

# Kerrs Creek Wind Farm

Project update - Euchareena January 2024









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## RES IN AUSTRALIA

# **RES Developed Operational Projects**

### SA

## **Templers BESS**

- 111 MW installed capacity (c. 250 MWh)
- Grid secured, construction to commence

### VIC

### Murra Warra Wind I & II Wind Farms

- Combined installed capacity of 441 MW
- Spread over 4250ha in North-Western Victoria
- 99 turbines
- Divided into two phases, separately financed and constructed

## **Ararat Wind Farm**

- Installed capacity of 240 MW
- Located approx. 180km north-west of Melbourne

## QLD

#### **Emerald Solar Park**

- 72 MW installed capacity
- Central Highlands region

### **Dulacca Wind Farm**

- 180 MW installed capacity
- 43 turbines
- RES construction management and asset management
- Construction completed 2023



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## **Taralga Wind Farm**

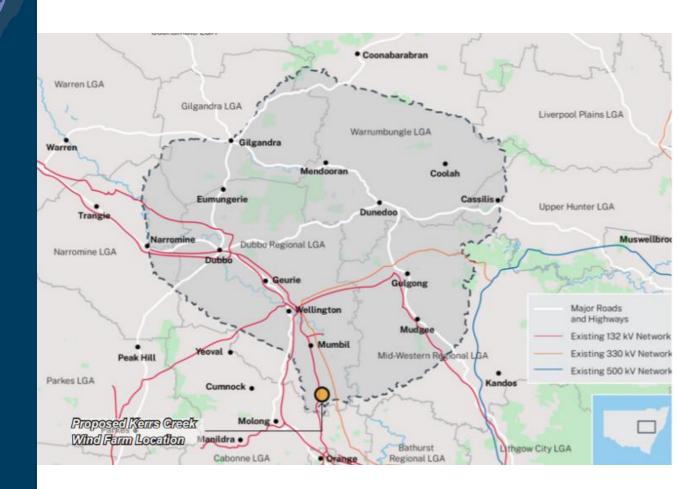
• 107 MW installed capacity

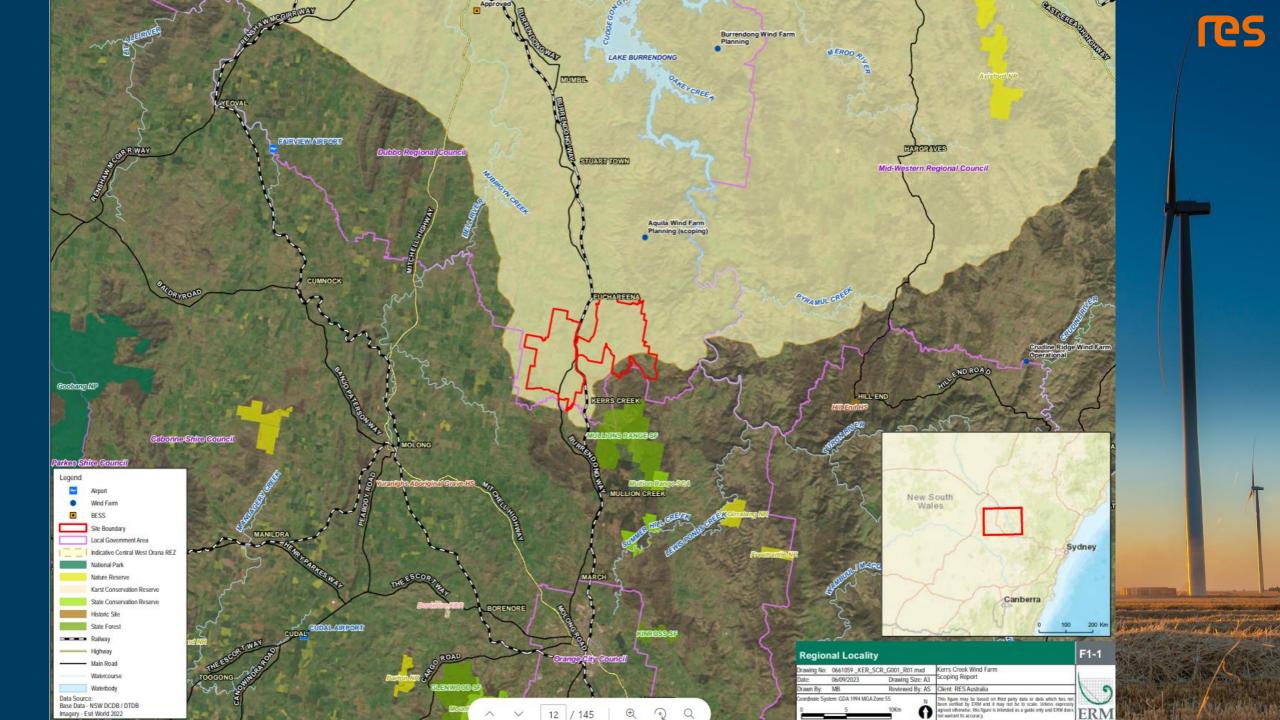
### **Avonlie Solar Farm**

- 190 MW installed capacity
- 20km south of Narrandera

