



**New South Wales Government**  
Independent Planning Commission

## **TRANSCRIPT OF MEETING**

**RE: VALLEY OF THE WINDS WIND FARM (SSD-10461)**

### **APPLICANT MEETING**

**PANEL:** RICHARD PEARSON (CHAIR)  
SARAH DINNING  
SUELLEN FITZGERALD

**OFFICE OF THE IPC:** KENDALL CLYSDALE  
CALLUM FIRTH  
BRAD JAMES

**APPLICANT REPRESENTATIVES:** KILLIAN WENTRUP  
MEGAN RICHARDSON  
LIAM PARNELL  
MICHAEL YEO

**LOCATION:** ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCE

**DATE:** 10:45AM – 11:45AM  
WEDNESDAY, 2<sup>nd</sup> APRIL 2025

**<THE MEETING COMMENCED**

**MR RICHARD PEARSON:** Hello, Applicant. Are you all in the one link?

5

[All say yes]

**MR PEARSON:** All right, good. We thought was probably the case. So, welcome to the meeting. I just want to run through, before we do any introductions, I'll just run through an opening script.

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So, before we begin, I would like to acknowledge I am speaking to you today from Yuin country and acknowledge the traditional owners of all the lands from which we virtually meet today and pay my respects to Elders past and present.

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So, welcome to this meeting today to discuss the Valley of the Winds Wind Farm (SSD-10461) currently before the Commission for determination. The Applicant, ACEN Australia, proposes to develop a 943-megawatt wind farm in the Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone within the Warrumbungle Shire local government area.

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The project involves the development of up to 131 turbines, a 320-megawatt/640-megawatt hour battery energy storage facility, connection to the proposed Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone transmission line and other ancillary infrastructure.

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My name is Richard Pearson. I am chairing this Commission Panel and I am joined by my fellow commissioners, Sarah Dinning and Suellen Fitzgerald. And we are also joined by Brad James, Kendall Clysdale and Callum Firth from the Office of the Independent Planning Commission.

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In the interests of openness and transparency and to ensure full capture of information, today's meeting is being recorded, and a complete transcript will be produced and made available on the Commission's website.

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This meeting is one part of the Commission's consideration of the matter and will form one of several sources of information upon which the Commission will base its determination. It is important for the Commission to ask questions of attendees and clarify issues whenever it is considered appropriate. If you're asked a question and not in a position to answer, please take it on notice and provide any additional information in writing which we will then put up on our website.

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I do request all members here today introduce themselves before speaking for the first time, and for all members to ensure they do not speak over the top of each other, to ensure accuracy of the transcript.

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So, we will now begin. We do have an agenda for this meeting, which everybody received. So, perhaps if the Applicant could just introduce yourselves individually

– and did you have a presentation you were going to run through, or were you going to just respond to questions from the Commission?

5 **MS MEGAN RICHARDSON:** Yes. It's Megan Richardson here from ACEN. Yes, we've got a presentation that we will now share with you. And we do have introductions in the presentation, so perhaps we'll ...

**MR PEARSON:** Yes, sure, yes.

10 **MS RICHARDSON:** ... do that as we go through.

**MR PEARSON:** Perfect.

15 **MS RICHARDSON:** So, if we go to the next slide, Liam.

**MR KILLIAN WENTRUP:** Can you see the screen? Sorry, it's Killian Wentrup here from ACEN.

20 **MR PEARSON:** Yes, we can see the screen.

**MR WENTRUP:** Great, excellent.

25 **MS RICHARDSON:** Wonderful. So, before we get going, we'd just like to acknowledge the [Gomara 00:03:27] people and the Wiradjuri, who are the traditional custodians of the land on which our Valley of the Winds Project is proposed to be located. We recognise the resilience and knowledge of the traditional custodians of this nation, and we pay our respects to Elders, past and present, the many Aboriginal people who denote their Elder status and to those that continue to care for country.

30 Next slide. So, we have put together an agenda with two additional points at the start there, which are Applicant introductions and overview of application. The rest are the key issues that you have previously raised in your agenda items.

35 Next slide. So, Applicant introductions.

**MR PEARSON:** That's not kind of flicking over for us.

40 **MR WENTRUP:** Can you see the names on the screen now?

**MR PEARSON:** No, we can't see anything now.

**MS RICHARDSON:** Yes, let's ...

45 **MR WENTRUP:** Just rebooting it.

**MS RICHARDSON:** I think it's desktop one, Liam. Oh, sorry. How's that?

**MR PEARSON:** Okay. Yes, we can see the Applicant representatives slide now.

**MS RICHARDSON:** Wonderful. And we'll just double check when we move to the next slide that you can see that as well. But in the meantime, we have Killian Wentrup, who's our Head of Development. We've got myself, Megan Richardson, I'm the New South Wales Wind Team Lead. We have Liam Parnell, who's the Project Developer and Project Manager for Valley of the Winds. And we have Michael Yeo who's our Construction Project Manager. You can probably see us all popping in and out at our meeting.

Moving to the next slide. So, ACEN Australia, very briefly, we're a wholly owned subsidiary of ACEN, the energy platform of the Ayala group, which is based in the Philippines. We have projects across Australia, notably, we have in New South Wales the New England Solar Project which is in operation. We also in the CWO region, have the Stubbo Solar Project which is currently in commissioning. And we have five more projects in the CWO REZ region, including Valley of the Winds which you can see in that little pop-out of the map.

Next slide. So, in terms of overview of the application. I'm aware that you've received a lot of information and have probably done a lot of reading over the last couple of weeks. But we thought it was worth just giving you a high-level overview. I'll hand over to Killian first to provide some project context.

**MR WENTRUP:** Thanks, Megan. Killian Wentrup from ACEN. So, I guess the context to this project is it's a large-scale generation project and it is proposed in the Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone which, as we all know, is the first renewable energy zone that the New South Wales Government officially announced back in 2020.

So, this project is important because it's coming online, the commissioning timeframe is in that sort of late-2028 into 2029 period, which is right in the middle of when the Eraring Power Station is scheduled to be shutting down its units. And you can see there on the slide, some of the other power stations in New South Wales, all of which amount to over 8 gigawatts of capacity, that's coming out of the system by around about the mid-2030s.

And to just put it in context, the reason that these large wind projects like Valley of the Winds are so important are firstly that, to replace the Eraring Power Station, for example, you'd need something in the order of six or seven of these scale projects to provide us the equivalent amount of energy.

