



Renewable Energy Policy - Issues and Options Paper Engagement Report



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Introduction

The purpose of the Issues and Options Paper consultation is to inform the creation of an AMR Shire Renewable Energy Local Planning Policy (LPP).

The consultation aims to provide our community the opportunity to share feedback on the Issues and Options Paper around renewable energy that will inform the LPP.

Engagement Methods

1. Interactive online survey

Simple, clear and easy to understand survey aimed at understanding the views of a broad audience.

2. Other

As needed depending on time and response rates from online survey.

Communication Methods

Channels used to communicate the survey included:

- E-newsletter (Leeuwin Current)
- Pelican Post - update
- Website updates
- FAQs
- Your Say project page
- Social media
- Media releases

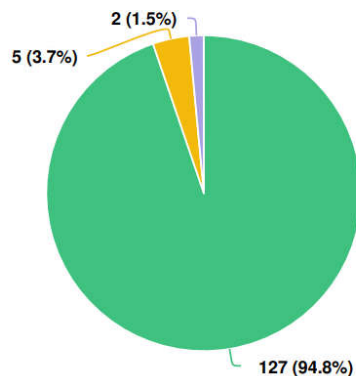
Survey— Outcomes

Participation demographics

139 community members participated in the online survey via Your Say. 134 respondents shared where they lived (5 skipped the question), 94.8% of survey respondents live within the Shire.

132 community participants shared the suburb they live within the Shire, 7 skipped this question. 36 participants live within Augusta, followed by 17 from Margaret River, 10 from Cowaramup and Rosa Glen and 9 from the Scott River.

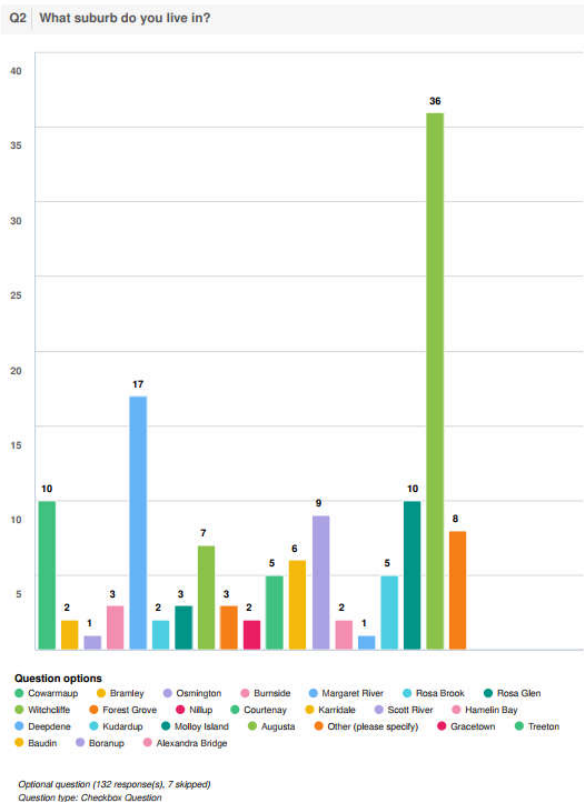
Q1. Do you live in the Shire of Augusta Margaret River?



Question options

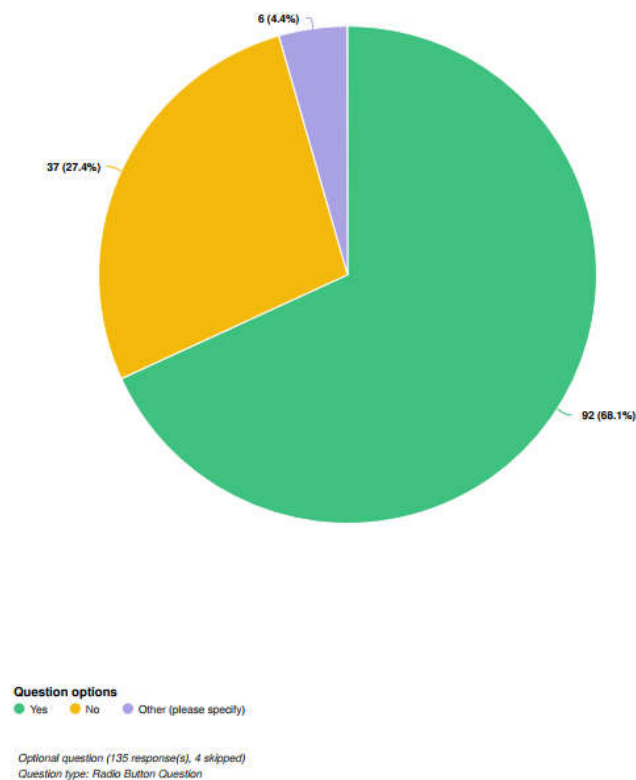
● Yes ● No ● Prefer not to say

Q2. What suburb do you live in?



Community responses to a LPP on Renewable Energy

Q3. Do you support the Shire creating a local planning policy to inform the development of renewable energy in the Shire?



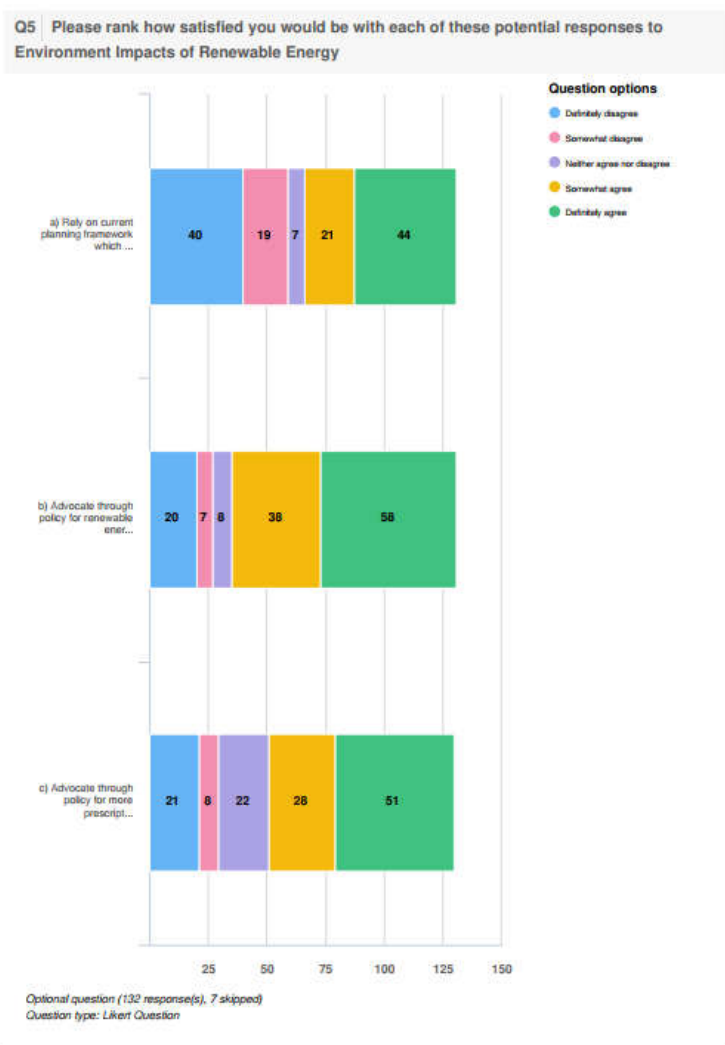
Q4. Would you like to explain your answer:

109 community members explained more detail to their answer with a comment. The full verbatim list of responses can be read as Appendix Item A.

Q5. Please rank how satisfied you would be with each of these potential responses to Environment Impacts of Renewable Energy.

- a) Rely on current planning framework which includes referral to State Government agencies like DBCA and DWER to assess environmental impacts.
- b) Advocate through policy for renewable energy to be located to minimise environmental impacts (such as avoiding native vegetation clearing)
- c) Advocate through policy for more prescriptive requirements (such as compensating for the loss of vegetation or rehabilitation of clearings).

132 community members responded to these statements. See results below.