# PROJECT LOCATION Kerrs Creek Wind Farm

- The proposed Kerrs Creek Wind Farm is located approximately 26km north of Orange, between the townships of Kerrs Creek and Euchareena
- Completely within Dubbo Regional Council borders although does sit right on the border in some locations.
- The project is inside the Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone however will not be connecting to any CWO REZ infrastructure.

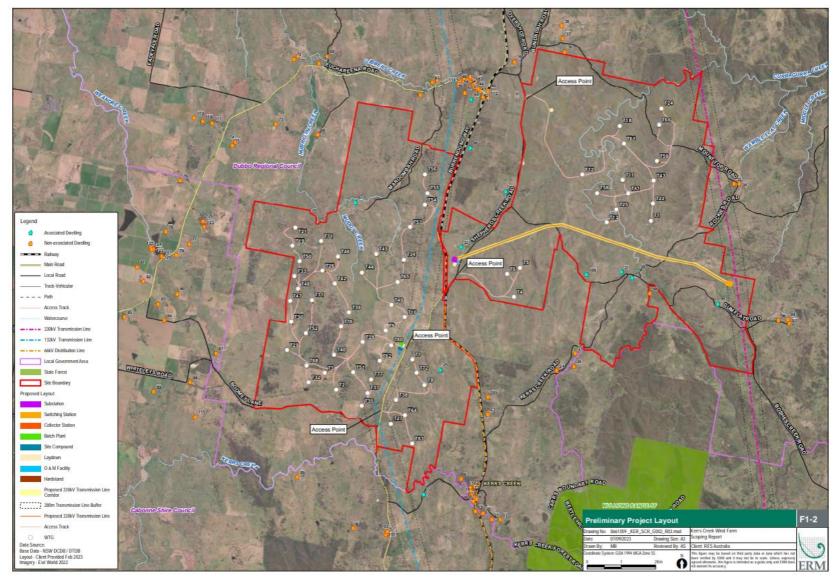






## PROJECT OVERVIEW

## **NSW:** Kerrs Creek Wind Farm



- Scoping report design 63 turbines (max. 441 MW)
- Seven involved landholders
- Connect to TransGrid Mt Piper 330kV via internal overhead line
- All indicative drawings at this point based on landowner and other stakeholder discussion.
- Internal electrical reticulation undergrounded
- Layout optimisation ongoing based on environmental investigations, neighbour negotiations, wind data, civil construction considerations.

#### TIMELINE





**GRID CONNECTION APPROVED - Q1 2026** 



CONSTRUCTION COMMENCEMENT - Q2 2026



COMMENCEMENT OF OPERATIONS - Q3 2028



The dates above are estimated and subject to change.