And secondly, while we all know that there's lots of rooftops of solar and utility-scale solar farms coming into the system, the wind profile is very much complimentary to that and in fact more useful at supplying energy to consumers in that evening peak, which is shown in that graph below the map, which is taken from the New South Wales Government's own report around the energy security target monitoring. So, that's a 2023 report prepared by AEMO for that purpose.

So, firstly, we need capacity. Secondly, we need the energy generation from these kinds of projects because it's very much a part of supplying consumers with electricity into the 2030s. It's important for energy security.

5 We were awarded a Capacity Investment Scheme Agreement by the Federal Government late last year. And we are a foundation generator in the CWO REZ Access Rights process. And we are helping to meet both State and Federal emissions and renewable energy targets.

10 **MR PEARSON:** Is it okay if we ask questions as we go here? I think it's probably the best way of dealing with it.

**MR WENTRUP:** Absolutely.

15 **MR PEARSON:** And just an initial question. Should you gain approval for this project, when approximately would you be anticipating commencing construction?

**MR WENTRUP:** Late next year, effectively.

20 **MR PEARSON:** Sorry, I missed that. I missed that, Killian.

**MR WENTRUP:** Late next year. So, 2026. Yes.

**MR PEARSON:** Right.

25 **MR WENTRUP:** So, early works would commence towards – Michael, I'm going to throw to you – Q3, Q4 next year?

30 **MR MICHAEL YEO:** Yes. Michael Yeo. Yes. So, correct. Early works construction in '26 and then the wind farm in its entirety in some early stages of '27 at this stage, with the current forecast.

**MR PEARSON:** And is it a four-year construction period? Have I got that wrong or ...?

35 **MR YEO:** From early works through to end of commissioning, that would be roughly correct. But there's obviously an early stage of early works, and a later commissioning period that's covered in that four years. So, for intents and purposes for works on the farm itself, it's probably closer to three. But inclusive of  
40 the early works upfront and then commissioning works at the back end, four would be correct as well.

**MR PEARSON:** Okay. Thank you.

45 **MS SUELLEN FITZGERALD:** And Richard, if I could, just on that.

**MR PEARSON:** Yes, sure.

**MS FITZGERALD:** Killian, as a foundation member of this REZ with EnergyCo, does that mean you're contributing access fees to EnergyCo, which is in turn contributing to EnergyCo's programs?

5 **MR WENTRUP:** That's correct, Suellen. So, while the access rights have not been formally awarded or announced yet, should this project proceed and be awarded those access rights, we would be paying access fees, exactly right. And there's multiple components of that – let me know if you want me to go into more detail. But yes, you're right.

10 **MS FITZGERALD:** That's fine, thanks Killian. I know that there's all sorts of programs that EnergyCo are funding through those access rights fees. Thank you. Thanks, Richard.

15 **MR PEARSON:** Thank you. Please proceed.

**MS RICHARDSON:** Next slide. I won't dwell too much on our project overview because I'm sure you've seen this map before and read some of the information. But just as a bit of an overview, the project Valley of the Winds is located about 20 94 kilometres northeast of Dubbo. The closest town is Coolah in the northeast of the project there, shown on the map. And we've also got the small villages of Leadville and Uarbry in the southwest and southeast of the project.

The project is in Warrumbungle Shire Council, and the proposal is for up to 131 25 turbines with an installed capacity of approximately 943 megs and indeed the battery as well. Maximum turbine tip height is up to 250 metres, and as we've discussed, we're looking to connect into the CWO REZ transmission network via two dedicated lines. And hopefully Liam can point a little bit on the map here and just show you where our connection points will be.

30 So, there is one in Leadville, if you'd go to the site, Liam, where we will be connecting into the EnergyCo line. There will be a switching station there belonging to EnergyCo and we'll have a substation there. And then in the Uarbry cluster, there is a connection point there into the [ACE REZ 00:11:50] EnergyCo 35 transmission line, and we will also have a substation there.

In the north of the project in the Mount Hope cluster, we'll have two substations side by side connected by an underground 330 kV line. And from the Mount Hope cluster, the energy will be transported by an overhead 330 kV line into the 40 Girragulang substation and then out via the ACE REZ EnergyCo transmission network. So, just to give you a bit of an overview there on how it's all connected together in those three clusters.

45 We have 20 host landowners on this project, with 26 associated neighbours. In terms of the existing land use, it is predominantly livestock grazing with some cropping in between.

We have three main site entrances into the project, and that's two off the Golden

Highway, one into the Leadville cluster, one into the Girragulang cluster, and again, one off the Black Stump Way into the Mount Hope cluster. We'll talk in a bit more detail about local road accesses on a couple of slides' time as well.

5 In terms of ancillary infrastructure, it's everything you would expect from a wind farm project of this size. But I just want to draw attention to the fact that we're looking to build a temporary workforce accommodation facility on the Moorefield Road western edge. And we'll also have some construction quarries within the project alongside that plant's storage areas, O&M facilities and everything else  
10 that comes along with a wind farm.

**MS FITZGERALD:** Megan, if I could just ask a quick question on ongoing impact on agricultural practices. Have you got a feel for whether the existing landowners are going to continue with their current agricultural practices, in particular, the cropping?  
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**MS RICHARDSON:** Yes, absolutely. I think all the landowners here graze sheep and cattle, and there are some small areas of cropping. Most of our turbines are located on the tops of hills on ridges where there's generally just the livestock grazing. There is one location I can think of where we will be taking up some cropping land on one of our landowner's properties for the positioning of a substation. But otherwise, most of the infrastructure is on grazing land. And will continue to be grazed.  
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**MS FITZGERALD:** Great. Thanks, Megan, it's an important issue for the community.  
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**MS RICHARDSON:** Absolutely. So, next slide. Just in terms of project schedule. Just to give you a bit of a feel for how the project's looking and where it's going. We started the project back in 2019 where the site was identified for development of a wind project. We had initial discussions with host landowners and started to sign up some land for the project.  
30

In 2020, we had our first community information session and went public on the project. And we also requested SEARs and a fire scoping report. At that stage we were looking at a 175-turbine project layout. By the time we lodged our EIS and based on information we had received during doing some of our studies and from the community, we reduced that layout to 148 turbines and lodged that with the Department of Planning.  
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The project went on exhibition for a period of about a month in May to June 2022. In 2023, we responded to submissions and provided an Amendment Report. And by this point, we'd reduced the number of turbines to 131 and made some other changes as well, which I will talk to in a bit more detail in the next slide. We also responded to the public submissions.  
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Over the last year, we've been busy working on RFIs from the Department of Planning and also provided two additional amendment letters where we removed

an access into the Girragulang cluster through the small village of Uarbry. And we also included some additional assessments of the Black Stump Way and Moorefield Road.

