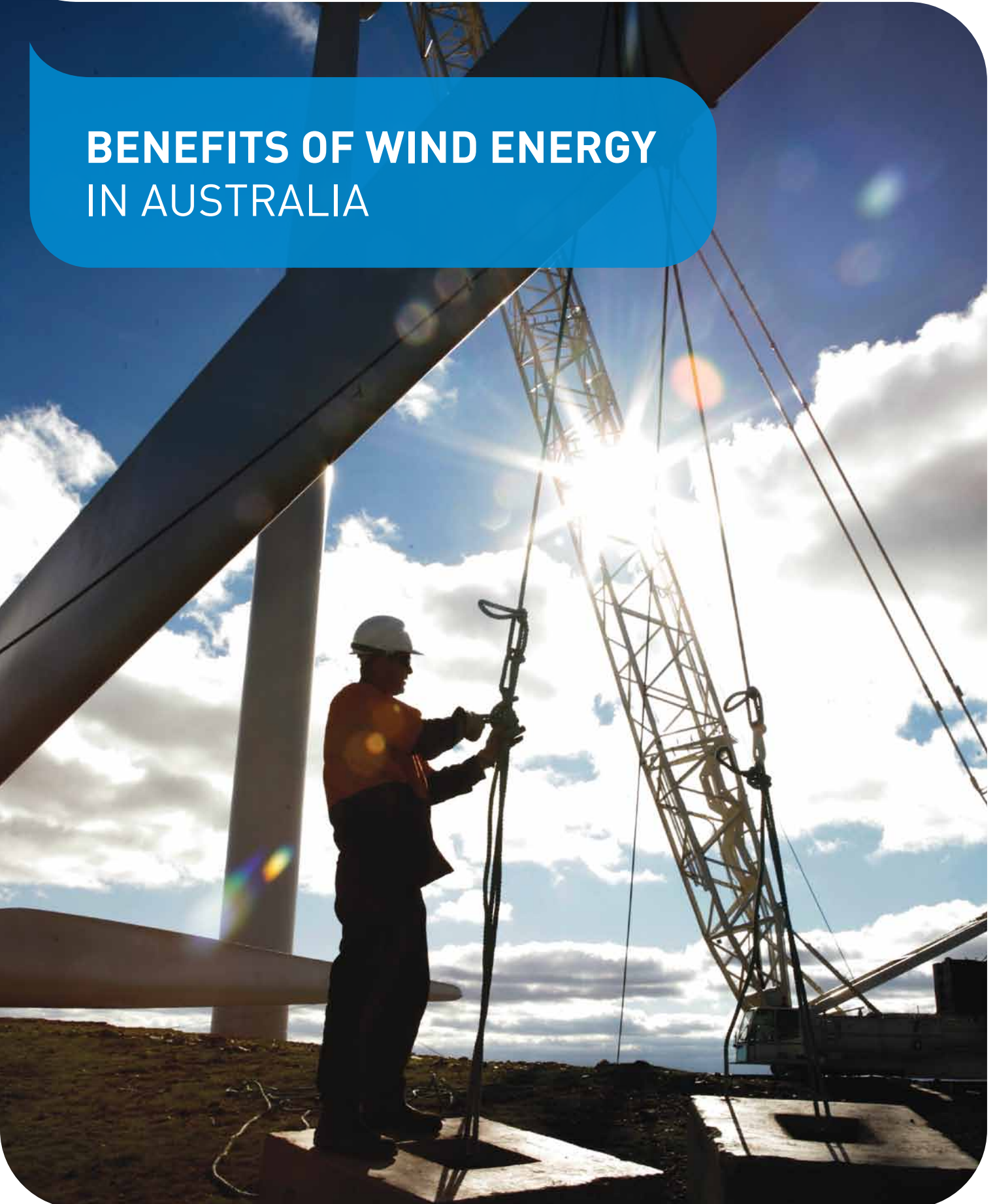




Clean Energy Council

# BENEFITS OF WIND ENERGY IN AUSTRALIA



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# ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF WIND IN AUSTRALIA

The Clean Energy Council commissioned independent consultants SKM to produce a national and state-based snapshot on wind farm investment, jobs and carbon abatement. SKM looked at existing wind farm financial data and interviewed four companies with experience in numerous wind farm projects. The report presents a breakdown of investment during the construction and operations phases of a major wind farm, collated from actual data provided by developers, contractors, advisers and consultants.