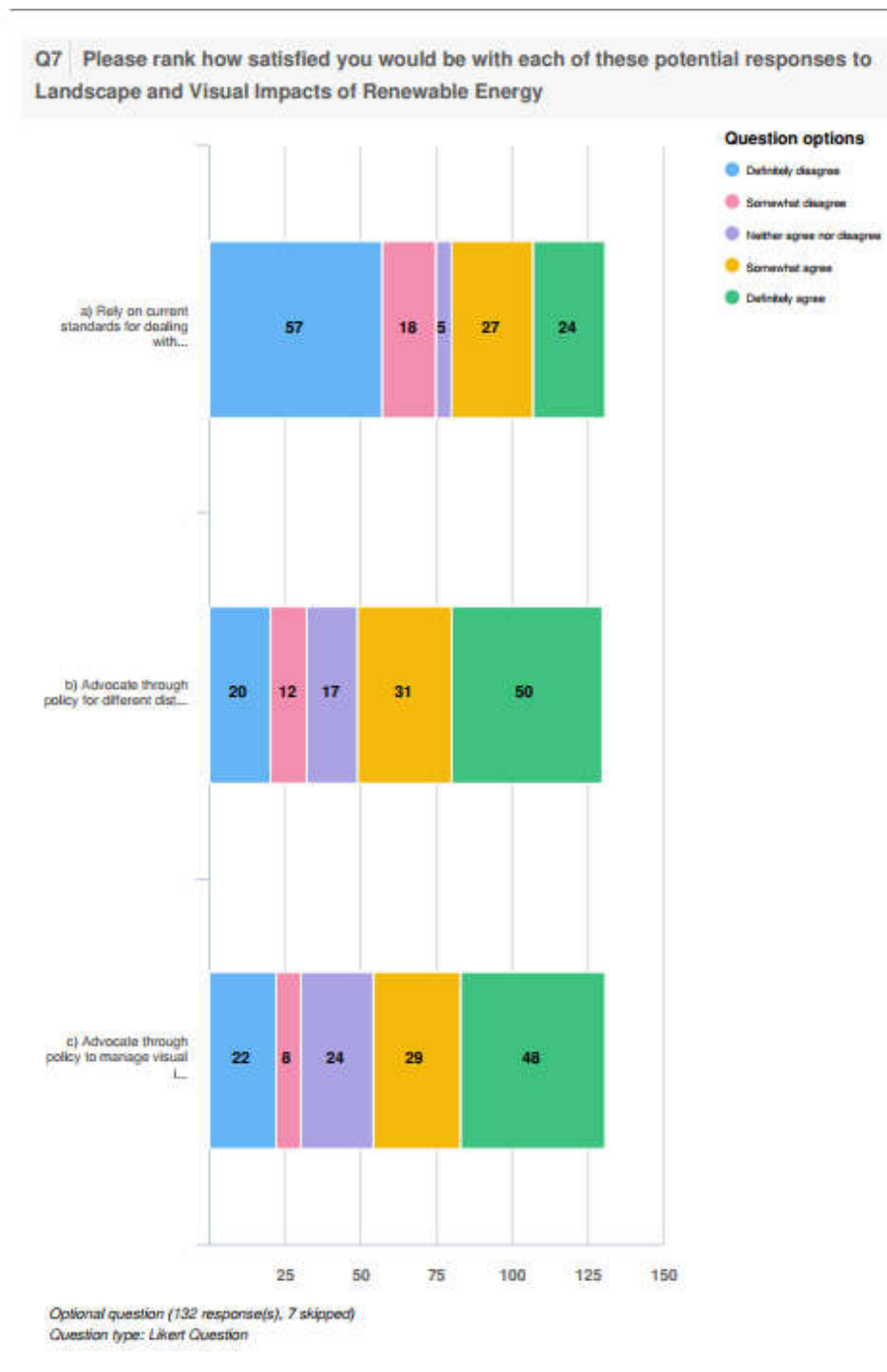
Q6. Do you have any other comments related to environmental impacts?

90 community members explained more detail to their answer with a comment relating to environmental impacts. The full verbatim list of responses can be read as Appendix Item B.

Q7. Please rank how satisfied you would be with each of these potential responses to Landscape and Visual Impacts of Renewable Energy

- a) Rely on current standards for dealing with visual impacts in renewable energy developments – including existing distances from developments.
- b) Advocate through policy for different distances from a property boundary depending on the scale of the project.
- c) Advocate through policy to manage visual impact such as design and landscaping (eg. spacing, vegetation buffers, uniformity of colors):

132 community members responded to these statements. See results below.



Q8. Do you have any other comments relating to landscape and visual impacts?

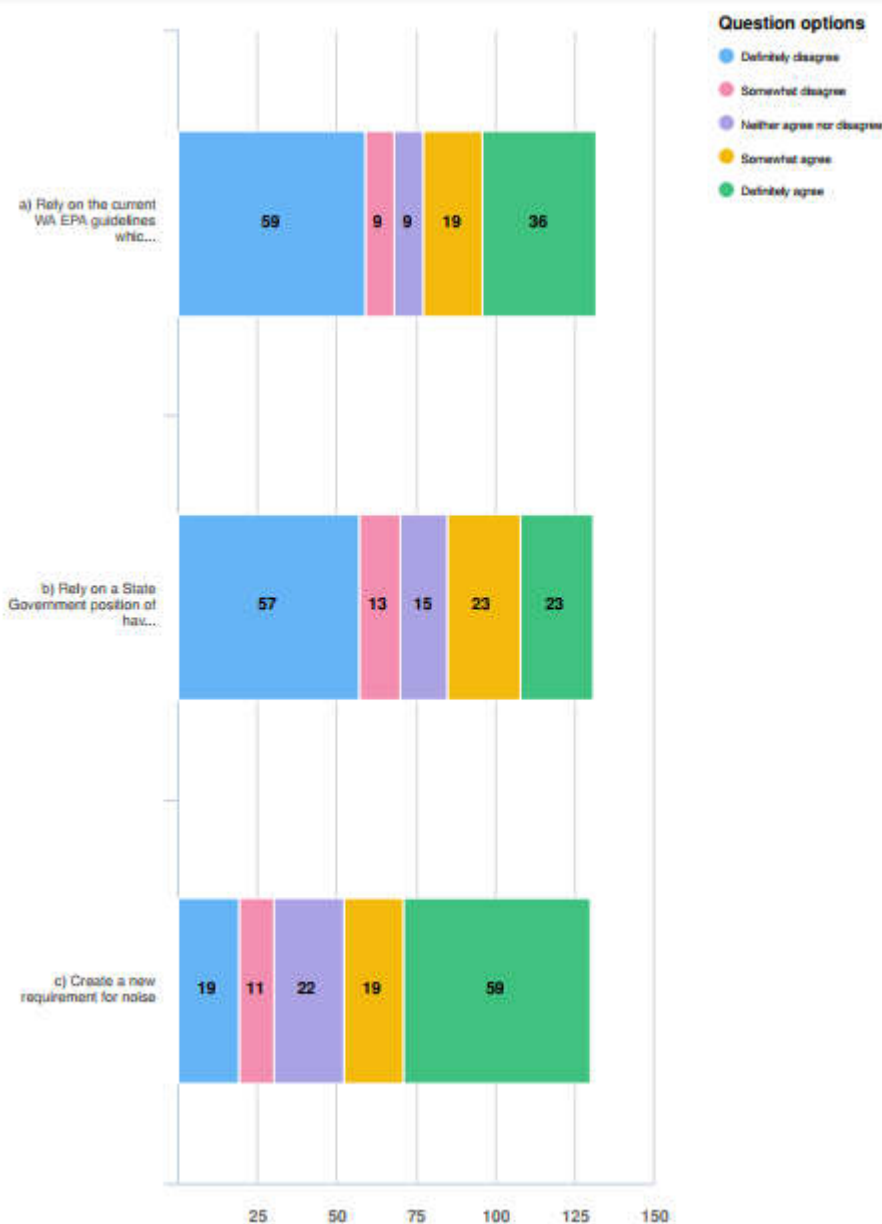
88 community members explained more detail to their answer with a comment relating to landscape and visual impacts. The full verbatim list of responses can be read as Appendix Item C.

Q9. Please rank how satisfied you would be with each of these potential responses to Noise Impacts of Renewable Energy

- a) Rely on the current WA EPA guidelines which require a maximum 35dB night time noise at dwellings
- b) Rely on a State Government position of having a minimum distance to dwellings of 1.5km
- c) Create a new requirement for noise

132 community members responded to these statements. See results below.

Q9 Please rank how satisfied you would be with each of these potential responses to Noise Impacts of Renewable Energy



Optional question (132 response(s), 7 skipped)
Question type: Likert Question

Q10. Do you have any other comments relating to noise?