5 We're now in 2025 in the IPC review and determination process. Should we gain approval for the project, we will look at pre-construction activities this year. Then we will look at early works next year in 2026, with construction proper, as I like to call it, starting in 2027. And then as Michael's mentioned earlier, we'll have a period of about three to four years of construction from early works all the way through to commissioning. And then we'll look to operate the wind farm for anything between 25 and 30 years. There's also then decommissioning and/or repowering at end of life.

15 I should note that during this whole process, we have indeed engaged with the local community and key stakeholders and will continue to do so.

**MR PEARSON:** Can I just – sorry, can I just ask. So, what happens in 30 years' time that stops you continuing to use the infrastructure? Does it fall apart? Does it become a big maintenance issue? What is the 30-year life about?

20 **MS RICHARDSON:** I might hand over to you, Michael, if you don't mind, to talk about that.

25 **MR YEO:** Yes. Generally, it's ... Basically, their design intent is for that minimum period. But I like to liken it to a car, I guess, if it's still operational and it's maintained, these are big machines. As long as your maintenance regime is up to scratch and up to speed, there's records over in Europe that these machines can last 90 days plus, so I guess you start with a minimum design life. And as Megan pointed out, there's options in the future about repowering and other opportunities to continually upgrade them. So, I hope that answers your question.

30 **MR PEARSON:** Yes. So, there's some uncertainty but it's potential that this could go on for a lot longer than 30 years.

35 **MS RICHARDSON:** Yes, and that would obviously be subject to new approvals. Because the current approval would be seven to eight -

**MR PEARSON:** Yes.

40 **MS RICHARDSON:** ... years, I believe.

**MR PEARSON:** Yes. Okay. Interesting point. Thank you.

45 **MS SARAH DINNING:** Sorry, Richard, can I just ... If you don't mind, just into and coming back from the 30 years to the early works in there where it says, "example, local road upgrades". Is that dealing also with the – we heard additional pinch points where oversize – you know, there still needs to be more work done, I think, on transporting the larger components.



5 **MS RICHARDSON:** Yes, yes. So, the early works that we're looking to undertake, the physical early works would be on local road upgrades, probably on the Black Stump Way and Moorefield Road West, so really local to the project. But I think what you're referring to is the Port to REZ ...

**MS DINNING:** Yes.

10 **MS RICHARDSON:** ... wider delivery route. So, we've got some more information on that further on in the slide pack. But yes, any of those works would be delivered by EnergyCo in the first instance. And I believe that they are starting works in the next couple of months and beginning to look at those upgrades.

15 **MS DINNING:** Okay. Thank you. Because although that's not directly part of your application scope, it does have an impact on your timetable for delivery.

20 **MS RICHARDSON:** Absolutely, absolutely, yes. And I think – and Michael, correct me if I'm wrong – that we would be looking to start delivering turbines in probably late '27.

**MR YEO:** Correct, yes.

25 **MS RICHARDSON:** So, there is a bit of a time between us starting early works and starting construction to actually starting the delivery of OSOMs.

**MS DINNING:** Oh, thank you, that's a good clarification. Great. I've heard end of 2026 and thought, ah, okay. Thank you.

30 **MS RICHARDSON:** Yes. Great.

**MR YEO:** Thank you.

35 **MS RICHARDSON:** Next slide up here. So, key project design changes. I guess, since the submission of the EIS, we've made various changes to the project. And that's very much based on what we've heard from the community, the environmental constraints that have come up during our initial survey work throughout the process, and also just us beginning to really understand the site and working with our host landowners.

40 So, the figure on the right-hand side just shows the turbines we've removed from the 145 layout to the 131, which is the current layout. So, you can see that we've removed some turbines in the north of the Mount Hope cluster.

45 **MR WENTRUP:** It's shown in yellow.

**MS RICHARDSON:** Yes.

**MR PEARSON:** Yes.

**MS RICHARDSON:** And the reason we removed some of those was because we recognise they were in Box Gum Woodland, which is one of the key habitats at the site. So, we removed those to try and reduce our level of clearing.

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Additionally, in the north of the Girragulang Road cluster, there's a few turbines there on the eastern side that a nearby neighbour has some concerns about the visual impact on their property. So, we removed those. We also got some additional gains of removing those from Box Gum Woodland as well.

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So, we actually removed 17 turbines and the associated access tracks between the EIS and the RTS phase. We also removed 4 met masts and we relocated 7 of them as well. And again, that was just to move them out of key habitats.

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We've included an additional substation up at the Mount Hope cluster. And the reason for that was really just to improve the electrical connectivity, and that's because that cluster has 65 turbines in it, whereas the others have, I think, 45 and 21 respectively. So, it was really just to give that a bit of a boost up in the north.

20

We have removed the 330 kV overhead transmission line section that is now being delivered by the CWO EnergyCo and ACE-REZ under the CWO transmission project. I must say that we, to be completely clear, that we still have 330 kV overhead line with our project area. But a section of it was removed that we were previously going to own and operate, which is now being done by EnergyCo.

25

In terms of access routes, this is very much driven by community feedback. Where the people who lived in the area of Uarbry village and were quite concerned about having heavy vehicles coming through their village. So, we've managed to find an alternative route about 3 kilometres down the road on the Golden Highway on the west, and we've now removed that access through Uarbry and we have it separate.

30

Additionally, we did have some feedback from the community and some of our host landowners as well, just saying that they were quite concerned about vehicle access through Coolah and also through Leadville. So, we've actually removed those routes and we've only now got three key access points into the site, as well as one access on the Moorefield Road West for light vehicles.

35

We've also undertaken a detailed assessment of the upgrade works and consultation with Warrumbungle Shire Council for the local roads, so that's the Black Stump Way and Moorefield Road. And we've also revised the project boundaries slightly, and that was in part to include the Black Stump Way and Moorefield Road in the development boundary, and also to exclude some unutilised land that our host landowners, at their request, sorry.

40

So, moving onto key issues. We were just going to run through this in line with your agenda. And I'll hand over to my colleague, Liam, who's going to talk through the visual impact.

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5 **MR LIAM PARNELL:** Liam Parnell here. So, visual impacts, obviously, is a key issue for our stakeholders and surrounding the project. From our scoping, we've gone from 175 turbines down to 131 at our RTS staging. And our assessment has been carried out in accordance with the 2016 Visual Assessment Bulletin and out to 4.95 kilometres we have 87 non-associated receivers and 23 of those are within the black line of visual magnitude out to 3.35 kilometres, as you can see in the map there.

