Sunny Corner Wind Farm

Fact Pack

The Sunny Corner Wind Farm team

Sunny Corner Wind Farm

Sunny Corner Wind Farm is a joint venture between Someva Renewables and Mainstream Renewable Power.

Forestry Corporation

SOMEVA RENEWABLES

MAINSTREAM RENEWABLE POWER

Forestry Corporation of NSW – Land manager

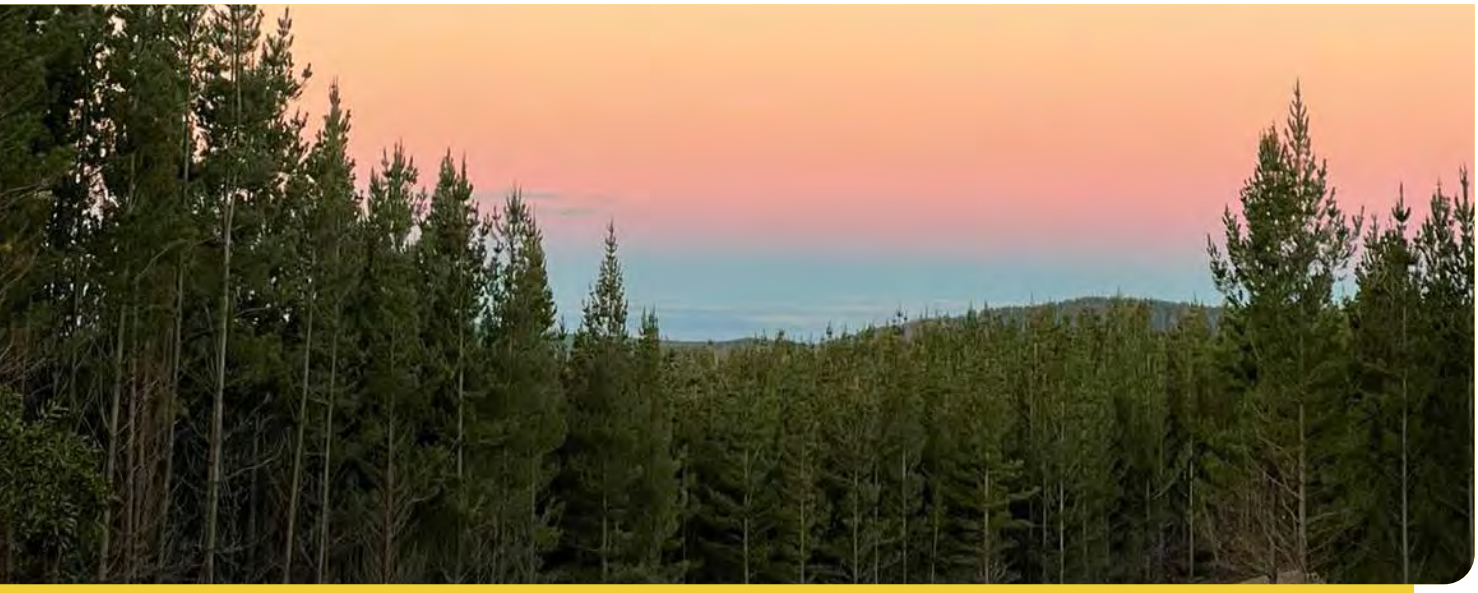
In 2024, Forestry Corporation of NSW awarded a permit to Mainstream Renewable Power and Someva Renewables to jointly investigate a wind farm at Sunny Corner. The development of wind farms within NSW State Forest boundaries became possible in 2021 after the NSW Parliament passed amendments to the *Forestry Act 2012* allowing State Forests to host renewable energy projects in softwood timber plantations.

Someva Renewables

Someva Renewables is an 100% Australian family-owned, NSW-based renewable energy company that works with landowners, communities, and industry leaders to deliver the clean, affordable and reliable energy that will power Australia's future. Someva carefully selects renewable energy projects before working with communities, leading technical advisors and industry partners, to deliver truly industry-leading renewable energy projects.

