

# Theodore Wind Farm

Newsletter  
Edition 2, September 2024

RWE Renewables Australia has submitted the development application (DA) for the proposed Theodore Wind Farm, in the Banana Shire, to the Queensland Government.

The submission to the State Assessment and Referral Agency (SARA) incorporates the detailed studies and investigations undertaken by independent experts over the past two years. You can read more about these studies in this newsletter. The DA will be open for public comment after submission. We will provide further details on dates via our project website, as soon as they become available.

At a federal level, the project has been determined as a 'controlled action' under the *Environment Protection Authority Act 1999* (EPBC Act), meaning further assessment is needed. This process is underway.

We have remained engaged with the community throughout the planning and approvals process and thank you for your feedback on the project to date. We invite you to stay engaged by liaising with the project team directly or via the opportunities outlined in this newsletter, or commenting on the DA through SARA. We value your input and look forward to continuing to work together to ensure the proposed Theodore Wind Farm delivers lasting benefits to your community.

Best regards,

**Matt Walker**

Theodore Wind Farm, Project Lead

*RWE Renewables Australia respectfully acknowledges the Wulli Wulli people, the Traditional Owners of the lands where the Theodore Wind Farm is proposed, and pay our respect to their Elders, past, present and emerging.*

## Find out more

1800 879 435

theodorewindfarm@rwe.com

Drop into an open cafe session:  
see back page of this newsletter



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## At a glance



Up to 170 **wind turbines** with a tip height of up to 270m



**Located** about 22km east of Theodore, 50km south-west of Biloela and 150km south-west of Gladstone. The area is predominantly used for cattle grazing



Site investigation area of about **46,000** hectares, with an expected operating footprint of less than 3% of this land



**Installed capacity** of about 1,100 megawatts (MW)



About **500,000 Queensland homes** powered



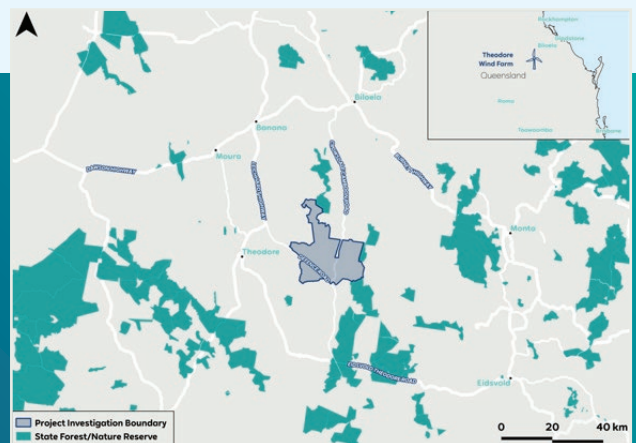
**Project status:** Planning and approvals



Start of **construction** planned for 2026  
Estimated 3-4 year construction period



Targeting 2027 for initial **operations**  
Expected to be fully operational in 2029



Theodore  
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[au.rwe.com/projects/theodore-wind-farm](http://au.rwe.com/projects/theodore-wind-farm)

# Supporting your community

## Apply for Community Sponsorship

We have established a sponsorship fund of \$100,000 per calendar year to support community groups and events in the Theodore area during the planning and approvals phase of the project.

We welcome funding submissions from not-for-profit organisations including sporting and recreational clubs, charities, community volunteer groups, parent groups, playgroups, environmental organisations, aged and/or disability support, event organising committees, community-led development groups and business chambers.

**If you are part of a community or non-profit group, we want to hear from you. We are meeting with community groups to understand their needs and welcome your feedback.**

If your group could benefit from sponsorship, please contact the team to arrange a meeting on:

 1800 879 435

 [theodrewindfarm@rwe.com](mailto:theodrewindfarm@rwe.com)

More than

**\$25K** already allocated

Sponsorship distributed to date includes:

\$5,000 Theodore Junior Roosters Rugby League Club

\$5,000 Theodore Centenary Celebrations

\$5,000 Theodore State School P&C

\$5,000 Camboon Campdraft

\$3,000 Theodore Museum

\$3,000 Bulls N Barrels Bonanza



## How to apply

If you would like to apply for sponsorship, scan the QR code and download the application form from the website, or visit [au.rwe.com/projects/theodore-wind-farm](http://au.rwe.com/projects/theodore-wind-farm).



## Have your say on the Community Benefit Fund

RWE will establish a Community Benefit Fund of at least \$500,000 per year – equating to about \$17.5 million across the operational life of the wind farm – once the project moves into the construction phase.

This fund will be administered by a local community committee, who will be responsible for deciding how the money is spent.

In other communities, funds have supported initiatives including new uniforms for sporting clubs, through to medical equipment for rural hospitals.

**We want to hear your suggestions about how this fund can make a positive difference to your community.**

To have your say, contact the team or drop into an open cafe session, as outlined on the back page of this newsletter.



# Delivering benefits

## A snapshot



### Community contributions

- \$100,000 per year in community sponsorship during the planning and approvals phase of the project.
- Community Benefit Fund of at least \$500,000 per year commencing at the construction phase (\$17.5 million over the wind farm's operational life) to support local projects and improve community connections.
- Unused funds from community sponsorship program will be rolled over to the Community Benefit Fund.



### Economic impact

- Ongoing economic stimulus for the region across the proposed project's 35 years of operation.
- Up to 50 permanent jobs during the wind farm's operations.
- Up to 500 jobs at peak construction periods.
- Support for local supply chains including hospitality, trades and other suppliers.
- Rates payments to Banana Shire Council.



