

# Socio-economic Impact Assessment

## Darroobalgie Solar Farm

Darroobalgie Solar Farm is a proposed renewable energy project located approximately 11 kilometres northeast of Forbes in NSW. The Project would comprise of a solar farm (approximately 100 MW) and transmission line to connect the solar farm to the existing electricity transmission network. The Project would provide enough electricity to power the equivalent of 34,000 homes each year.

### Socio-economic Impact Assessment

An independent assessment of the socio-economic impacts of the Project has been undertaken by SMEC Australia Pty Ltd. This assessment is being prepared to inform the Environmental Impact Statement for the Project.

### Community Impacts, Benefits and Management Measures

#### Potential Key Impacts

The socio-economic study indicates that the proposed development may create some disturbance or inconvenience for the local community, particularly during construction. The main potential impacts are highlighted in the table below with measures that will be taken to ensure these impacts are managed appropriately.

Since 2005, Pacific Hydro's *Sustainable Community Fund* has provided more than \$4.3 million to over 600 local projects

|                                | Potential impacts  | Potential management measures  |
|--------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>Landscape/visual</b>        | Change of landscape character/visual amenity   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plant screening vegetation where necessary to reduce impact</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Noise</b>                   | Increased noise during construction  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Confine activities to standard hours of construction</li> <li>Notify the community of construction activities in advance</li> <li>Establish a complaints management process</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Traffic</b>                 | <p>Increased safety risks due to the movement of heavy construction vehicles</p> <p>Increased delays-traffic movements on local roads due to construction vehicles</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and implement a Traffic Management Plan in coordination with Council, NSW Department of Roads and local property owners</li> <li>Schedule construction material delivery and associated heavy vehicle movement outside of school bus operating hours and peak activity at the Livestock Stock Exchange</li> </ul> |
| <b>Housing / Accommodation</b> | Increased demand for short-term accommodation in Forbes/Parkes   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collaborate with accommodation providers to ensure adequate short-term supply of accommodation during high-demand periods</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Community</b>               | Potential opposition due to perceived impacts/change in use of agricultural land   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regularly engage with local communities to understand concerns and expectations</li> <li>Provide regular Project updates to the community</li> </ul>  |



## Economic benefits

The proposed Project would involve a total estimated capital expenditure of \$180 million. This would be spent on a number of different products and services, some of which may be sourced from within the local and regional area.

It is anticipated that the Project will employ up to 320 workers at the peak of construction. The construction workforce will comprise a range of skilled and semi-skilled positions including labourers, civil contractors, electricians, other subcontractors and project managers. It is anticipated that about 50% of the construction workforce will be able to be sourced regionally.

The construction workforce in the local area would increase demand for food, accommodation and other consumables in the local areas which would deliver a positive impact for existing service providers in Forbes and Parkes.

During operation, the Project would continue to benefit the local economy through employment and business opportunities. The Project is anticipated to generate four to six full-time jobs during operations and increase demand for other services. Income derived from employment can enhance socio-economic wellbeing and prosperity for individuals and local community.

## Community Benefits

Pacific Hydro is a leading renewable energy developer and is committed to supporting the communities that host our project's with positive and lasting benefits. We do this through our Sustainable Communities Fund, which financially supports local projects and initiatives such as equipment purchases, renovation/rehabilitation projects and new programs that enhance the community's quality of life and wellbeing.

Pacific Hydro has commenced consultation with Forbes Shire Council about how the Sustainable Communities Fund will be implemented for this Project.

### About Pacific Hydro

Founded in Australia in 1992, Pacific Hydro operates a high quality, diversified portfolio of wind, solar and hydro renewable assets in Australia, and has a significant pipeline of renewable projects under development, as well as a growing electricity and gas retail business, Tango Energy. Pacific Hydro is owned by State Power Investment Corporation (SPIC). SPIC is one of the top five power generation groups in China.