Mainstream Renewable Power

Mainstream Renewable Power is a leading pure-play renewable energy company with over 14 years' experience developing wind and solar assets across Europe, Latin America, Africa, and Asia-Pacific. The company has successfully delivered 6.6 GW of wind and solar generation assets including in pine plantation settings in South America. Mainstream arrived in Australian in 2019, with a local office in Melbourne and an experienced development team on the ground. Mainstream has a pipeline of 1.5 GW of onshore wind farm developments in central Queensland which are about to enter the state and planning approval process.



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About the proposed Sunny Corner Wind Farm

Sunny Corner Wind Farm

The proposed Sunny Corner Wind Farm is located in the softwood plantation at Sunny Corner State Forest, on the lands of the Wiradjuri people, halfway between Bathurst and Lithgow in NSW.

Overview

Mainstream Renewable Power and Someva Renewables have been awarded a permit by Forestry Corporation of NSW to investigate a wind farm with a potential capacity of 500 megawatts (MW). The Project will supply electricity to the national electricity grid, largely via the existing electricity transmission network.

If approved, this project would power approximately 300,000 homes annually with affordable, clean and reliable energy for approximately 30 years. The Project will involve the construction, operation and decommissioning of a wind farm, Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), electrical infrastructure and other supporting infrastructure.

- ESTIMATED 500 MW OF WIND POWER
- POWERING UP TO 300,000 HOMES
- PROVIDING BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY
- OPERATING IN HARMONY WITH TRADITIONAL FORESTRY OPERATIONS
- ENGAGING WITH RECREATIONAL FOREST USERS LIKE FOUR-WHEEL DRIVERS, MOUNTAIN BIKERS AND HUNTERS
- REGIONAL SKILLED WORKERS

About the proposed Sunny Corner Wind Farm

Sunny Corner Wind Farm

Initial project layout

The proposed project sits within approximately 10,000 hectares of softwood pine plantation in the Sunny Corner State Forest. The area is bordered by Winburndale Nature Reserve to the west. The initial project layout comprises:

- 80 wind turbines each with an energy generating capacity of approximately 8 megawatts.
- Turbines with a hub height of up to 185 metres and a tip height of up to 285 metres.

Refining the project in consultation with the community and experts

As this is a State Significant Development (SSD) project, a range of technical studies will be undertaken during the development of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) – throughout 2025-26.

Alongside ongoing community engagement and feedback, the technical studies will assist in refining the project design and layout.

The final project layout will be confirmed in an EIS Report that is put on public exhibition for feedback.

80
wind turbines

475
jobs created during construction

35
jobs during operation

Jamie Chivers (L) - Someva Renewables Managing Director
Tim Mead (R) - Someva Renewables Development Director

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Project Development Schedule

Sunny Corner Wind Farm

FORESTRY PROCESS

2022-24

18 month competitive tendering process with Forestry Corporation of NSW.
Investigation permit awarded for a potential wind farm in Sunny Corner State Forest

ONGOING ACTIVITY

Initial and ongoing community consultation and project co-design
Collaboration with neighbours, First Nations groups, community members, businesses and local councils

Wind monitoring
Assess performance

PLANNING

2024

Planning approval
The wind farm requires approval under both NSW and Commonwealth environmental and planning legislation

2025

WE ARE HERE

Scoping Report
Submission of a project Scoping Report to the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) - publicly available

Develop Community Benefits Program

Launch Neighbour Benefit Program

Environmental and other assessments

2025-26

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
Comprehensive technical studies (including biodiversity, visual, noise and traffic, bushfire, local historic heritage and Aboriginal cultural heritage)

EIS lodgement and public exhibition

Response to Submissions

2026-27

Planning approval
The wind farm requires approval under both NSW and Commonwealth environmental and planning legislation