10 It's important to note that the Department of Planning have concluded that the project will meet all of our visual performance objectives, and the project is suitable for the site and would not cause any unacceptable –

15 **MR PEARSON:** You're kind of cutting in and out a bit, Liam, so, I don't know if others are having a bit of trouble hearing Liam? If you could just maybe project a bit.

**MR PARNELL:** Sure. How's that, is that a bit better?

20 **MR WENTRUP:** Can you hear us okay? Or is it just the room or maybe we need to change our mic settings. Can you hear us okay when I'm speaking?

**MR PEARSON:** Yes, yes.

25 **MR PARNELL:** I'll just start back and say, yes, our assessment was conducted on the 2016 Visual Assessment Bulletin. We've got 87 non-associated receivers identified out to 4.95 kilometres, with 23 of those within the 3.35 kilometres, the black line of visual magnitude, as you can see in the map there.

30 And the Department of Planning have concluded that the project will meet all of our visual performance objectives and is suitable and will not cause any unacceptable visual impacts. We can see in the table at the top of the figure there as well that throughout the project's lifecycle from EIS to where we are in the present day, we've gone from 42 non-associated dwellings to 23 currently within 3.35 kilometres of a turbine, which is just to do with our neighbour agreements.

35 Sorry, Suellen?

40 **MS FITZGERALD:** Oh, thanks Liam. Just a question to assist with our site visit next week. There's one non-associated residence with a high visual impact, and 42 with moderates. Are those non-associated residents with moderate impacts, are they spread all over or are they particularly associated with any of the clusters?

45 **MR PARNELL:** I think they would be spread all over, Suellen, but I will have to kind of consult our land and visual impact assessment to give you a definite figure.

**MR WENTRUP:** Yes, we might take that one on notice, to give a precise answer. Is that okay?

**MS FITZGERALD:** Yes, thank you for that. Richard, I haven't been through all of the appendices to the Visual Assessment Report yet. I will have by next week. But it would be helpful if there was any information about where those moderate impact residents were. That'd be great. Thank you.

5

**MR PARNELL:** Leave that with us, thank you. So, our visual mitigation for our impacts, so will be conditioned in and we'll be offering to minimise visual impacts out to 4.95 kilometres of a turbine. And any lighting as well that we're required to do will be designed with the purpose of minimising any impacts. We'll also not be exceeding 30 hours at any non-associated residences for shadow flicker. And our Neighbour Benefit Sharing Program is offered to any residences within 5 kilometres of a turbine.

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**MR PEARSON:** So, what does that mean, Liam? If I'm a neighbour within 5 k, what do I get under the Neighbour Benefit Sharing Program?

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**MR PARNELL:** Sure. We compensate our receivers within 5 kilometres of a turbine, it's a template agreement that we've been rolling out and it's a function of how close you are to turbines and hence how great your impact is visually. And so it will scale up, depending on your visual impact.

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**MR PEARSON:** Is that automatic or do they have to apply for it?

**MR PARNELL:** Yes, they have to contact us and then reach out to us to ...

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**MR PEARSON:** Sorry, Liam, I can't quite hear your response.

**MR PARNELL:** Yes, they have to contact us, Richard.

30

**MS RICHARDSON:** But I will add, Richard, that we have gone to most neighbours within that kind of 5-kilometre buffer and suggested, you know, or offered that to them. So, most of the neighbours in the area are aware of the project and are aware that the Neighbour Benefit Sharing Program exists.

35

**MR WENTRUP:** This work, Richard and commissioners, has been underway for several years. So, the effort of the team has been to reach out to people, inform them about the Neighbour Benefit Sharing Program and those who wish to take it up will take it up. If you want more details on what's on offer specifically, please let us know.

40

**MR PEARSON:** I think it would be useful to get a little bit more information on that scheme, because it's not mentioned in the Department's Assessment Report, from memory. So, if you could take that on notice, would be to just provide a little bit more information around that would be useful.

45

And my other question is, and you've said this has been in train for some time, is how likely do you think people are to take up the screening option? Do you have a feel that it's, you know, popular or not popular with affected non-associated

residences?

5 **MS RICHARDSON:** It's an interesting question because, yes, we were looking at this in a bit of detail just yesterday. And I think we got, is it 87 properties that may be eligible. And usually, it's up to them to kind of come forward to us and say, "Hey, I'd like some visual screening." And that's usually planting, really, that's usually what we put forward.

10 And I think on other projects I've worked on, I've not seen a massive take up. But the people that do take us up, they really benefit from that additional screening and they're quite pleased with getting that additional screening. So, yes.

15 **MR WENTRUP:** It is hard to predict. We take your point. But certainly, we'll continue to engage, as Megan said, with the community beyond the approval stage, should we be approved and the project goes ahead. So, people will certainly be – we will continue to make people aware of these things being on offer.

**MR PEARSON:** Okay. Sure. Thank you.

20 **MS RICHARDSON:** Can we just go back one. I just wanted to draw your attention to the visualisation at the bottom. It is a clip, so it's not completely to scale. And the main visualisation is available, it's one of the public viewpoints in our set of information that was lodged with the response to submissions.

25 But this is taken from the south of Coolah and it's looking immediately west into the Mount Hope cluster. Just to give you a feel for how the project might look.

**MR PEARSON:** Mm-hm. Yes.

30 **MS RICHARDSON:** Next slide. So, traffic and transport. So, yes, local road upgrades. We've had very extensive consultation with Warrumbungle Shire Council regarding the extent of the local road upgrades, and indeed with Transport for New South Wales on intersection designs. We've agreed and included in Appendix 5 of the Recommended Conditions of Consent, a schedule of roads, and indeed that map is in there too. We've also incorporated feedback from the local  
35 community into this proposal.

40 We've talked in quite a lot of detail, but I'll just summarise again that we have the three primary accesses into site, two on the Golden Highway into the Girragulung cluster and the Leadville cluster, and one from the Black Stump Way into the Mount Hope cluster. We also have the one light vehicle access to the site on the Moorefield Road West from the accommodation camp.

45 The access is on Neilrex Road, Moorefield Road East, Sir Ivan Dougherty Drive and Wardens Road are all prohibited from use during construction and operations. And that's to limit the impact on the local areas of Coolah and Leadville, in particular.

5 Our agreed road upgrades with Warrumbungle Shire Council include the Mount Hope Road, which is located within the project site. We've got the Moorefield Road West, which is where our accommodation camp is sited. We have the Black Stump Way, which runs through the centre of the project. And we have associated intersections which are kind of throughout the project area.