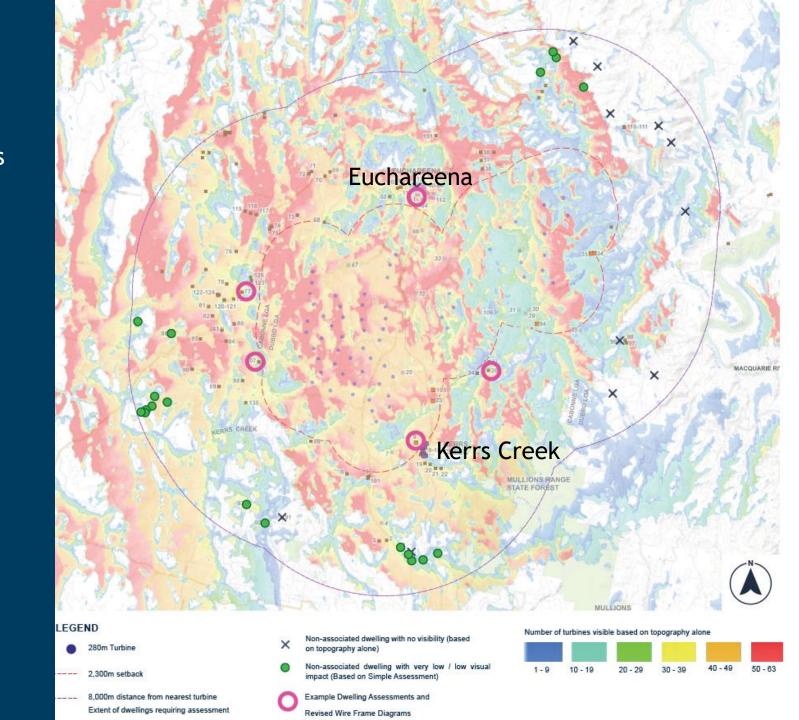


# Progress to date

- ✓ Met mast and wind monitoring underway onsite and almost 2 years of wind data collected
- Exclusivity agreements in place with project landholders and option lease negotiations well advanced
- ✓ Lead Consultant Engaged (ERM)
- ✓ Multiple engagement events completed
- ✓ Scoping Report submitted to DPE
- ✓ SEARs issued October 2023
- ✓ Formal connection enquiry submitted to Transgrid connection point into Mt Piper 330kV line

## Visual impact

- Approx. 160 non-associated dwellings that require assessment - work underway on dwelling specific assessments
- A significant proportion of anticipated impacted properties located to the west of the project in Cabonne Council area
- At a 10km radius (beyond required assessment bound)
  - Cabonne = 127/267 houses, 47.5%
  - Dubbo = 140/267 houses, 52.5%
- Vegetation and topography minimise direct visual impact to Kerrs Creek and Euchareena townships





# **Biodiversity**

Onsite ecological surveys completed

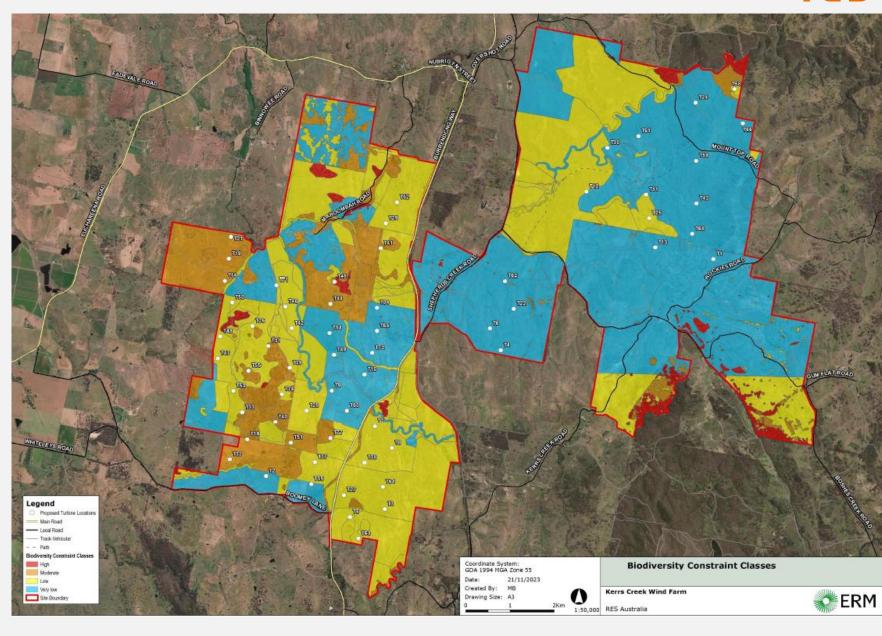
High constraint (red)
Box Gum Woodland TEC in a high condition
Non-TEC PCTs in a high condition (i.e. higher vegetation integrity)
Moderate constraint (orange)
Box Gum Woodland TEC in a moderate condition (i.e., sparser canopy cover than areas of TEC in a high condition)
Low constraint (yellow)
Box Gum Woodland in a 'Derived