DETAILED DESIGN

2027-28

- Bushfire Emergency Plan developed
- Comprehensive geotechnical studies
- Turbine model selection

CONSTRUCTION

2028

Construction commences

Launch of Community Benefits Program
- Ongoing community engagement

2029-30

Construction peaks

Construction is completed

OPERATIONS

2030

Operation of the wind farm commences

2060

DECOMMISSIONING

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Visual Assessment

Sunny Corner Wind Farm

A team of landscape architects will assess the potential visual implications of the wind farm on local residences and public viewpoints during the EIS phase. The visual assessment will consider the landscape values, character, and amenity of the site and its surroundings.

Photomontages

The visual assessment will also present a series of photomontages from public and private viewpoints to illustrate the likely view of the project. Initial photomontages are available now at **sunnycornerwindfarm.com.au**.

It is important to note that preliminary visual impact assessments are based on scenarios where the assessment does not consider vegetation or structures. Engaging with local neighbours during field work will determine potential visibility from dwellings, taking into account structures and vegetation.

TrueView augmented reality software

The Sunny Corner Wind Farm team will be using TrueView 'augmented reality' software for consultations with project neighbours and local community members. This will provide an indication of how the wind farm might look on the landscape from locations of their choosing.

Key public viewpoints

- Ridge Road, Portland 1.75km from nearest turbine.
- Portland Cemetery, Portland 2.12 km from nearest turbine.
- Great Western Highway, Meadow Flat 2.24km from nearest turbine.
- Dark Corner Road, Dark Corner 0.78km from nearest turbine.
- Sunny Corner Cemetery, Sunny Corner 1.31km from nearest turbine.
- Sunny Corner Road, Kirkconnell 1.34km from nearest turbine.
- Macabees Road, Yetholme 1.07km from nearest turbine.
- Austral Street, Sunny Corner 2.22km from nearest turbine.

Photomontages of the public viewpoints are available at **sunnycornerwindfarm.com.au**

Maintaining visual amenity

To help maintain visual amenity, wind farms will typically include the following features:

- uniformity of colour, design, rotational speed, height and rotor diameter
- evenly spaced to give a regular pattern creating a better balance within the landscape
- use of simple muted colours (matte white finish) and non-reflective materials to mitigate distant visibility and avoid drawing the eye
- no unnecessary lighting, signage or logos.

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Noise Assessment

Sunny Corner Wind Farm

Wind turbine movement creates sound. However, people generally find they can have a conversation at the wind turbine base without having to raise their voices.

Guidelines published by the NSW Government specify some of the most stringent noise criteria in the world and are lower than comparable criteria in the US and Europe. NSW Wind Energy Guidelines ensures that noise impacts from wind energy projects are assessed, managed and mitigated. It aims to balance the critical development of renewable energy with community wellbeing by setting clear standards for noise management.

Key features of NSW noise guidelines

Noise limits for residences:

Noise from turbines must not exceed 35 dB(A) or the existing background noise level by more than 5 dB(A).

Noise limits for recreational areas:

Passive recreation areas in national parks also must meet strict limits to protect visitor experiences.

Health and safety:

Based on extensive research, no direct evidence links wind turbine noise to any adverse health effects.

In practice, this means allowable noise is somewhere between a whisper and a quiet library. This level is set to ensure that any noise from wind turbines is compatible with surrounding land uses and to ensure noise levels do not significantly affect the living experience of people residing in the area.

Assessment and monitoring

- **Early assessment:** Noise impacts are considered at the planning stage to prevent issues later.
- **Post-approval monitoring:** Approved projects must monitor and manage noise to remain compliant.
- **Community agreements:** Residents may negotiate private agreements with project developers for noise limits.