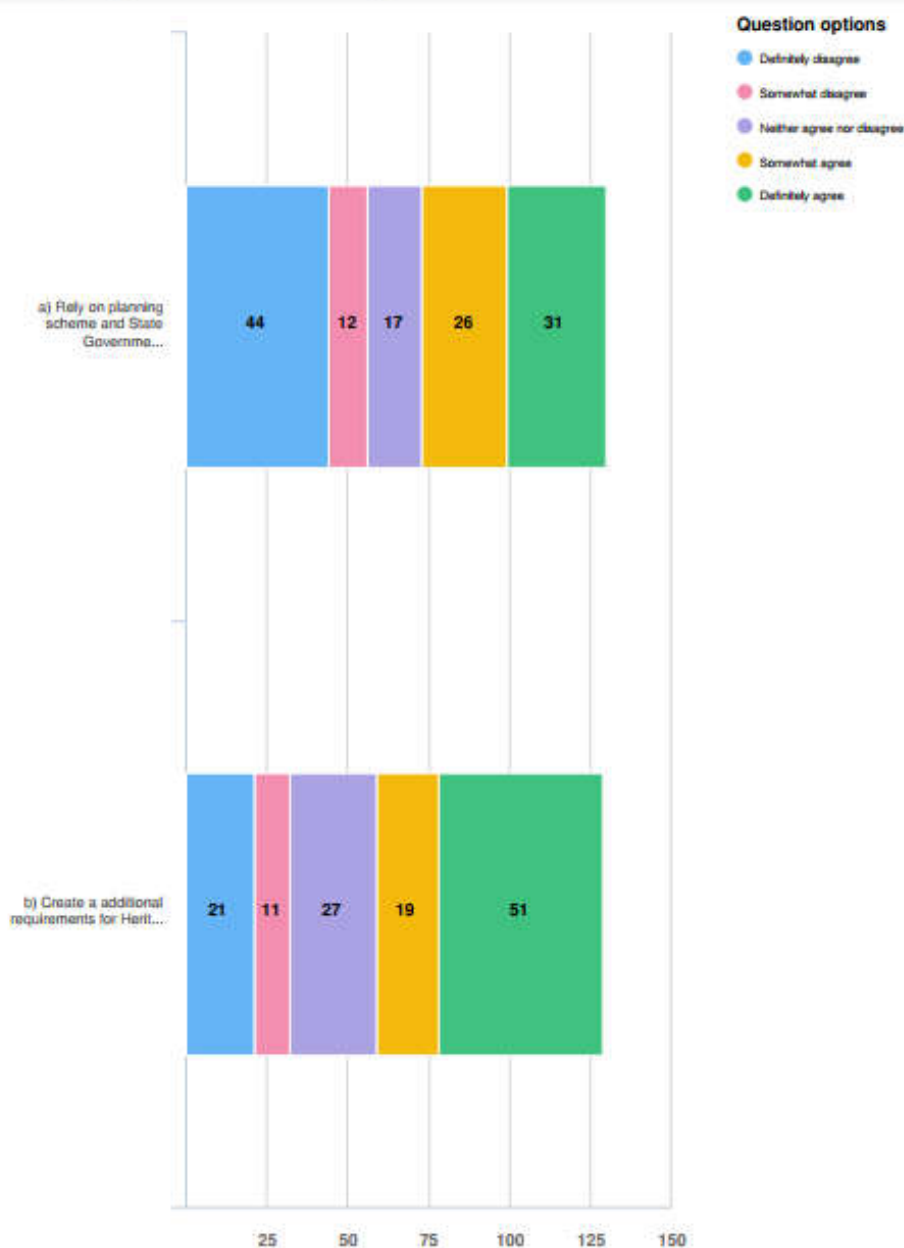
80 community members explained more detail to their answer with a comment relating to noise impacts. The full verbatim list of responses can be read as Appendix Item D.

Q11. Please rank how satisfied you would be with each of these potential responses to Heritage impacts of renewable energy:

- a) Rely on planning scheme and State Government requirements to assess heritage impacts
- b) Create a additional requirements for Heritage Impacts

131 community members responded to these statements. See results below.

Q11 Please rank how satisfied you would be with each of these potential responses to Heritage impacts of renewable energy:



Optional question (131 response(s), 8 skipped)
Question type: Likert Question

Q12. Do you have other comments relating to heritage impacts?

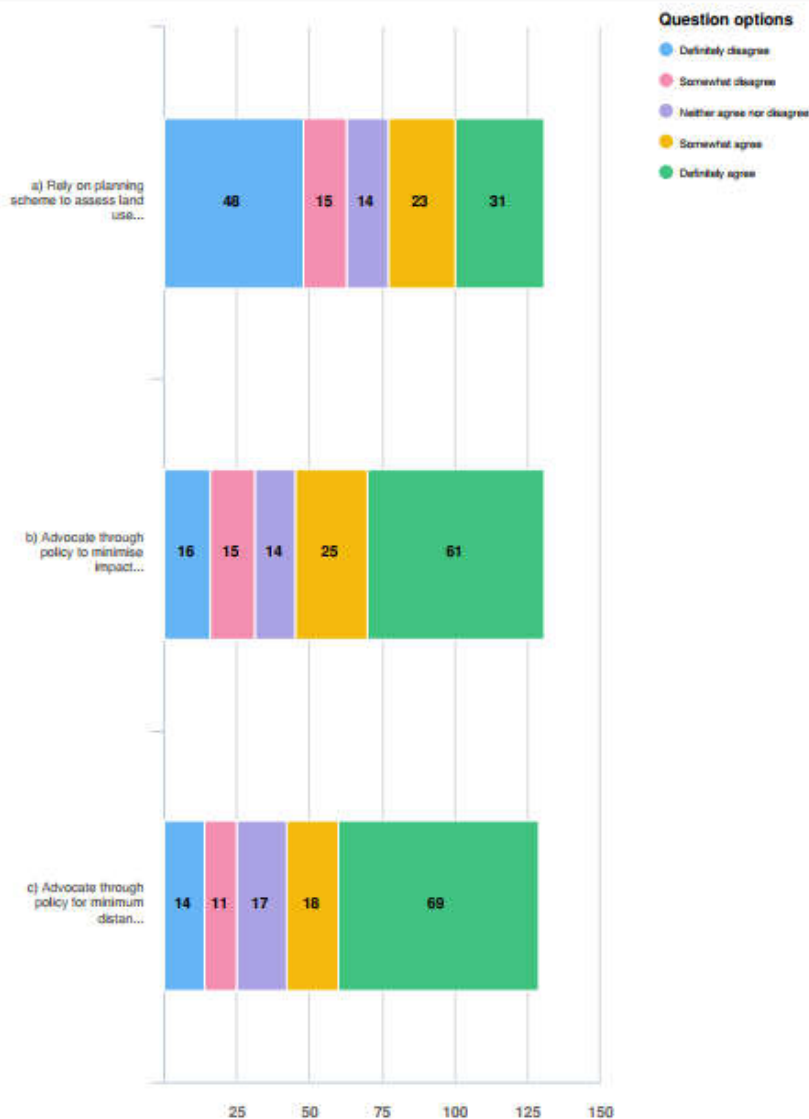
55 community members explained more detail to their answer with a comment relating to heritage impacts. The full verbatim list of responses can be read as Appendix Item E.

Q13. Please rank how satisfied you would be with the potential responses to land use compatibility

- a) Rely on planning scheme to assess land use compatibility
- b) Advocate through policy to minimise impact on agricultural use
- c) Advocate through policy for minimum distances to residential areas: Neither agree nor disagree

132 community members responded to these statements. See results below.

Q13 Please rank how satisfied you would be with the potential responses to land use compatibility



Optional question (132 response(s), 7 skipped)
Question type: Likert Question

Q14. Do you have other comments relating to land use?

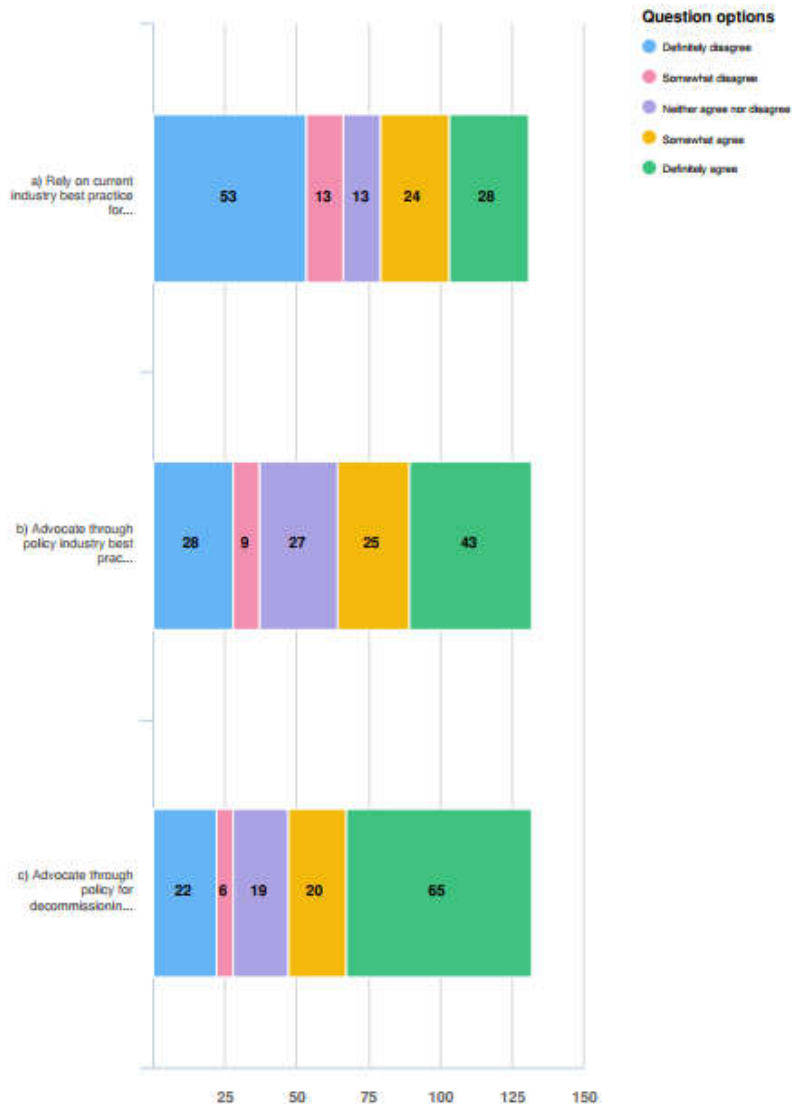
69 community members explained more detail to their answer with a comment relating to land use impacts. The full verbatim list of responses can be read as Appendix Item F.

