



# Morris & Piper

## Renewable Energy Awareness and Career Training project (REACT)

Prepared for: Dubbo Regional Council  
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Project Summary – Community Impacts

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## What is REACT?

The Renewable Energy Awareness and Career Training (REACT) project will be delivered in Wellington NSW, at the heart of the first NSW Renewable Energy Zone, the Central West Orana Renewable Energy zone (the CWO REZ).

### Training...

REACT aims to support the renewable energy transition, by delivering the pipeline of skilled workers for the renewable energy sector. Dubbo Regional Council will invest \$11.25 million to activate the project using funding received via the NSW Government REZ legacy fund. A renewable energy career training centre, offering vocational and technical skills training will be operated through strategic partnerships including industry, and tertiary and VET sector training providers.



### ... and Discovery



*Example image, courtesy of Shutterstock: Nur Alem, Future Energy Museum*

In addition, beyond inception of the renewable energy career training centre, Dubbo Regional Council intends to deliver a long-term tourism legacy piece for the town of Wellington.

The Wellington Discovery Centre, is envisaged as an attraction for students and visitors young and old, providing engaging learning and activity driven exhibits focusing on renewable energy technology and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) engagement.

## Why REACT?

With Wellington in the heart of NSW's first renewable energy zone, an opportunity has been presented.

The Central West Orana Renewable Energy Zone is expected to bring up to **\$20 billion in private investment** to the Central-West Orana region by 2030.

Dubbo Regional Council is keen to capture as much of this benefit for the local community as possible. It will be an enormous lost opportunity, for this investment not to result in intergenerational benefits for Wellington.

Since the announcement of the CWO REZ, the NSW government announced it would provide \$45 million toward the Central-West Orana REZ Legacy Infrastructure Fund (the LIF). Under the LIF each of the four LGAs within the CWO REZ are eligible to receive up to \$11.25 million toward the delivery of infrastructure projects that will deliver long-term and legacy benefits for local communities within the Central-West Orana REZ.

Dubbo Regional Council will invest \$11.25 million to activate the REACT project using funding received via the NSW Government REZ legacy fund.





## Why Renewable Energy Training?

It is estimated there will be at least 3,000 jobs created in the CWO REZ by 2050. There will be an average of 20,600 full-time renewable sector jobs per year across NSW from 2023-2050.

**Having a world class renewable energy training centre in Wellington has the potential to deliver enormous opportunity for the community.**

REACT will bring opportunities for local people including those in existing trades, youth, aboriginal people, local business people, but also disadvantaged and disengaged cohorts such as the long term unemployed, as well as inmates at the Wellington correction centre. REACT has the potential to help turn lives around, leaving a lasting legacy. A specific focus on training and employment opportunity can help address socio-economic disadvantage.

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*Only 42.5 percent of the Wellington population has obtained a minimum Year 12 High School Certificate or equivalent, compared to 66.6 percent across NSW.*

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Level of educational attainment has a substantial impact on long term life prospects and career earning potential. Educational and career opportunities are also critical to prisoner reform and successful reintegration. The historical lack of job opportunities in the Wellington area, has exacerbated incarceration rates.

With the CWO REZ representing a long-term employment pipeline within the Wellington area, targeted renewable energy qualifications as well as industry support can help break the cycle, providing on-country long-term and rewarding career opportunities.

## Why a Discovery Centre?

A number of skilled occupations are critical to achieving NetZero, particularly in Engineering and Electrical roles.

By choosing a career path aligned to the needs of local employers, young people will have the opportunity to earn a decent living whilst remaining in the area.

### **Early engagement is key**

One of the main ambitions of the Discovery Centre is to help build young people's interest in STEM disciplines. Early engagement will help set local school students up for further study and career vocational training, and ultimately rewarding, exciting and long-lasting careers in the renewable sector.

A Discovery Centre will also deliver a tourism centre piece for Wellington, with the ability to capture greater visitor numbers, supporting a range of other business and employment opportunities for people living in the area.



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## Additional Business and Employment opportunities for Wellington

The REACT project will itself deliver 25 Full-time equivalent construction jobs, and 11 direct full-time equivalent ongoing jobs in Wellington.

A myriad of new indirect jobs will also be supported, with an additional 50,000 half day visits to Wellington expected each year, leading to a significant increase in overnight stays, and tourism spending.

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*Over \$5 million in additional local visitor spending is anticipated each year.*

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Further opportunities will be generated across the hospitality and wider service sector such as for café owners and employees, accommodation providers, local retailers, tour guides and curators, trainers and admin staff, local artists, maintenance and repair workers, groundskeepers, cleaners and security staff.