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Traffic & Transport Assessment

Sunny Corner Wind Farm

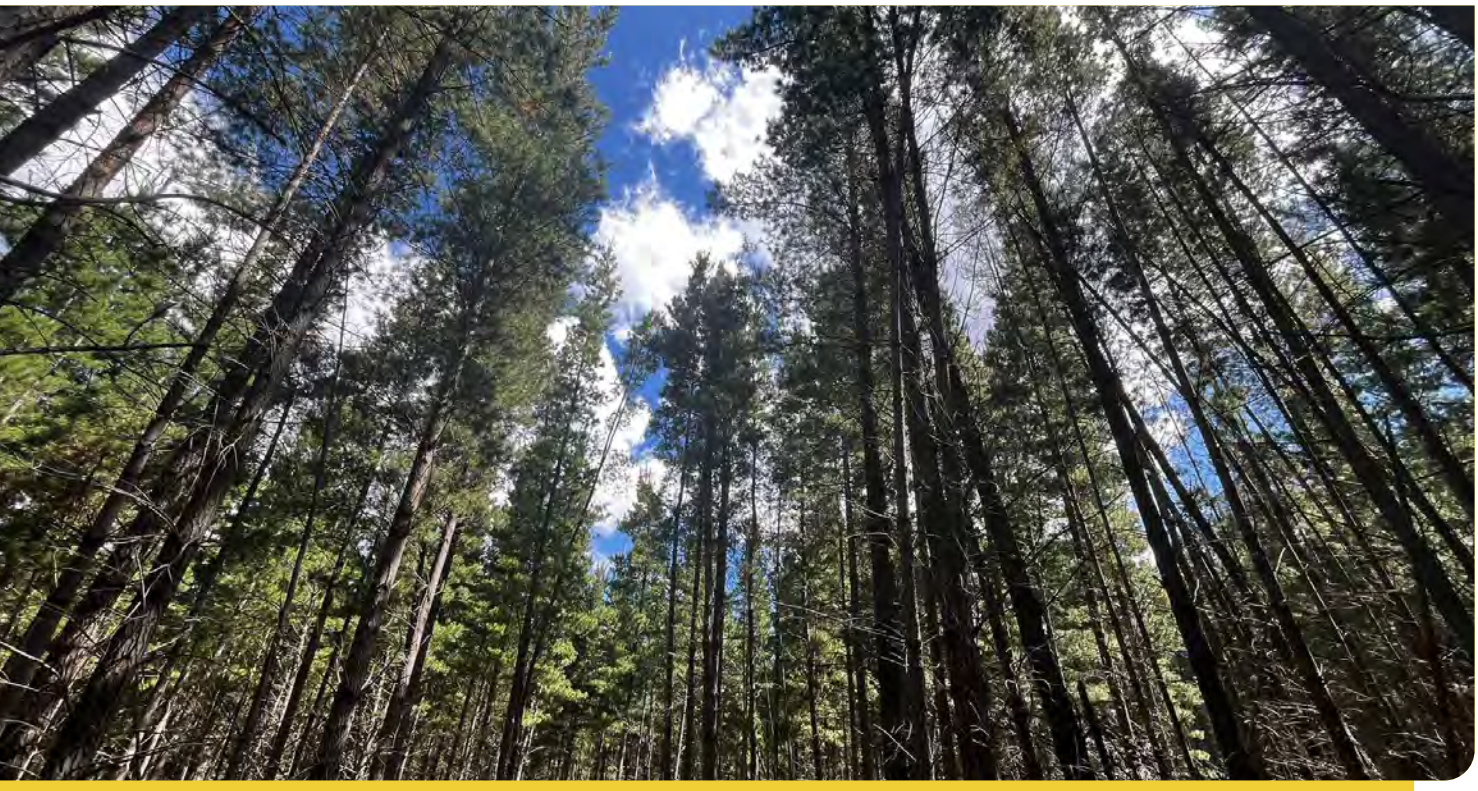
Potential traffic impacts on the surrounding road network will be assessed by traffic engineers. Large vehicles will be required to deliver equipment. Any large vehicle movement would occur outside of peak periods and would be accommodated on the road network subject to road upgrades and the adoption of road management strategies. Operational traffic for the project is expected to be minimal and the only traffic will be associated with maintenance and operation services.