### Energy and infrastructure

- Proposed generation of electricity to power about 500,000 homes - equivalent to powering all private dwellings in the Banana Shire 57 times or the city of Rockhampton close to 15 times.
- Significant contribution to Queensland's Renewable Energy Targets (70% by 2032, 80% by 2035).
- Enhanced electricity security for Queenslanders.

# An update on the wind farm's status

Independent subject matter experts have been conducting detailed studies and investigations on various topics since 2022.

These studies include:

Site Access and Route Assessment

Post-Construction Rehabilitation Plan

Environmental Assessment Report

Stormwater Assessment

Natural Hazard Risk Assessment

Bird and Bat Management Plan

Aviation Impact Assessment

Accommodation Options Report

Vegetation and Fauna Management Plan

Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment

Socio-Economic Impact Analysis

Erosion Risk Assessment

Electromagnetic Interference Assessment

Traffic Impact Assessment

Noise Impact Assessment

Construction Management Plan

- **The studies have been included in the development application\* (DA) to the Queensland Government's State Assessment and Referral Agency (SARA)** to be assessed against State code 23: Wind farm development. Banana Shire Council will be asked to provide all relevant secondary consents (minor planning amendments) such as road upgrades or construction workforce accommodation as the project progresses. The DA will soon be open for public comment.
- An Ecological Assessment Report (EAR) was included in the application to the Federal Government in March 2024 under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act). The EPBC referral was open for public comment for two weeks in June, and in July it was determined that **the project is a controlled action**. This means further assessment is needed under the EPBC Act. This process is underway. You can view the Theodore submission via the EPBC Act Public Portal at [epbcpublicportal.awe.gov.au](http://epbcpublicportal.awe.gov.au).

\*The planning documentation refers to Theodore Energy Development Pty Ltd (TED) as the 'client name'. TED is a subsidiary of RWE RENEWABLES EUROPE & AUSTRALIA GMBH.



Join us!

## Wind farm open cafe sessions

Tuesday, 15 October  
12:30pm to 4.30pm  
at Theodore Home &  
Garden Cafe








Wednesday, 16 October  
8:30am to 12 noon  
at Castle Creek Cafe

Monday, 18 November  
12:30pm to 4.30pm  
Theodore Home &  
Garden Cafe






Tuesday, 19 November  
8:30am to 12 noon  
at Castle Creek Cafe

# Planning progress

## Queensland Government

-  Site selection, initial concept and preliminary investigations
-  Pre-lodgement meeting with State Assessment and Referral Agency (SARA)
-  Studies and assessments prescribed by SARA State code 23
-  **Application and assessments lodged with SARA**
-  **SARA will refer development application to regulatory stakeholders** (such as Council and government departments) for review and input. During this stage, if required, SARA will request more information and responses.
-  **Assessment**
-  **Decision of development application by SARA**

## Federal Government

-  Referral to the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) for review under the federal *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).
-  DCCEEW reviews referral and decision from Minister
  - **Controlled action**  
Further assessment is required. This may include survey work.
  - **Not a controlled action - particular manner**  
Development must be undertaken according to the particular manner in the decision notice.
  - **Not a controlled action**  
Development must be undertaken as described in the referral.
-  **Submission of further information**  
Referral placed on public exhibition for comment.
-  **Government assessment**
-  **Minister's decision**

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# RWE

Renewables Australia



For more information about RWE Renewables Australia, scan the QR code or visit [au.rwe.com](https://au.rwe.com)

## Engaging with you

Thank you to everyone in the community who has engaged with us to date. Your feedback is vital in shaping our ongoing assessments and decision-making processes. We look forward to continuing our collaboration as the proposed wind farm progresses.

- We have been discussing the project and seeking feedback from various stakeholders including landholders, neighbours, individuals, councils, community groups and organisations.
- This includes engagement with the Native Title Holders of the proposed wind farm site, the Wullli Wullli Nation Aboriginal Corporation, in relation to a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP).
- We have held a series of community drop-in sessions in the Theodore and Banana communities during 2023 and 2024. The sessions were opportunities for the community to speak with the project team and technical specialists about the proposed project and view information on a variety of topics. The topics included biodiversity, landscape and visual, traffic and transportation, wind farms and agriculture, and more. If you missed out on attending the sessions please contact us via phone or email for further information.
- The community had the opportunity to review the project details and have its say during the Federal Government's public exhibition of the proposal under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* (EPBC Act) in June 2024.

## Other engagement opportunities

We are meeting with community groups to understand their needs in relation to funding opportunities, as outlined on the previous page of this newsletter, and gain their perspective on the community's needs. If your group could benefit, please call or email the team on **1800 879 435** or email [theodorewindfarm@rwe.com](mailto:theodorewindfarm@rwe.com) to arrange a meeting and provide feedback.

We will continue to engage with other key project stakeholders across various methods. This includes continued engagement with the Wullli Wullli Nation Aboriginal Corporation in relation to a CHMP.

We will also be engaging with local businesses and service providers in 2025 as part of our commitment to engaging local goods and services where possible.

Join us!

Theodore  
Wind Farm

RWE

## Wind farm open cafe sessions

Drop in to an open cafe session in the township of Theodore and chat with our team to learn more about the project.

We look forward to welcoming you at the below dates, times and locations:

**Tuesday, 15 October 2024**  
from 12:30pm to 4.30pm  
at Theodore Home & Garden Cafe

**Wednesday, 16 October 2024**  
from 8:30am to 12 noon  
at Castle Creek Cafe

**Monday, 18 November 2024**  
from 12:30pm to 4.30pm  
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