

# MALLEE WIND FARM

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER #7, January 2026

## Introduction

Mallee Wind Farm is a renewable energy project located in the Wentworth Local Government Area in New South Wales, approximately 16 km north-east of Buronga.

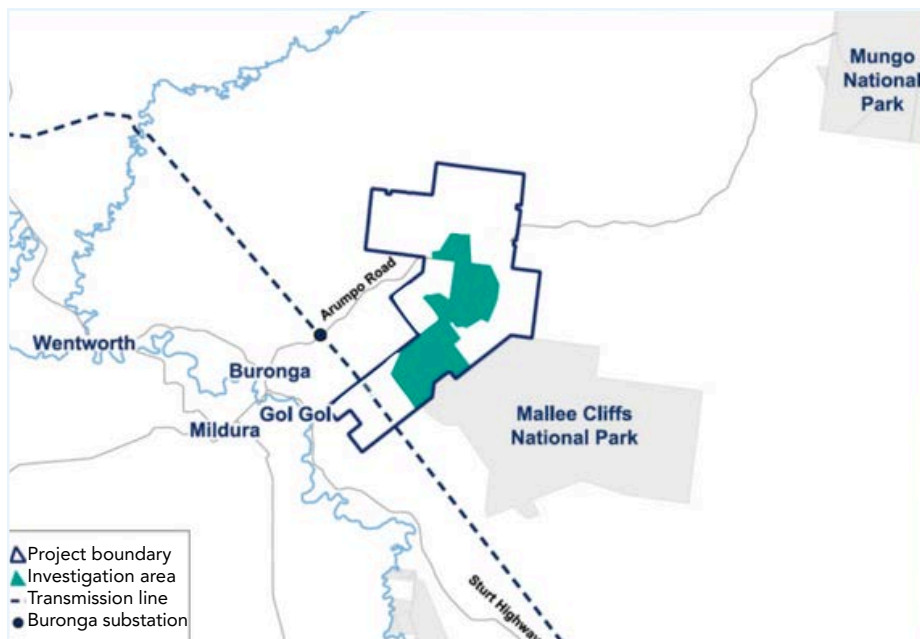
Mallee Wind Farm has a proposed generation capacity of 400 megawatts (MW) and would be co-located with a 100 MW battery energy storage system (BESS).

The site is ideally located on flat, cleared land with a strong wind resource. The Mallee Wind Farm is well positioned to generate, store, and dispatch electricity to the National Electricity Market.

A Submissions Report is currently being prepared, following public exhibition of the Environmental Impact Statement in November 2024.

The project is developed by Spark Renewables, a leading developer and long-term owner of Australian renewable energy projects.

More information about the project is available at [malleewindfarm.com](http://malleewindfarm.com).



## Project overview


 **400** MW  
**WIND FARM**

Up to 76 wind turbines  
(up to 280 metre tip height)

 **100** MW  
**BESS**

Capacity to supply 200 MWh

## Impact

 **> 200,000** houses  
Equivalent to supplying electricity to households with an annual consumption of 6,700 kWh

 **> 400** jobs  
Up to 400 jobs during peak construction and around 30 jobs during operations

 **\$420,000**

Annual direct payments to community and council funds during construction and operations based on 400 MW capacity

# STUDIES

## Environmental assessments

The project is planned to be built on open, cropped land to minimise potential impacts on biodiversity.

This spring we continued undertaking detailed biodiversity surveys across the project area to identify any threatened species that may be present. These surveys play an important role in ensuring that sensitive habitats are protected and that our project planning aligns with environmental regulatory requirements.

Throughout the year the engineering team conducted on-ground monitoring activities to collect data. Together data from the surveys and monitoring will help guide our ongoing environmental assessments and support responsible project development.



Biodiversity surveys to understand local vegetation communities



Site visit attended by University of Sydney intern Hugh Aldersey

## Cultivating partnerships via the La Trobe University



Cultivating Change, a roundtable organised by the La Trobe University's Mildura Campus, September 2025

La Trobe University's Mildura Campus recently hosted the *Cultivating Change: Sustainable Agriculture and Food Roundtable*, bringing together industry leaders, researchers and community stakeholders to explore new opportunities for the region's \$1.5 billion agriculture sector.

Spark Renewables was honoured to take part and share how renewable energy can further support and strengthen local agricultural production. Led by Physics Professor Chris Pakes and co-chaired by the Head of Campus, Sandy Connor; the event highlighted priorities including better data access, workforce sustainability, technological innovation and climate resilience as part of sustainable agricultural development.





Spark Renewables proudly supports the communities where our projects are developed. Our focus is to create lasting, positive change that supports the needs of each community where we operate.

## Engagement events

Thank you to everyone who attended the stalls at public events or participated in meetings. Throughout the year, we met with the council as well as project-involved landholders and neighbouring residents to develop measures that minimise project impacts and propose benefit-sharing initiatives that deliver social value based on local priorities. The highlights of 2025 included the Mildura Field Day and the Wentworth Show, which provided another opportunity to reconnect with the community and celebrate local produce and talent. The Spark Renewables team spoke with residents about local priorities and answered questions regarding project benefits and environmental considerations.



Honey from the Bomen Solar Farm was used to attract conversations at the Mildura Field Days information stall

## Voluntary planning agreement

Under the Mallee Wind Farm community benefit-sharing program, based on a payment of \$1,050 per MW, a 400 MW wind farm would distribute \$420,000 annually, to be shared across four funds.

Spark Renewables proudly supports the communities where our projects are developed, focusing on creating lasting, positive change. We are committed to providing benefit-sharing funds consistent with the NSW *Benefit Sharing Guideline*, at \$1,050 per MW annually, adjusted for inflation, over the project's 35-year lifespan.

During consultation with the council and community, we sought feedback on needs and opportunities for a community benefit fund and its potential structure. As a result of this, Spark Renewables proposed establishing four funds as part of the Voluntary Planning Agreement that supports council projects, provides community grants, and funds First Nations initiatives, as well as scholarship and youth programs.

The fund allocations are based on feedback received through our community and stakeholder engagement to date as well as the strategic objectives of the Wentworth Shire Council.

Share	Fund
75%	<b>Council Projects Fund</b> towards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• housing</li><li>• conservation &amp; heritage</li><li>• workforce capability</li><li>• sports &amp; recreation</li></ul>
10%	Council-administered <b>Community Benefit Fund</b> providing grant funding
10%	Independent <b>Aboriginal Community Fund</b>
5%	Independent <b>Scholarship &amp; Youth Fund</b>



## Development application update

The Mallee Wind Farm is a State Significant Development. Under NSW planning legislation, the project is deemed to have significance for the state and requires a planning and assessment process that is designed to be rigorous and ensure environmental, social, and economic impacts are properly considered.

As part of this process an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has been prepared, including detailed technical studies on environmental, social, cultural, and economic impacts. Public exhibition of the EIS was completed in November 2024, allowing the community and stakeholders to review the project impacts and make submissions with feedback and improvements.

Once Spark Renewables has responded to the matters raised in submissions, the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure will complete an assessment of the project application. Approval will be required from the NSW Independent Planning Commission and the Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water.

Find the Mallee Wind Farm Environmental Impact Statement on the NSW Planning Portal for Major Projects

 [planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/mallee-wind-farm](https://planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/mallee-wind-farm)



## Response to Submissions early 2026

We are now preparing a Submissions Report with replies to key matters raised during public exhibition including further information on road upgrades, biodiversity surveys, and cultural heritage assessments.