Management and mitigation

- Noise Management and Traffic Management Plans will be developed before construction commences and are included as a sub-plan to a Construction Environmental Management Plan.
- We will keep local residents informed about construction-related traffic through a community information program, including via our website, content in local newspapers and letterbox drops.
- Sufficient on-site parking is included in the project's design to ensure that the project workforce does not need to park on nearby roads.

Construction activities will generally be undertaken during standard daytime construction hours consistent with the NSW Construction Noise Guidelines, which are:

- 7 am to 6 pm, Monday to Friday
- 8 am to 1 pm, Saturday
- No construction activities on Sundays or public holidays.



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Biodiversity Assessment

Sunny Corner Wind Farm

Biodiversity assessments ensure that wind farm projects are planned and executed responsibly, balancing the need for sustainable energy with the protection of natural habitats.

In regions where wind farms are proposed, biodiversity assessments are essential to identify and manage potential risks to native vegetation, threatened species and ecological communities. These assessments provide a framework for understanding the environmental context of the project site, evaluating direct and indirect impacts, and implementing strategies to avoid, minimise, or offset impacts to biodiversity.

The NSW Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM) is a framework that assesses the impacts of development, clearing, or biodiversity certification on biodiversity and ensures appropriate measures to avoid, minimise, or offset these impacts. BAM is part of the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme (BOS) under the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016.

How does the BAM process work?

1. **Assessment:** Identifies biodiversity values on land, including native vegetation, threatened species, and ecological communities
2. **Impact evaluation:**
   - > Direct impacts like habitat clearing
   - > Indirect impacts like changes in water flow or increased human activity
3. **Mitigation and offsets:**
   - > Developers must avoid and minimise impacts where possible
   - > Residual impacts are offset by securing biodiversity credits, which fund conservation efforts

Protecting the local environment

Mitigation and management of biodiversity will be addressed through several strategies and plans:

- **A Biodiversity Offset Strategy** will be developed to ensure biodiversity is protected in the future. Investigations will begin in the EIS process to establish local biodiversity stewardship sites as the primary method for securing required biodiversity offsets. If offsets cannot be fully secured through local sites, the project will explore options in the open credit market and the Biodiversity Conservation Fund to fulfill any remaining requirements.
- **A Biodiversity Management Plan** must be prepared by ecologists and approved by the NSW Government before any construction begins. This plan will outline strategies and measures to protect vegetation and fauna habitat, as well as rehabilitation and revegetation strategies where clearing is necessary.
- **A Bird and Bat Adaptive Management Plan (BBAMP)** will be developed and approved by the NSW Government prior to construction. This plan will include a monitoring regime and response measures aimed at mitigating impacts on bird and bat species. It will include a wind curtailment strategy to ensure that the operation of turbines does not have an unacceptable impact on local birds and bats, particularly species like the Wedge-tailed Eagle and Gang-gang Cockatoo.

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Protecting Aboriginal cultural heritage

Sunny Corner Wind Farm

Many proposed wind farm sites are located in regions of high cultural significance to Aboriginal communities, where the land is deeply interconnected with traditions, stories, and ancestral connections.

Protecting Aboriginal cultural heritage during wind farm development not only fulfills legal obligations but also honours the rich history and ongoing cultural identity of Aboriginal people. By carefully assessing and managing potential impacts, wind farm projects can strike a balance between generating renewable energy and safeguarding the heritage and values of the land's Traditional Owners.

Aboriginal cultural heritage encompasses physical and intangible elements, including sacred sites, ceremonial grounds, artefacts, and the traditions, stories, and connections that link Aboriginal people to their land, or "Country."

Why do we assess Aboriginal cultural heritage?