10 In terms of mitigation, the road upgrades as described will be implemented in accordance with the relevant timings to the satisfaction of the relevant road authorities. And we will undertake pre and post road dilapidation surveys and of course make good any damage.

Next slide. So, oversize ...

15 **MR PEARSON:** Just – sorry, just on that. Are you pretty comfortable the Council's on board with the local upgrade proposals?

20 **MS RICHARDSON:** Absolutely. We've had probably six meetings over six months to really get to the bottom of that and make sure that everybody's okay with what's going on. I think the Council also provided their written approval, that was in one of our latest RFIs from the Department of Planning.

**MR PEARSON:** Thank you.

25 **MS DINNING:** Sorry, Richard, do you mind, while we're on that. Just in terms of the conditions that you've referred to there, and it talks about construction upgrading or decommissioning.

30 Decommissioning may be more than 30 years away, so as we've just heard about, you know, if they can keep going, so is there some sort of clause or loop to make sure that if it does go for longer? I don't know if there's a lot of heavy equipment, but will that be covered, continued assistance with local road repairs for the operational life of the wind farm?

35 **MS RICHARDSON:** Yes. So, I guess there's two things. I guess we've got the conditions in the approval regarding the road upgrades and maintenance. And then there's also the planning agreement that we're agreeing with Warrumbungle Shire Council that is likely to have a section of the funds that will be used for local roads. So, there's those two things.

40 And I guess in terms of the lifespan of the project. If the project goes beyond 30 years, we'll need to seek additional approvals to enable us to do that. And I guess things like continuation of road upgrades or new road upgrades would be contemplated at that time.

45 **MS DINNING:** Okay. Thank you.

**MS RICHARDSON:** Next slide. So, in terms of over-size over mass and heavy vehicles. I think we've talked to the Port to REZ that we will be using the Port to

REZ to facilitate our access. And that will be taking all our deliveries of blades and turbine towers from the Port of Newcastle to the project. And then using the three main accesses at the site to get that equipment into site.

5 We have a Traffic Management Plan which – or we will produce a Traffic Management Plan pre-construction, which will be prepared in consultation with Transport for New South Wales, EnergyCo and Warrumbungle Shire Council. And that will detail up the measures that we will implement to minimise traffic impacts during construction.

10 Additionally, EnergyCo are working with the CWO REZ participants to determine and coordinate cumulative impacts of OSOM deliveries across multiple projects in the CWO REZ.

15 Next slide. Biodiversity.

**MR WENTRUP:** Sorry. Were there any questions before we move on? Just pausing for a second. All good? Okay. Great.

20 **MS RICHARDSON:** Great. Over to you, LP.

**MR PARNELL:** Thanks, Megan. So, as previously mentioned, our project is predominantly located on grazing land with native vegetation throughout the project. We've designed the project to avoid impacts on our native vegetation and protected species surveyed to be present on site, and have that reduction in 44 turbines from our scoping report submission.

25 So, we have located our project infrastructure in cleared areas, avoiding threatened ecological communities and threatened species. And we've reduced our development impact footprint from around 1,300 hectares down to 734. We've also located any turbines 200 metres away from any cliff lines. And we'll continue to minimise clearing in our detailed design phasing as well, we'll be minimising impacts on our biodiversity values as well.

30 **MR PARNELL:** Thanks, Megan. So, as previously mentioned, our project is predominantly located on grazing land with native vegetation throughout the project. We've designed the project to avoid impacts on our native vegetation and protected species surveyed to be present on site, and have that reduction in 44 turbines from our scoping report submission.

35 **MR PEARSON:** Can I just check; that reduction in the development footprint from 1,300 hectares to 734, was that when you went from 175 to 131 or when you went from 148 to 131 turbines?

40 **MR PARNELL:** The latter, Richard, so 148 to 131.

**MR PEARSON:** And sorry, Liam, you're kind of breaking up again.

**MR PARNELL:** The latter, Richard. So, 148 turbines to 131.

45 **MR PEARSON:** Okay, so that's a huge reduction for the reduction of 17 turbines or whatever it was.

**MR WENTRUP:** Richard, part of it was also tightening up the development

footprint that connects the turbines and the areas that are proposed for the ancillary infrastructure. So, you shouldn't think of that as being purely due to turbine removals. So, it's also – yes, tightening up the road widths and buffer areas around those roads and so on.

5

**MS RICHARDSON:** And it was also removal of the EnergyCo and transmission infrastructure, so we removed several kilometres of line.

10 **MS RICHARDSON:** So, it was all the project amendments together that resulted in that reduction, and also slim-lining our corridor as well, so giving ourselves less scope to move in the future within reason.

**MR PEARSON:** Okay. That's good clarification. Thank you.

15 **MR PARNELL:** So, our mitigation strategies for our biodiversity values, so we'll obviously be offsetting our impacts and have 6,307 ecosystem credits and 2,928 species credits. Our potential SAII impact on Box Gum Woodland as well, we'll be doing an additional and appropriate measure in consultation with BCS now, CPHR, will be securing 282 hectares of Box Gum Woodland in perpetuity for the  
20 purpose of restoring, enhancing and protecting.

We'll be conducting our Bird and Bat Adaptive Management Plan as well prior to commissioning any turbines. And our Biodiversity Management Plan as well will be prepared in consultation with CPHR and DCCEEW prior to carrying out any  
25 development that will impact biodiversity values.

I'll pass over to Megan.

30 **MS RICHARDSON:** So, aviation safety. The project itself is located about 6 kilometres south of Coolah Airport or Airstrip, and 56 kilometres north of Mudgee Airport. I should note that neither of these airports take commercial flights at the minute, so they're very small is my point.

35 And there are also two private airstrips in proximity to the project, that's Turee and Tongy, and they're to the east of the Girragulang cluster, and I'll show you a map on the next slide. And they're both approximately 3 kilometres away from the nearest turbine.

40 Airservices Australia advised that the maximum height of turbines MH13 and 25 in the Mount Hope cluster would affect the lowest – I can't read the rest of the slide. The lowest ...

**MR WENTRUP:** You can move the little video widget.

45 **MS RICHARDSON:** Wonderful. Lowest safe altitude for air route W627. MH13 has been removed at the RTS stage, and prior to construction of MH25, we will undertake the relevant consultation with Airservices.



**MR PEARSON:** So, what does that mean exactly, Megan, in terms of the approval you need from Airservices Australia ... I don't know ... Yes, what's the process there?