- Design optimisation is underway to maximise infrastructure location on low and very low constrained parts of the site.
- EPBC referral January 2024

vegetation cover

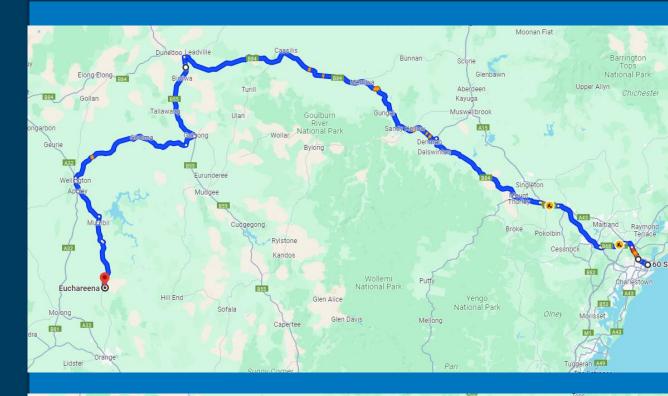
Native Grassland' state

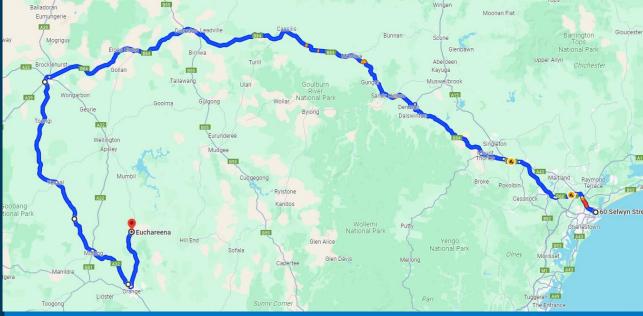
Very Low constraint (blue) Vegetation with high exotic



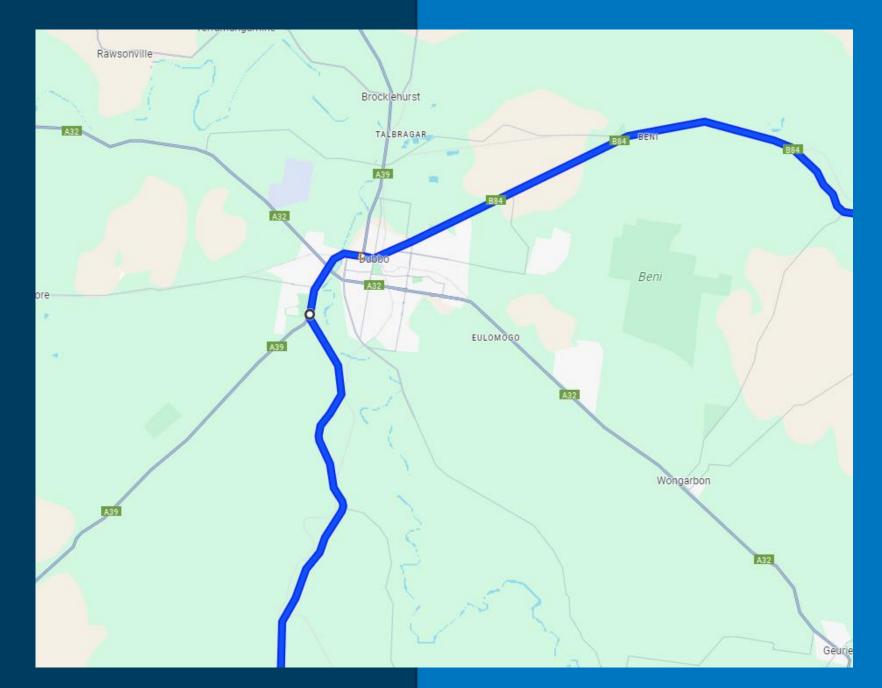
## Transport (preliminary only)

- SEARs require detailed traffic impact assessment (TIA) to be prepared which considers both construction and operational phases. TIA will consider cumulative impacts from nearby developments
- Comments from Dubbo Regional Council (May 2023) indicated upgrades required for Shepherds Creek Road and the section of the Overshot Road which joins the northern end of Shepherds Creek Road and connects to the Burrendong Way
- Preliminary TIA suggests blade transport from Newcastle via Dubbo and Orange. Non-blade OSOM via Gulgong and Wellington





# Key issues Transport



## Workforce accommodation

- Detailed economic impacts, including construction workforce strategy required to be addressed as part of EIS (including cumulative)
- Estimated approximately 300 direct jobs during construction period
- Construction targeting Q2 2026 to Q3 2028
- Estimates based on comparable projects indicate likely peak construction workforce expected in months 8 - 15 ( mid 2027) at 200-240 workers.
- Level of local employment targeted expected to be higher than some more remote projects - to be confirmed through EIS/SIA



