

Hills of Gold Wind Farm

SOCIAL & ECONOMIC FACT SHEET

November 2021

SGS Economics and Planning were engaged to do the social and economic assessment. They have extensive expertise in assessing, quantifying and explaining the social and economic impacts of a range of projects including renewables.

Based on SGS assessment, the Hills of Gold Wind Farm in the short-term (construction phase), would have a significant positive economic impact with guaranteed financial gains.

- In the longer-term (operation phase), the project would continue to have a positive economic impact on the local economy.
- The project is expected to include capital expenditure in the local regional economy of \$370 million with ongoing operational expenditure of around \$18.5 million not including financing costs.
- The project is expected to produce nearly \$154 million (\$104 million discounted) in value-add (e.g. wages and profit) during the construction phase.



What skills & trades will be needed?

We expect a number of skills and suppliers to be required by our main contractor during the construction phase of the project which include:

Skills

- Earthworks plant operator
- Labourers
- Mechanical and electrical engineers/fitters
- Cementers and grouters
- Building contractors
- Heavy vehicle truck drivers
- Heavy machinery operators
- Pipelayers
- Welding and engineering

Suppliers

- Mechanics and maintenance
- Cleaners
- Accommodation
- Catering services
- Equipment hire
- Fencers
- Freight
- Waste management
- Administration



What are the benefits of the project?

- During the construction phase there will be 211 direct jobs and 404 indirect job created.
- Once operational, the wind farm will provide 16 local jobs, as well as opportunities to develop new skills in the region within the growing renewable energy industry.
- Hills of Gold Community Enhancement Fund to be established, with a commitment of \$3,000 per turbine per year installed and operating, expected over a period of at least 25 years.
- Investment and financial contributions of \$104 million, through wages and profit to local communities and services.
- Boost to the local and regional economy and local businesses.
- Training, skills development and education programs.



Community Enhancement Fund

- Separate funds for each council.
- Revised funding commitment, increased from \$2,500 to \$3,000 per turbine and held at \$210,000 per annum + inflation unless changes to layout are required.
- Independent Chair to be selected for the committee with respected/influential local to be appointed with neutral project views.
- Funding during construction, with a new \$150,000 commitment for local scholarships, training or other community initiatives.
- Increase administration costs, with \$10,000 set up costs paid by project to TRC. \$10,000 First Year and \$5,000 thereafter paid by project to TRC for annual administration.