5 **MS RICHARDSON:** Yes, I can explain. So, essentially, they've said, "We're concerned that your turbines are in our airspace."

**MR WENTRUP:** One turbine.

10 **MS RICHARDSON:** One turbine. "And we'd basically like you to consult with us again on this once you finalise your micro site and design." So, we'll go back to them at that stage and we'll talk to them about what – how tall the turbine is, how tall that is actually AOD, and then we'll also talk about what we need to do. Whether we need to amend that air route in consultation with them, or what the  
15 mitigation might be to work that through.

**MR PEARSON:** Is it potentially possible they could say they want you to get – to remove that turbine?

20 **MS RICHARDSON:** Potentially, but usually Airservices have said, "Can I come back and consult with us and there's a potential that you could change the air route," then that's usually that they want you to come and consult on that, and it's not a hard no. So, yes, that risk remains.

25 **MR PEARSON:** Thank you.

**MS RICHARDSON:** No problem. So, yes, there have been some concerns raised by the community about potential for wake turbulence and obstacle impacts at Turee and Tongy airstrips. So, we've considered this is quite a lot of detail over  
30 the last year. Aviation Projects, who are our technical aviation consultants, did an assessment and they concluded that the project would not have any adverse or significant impacts to air safety, subject to the implementation of mitigation measures and administrative controls.

35 The Department had an independent technical advisor, To70, review this information, and they concluded that the Aviation Projects' assessment sufficiently addressed the potential risk and mitigation measures of the wind turbines as obstacles to the aircraft landing areas of Tongy and Turee.

40 I'll show you some figures on the next slide and I'll try and talk through this issue in a bit more detail.

**MR WENTRUP:** Megan, it might be worth just making sure that the commissioners understand which part of the project we're talking about.

45 **MS RICHARDSON:** Absolutely. So, the turbines on the left-hand side of both figures are in the Girragulang cluster, which is the cluster that's in the middle of the project. So, this is on the middle east of the project. And we have Turee

Aerodrome in the north and Tongy Aerodrome in the south.

5 The blue kind of blobby marks around the turbines, that's an area of 400 metres that's drawn around, and that's the obstacle limitation zone. The blue dotted line that's a bit further out is 16 rotor diameters from the turbines.

10 So, we looked at, or our aviation consultants looked at the predominant wind direction in the area, and if you look at the figure on the left-hand side, that's looking at a scenario where you have an easterly wind direction, which occurs at about 70% of the time in this location.

15 So, 70% of the time, the wind is blowing in an easterly direction, and you can imagine it blowing across both those airfields into the turbines, and any wind turbulence impact is going to be going out the other side, so will not be impacting on those airstrips.

20 On the map on the right-hand side, we've taken the scenario where we have wind blowing from the west, which is predominant about 20% of the time. Where you have wind blowing from the west, it will be blowing into the turbines and creating a small level of turbulence out to the eastern side in the direction of those two airfields.

25 Our consultants looked at that and they said for the Tongy Airstrip in the south, turbines GR3 and 4 which are located closest to that airstrip, that light turbulence may be experience some of the time in the standard circuit area. But they also advised us that that would be light, in accordance with the Bureau of Meteorology's turbulence intensity classifications, and it is very much considered manageable for light aircraft activities undertaken at that aerodrome.

30 Additionally, in the north at Turee Aerodrome, the same scenario applied, but we're looking again – sorry, this instance at turbines GR8, 9, 10 and 11, so the ones closest to that aerodrome, and the same conclusion was drawn. That there would be some potential for light turbulence from those turbines experienced by any aircraft operating in the southwestern edge of that standard circuit area. So,  
35 it's really the section you can see that's overlapping with the blue. But again, that it was light and therefore manageable.

40 In terms of mitigation. Sorry, just one back, Liam. Aviation Projects have advised that to minimise the perceived risks associated with the nearby turbines, that pilots operating from these aerodromes may choose to make minor adjustments to their usual flight paths. This would be undertaken at the pilots' discretion and requires registration in the aeronautical publications to alert other pilots of the operating conditions at the aerodrome.

45 So, just moving onto the next slide which is still sticking –

**MS FITZGERALD:** Megan, just a question. I presume that those two private airstrips are of the agricultural flying, you know, crop dusting etc., etc. Do they get

used for bush, you know, for firefighting, aerial firefighting, do you think?

**MS RICHARDSON:** I think there is a potential, but yes, I think we'd have to double check that.

5

**MR WENTRUP:** I'm not sure that there's public information on that particular topic that's been made available. Is that correct?

10

**MS RICHARDSON:** Yes. We do know that from the responses that were received by the Department on this issue, we know that they're used for agricultural practices and also for kind of general light aircraft flying.

**MS FITZGERALD:** Yes.

15

**MS RICHARDSON:** But we don't know specifically about the bushfire ...

20

**MS FITZGERALD:** Right. I suppose in that case, you know, if it was bushfire conditions, the turbines would be under the Bushfire Management Plan, the turbines would probably be static, wouldn't they?

25

**MS RICHARDSON:** Absolutely. So, I'll just flip to the next slide because I think we touch on that as one of our mitigations, that indeed in the Bushfire Management Plan, that we include those operational procedures in the event of a bushfire. And that would be looking at shutting down the turbines, positioning them with the bunny ears up, and basically looking to position them in a location that minimises interference with aerial firefighting. And that's not just in that location in the Girragulang cluster; it would be for the whole wind farm.

30

So, in terms of other mitigation. Prior – this is a very specific condition as well for our project, which has come out of this community concern about these two airstrips. So, we're conditioned into prior to commencement of construction to develop an Aviation Management Plan and that will be in consultation with the operators of Tongy and Turee aerodromes.

35

We will also carry out the development in accordance with the relevant aviation guidelines. Prior to the construction of any wind turbines or met mast, we'll notify all the relevant aviation organisations. We'll work on this request for the air route to be amended with Airservices Australia. And indeed what we've talked about with the Bushfire Management Plan.

40

**MR PEARSON:** I'm just letting you know we've probably only got about another 10 to 15 minutes max, so we just need to keep moving, I guess.

45

**MR WENTRUP:** Absolutely.

**MS RICHARDSON:** Wonderful, thank you. And I think we've covered the kind of top issues as well. We can quickly run through the next few slides.

**MR WENTRUP:** Do you want to maybe just give them a very quick overview of what's remaining, and then if the commissioners have got any specific topics they'd like us to drill into, we can prioritise those?

