

Bendenine Wind Farm



Community Benefit Sharing Fact Sheet

bendeninewindfarm.com.au



Sharing the benefits of renewable energy

Local communities hosting renewable energy projects experience the most direct change and should share in meaningful, long-term benefits.

We will work with the community to develop a Benefit Sharing Plan for the proposed Bendenine Wind Farm. If constructed, we would provide long-term funding and opportunities to support Binalong, Bowning and surrounding areas.

What is benefit sharing?

Benefit sharing provides social and economic benefits to communities hosting projects.

These benefits may involve community funding, direct benefits for neighbouring residents, support for local education, mental health initiatives, and locally focused energy programs.

Benefit sharing is separate from private agreements with landowners who host project infrastructure and agreements with neighbours addressing specific project impacts.

We want to hear from you

We would like to hear your feedback and ideas about what the Benefit Sharing Plan should look like. Your input will help shape the programs.



Programs work best when they reflect:



Local priorities



Deliver lasting value



Provide transparent and consistent outcomes

Shaped with the community

Benefit sharing programs should reflect community priorities and needs.

The Bendenine Wind Farm Benefit Sharing Plan will be developed through ongoing consultation with the local community, including local residents, businesses, community groups, First Nations groups, local council and other stakeholders.

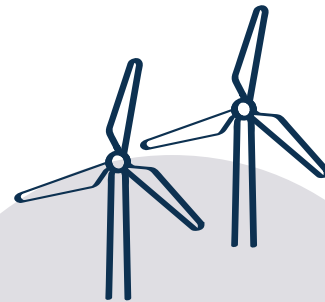
This input will help determine what benefits matter most, how they are shared, how the program is managed, and how it evolves over time.

Benefit Sharing Contribution

We will deliver community benefits that match its scale.

The Project is expected to have a generation capacity of between 400 - 600 megawatts (MW).

This means we would provide a minimum annual community benefits contribution of approximately \$420,000 - \$630,000 per year.



**Minimum
\$15M+**
contribution
over the life of
the wind farm*



400-600MW
anticipated project
generation capacity



\$1,050+ per MW
minimum annual
community benefit[^]



\$420K-\$630K /year
minimum annual
contribution*

[^]Indexed to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) to maintain value over time.

*For an estimated lifetime of 35 years.

Providing certainty while retaining flexibility

Our approach to benefit sharing is intended to align with the NSW Government's Benefit-Sharing Guideline for Large-Scale Renewable Energy Projects (November 2024)*.

In line with this Guideline, community benefit contributions for wind farms are commonly formalised through a voluntary planning agreement (VPA), often with the local Council, which sets out how funds are managed and distributed. Any such arrangement would be developed at a later stage, once the Project design is finalised, and in consultation with the local community. The minimum contribution establishes a clear and transparent baseline for benefit sharing with the local community.

The final contribution amount would be confirmed once the Project's capacity is determined through detailed design and if the Project is approved.

Importantly, we recognise that effective community benefit sharing is not just about the total funding amount, but also about how the benefits are designed and delivered in partnership with the community to reflect local priorities and needs.

**View NSW Government's Benefit-Sharing Guideline for Large-Scale Renewable Energy Projects by visiting www.planning.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-11/benefit-sharing-guideline.pdf*

Shaped by community feedback

Community benefits would be designed and refined through ongoing engagement, with a focus on:

- ▲ Responding to local priorities across construction and operation
- ▲ Considering the timing and structure of contributions to maximise community benefit
- ▲ Ensuring positive outcomes for First Nations communities



Looking ahead

To date, we have gathered initial feedback from stakeholders and community members on preferred approaches to sharing project benefits.

We have taken what we've heard and outlined potential ways of sharing project benefits, which will be explored through continued engagement.



Community Fund

Exploring a long-term fund for lasting community benefit

We will explore the feasibility of establishing a community trust or legacy fund to provide benefits beyond the operational life of the wind farm.

Under this model, a portion of annual community benefit contributions could be invested to create a long-term funding source, supporting local projects and priorities for future generations.

The structure and governance of any fund would be developed in consultation with the community and Council to ensure it reflects local needs and delivers meaningful outcomes.

Key features may include:

- ▲ Independent governance with community representation, with local community members in charge of decisions, not outside organisations
- ▲ Investment to preserve and grow funds over time, so the fund continues to generate ongoing additional income that supports the community beyond the project lifetime



Neighbour Benefit Programs

We are exploring a range of benefit options for nearby households, which may be delivered in different ways.

Targeted neighbour benefit payments

Payments or in-kind support for residents closest to the Project



We will consider a Neighbour Benefit Program to provide direct benefits to residents living closest to wind turbines.

Under this model, homes closest to the Project could receive annual payments or in-kind benefits, with higher benefits for those closer to infrastructure.

The structure of the program, including eligibility and payment levels, would be clearly defined and publicly available to ensure transparency, consistency and fair application.

Key features may include:

- ▲ Distance-based eligibility for homes closest to the project
- ▲ Tiered payments, increasing with proximity to infrastructure
- ▲ Annual payments over the operational life of the Project

Direct energy support for local households

Neighbour benefits delivered through energy solutions



By delivering direct energy benefits to the local community, the Project could help to reduce energy costs and deliver tangible cost-of-living support

This may include initiatives such as discounted electricity, bill credits, or support for solar, batteries and energy efficiency upgrades.

The feasibility and design of these initiatives would be developed in consultation with the community and relevant providers to ensure they are practical, equitable and deliver meaningful outcomes.

Key features may include:

- ▲ Subsidised or discounted electricity for eligible households
- ▲ Bill credits or energy rebates
- ▲ Support for rooftop solar, batteries or energy efficiency upgrades





Partnership Fund

We will explore contributing to a regional fund to support larger, strategic initiatives.

By combining contributions from multiple projects, this approach can enable investment in infrastructure, economic development and long-term community priorities that may not be achievable by individual projects alone.

The structure and feasibility of any fund would be developed in partnership with Council, other developers and the community to ensure it aligns with regional priorities and delivers lasting value.

Exploring coordinated investment for region-wide outcomes

Key features may include:

- ▲ Pooled contributions from multiple projects
- ▲ Investment in regional infrastructure and initiatives
- ▲ Coordinated, long-term funding
- ▲ Independent or Council-led governance



Emerging Benefit Sharing Models

We may consider new or alternative approaches that support long-term community benefits, beyond traditional funding models.

Where feasible, this could include options such as partnerships or targeted programs that support longer-term community outcomes.

Any such approaches would be subject to feasibility, regulatory requirements and appropriate governance.

Exploring new approaches to long-term community benefits

Key features may include:

- ▲ Community investment or benefit trusts
- ▲ Local equity participation opportunities
- ▲ Co-investment or partnerships with local organisations
- ▲ First Nations economic participation programs






We want to hear from you

We would like to hear your feedback and ideas about what the Benefit Sharing Plan should look like.



The final benefit sharing plan will be developed concurrently with the Project's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), and will be finalised prior to construction commencing.

You can also provide feedback at any time via:

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