Q15. Please rank how satisfied you would be with each of these potential responses to construction and decommissioning:

- a) Rely on current industry best practice for construction and decommissioning.
- b) Advocate through policy industry best practice at the time of decommissioning
- c) Advocate through policy for decommissioning plan to incorporate life cycle assessment and sustainable reuse of structures and footings.

132 community members responded to these statements. See results below.

Q15 Please rank how satisfied you would be with each of these potential responses to construction and decommissioning:



Q16. Do you have any comments relating to construction or decommissioning?

71 community members explained more detail to their answer with a comment relating to construction and decommissioning impacts. The full verbatim list of responses can be read as Appendix Item G.

Q17. Are there any impacts that you think are important that are not listed here? (Please describe).

79 community members explained more detail to their answer with a comment relating to environmental impacts. The full verbatim list of responses can be read as Appendix Item H.

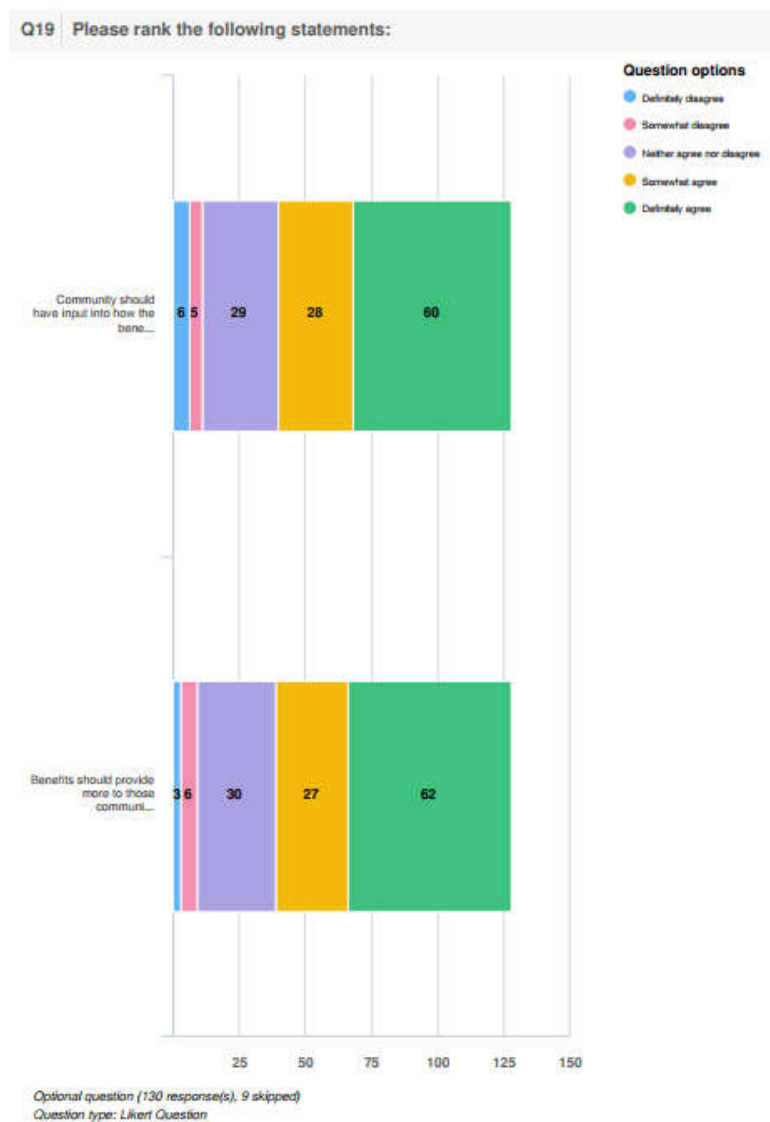
Q18. Do you have any other comments relating to impacts?

66 community members explained more detail to their answer with a comment relating to environmental impacts. The full verbatim list of responses can be read as Appendix Item I.

Q19. Please rank the following statements

Community should have input into how the benefits are shared

Benefits should provide more to those communities most affected by the development



Q20. Do you have any other comments relating to community benefits?

66 community members explained more detail to their answer with a comment relating to environmental impacts. The full verbatim list of responses can be read as Appendix Item J.

Q21. Do you have any other comments or feedback for a potential Renewable Energy Policy?

70 community members explained more detail to their answer with a comment relating to environmental impacts. The full verbatim list of responses can be read as Appendix Item

Appendix- Verbatim Responses

Item A - Q4. Verbatim responses

This seems like a survey for what will be an empty statement

It's the only way to go. Renewable. Anything else will run out in time.

To be inline with state policy and subject to change as developments in renewables happen

Not if it involves wind farms, they are a scam disguised as renewables.

Governments at all levels have the current mentality of net zero at any cost, without consideration for environmental or social impacts. Any policy you develop would be skewed at making these crazy projects like the Scott River wind turbines more easily approved!

"A Wind factory at Scott River will destroy prime farmland and kill wildlife.

The high fire risk during summer. A fire in a wind turbine cannot be fought aerially or otherwise.

The history of the beenup mine surely is enough example as to why digging deep foundations would expose pyritic soils turning them into sulfuric acid hence poisoning the aquifers and eventually seeping into the water ways.

It took the beenup mine 5 years to clean the mess up.

Augusta relies on tourism I have personally spoken to numerous visitors and residents that have stated they will not visit.

Loss of value to housing."

I support the development of renewable energy projects but would like a policy that also takes into consideration environmental impacts these would have on sensitive areas in the shire

Renewable energy comes at a larger cost to the environment than burning coal. Please encourage folk to get solar panels

If the shire can influence state gov approvals of industrialisation of the south west, then yes

State Govt. should be encouraged to develop formal policies asap e.g. formalize State Govt. Position Statement:

Renewable Energy Facilities (March 2020) and separately 2025 Draft Guideline on Community Benefits for Renewable Energy Projects. I am concerned that a local government policy will involve significant community consultation (at cost and time), which presents those who are unwilling to compromise with a platform and / or raise unrealistic expectations on the ability of the Shire to influence outcomes. Any significant projects are likely to go to State Govt, EPA, etc for approval. Any significantly problematic projects can at this point be actively lobbied against as required by the community.

Do not want renewables as a power resource.

Formalisation of a policy will support development of a clear framework and clearer outcomes and hopefully transparency for developers, hosts and neighbouring residents. My property is in very close proximity to the proposed Scott River Wind Farm and the tactics and communication from Synergy throughout the entire process has been dismissive, deceptive, arrogant and non-transparent. Implementing a policy will set the parameters of impact. Where a proposal assumes development buffer in land that is not part of a project there should be a clear framework that supports neighbouring property owners to push back and have the project offset to not impose, to have financial compensation, including the ability to be bought out by the project company. The current Scott river project imposes restrictions on the utilisation of my neighbouring properties, with the only ability to be compensated for these impact by signing an agreement which prevents raising concerns and give full access to the developer to your property. A framework creates clarity, prevents residents having to fight multinational corporations for the rights to their own property and allows transparency for all. This scale of development is inappropriate for such a populous area. Development of this nature should have controls similar to mining operations where there is forced and substantive compensation for those negatively impacted. We have worked 60 years to purchase our property which will half in value as a result of this development next door.

Reliable, affordable energy is already being produced. We need to maintain and expand our Coal and Gas alongside renewable options. No matter how much we reduce CO2 in Australia, we will make zero difference to so called climate change. China is producing the wind turbines and solar panels, using coal fired power being fueled by Australian coal, then shipping the products they produce half way around the world using heavy oil powered ships, to save the planet. Really?. The Shire has way more important and desperately needed infrastructure to spend the hard earned Rate Payers \$\$ on. Roads are a disgrace, you have coastal communities with only one way in or out, catastrophic fire risk, due to miss managed fuel reduction burns. The list goes on.

Renewables is the way forward and it would be prudent to not address renewables. We have 24 solar panels on our dwelling and a battery system.

Wind turbine projects are destructive to human, animal and environmental health. IMF and EMR is rejected by renewable energy proponents and supporters. I would like to see financial liability to those in the Shire who have been supporting this project to the detriment of the local Scott River Community. We have had to sell our farm because of this stinking project and the nefarious way the shire has supported this scam. Disregard and NO consideration for those directly impacted.

Rennewable energy for the most part is a scam. It is ressulting in the destruction of natural habitats and resulting in unaffordable energy for the average citizen.