# Benefit Sharing Development

- RES takes a co-design approach to the development of benefit sharing programs to ensure that impacted community members inform the final design of benefit sharing arrangements
- Project to propose proximal (neighbourhood)
   benefit as per community feedback, in addition to broad (regional) benefit stream
- RES is reviewing Draft NSW Benefit Sharing Guidelines and its relationship to a VPA with Dubbo Regional Council
- Strong theme of feedback -"local" community to project both Dubbo and Cabonne - keen to discuss ensuring benefit sharing meets community expectations





## Dubbo Regional Council – Scoping report comments

#### (1) Draft SEARs

Council notes that the NSW Major Projects website did not include a draft SEARs for Council's review. This has been standard practice for many years, the most recent example being provided with SSD-59906734 Yarrabin (Phoenix) Pumped Hydro Energy Storage Project.

#### (2) Planning

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) should reference the Central West and Orana Regional Plan 2041 that came into effect in November 2021.

#### (3) Building Works

The Scoping Report indicates that the following buildings, structures and facilities will be provided for the initial construction and future operation of the development:

- Operations and maintenance building (O&M) will be established for the day to day operation of the Project. Such O&M compound will include on-site office and maintenance and storage facilities;
- Substation, switchyard and transmission cables / powerlines and facilities; and
- Temporary facilities used for the construction, repowering and / or decommissioning of the Project, including but not limited to temporary site offices, amenities, and compounds, rock crushing facilities, concrete batching plants, stockpiles and materials storage compounds.

In regards to the above permanent buildings, structures and facilities, there are no site plan(s) indicating set-out and the distances from the allotment boundaries, site plan(s) of the proposed O&M compound, floor plans and elevations for the proposed permanent buildings and facilities.

On previous occasions with proposed SSD's, Council has identified the lack of detail associated with the permanent buildings associated with the development, which may require a Construction Certificate. No floor plans, elevation and site plans have been provided in the Scoping Report.

#### (4) Bushfire Prone Land

The subject land is partly designated as being Bushfire Prone by reason that a proportion of the development site is designated Bushfire Vegetation Category 1 and under the RFS Commissioner's Bush Fire Prone Land Map. Despite the designation arising from the bushfire mapping, the land is also bushfire prone by reason of the grassland hazard present on the land which is not designated under the current Commissioner's map.

The scoping report under clause 6.14.2 (page 106) identifies that Planning for Bushfire Protection 2019 (PBP 2019) will be addressed in the subsequent EIS.



## Dubbo Regional Council – Scoping report comments (cont.)

#### (5) Planning Agreement

Council requests the proponent contact Council's Development Contributions Planner via <a href="mailto:infrastructurecontributions@dubbo.nsw.gov.au">infrastructurecontributions@dubbo.nsw.gov.au</a> in respect of negotiating a Planning Agreement. Council has an adopted Renewable Energy Benefit Framework, which requires renewable energy projects to contribute a total of 1.5% of the project Capital Investment Value for wider benefits for our community. These benefits should focus on strategic planning and operational/maintenance matters for both the immediate locality (including Kerrs Creek, Stuart Town and Mumbil), and the broader Local Government Area.

Benefit/s to the community include (but are not limited to) the following:

- Strategic planning, which is of high relevance for the surrounding villages;
- Road infrastructure provision and maintenance;
- Housing opportunities and initiatives;
- Economic development and investment attraction opportunities and initiatives;
- Skills development;
- Community facilities and recreation opportunities;
- Youth welfare and support;
- Town centre development and maintenance in Wellington;
- Other infrastructure provision that provides for the continued health, wellbeing and development of the community.

#### (6) Workforce Accommodation

With the range, timing and workforce requirements of additional projects in the Central West and Orana Renewable Energy Zone, workforce accommodation during construction and operational phases needs to be carefully considered and planned for.

It can be assumed that a significant percentage of workforce accommodation requirements will be sought in Dubbo, Wellington, Molong and possibly Orange. Council requests that the EIS include a preliminary workforce and accommodation plan which identifies the accommodation requirements, timing requirements of the workforce and project, existing accommodation options available, how the project is proposing to provide accommodation, and cumulative impacts on the region's accommodation.

Thank you

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