5 **MS RICHARDSON:** Absolutely. So, we've got slides on – this slide on construction, waste management and water supply and management. We've got a worker accommodation slide, consultation and decommissioning and social economic. Is there anything you want me to prioritise?

10 **MR PEARSON:** We can probably briefly work through all of those if there's only four or so slides, but you don't necessarily need to go through it dot point by dot point, I think. Let's just start with this slide in any case, if you could just briefly talk through it.

15 **MS RICHARDSON:** For sure, yes. So, this one again, I mean, we'd be interested to understand what specifically you're interested in. I guess, at a high level, we recognise that waste management and water supply are two key issues that we need to resolve prior to starting construction of this project.

20 We have been in discussion with local landowners about using their groundwater bores. And indeed we've been in discussion with Warrumbungle Shire Council and local councils as well about how we dispose of our waste.

If there anything specific you were interested in?

25 **MR PEARSON:** Well, just on waste, I did notice that Warrumbungle Council was satisfied that you weren't going to put anything into their facilities. So, I wasn't aware, you have consulted with Dubbo Regional Council, who has said they can accept during the construction period. What about the decommissioning phase  
30 where – what happens with all the spent turbines and blades at the end of, you know, in 30 years' time?

**MS RICHARDSON:** Yes. I thought you were going to take that. In terms of  
35 30 years' time, things like turbines and stuff, they won't be disposed of in the local council area.

**MR WENTRUP:** I guess, there's a lot of work that needs to go into that  
40 decommissioning plan. I wouldn't say we've got a detailed plan for the disposal of turbine blades today. But it certainly is part of the conditions that we have to develop a detailed decommissioning plan.

**MS RICHARDSON:** Absolutely. Decommissioning and Rehabilitation Plan. And I think that has to get developed maybe five years prior to decommissioning, if not  
45 sooner.

**MR PEARSON:** Yes, we ... So, just typically, the Planning Commission imposes, I guess, a more stringent condition than the one that's recommended by the Department in relation to decommissioning. But that, I guess that discussion

can come down the line, should the Commission decide to approve the project, we'll need to probably have some further discussion at least with the Department around the decommissioning aspect.

5 But you're saying that's not part of what you've consulted Dubbo Regional Council about, it's just during the construction period, waste stream, yes?

**MS RICHARDSON:** Yes, yes.

10 **MR WENTRUP:** Yes. Not at this stage, you wouldn't be consulting them in relation to decommissioning at this point in time. A lot of those components would be at a high level recycling-type scenario. Obviously, a lot of steel through the columns of the towers.

15 **MR PEARSON:** Sure.

**MR WENTRUP:** And future technologies around -

20 **MR PEARSON:** Okay, sure. Well, that's the only question I had on that slide. The other commissioners, do you have questions?

25 **MS FITZGERALD:** I've got one, Richard. Just, there would be a certain amount of traffic associated with the accommodation camp users, but also this wastewater and sewerage waste and so on. Can you confirm if that traffic volumes have been included in your overall assessment of traffic impacts and traffic movements?

30 **MS RICHARDSON:** Yes, they have. We actually undertook two kind of separate traffic assessments, where we did one if we had a regional accommodation supply, and one where we had the centralised accommodation workforce. And the Department have now conditioned that we must have the centralised workforce accommodation camp and therefore the traffic figures that go with that.

35 But that was, yes, that was done at the time and included bringing in trucks with water and all that kind of stuff as well.

**MS FITZGERALD:** Good. Thanks, Megan.

40 **MS DINNING:** And look, it's not a question in common – I'm assuming because it's been part of the EIS as well, that any necessary water access licences will be negotiated in that water supply section there? So, it's noting, I think you've covered it off, yes.

45 **MS RICHARDSON:** Absolutely, yes. Maybe move onto the next slides. So, workforce accommodation as well. We obviously are committed to sourcing local content and initiatives locally to support local business development. We're working with EnergyCo at the moment, we've been to some of their recent business supplier open days, which I believe are going to continue over the next – quarterly, I think, over the next year at least. And once we're hopefully ready to

go, we can get up there as well and start involving ourselves in those meetings.

We're also very aware of that balance between trying to engage the local workforce supply but also not drawing on those services such that they're  
5 disrupted locally, such as healthcare. And we have noted for our workers accommodation camp that we would get our own kind of healthcare provision for that during the period of construction and that workforce count being operational.

In terms of the transport to and from site, I think we've addressed that in your  
10 question, Suellen, but I think I took that slightly differently and was just saying where traffic would be going.

And then use of regional tourist accommodation – that's going to be very limited because we're going to have our 400-bed accommodation camp, and it's very  
15 unlikely that we will then be taking up extra space in tourist accommodation.

I guess, just going one slide back – sorry, Liam just ...

**MR WENTRUP:** Any questions on the workforce accommodation slide?  
20

**MS RICHARDSON:** That we'll prepare that Accommodation Strategy Plan prior to starting the commencement of construction.

In terms of engagement, we've started early. We've extended the net wide. We've  
25 tried hard. We started our first community consultation drop-in event was in early 2020, and that might even be an image from it in the bottom right-hand corner. That's some of my colleagues there. And in the top picture, we've also got a picture just of the inside of our Coolah office. That's a community drop-in office that's been in Coolah since 2022.

I guess, just drawing attention to the fact that we have a local Community  
30 Engagement Manager, which I think is fantastic, and she manages things locally across all our projects in the Central-West. We also have a specific Landowner Engagement Manager who goes out and consults with all our host landowners, which I think has been great as well. And he often splurges over into the  
35 community side as well.

We've undertaken all the kind of standard things, such as the project phone line, project email, project website, we're always open to phone calls and providing  
40 information where possible. We've undertaken surveys as part of our socio-economic impact. And we've just had regular interaction with stakeholders such as Warrumbungle, Transport for New South Wales, CPHR, the RAPs etc.

And in the previous, we've also had meetings with local community groups such  
45 as Uarbry Residents Group and others. We also have our SIP program (Social Investment Program) where we make voluntary contributions of up to 50,000 each year, and that's been ongoing for the last probably four or five years and will continue throughout construction.

**MR WENTRUP:** I'm not sure if you said it, but we've had 11 community information sessions.

5 **MS RICHARDSON:** We have. That's been attended by over 250 people.

Decommissioning. So, we have –

10 **MR PEARSON:** Just on consultation. And yet there seems to remain, you know, a reasonable amount of opposition to the project in the community. What do you attribute that to?