It needs to be practical, not some virtue signalling impractical rubbish. For instance, make it a local planning requirement that all new builds, residential and commercial must have solar panels and a storage battery as well as a rainwater tank and grey water recycling. Introduce a rate reduction incentive for installation of solar etc on existing properties. Don't waste money on useless wind turbines

The shire should stick to what they are purposed for and that is rubbish collection and maintenance of gardens..stay within your jurisdiction. You are already out of control and illegal. A shire council should not be operating as a corporation with a CEO and an ABN. We the people cannot afford your illegal proposals

I'm not against such a policy as i understand that this is inevitable but what i am most concerned about is how much money this will cost the ratepayers. Not only to create this 'policy' but to enact such policy.

I would like to be kept informed

There is nothing currently in place renewable energy is a unregulated industry that has the potential to be devastating to nearby land holders

So as to be informed of the State Government project of ruining the habitat.

plan for the future. We all need to embrace renewables (and battery storage) but need to retain ag land and amenity of surrounds. There will be impact (visual, land disurbance, transport etc) and a local polcy will guide

Participation consultation and collaboration offer a positive forward momentum for our community.

"Policy direction should take into account environment, landscape, economical and the communities perspective.

Development for things that are politically preferred should be overruled by good values and what the local communities desire.

"

The concerns of the south-west would most likely be different to those covered in a WA state policy

I think the need for renewable energy is so pressing and knowing the NIMBY views of so many I worry that local planning will inevitably cause major delays

It is important that the Shire acts in the interests of Local Residents

This is very important due to the unique environmental considerations for the AMR shire and immediate surrounds.

There is a responsibilty for all those that live and work in the shire to preserve the heritage and environment for future generations to enjoy. This is particularly important for renewable energy projects, once environmental damage occurs it is almost impossible to reverse.

It makes sense to plan for the future.

The impact of the development on residents needs to be assessed based on local knowledge. In respect to noise from turbines the direction and speed of the prevailing wind will have a big impact on whether the setbacks are valid or not. Personally, I would prefer that projects should not be supported if they require subsidies from government or impacts that would be considered to be outside the range of what is tolerable if proposed by organizations that have no involvement in the renewables industry. In addition the impact of the renewables on the viability of the electrical grid and the cost of electricity needs to be considered. So far we see a ramping of electricity prices that is highly disadvantageous to industry and consumers.

"The rapid and efficient development of renewable energy projects is an urgent and critical priority to slow down and hopefully prevent significant climate change from anthropogenic CO2 emissions.

Such projects are already heavily burdened by regulatory controls and we (for the sake of all species on this planet) need to be simplifying and streamlining the process for the transition to renewable energy - not choosing to create more layers of policies, consultation and approvals which just add time, cost and complexity to the development process.

If the WA state government is already developing a policy for large scale projects for release in 2026, and any large scale projects are likely to go before the (state) DAP anyway, a local policy will only be a 'nice to have' guideline but will hold no weight when push comes to shove in the development approval process.

So apart from the nicety of having such a policy, there is little point in spending AMR shire time and money on it. "

Home owners are installing thier own clean energy systems, more EV vehicles in the shire. Need consistent policies.

Need to make sure good community consultation and to regulate misinformation about climate change and renewables.

Need to manage the NIMBY's out there.

Wind farms are not the way forward

We cannot rely on the state government or its policies. Margaret River Shire needs to adopt and robustly stand by policies that clearly outline the needs of our shire.

The transition to energy renewable in effect exchanges one set of issues (carbon pollution) for another (the environmental impost of alternative energy sources). These issues impact most where the alternative energy infrastructures are established at the local level. They will impact not just the local environment and local amenities but also local business including agriculture and tourism which rely so much on our local lands. A local planning policy is therefore essential.

The shire should strongly encourage all forms of renewable energy in the shire
I have a property in Forest Grove which I purchased in 1991. I spend nearly half my time there and I have invested significant amounts of time in revegetating the property, a former dairy and cattle farm. Thus, I am seriously interested in the renewable energy developments within the Shire. I am keen for renewable energy to become the primary source of energy in WA, and I am interested in how this aim will be developed in the Margaret River Shire.

There is a need for the shire to make decisions based on evidence rather than responding to a minority of nimby conservatives in the community who believe wind farms cause health problems etc. Responding to climate change is more important than pandering to nut-jobs who don't like change

I do not agree with large scale renewable energy projects in this shire. I think they are completely incompatible with our local forests, prime agricultural land and the Naturaliste Ridge. Clearing of native forest for transmission lines would be reprehensible. The Shire's existing Local Planning Policy LPP23 adequately caters for small-scale renewable energy systems, which are more in keeping with our pristine environment.

My wife & I are opposed to a large wind farm in Scott River. We support renewable energy sited in appropriate locations. The transition to renewable energy sources is essential. There's no denying that. It seems that at every level of government there are obstacles in place that add unnecessary delays. I'd like the shire to fast track the progress, rather than hamper it with more obstacles

We are being forced to accept things like wind farms in our faces spoiling the natural landscape beauty.
I'm very opposed to wind turbines farms in Scott river

Guidance and clarity on infrastructure projects is important
This is not shire business. The shire is not a quasi state government. Roads. Rates. Rubbish. Maintenance of the public landscape & facilities.
Not keen on land or Ocean based wind turbines. Keen on solar on existing buildings and batteries and other forms of Green Energy.

I'm all for Renewable energy
Of course I want to be informed because one of these renewable projects is the Scott River Wind Farm proposal which I do not want to go ahead.

"I support the Augusta Margaret River Shire in creating a local planning policy to guide the development of renewable energy because it provides our community with a clear, transparent framework for how such projects will be assessed and managed. Renewable energy is an important step toward reducing our reliance on fossil fuels, addressing climate change, and building a more sustainable future for the region.

A local planning policy ensures that renewable energy projects are developed in a way that balances environmental, social, and economic considerations. It can help protect our unique natural landscapes and biodiversity, while also ensuring that community voices are heard in decision-making processes. Importantly, it gives developers and residents clarity and confidence about what is expected, reducing conflict and creating more consistent outcomes.

By establishing this policy, the Shire is taking a proactive approach to support innovation and investment in renewable energy, while safeguarding the character and values of our community. This is a positive step that aligns with broader sustainability goals and positions Augusta Margaret River as a leader in responding to the challenges of our changing climate."

I think the additional planning policy will become another layer of bureaucracy for developers to navigate, delaying investment in renewable energy in the shire. I think the time and effort is better directed at the Shire engaging in existing State processes to influence outcomes and not developing another policy which at best will only ever receive a cursory review from stakeholders given it can only be used to advocate and not regulate.

We need to have a clear plan moving forward and embracing renewable energy for future generations and need to do our part in converting fossil fuels to renewable energy

A detailed and complete plan is needed to avoid the ad hoc development of infrastructure that is not adequately considered for all stakeholders.

"This should not be a local shire decision when the infrastructure is defined by SWIS. This doesn't even appear to get a mention which would raise a flag regarding the suitability and capacity of personnel making these decisions.

Our land has a better capacity for agriculture than lying barren under a renewable energy source that is realistically a fad. From a producing capability this solution should be considering nuclear energy and a long term option to provide stable electricity.

The shire should consider stand alone options for rural areas given the forestry in the area and the continual outages - but I guess we are the minority of voters in the shire and unlikely to be a consideration"

Of course I require a planning policy on the development of renewable energy. It affects everyone in Augusta and surrounding districts.

As the Shire has a crucial say in any developments within our local area, I would like to see that strongly guided by a policy on renewable energy. We only have one planet and must 'act local- think global'

Strong policy required to ensure shire takes integrated and LOCAL vision of needs, not just state gov and major corporate determinations. Must have transparency in development not just a survey. ALL information needs presenting

We need a policy that doesn't allow wind farms. The carbon footprint of these monoliths is rarely properly accounted for. Clearing vegetation, road construction, steel, concrete, transmission lines and eventually (20 year's maybe) their decommissioning. Then we have loss of visual amenity, you can fill the rest in.

Renewable energy can be both beneficial environmentally and economically

The matter of provision of energy is a State and Federal government responsibility. The Shire should ensure that if the development of any large scale renewable energy projects impacts on the landscape or property rights of ratepayers, that it is noted by the Shire. Once noted, the Shire, through the Shire planning process through consultation with affected ratepayers should develop a business case to represent the issues raised by the affected ratepayers.

We need to move beyond fossil fuels if we are to secure a safe and healthy future for our planet. Renewable energy is the way forward.

It is incumbent on all of us at all levels to move to the most sustainable way of living for all as soon as possible. Having the Shire involved is part of this process and shows support and provides guidance at a local level.

Long term impacts are involved and it is vital that the community is not subjected to significantly poor decisions.

The residents and property owners in Augusta should be part of any Planned development of Renewable energy and especially Wind turbines located that are visually seen from the townsite and local beaches.

"Yes – I strongly support the Shire creating a local planning policy.

The current State framework is outdated and inadequate to protect residents, farmland, biodiversity, and community amenity. Turbines are now up to three times larger than when the existing State Policy was drafted, yet setback distances, noise standards, and shadow flicker guidelines have not been updated. A local policy is urgently needed to:

Establish clearer, stronger setback requirements that reflect modern turbine scale and protect residents from noise, infrasound, and shadow flicker.