When development projects, such as wind farms, are proposed, there is a risk of impacting Aboriginal cultural heritage. The ***National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*** requires developers to assess potential impacts to avoid or minimise harm. This ensures that cultural significance is preserved while enabling sustainable development.

Steps in the process

1. **Due diligence:** Developers must determine if their project could impact Aboriginal cultural heritage
2. **Consultation:** Aboriginal people with knowledge of the area must be involved early and throughout the process
3. **Investigation:** Experts identify and document objects, sites, and cultural values
4. **Assessment:** The cultural significance and potential harm of proposed activities are evaluated
5. **Mitigation:** Where harm cannot be avoided, strategies to minimise impacts are developed

Key protections

- **Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permits (AHIP):** Required if impacts to cultural heritage cannot be avoided
- **Legal protections:** Severe penalties exist for damaging or moving Aboriginal objects or sites without approval
- **Community involvement:** Aboriginal voices are central in decision-making, ensuring cultural values are respected

How do I get involved in the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment process?

If you are seeking to be involved in this process, which will occur throughout the EIS process in 2025-26, please reach out to our team directly by emailing us at **community@someva.com.au.**

Someva Renewables and Mainstream Renewable Power proudly acknowledge that the Sunny Corner Wind Farm project is located on the lands of the Wiradjuri people. We pay our respects to Elders past and present and value working with First Nations groups on renewable energy projects.

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Waste, decommissioning and/or re-energising

Sunny Corner Wind Farm

As Australia's wind energy industry grows, it is vital to plan for what happens when wind farms reach the end of their operational life. Decommissioning involves dismantling wind turbines and restoring the land, while waste management ensures responsible recycling and reuse of materials.

In NSW, the responsibility for decommissioning wind farms lies with the project owner. Development approvals and landowner agreements include provisions that outline the financial obligations and timeframes for decommissioning and site rehabilitation. During a wind farm's operational life, owners are expected to allocate funds to cover decommissioning costs, including the removal of infrastructure, waste management and land restoration.

Minimum waste streams would be associated with generation of electricity from this project. A Waste Management Plan (WMP) will be prepared and implemented to manage, reuse, recycle and safely dispose of water.

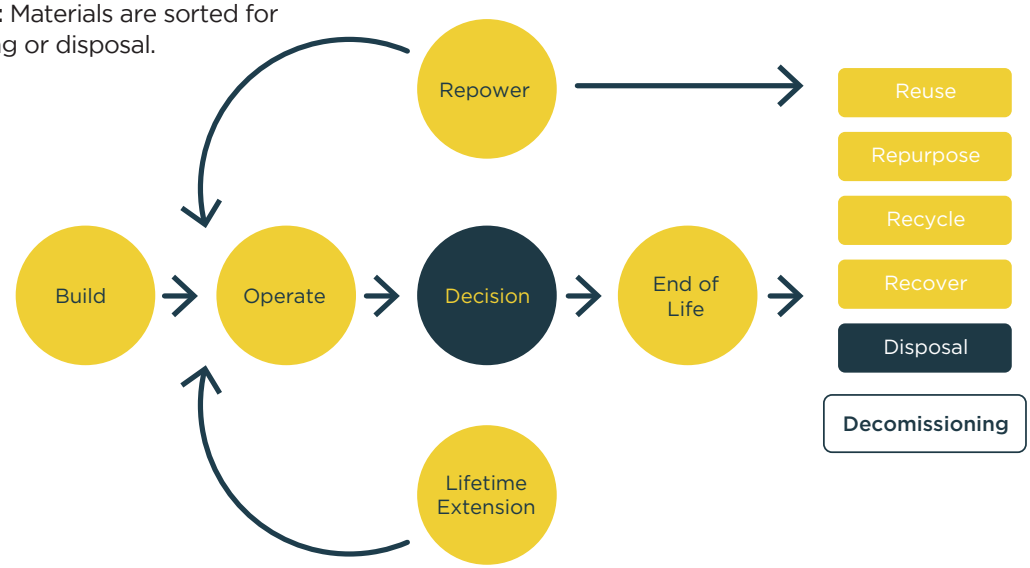
What happens during decommissioning?

