interconnected System Development Assessment). This infrastructure is specifically designed to accommodate renewable energy projects in the region, ensuring efficient and reliable integration into the grid.

Information on the South West Interconnected System Demand Assessment (SWISDA) <https://www.wa.gov.au/government/document-collections/swis-demand-assessment>



CONTACT THE TEAM

📞 Nathan Moir, Community Engagement Manager- +61 422 134 318

✉️ contact-us@dardadine-windfarm.com

🌐 <https://www.dardadinewindfarm.com.au/>

For media enquiries: media.enquiries@res-group.com

In planning for Australia's clean energy future, RES acknowledges its rich history.

We pay our respects to the Gnaala Karla Booja Peoples, the Traditional Custodians of the Country on which the Dardadine Wind Farm Project is proposed.

We recognise their ongoing connection to land and waterways and pay our respects to Elders past and present.