Ensure developers are not relying on neighbouring land as a buffer for their industrial activities — all noise and shadow flicker must be contained within the project boundary.

Safeguard prime agricultural land to ensure farming viability is not compromised by large industrial facilities.

Require robust environmental protections, including cumulative impact assessment and biodiversity safeguards.

Mandate decommissioning bonds or financial assurances so the community is not left with the costs and risks at end-of-life.

Strengthen community consultation to ensure locals have a genuine say in decision-making.

Without a Shire-specific policy, the community risks being exposed to projects assessed under inadequate State guidelines. A local policy is therefore essential to protect our unique landscapes, farming base, and biodiversity, while providing certainty and fairness for residents."

"Community consultation and approval should be the foremost priority before any further action is carried out. If not accepted by a majority of the community then the decision to move forward should be ceased immediately. " I do not support renewal energy whatsoever.

The shire has previous renewable policies which aren't even referenced. This is very sloppy management. The renewable energy movement comes from United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, via ICLEI and into LGAs like WALGA. These frameworks are not made for the AMR region, by the AMR region. Unfortunately the Shire's WALGA puppets play whatever tune WALGA requests. The renewables movement is under written by billion of dollars, which should be seen as a serious conflict of interest.

With correct non biased information

we must explore and find ways to reduce CO2 emissions. The local planning policy is an important tool to ensure that the introduction of alternative energy sources is done in a way that is considerate to the environment, minimises visual nuisance, and sits in the local landscape in a sympathetic manner. Also important to consider the impact of the building of the facility and the end of life plan, ie recycling.

Regional people are directly affected physically and financially by policy decisions made beyond the boundaries the Shire without adequate consultation or consideration.

Existing policies are outdated and and more guidelines need to be set up to protect community members and environments.

"Wind farms are environmentally damaging to birds and are an eye sore on the horizon. They are purported to last only 15 years - what is going to happen to the scrap?
Where are the wind farm goods purchased from - are they made in Australia - I doubt that very much.
We don't have a problem with solar power on the homes and business owners roofing."
Yes, but the current state framework is outdated and does not protect residents, farmland and biodiversity.
It is all hot air
large scale industrial developments such as the proposed wind turbine factories will have an immense effect on the mental health and economic health of the community.

The sooner the better
The current policy needs updating to protect residents and community areas from modern larger turbines. Extra care needs to be taken to protect residents from noise, flicker, vibration etc of these larger turbines. Community consultation needs to be clearer and more efficient with a focus on independent data collection to ascertain appropriate sites. Liability needs to be more transparent.
I don't believe the Shire should invest its resources in developing a policy which should be guided at a state level.
If the Shire develops a renewable energy policy then the community can be part of the consultation. Having a policy could stop developers putting in Windfarms on private land and stop Government overriding the Shire's decision in stopping environmental destruction on pristine land.
Renewable energy is important to assist decarbonisation and reduce pollution. It would be great to see AMR Shire be a leader in this space for environmental stewardship, health and well-being and the growth of sustainable industries and jobs.
Although I don't live in the area now, I do own a property in Augusta where we visit often and plan to spend more time over the years. It is clear that the community is small and based on numbers would likely not be able to stand up to large multinational companies who are money driven and have no personal connections to the local land. A policy that is developed by the shire would be more likely to be done by people who understand and have connections to the local area, with better understanding of the culture and needs of the people who live and visit there. There will be likely to be better community consultation by locals, for locals and less likely to be influenced by the large amounts of money big companies use to buy support.
Renewable energy needs to be rolled out fast whilst minimised local environmental impact. A planning policy should better facilitate that.
"I believe it will be necessary to phase out our reliance on fossil fuel as quickly as possible without causing harm to residents.

I also believe that it will make economic sense in the future to utilise naturally occurring resources."
Let our treasure for new generations
The shire has unique features that need to be considered.
"A strong local policy is essential for all shires. Shires are the ones who are giving approval if you want to extend your house, put up a shed so shires need to be heavily involved in all renewables. You have staff on the ground that know (should) the area. Each shire will know its unique landscape, farming , town site, industry, biodiversity etc. The councillors are elected by the people and staff employed by the people so they should be able to have guidelines for something that could severely impact its community.
These large scale developments can have detrimental effects on so many residents and the environment. If this shire has invested in looking after the environment and its infrastructure it needs to make sure rules are in place that nothing is damaged, destroyed. And it definitely needs to protect its rate payers.
"

Planning of renewables does not reflect the latest in research how wind turbines negatively affect life and ecosystems. Even earthworms are adversely affected.

Shire should support residents of the local / targeted area so no need to develop a policy.
a development policy is necessary EXCEPT it should not be bogged down with local government red tape.
Important issue that should concern all levels of government
If the Shire is seen to be leading the way on climate issues in our area with good information and education then it will lead to a smoother transition towards the future that we know is coming.
It is important that the Shire is seen to lead the way in EDUCATING and moving the community towards understanding the impact that Climate Change will have. This will reduce misinformation which slows the progress towards an energy efficient future.
A new policy is a waste of resources. There are many multiple layers of legislation and local guidance such as the planning scheme, which support intelligent development, including renewables. Potentially, since the zoning of general and priority agriculture I think has been retained in planning scheme 2, general could be updated to broadly accept renewables as a land use. Amenity of renewables facilities is a matter of opinion, and for decision making such as this, surely decarbonisation of our energy must be made a priority over nimbysism.
Renewables as planned are unreliable, costly, unsightly and destructive of the environment and quality of life to those who are considered insignificant as they live in low population density areas.

"I filled out this survey in detail BUT when reading the attached papers my survey responses disappeared - after 2 hours of work - that I'm not paid for.

Totally deflated , disappointed and disgusted.

The Scott River catchment area should be denoted with - X - no development"

"Shire community has shown a keen interest in establishing renewable energy in the shire. As a result of the upgrade of the Local Energy Action Plan in 2015, the shire held a workshop which resulted in establishment of a Working Party to consider the viability of a renewable project in the shire. The Working Party carried out a high level feasibility study which indicated that solar was unlikely to be viable but wind could be.

Several members of the Working Party then formed an incorporated group to do further work. The community support for AMRCCE, the many hours of professional work carried out by professional community members and the high level of donations prove the interest in renewables. "

No because at the moment there are NO renewable energy developments that are efficient or green or safe for wildlife, the environment & humans.

Yes this should be in place to protect fairness for residents.

I would like to see a local planning policy to be created and in turn

Guidelines should reflect local knowledge and interests but not seek to contradict or oppose state and federal guidelines for dealing with climate change issues.

"As the state government framework is so outdated we need all shires to advocate for their individual communities.

It is extremely important in the Augusta Margaret River Shire due to the importance of the environment, biodiversity and agricultural land.

This shire pushes for everything local, low food miles, pristine environments etc.

With no major safeguards this can all be destroyed.

I believe the shire needs to advocate on behalf of land holders and community that could be affected. A good community led policy is essential."

"A Shire-specific local planning policy is urgently needed because the current State framework is outdated and fails to adequately protect residents, farmland, biodiversity, and community amenity. Modern wind turbines are significantly larger than when existing guidelines were developed, yet setback distances, noise limits, and shadow flicker requirements remain outdated. Without updated local rules, communities and the environment are left vulnerable to the impacts of industrial-scale renewable energy projects.

A Shire-specific policy would:

Establish robust setback requirements that reflect the true scale and impact of modern turbines.

Ensure noise and shadow flicker remain fully contained within the project site.

Prevent developers from using neighbouring properties as buffers for industrial activities.

Protect prime agricultural land and preserve sensitive biodiversity.

Require decommissioning bonds or other financial assurances to secure long-term accountability.

Safeguard resident's health and safety, including mitigating risks such as fires caused by turbine faults or failures.

Guarantee meaningful and genuine community consultation before projects proceed.

Without such a policy, residents face ongoing risks to their health, safety, and property, while farmland and natural ecosystems remain exposed to preventable harm under outdated State standards.

"

Don't want any wind farms

Believe it is important to have local input into renewable energy policies that are proposed in our Shire.

Coal or gas power are both cheap and reliable. Until renewables can support themselves without tax payers funding it go back to the drawing board. Its a scam

We need to increase the use of renewables. We are running out of time to act on climate change.

"We strongly support the Shire creating a local planning policy. The current State framework is outdated and inadequate to protect residents, farmland, biodiversity, and community amenity.

Turbines are now up to three times larger than when the existing State Policy was drafted, yet setback distances, noise standards, and shadow flicker guidelines have not been updated.

A local policy is urgently needed to ensure developers are not relying on neighbouring land as a buffer for their industrial activities.

Safeguarding of prime agricultural land to ensure farming viability is essential.

Robust environmental protections need to be put in place, including cumulative impact assessment and biodiversity safeguards.

Mandate decommissioning bonds or financial assurances so the community is not left with the costs and risks at end-of-life.