## INVESTMENT

- Total local capital investment in Australian wind farms: \$4.25 billion (of a total \$7 billion).
- Potential further local investment in proposed wind farms: some \$17.8 billion (of a total \$29.6 billion).

Typical project components that result in Australian investment include wind turbine towers, civil and electrical works, design and development, construction, and of course staff.



## JOBS

Wind farms result in direct and indirect jobs in the local region, the state and nationally.

## LOCAL INVESTMENT

The SKM report found that a typical 50 megawatt (MW) wind farm:

- Has an estimated average construction workforce of 48 people with each worker spending \$25,000 per year in the local area. This equates to some \$1.2 million per year flowing into hotels, shops, restaurants, and other local service providers.
- Employs around five staff for operations and maintenance, equating to an ongoing local annual influx of \$125,000.
- Provides up to \$250,000 annually in payments to farmers, a proportion of which flows into the local community.
- Provides a community contribution of up to some \$80,000 per year for the life of the project.

### CONSTRUCTION JOBS (ONE-YEAR, FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT) PER 50 MW WIND FARM

	LOCAL / REGIONAL	STATE	AUSTRALIA
DIRECT EMPLOYMENT	48	147	238
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT INCLUDING INDIRECT JOBS	160	504	795

### OPERATIONS JOBS (ONGOING FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT) PER 50 MW WIND FARM

	LOCAL / REGIONAL	STATE	AUSTRALIA
DIRECT EMPLOYMENT	5	7	16
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT INCLUDING INDIRECT JOBS	12	19	44

# BENEFITS OF WIND FARMS IN REGIONAL COMMUNITIES

## BRIAN AND MARCIA OSBORNE

*Landholders at Capital Wind Farm, NSW*

### BACKGROUND:

Brian and Marcia are landholders for the Capital Wind Farm at Bungendore – they have 27 turbines on their property. The closest turbine is 900 metres from their home. The property has been in the family since 1866.

### BENEFITS:

“Income from the wind farm has enabled us to reduce our stocking rates and take better care of our paddocks. We’ve spent around \$100,000 on erosion problems and planted thousands of trees.

“This change has been accompanied by an increase in black wallaby, parrots and eagles – none of which seem affected by the adjacent turbines.

“I’m always surprised when people ask if our livestock mind the wind turbines. Our maiden Merino wool last year was some of the best wool we’ve ever had. Our classer said it was the best we had ever shown him and right amongst the best he had ever seen. Their upbringing was almost exclusively in the paddocks beneath the wind towers.”



*“The roads put in by the wind farm developer give us much better access to our property which has improved our stock management practices and bushfire access.”*

## SCOTT MARTIN AND DEB CURTIS

*Business owners of  
Cape Bridgewater Café, Vic*

### BACKGROUND:

Scott and Deb have owned the local café in Cape Bridgewater for the past three-and-a-half years – from about a year after the Cape Bridgewater wind farm was built. This is the first time they have owned a café and they bought it after doing a Great Ocean Road trip from Adelaide.

It is a seven-days-a-week café with increased daily hours during summer.

### BENEFITS:

“We get a lot of people asking about the wind farm.

“The wind company donated \$80,000 towards a Sustainable Community Fund and we catered for the function.

“We benefit from the tradesmen and maintenance team and from company functions.”

“A lot of tourists are interested in wind farms – people are interested in wind energy.

“We have formed friendships with the maintenance team – they are even part of our footy tipping competition.

*“It has brought a community to our community.”*



# BENEFITS OF WIND FARMS IN REGIONAL COMMUNITIES

## BRIAN AND JILL WILSON

*Landholders at Clements Gap Wind Farm, SA*

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### BACKGROUND:

Brian and Jill own 3500 acres. The property has been in the family since 1872 (they are fifth generation farmers) with an emphasis on crops and sheep. They have three children and their closest turbine is 1km from their house.

The local area experienced an unprecedented drought in 2006/07 which all of the local farmers are still recovering from.

### BENEFITS:

“This is the first time we have had another source of income not dependent on rainfall. Turbines have helped us to drought-proof the farm.

“The road tracks are also an asset both as fire breaks and giving us greater access to all parts of our property.