Decommissioning includes:

- **Dismantling and removal:** Turbines, site offices and associated infrastructure are taken down and removed.
- **Land rehabilitation:** Foundations are covered or removed, and the site is revegetated, returning it to its original state.
- **Waste management:** Materials are sorted for recycling, repurposing or disposal.

Key facts on wind turbine waste

- **High recyclability:** Around 85–94% of a wind turbine's materials can be recycled in Australia, including steel, aluminium, copper and cast iron.
- **Circular economy goals:** Turbine blades, made from composite materials like fiberglass, are harder to recycle. Innovative solutions are being developed to address this issue. Manufacturers are working toward zero-waste turbines by creating recyclable blade designs.



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Social and Community Assessment

Sunny Corner Wind Farm

A Social Impact Assessment (SIA) evaluates how projects, such as wind farms, affect people and communities. It examines potential positive and negative impacts, including how people live, work, and interact with their surroundings, and provides strategies to manage these effects responsibly.

A Preliminary Social Impact Assessment is included in the Sunny Corner Wind Farm Scoping Report which you can access at www.sunnycornerwindfarm.com.au. A more detailed assessment is underway and will be included in the EIS.

Why is a social impact assessment important for wind farm projects?

Wind farm projects can significantly influence local communities through changes in land use, improved employment opportunities, infrastructure, and environmental conditions. Conducting an SIA ensures:

- Communities are consulted and involved in decision-making
- Potential negative impacts are minimised or mitigated
- Positive outcomes, such as job creation and community investment are maximised

Key steps in the social impact assessment process

1. Scoping and initial assessment
2. Predicting and evaluating social impacts
3. Developing mitigation and enhancement measures
4. Monitoring and adaptive management

Community involvement

- **Consultation:** The community is engaged from the start to ensure local values and perspectives are heard and incorporated
- **Decision making**: Residents have opportunities to influence project designs and outcomes
- **Benefit sharing:** Wind farm projects can contribute to local development through community funds, improved infrastructure and economic growth

Social and Community Assessment

Sunny Corner Wind Farm

Summary of community engagement

(as at February 2025)

560+ community members engaged with

1,500+ **unique interactions with community members** and local organisations since the investigation permit was announced in May 2024

130+ **local organisations** engaged with

230+ **local community members responded to our fist Community Survey,** which has identified key community values and priorities that are being incorporated into investigation and planning

1 **new project website** developed to keep the community informed

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Access to the Sunny Corner State Forest and bushfire management

Sunny Corner Wind Farm

Operating in harmony with traditional forestry operations and recreation

Renewable energy developments are carefully planned to coexist with traditional forestry and recreational activities.

Access to Sunny Corner State Forest will remain open, with safety protocols in place to close down some sections as part of 'business as usual' Forestry Corporation of NSW activities.

Once built, wind turbines would sit above the treetops, meaning other activities like tourism, hiking, camping, biking, apiary, grazing, timber production and recreation will be able to continue.

Bushfire management is a priority

Forestry Corporation, as a firefighting authority, manages fire risk in State Forests and has carefully considered renewable energy proposals through this lens.

Sunny Corner Wind Farm is committed to supporting Forestry Corporation in its bushfire prevention and firefighting capacity as part of our permits. Opportunities for enhancing broader bushfire response capability in the region are also being explored as part of the development of the project's Community Benefits Program.

Detailed Bushfire Assessments must also be undertaken as part of the NSW Government planning approval process. An independent expert bushfire consultant will prepare a Bushfire Assessment as part of the development of the Environmental Impact Statement. A typical outcome of these Bushfire Risk Assessments is the recommendation to prepare a Bushfire Emergency Management and Operations Plan.

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