Strengthen community consultation to ensure locals have a genuine say in decision-making.

Without a Shire-specific policy, the community risks being exposed to projects assessed under inadequate State guidelines. A local policy is therefore essential to protect our unique landscapes, farming base, and biodiversity, while providing certainty and fairness for residents.

"

"yes, I agree that the shire should create a policy around renewable energy projects. This should outline safe clear boundaries for local residents living in close proximity to these projects so they are not effected by any negative impacts such as noise, infrasound, shadow flicker and in my case visual impact as I did not move to the country to have my view or peace and quiet taken over by wind turbines. I attended four of the five recent information drop in sessions that synergy conducted and I was told many different answers at each session for the same questions as I spoke to different synergy representatives.

I asked what the minimum set back to residential houses will be now synergy have completed their feasibility assessment period. At east Augusta I was told 1.5km I asked if that was a safe distance? I did not get a direct answer. I was told the mapping shown for turbine locations was still indicative. So they still have no idea where they are going to place these structures within the project boundary. At Augusta drop in session I was told there is no minimum set back. It's measured at 35 decibels. Again no straight answer. I asked have you done noise studies to reflect a distance. Again no straight answer, I was told depending on wind direction. They had no hard evidence of their studies that they have done making local residents like myself really worried about what the outcome of this project will be for us to be forced to live with if the project goes ahead. So for me an accurate and well thought out policy with guidelines that ensure projects like these don't impact close residents should be in place.

I also asked about the possibility of my land devaluing, again I didn't get a straight answer. One synergy rep told me to her knowledge and research there doesn't seem to be an impact, yet again no data of this was shown only spoken. I said but you guys have done two and a half years of study and research into this project and you can't show me any of this information collected? I was then told I could google this information! wasn't the whole point of these information sessions to get information? this policy should protect our piece and quiet in the bush where we choose to live. Our property value should not be affected by any project, that will be immensely unfair without any compensation. "

Item B. Q6 Verbatim Feedback

Question 5a) use of third party consultants as well
There's no point in saving the planet if we destroy the native flora and fauna in the process.
Not be a visual eyesore or located where they detract from the natural environment
I disagree with all of the above as all the mitigation mentioned can be ignored and anything can be passed and falsely made to appear "green" when money is involved.
Net positive offsets for vegetation clearing are in their infancy and policy is lagging. Develop policy and ensure appropriate strategy is in place before even considering these projects. The waste of \$ should not be allowed, and environmental and social impacts are devastating! What about consideration for impact on prime farmland? What about visual amenity?
The land at Scott River is not big enough for 20 250 metres high wind turbines.
What about the impact to farming and also neighbours to proposals, you have not even mentioned them
Reduction of the scale of renewable systems is important to me
I vote no for renewables, the name is a lie, they are not renewables. And are more damaging to the environment, than fossil fuels. The fossil fuels required to manufacture (renewables) is amazing. Such a silly thing to do, and foreign countries such as China are making heaps of money, while the normal Aussie is becoming poor.
Wind turbines have a limited life span, are a total environmental nightmare to dispose of, hugely expensive to build, incredibly ugly, kill native bird life, require massive destruction of native areas for transmission lines. Like Solar, conditions have to be suitable to produce any power. The list goes on.
Let's look at it like this. Replaceable vegetation that is not critically endangered is less costly to replace than reduced power costs for homes that are struggling under the current cost of living.
We do not trust any of the agencies to fulfil their role in protecting the Scott River environment, or the community that call it home.
What about visual or changing the character of the landscapes
Just don't do it...leave everything as it is...the infrastructure in place already works.. Teach our children that we are not a throw away society, we preserve and maintain what is already useful and working.
The shire is very hypocritical. You bulldoze an unofficial BMX track and say that it is detrimental to the environment and ecosystem but on either side of the area in question there are housing developments taking place to accommodate hundreds of newly build homes.
I DO NOT WANT TO SEE A WIND FARM IN THIS AREA! They are an eyesore and the energy and carbon footprint required to make them, FAR outweighs any benefit! So I give a big NO to wind farms
Proposed Scott River wind farm is in a ecological fragile and sensitive area that has already been over cleared
No compromise with preserving natural healthy living of plants, animals and man.
Sometimes the existing policies used for advocacy are limiting.
I think wind farms look nice. They remind me we are trying to do something to save the planet
We live in the most beautiful part of WA, and the environment should be considered first. Renewable Energy second

Renewable energy policy must embrace both immediate and long term impacts including environmental, commercial, any legacy local cost burdens and wellbeing of those living in the shire. I believe well thought out renewable policies like "micro grid" colabourations may perform better and be more commercially viable and sustainable than giant renewable "farms" and associated disruptive distribution network infrastructure.
As the population grows green space will be inhabited. In fact the availability of green space in association with a dwelling is highly correlated with human mental health and welfare. Our subdivisions are based on ever smaller blocks of land that allow for little green space within the confines of the lot. It is the green space that is within that lot or directly proximal that is vital for children below the age of seven and even older when traffic volumes lead parents to consider that the street is too dangerous to allow children to roam. This impacts the process of socialization, school and subsequent performance. In future we should see more decentralization, mixed use and walkable settlements that cater for more human needs within walking distance. The town centre will necessarily be a residential area. This will require more town centres.
Refer it to the state departments. They already have to comply with a raft of legislation and policy to protect the environment. We don't need another local government layer of policy to add cost, time and complexity to any development.
The burning of coal has severely impacted the local environment, including life threatening bushfires. We need to reduce our carbon footprint and the shire is not to impede this progress due to a very small vocal minority
No tooo wind farm s
Heritage concerns need to be addressed initially.
Environmental impacts of not having renewable energy far outweigh any environmental impacts of renewable energy
Environmental impacts can be overstated or not balanced against other environmental benefits.
These decision have to be made in the context of the overall impact of climate change on the environment
Through recent bitter experience with the zoning of a gravel pit in Scott River wetlands, I have very little confidence that the shire or any Government agencies will heed any community concerns or feedback re - environmental impacts if it doesn't suit their narrative.
We think the current exponential growth in housing doesn't consider infrastructure (docs, hospitals, schools, post offices et etc) let alone for the incr demand for electricity & water. Renewable should be part of a mix of fossil fuels, gas, nuclear in our opinion. We believe the proposed windfarm is the thin end of the wedge & that Augusta's visual amenity will be destroyed & impacting on tourism and desirability to live here.
The environment of the designated area of the wind farm has had continuous degradation from the agricultural and mining industries. It is far from pristine. The endangered species in the area are endangered because of the previous and current land uses. The addition of the wind farm will have a minimal impact on the remnants of the natural environment.
Noise pollution should be controlled and any unsightly structures banned!
The community should be the first to consult on all proposed new projects as the impacts aren't just environmental
This is generally well covered and accepted by other government departments with expertise to manage impacts and risks.
I am not in agreement with current proposals on renewable energy. I am not in agreement with wind farms anywhere within the shire. Nor do I agree with solar panel 'farms' in the landscape. I believe I am well informed on this issue and understand proposed infrastructure to be unsustainable in every respect & degrading to the landscape, environment & visual aesthetic.
Not keen on acres of Solar panels or any large scale solar on any land in Margies region.

I attended the drop in session today on Molloy Island for Synergy Red's wind farm proposal for the findings of their preliminary feasibility study which I found is seriously flawed. They have only drilled in three locations for core samples to 20 metres deep and not in every turbine site. The proposed area is massive with a very sensitive and diverse geological composition with several aquifers at definite risk of contamination. They will be submitting their planning proposal to Augusta Margaret River shire using data from only three core samples . They expect to get planning approval to start this project before they do more soil testing. I voiced my distaste that it is absurd to put not only our Scott and Blackwood rivers at risk in any way but also the potential risk to groundwater which Augusta township and locals draw vital water from. Water is our most precious resource and I believe any risk of contaminating it is unacceptable. The fact that this risk exists is enough reason for the Shire to reject this proposal entirely.
While I support the development of renewable energy within the Augusta Margaret River Shire, I do have concerns about the potential environmental impacts if projects are not carefully planned and managed. Our region is defined by its unique natural environment, biodiversity, and landscapes, which are central to both our way of life and our local economy. Renewable energy projects—whether solar, wind, or other forms—can carry risks such as habitat disruption, impacts on wildlife (including bird and bat populations), land clearing, noise, and changes to the visual amenity of the landscape. There is also the potential for cumulative impacts if multiple projects are developed without a clear strategy to manage their interaction with each other and the surrounding environment. My concern is that, without strong safeguards and clear guidelines, renewable energy development could unintentionally undermine the very environmental values it seeks to protect. For this reason, I believe the local planning policy should place a strong emphasis on: Comprehensive environmental assessments before projects are approved. Protection of biodiversity and sensitive habitats through exclusion zones or buffer areas. Careful site selection to avoid unnecessary land clearing or disruption to cultural and scenic values. Monitoring and accountability measures to ensure compliance throughout the project's life cycle. Community consultation so that local knowledge informs planning decisions. By embedding these considerations into the policy, the Shire can ensure renewable energy development is both environmentally responsible and community supported.
we have to start looking at long term effects of climate change rather than short term aesthetic reasons not to have wind turbines- change our mind set and not rely on tourism and mining as a state
If this is a local plan it needs to represent the goals and wishes of residents, not to simply mimic state and federal objectives.
What long term studies have been completed around the flora/fauna impact around renewable energy generation? In the Pilbara where that climate is hot and barren (and you are creating a hot and barren climate) there is potentially minimal impact, this is not the case for the SW unless the shire aims to utilise buildings and existing infrastructure.
These questions are rigged, what if I don't want windmills at all???
AMRS can lead well if all residents are under a strong renewable energy and natural environmental respect policy
Government has history of ignoring environmental issues and impacts and proceeding anyway. No amalgamation of known information /lessons learnt and dealing as stand alone projects diminishing the bigger picture cumulative impacts across area and habitats. Planting a sapling doesn't replace a 100 year old tree or the loss of associated nature. If a species isn't "vulnerable " then not usually considered yet can be impacted considerably. Change the narrative, it is not acceptable for nature and environment to be lost at the expense of ever increasing human consumption without any focus on energy demand reduction
Refer previous answers
All projects have risk. We should be factoring in generational impacts