15 **MS RICHARDSON:** I think it's quite standard for a project of this size. I think often the people that are objecting to these projects object to other wind farm projects not in their region. And that's where you tend to attract lots of the objections from.

20 **MR WENTRUP:** And it's also the REZ. We have to think about the context of this project. The early – I can speak a little bit firsthand here because I've been working for this company for over seven years. The early stages of this project when we were developing it somewhat in isolation, were very quiet; there was not a lot of opposition.

25 The real change came when the State Government formally announced that the REZ was going into development and the transmission line routes were announced. And then it became apparent that there was not only this project but multiple projects in the region being proposed, all within that same timeframe of going into construction.

30 And that's really where, I guess, the opposition that you're referring to, Richard, started to become more obvious. And so over the last, I'd say, two to three years, it's obvious that whilst there's still an underlying, I guess, recognition of the benefits of these projects and an underlying sort of positive or neutral sentiment towards this project, there's also – we recognise that there's also some groups that  
35 are really not happy at all about not only this project but the fact that there is a REZ coming to this region and that's a commitment of the State Government to develop this.

40 **MR PEARSON:** Yes.

**MS RICHARDSON:** I think interestingly as well, we received, I think, 105 comments or submissions at submission stage to the EIS. And we did some analysis on that, and I think 40% of those were local to the local area and based mainly around Coolah and the surrounds. So, you know, you're looking at 40%, so  
45 maybe 40 people as opposed to the 105 submissions the project attracted. So, I think it's always interesting to look at that local context as well.

**MR PEARSON:** We certainly do, do that. Yes. Look, just we're probably going

to have to rap up very soon, so could you maybe just finish with your last slide or two?

5 **MS RICHARDSON:** Absolutely. So, very quickly on decommissioning. We will be absolutely conditioned into decommission our onsite quarries within six months, our temporary workforce accommodation within 12 months, and the project overall will take place over a period of 18 months, but in 30 years' time.

10 Unless there's any questions, we'll ...

**MR WENTRUP:** There's one more slide, I think.

15 **MS RICHARDSON:** Yes. This is our final slide. Just on socio-economic, I think you had asked for some information on the Council requirement for specific and tangible social benefits and indeed the progress of our VPA.

20 We've had online consultation with Warrumbungle and we're encouraging them to maximise their socio-economic benefits from this project and indeed the CWO REZ. The project benefits that we're looking at are the planning agreement which is \$1,050 per megawatt installed per annum, so that could be up to \$24 million in the project's lifecycle.

25 There's CWO REZ access fees, so should we be successful, the base fee includes \$1,700 per megawatt for community purposes and \$600 per megawatt for employment purposes. The Neighbour Benefit Sharing Scheme I think we've discussed. There's also the –

**MR PEARSON:** Sorry, is that a one-off or an annual thing, the access fee?

30 **MS RICHARDSON:** It's annual.

**MR PEARSON:** Annual. Okay.

35 **MS RICHARDSON:** And I believe it's split between the council areas in the REZ.

**MR PEARSON:** Ah-ha, ah-ha. Okay. Yes.

40 **MS RICHARDSON:** So, the Neighbour Benefit Sharing Scheme we've discussed, which is something we offer up to 5 k from the turbine. There will be employment opportunities and local investment. We're upgrading the local roads, which I think is a key issue and key benefit. And we've also got our host landowner payments over the lifetime of the project, which is a direct cash injection into the local community. And we have our Social Investment Program  
45 as well during development and construction phases.

So, they're just some of the things we're looking at. But I think with Warrumbungle Shire Council, there's so much opportunity coming their way to



develop some pretty impressive infrastructure projects across the region. And we're very much encouraging them to do that and looking to support them where we can.

5 I think that's us. Please ask us any questions if we still have enough time, and sorry for running over.

**MR PEARSON:** No, no, that's fine. We just have another meeting starting at midday, so we do need to rap up soon. Yes, Sarah or Suellen, any final questions?

10

**MS DINNING:** No thank you, Richard.

**MS FITZGERALD:** Just one, Richard. The accommodation camp decommissioned 12 months after completion, I think you said.

15

**MS RICHARDSON:** Yes.

**MS FITZGERALD:** You'd not be thinking that it would be useful for other projects under construction in the area?

20

**MS RICHARDSON:** There is a potential. Yes. And we wouldn't – yes, we would keep our kind of open minds for that. But I think currently we're looking under, and with this approval, to use it for the project and then decommission it accordingly. If things change, I guess we'd have to go in and modify that in the future. Yes.

25

**MR WENTRUP:** Suellen, it's also, I guess, important to remember that each project in its particular location with its particular access routes to site will have, you know, different options to consider with respect to workforce accommodation camp locations.

30

**MS FITZGERALD:** Yes.

**MR WENTRUP:** So, while it is a great location for this project, it might not be a great location for another project due to its distance to site or due to the location of the local road network with regards to that other project and the suitability of making people travel from one location to another. So, in theory, yes, but it would have to tick those boxes and stand up against other options for another project.

35

**MS FITZGERALD:** Yes, thanks Killian. I think there was also one in the Birriwa Solar Farm proposal as well too not far away.

40

**MR WENTRUP:** That's right.

**MS FITZGERALD:** You could have coordinated –

45

**MR WENTRUP:** Which is right next to that site, that's right.

**MS FITZGERALD:** Yes, that's right, yes. So, I guess the concept of coordinating accommodation provision across this district, I guess, is something to keep in mind. Thanks for that. That's all, Richard.

5 **MR PEARSON:** Thanks, Suellen. Anything from staff on this? I think we might come back with a couple of questions on notice, I think, on this, Brad.

**MR BRAD JAMES:** Yes, I've got them down, Richard, and we can chat after this and get them to the Applicant, yes.

10

**MR PEARSON:** Yes. Okay. Look, thanks very much everyone for your time and that presentation and answering our questions. We will see you next Thursday – no, Wednesday at the site inspection. Just important that you have, I guess, the relevant people on site that can answer questions that may come up from the commissioners. And ditto at the public meeting.

15

I guess my suggestion would be to focus on mitigation strategies and how the project has changed from the EIS to the current situation rather than doing a sell job, if you like. I think the important thing is to show how you've responded to issues raised through the EIS exhibition period and what the project is now. Because people may not have a good idea of exactly what the project is today compared to what it was like three years ago.

20

Anyway, that's your job, your role on the day. So, thank you for your time today and we'll certainly have discussions further down the line. We better jump offline now and getting ready for our next meeting.

25

[All say thank you]

30

**MR PEARSON:** See you.

**>THE MEETING CONCLUDED**