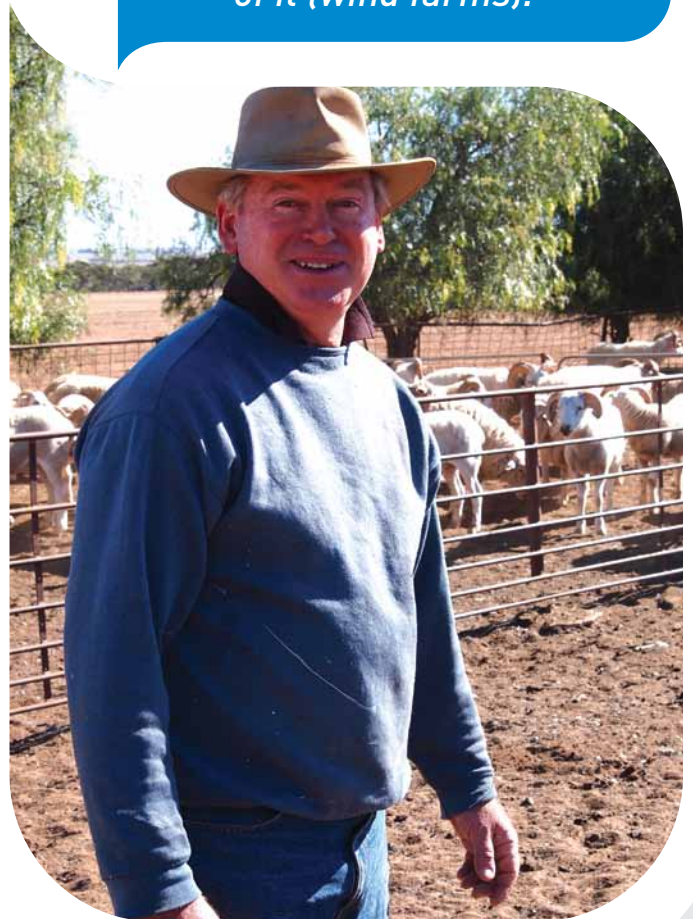
“It is a real benefit having the workers around, an extra set of eyes. They notify us if there is an injured animal, damaged fence or an open gate.

“More noise comes out of the trees than the turbines.

“The hills are as they have always been and the sheep love the shade of the turbines during the hot summer months.

“It is a windy place, we need power, otherwise it is a wasted resource.”

*“I can't see the downside of it (wind farms).”*



## STEVE MACKINTOSH

*Worker at Capital Wind Farm, NSW*

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Steve has been working at Capital Wind Farm for one-and-a-half years. He has been a local of Bungendore for the past 30 years. He is pleased to be working for the wind farm because it means he has the chance to work locally.

*“The job means I stay locally.”*

“I also have a chance to work on other wind farms and there is loads of training in this industry.”

# BENEFITS OF WIND FARMS IN REGIONAL COMMUNITIES

## SARAH AND PETER SHARP

*Landholders at Cape Nelson South, Vic*

### BACKGROUND:

Sarah and Peter have lived in southwest Victoria for the past 11 years. Sarah was born locally. They manage 200 hectares with 5000 cattle on the land. The couple have four children aged 22, 20, 16 and 14.



### BENEFITS:

“We appreciate the diversity of income as well as having a keen interest in renewable energy.

“The wind farm opened up a door to vegetation offset – existing scrub is now protected, conserved for the future.

“The wind company helps to fund the Landcare Group which benefits the local community.

***“In a funny way the wind farm has preserved the coastline because it can’t be sub-divided.”***



## STUART NICOLSON

*Lead Service Technician at  
Clements Gap Wind Farm, SA*

### BACKGROUND:

Stuart (Stuey) has worked at the Clements Gap Wind Farm for the past three-and-a-half years – almost since the commencement of the project. He previously worked on Hallett and Snowtown wind farms – all up about six years. Stuey has a heavy vehicle diesel mechanic background. He has lived on a property at Narridy, between Crystal Brook and Gulnare, all his life. He met his wife at Crystal Brook and they have three children.

### BENEFITS:

“Employment and being able to stay locally. I have had lots of training since working on wind farms and have met some very interesting people from all over the world.

***“I’m doing something worthwhile.”***



Shaun Blackie, worker at  
Codrington Wind Farm, Victoria



Ben Mumford lives next door  
to Clements Gap Wind Farm, SA

VIEW THIS DOCUMENT  
AND THE FULL REPORT AT  
[cleanenergycouncil.org.au](http://cleanenergycouncil.org.au)



The Clean Energy Council is the peak body representing Australia's clean energy sector. It is an industry association made up of more than 600 member companies operating in the fields of renewable energy and energy efficiency.

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