Obviously, the less impact to the environment the better - the ability to meet this requirement needs to occur at the planning stage and it is at this stage that adjustments need to be made before a sod of earth is turned. There also needs to be constant monitoring of works - it has been shown that without such monitoring, environmental damage can and has occurred. In most situations, once damage has occurred, it is unable to be "undone".
Current policies and current framework for establishing policies are insufficient to protect our community adequately.
What is not in the points above is the visual pollution of wind turbines and the scaring of the landscape. They are ugly and will destroy the beautiful natural beauty of the ocean views.
The Shire's local policy should go further to ensure real environmental protections: Avoidance first: Projects should not be permitted in or near TECs, critical wildlife corridors, wetlands, or prime agricultural land. Offsets are not an acceptable substitute for prevention. No use of neighbouring land as environmental "buffer zones" — impacts must be fully contained within the project boundary. Bird and bat strike risk must be independently assessed, including migratory species and raptors. Acid sulphate soils must be strictly managed — past projects like Beenup Mine show the long-term damage that occurs if this is mishandled. The Scott River proposal is far too risky in a High Risk Acid Sulphate Soil location. If farmers are restricted from digging a dam, how can a developer safely excavate massive foundations? The risk to waterways, wetlands, and farming is unacceptable. Cumulative impacts: Assessments must consider not just the immediate site, but regional cumulative impacts of multiple projects. Dieback and weed management must be binding conditions with enforceable compliance. Decommissioning and rehabilitation bonds should be mandatory, secured up-front, to guarantee long-term restoration and not leave costs with the community. Baseline data: Developers must provide extensive, independent baseline data on soils, hydrology, biodiversity, and fauna movements before any Development Application is even considered. Without this, it is impossible for the Shire or the community to make an informed assessment. These two questions are skewed to wanting it. We don't want it to start with
The environmental impacts of wind turbines in every environment outweigh the requirement for them. The energy and materials including mining, land clearing, manufacturing, transportation, fossil fuel usage, breakdowns and damage, pollution from degradation of blades and seals, decommissioning and disposal far outweigh what they are claimed to save. The local community does not benefit from this industrialisation of a beautiful rural area. Just leading edge blade erosion is an enormous issue that needs to be addressed permanently before any wind turbine is considered. It's reported that up to 60kg of blade material is shed from the larger wind turbine blades each year not the surrounding environment. This is completely unacceptable.
I object to the following 1. Clearing forests to place transmission lines. The noise e.g. windfarms. 2. The visual pollution of seeing our landscapes with these towers. 3. No policy for recycling because they cannot recycle the materials used. 5. The forcing of farmers to have their agricultural lands used for windfarms. 6. The limited time these windfarms last. 7. Needing to prop up with diesel when not performing. 8. Using batteries in itself is a major issue. What environmental impact is occurring to dig for the minerals to make batteries. Watch the Spotlight show and see the damage done by China in Indonesia in producing these "dirty batteries"
There will be massive impact on the environment and for what gain?
Stop advocacy. The Shire is not the Climate Council. The Shires remit is services, roads, infrastructure and community. This advocacy role is not your responsibility.
The questions are biased Environmental concerns are priority The profits are not for Australians how dare you think of destroying our land to sell. the results are in now. This is not feasible wake up

any new development that uses renewable energy such as windfarms, batteries or solar will have an impact visually, it is a matter of balance to ensure that land clearing and other negative activities are minimised. How it should also be remembered that if a new coal fired power station or even a nuclear power station was built that the impact on the environment during the build would be substantially worse!
The definition of environmental impact needs attention. It needs to include residents directly affected and community environment
As we are surrounded by national parks, which prove we are living in sensitive areas. The council should have stricter policy to protect the environment.
Compensation does not cut it - don't put the wind farms up in the first place
The Shire's policy should go further to ensure real environmental protections, the risk to waterways, wetlands and farming is unacceptable with the wind turbines not to mention wildlife which is unique in the Scott River area. Farmers are restricted when digging dams or clearing a few trees how can developers safely excavate massive foundations?
AGAIN. This survey is heavy with bias. I cannot support a yes or no answer as I feel a more elaborate questionnaire is required to fully understand the magnitude of the environmental impacts imposed on a region with such critical and globally unique biodiversity at risk.
Need to ensure directly impacted residents in the immediate area are duly consulted. It is not fair for residents who are not directly impacted by these projects to have an equal say. I.e residents in Margaret River making decisions regarding the proposed wind turbines at Scott River.
Hurry up and install the turbines!
The Shire's local policy should go further to ensure real environmental protections: Avoidance first: Projects should not be permitted in or near TECs, critical wildlife corridors, wetlands, or prime agricultural land. Offsets are not an acceptable substitute for prevention. No use of neighbouring land as environmental "buffer zones" — impacts must be fully contained within the project boundary. Bird and bat strike risk must be independently assessed, including migratory species and raptors. Acid sulphate soils must be strictly managed — past projects like Beenup Mine show the long-term damage that occurs if this is mishandled. The Scott River proposal is far too risky in a High Risk Acid Sulphate Soil location. If farmers are restricted from digging a dam, how can a developer safely excavate massive foundations? The risk to waterways, wetlands, and farming is unacceptable. Cumulative impacts: Assessments must consider not just the immediate site, but regional cumulative impacts of multiple projects. Dieback and weed management must be binding conditions with enforceable compliance. Decommissioning and rehabilitation bonds should be mandatory, secured up-front, to guarantee long-term restoration and not leave costs with the community. Baseline data: Developers must provide extensive, independent baseline data on soils, hydrology, biodiversity, and fauna movements before any Development Application is even considered. Without this, it is impossible for the Shire or the community to make an informed assessment.
The forests, wetlands, and rivers we love and depend on are being destroyed at a dangerous rate. The massive land clearing needed - when studies are beginning to show that PFAS and other pollutants from wind turbines and solar panels will render the land unusable after their minimum lifespan. An ever-growing global wind energy industry with high densities of wind turbines may have long-lasting effects on insects and associated trophic links if negative impacts on insects are not considered during the erection and operation of wind turbines. Birds can collide with turbine blades or towers, leading to fatalities. Some species may also be displaced from important feeding or breeding grounds. Bats are also highly vulnerable to collisions with wind turbines. The construction and presence of wind farms can alter natural landscapes, leading to the loss or fragmentation of habitats for various species.
There needs to be consultation with local environment groups, including wildlife groups who will have specific knowledge of the proposed development areas. The impact of vibrations and other pollution needs careful consideration and assessment by health experts as well.
All studies and assessment outcomes need to be repeatedly communicated via various media channels and explained to residents while thoroughly addressing anyone's concerns
Please protect the environment
Renewables should be located in already cleared or degraded land and definitely not in National Parks or Reserves.

The shire has strict rules on clearing, protecting biodiversity etc so it then must have very strict rules with renewables. These are not like putting up a shed. These are industrial developments. Each shire must look at each area proposed. To allow these companies to come in and place solar or wind on delicate land, near population, on prime agricultural land, near delicate land, near biodiversity would be criminal and go against every bit of land that has been looked after over the years. It may be a cost but very independent experts need to be employed to look at all the environmental issues, not trusting just the studies provided by the companies. It cannot be just a push for net zero and we all follow blindly.
The research is overwhelming stating the cost, effects to living beings and maintenance to be all adversely affected.
We need to look at what is/has taken place in countries that are now advocating the removal of wind turbines.
It is already difficult to clear native vegetation, particularly in our biodiversity hotspot which has already been cleared within an inch of its life. I don't think a shire policy will do anything to change the requirements of a renewable project's clearing limitations or rehab requirements that isn't already done through feedback to the EPA / DWER by the shire.
Part b above - farmland should also be excluded from use part c - undermines part b, basically enabling a well funded developer to do as it pleases, just pay for the privilege. This leads to possible coercion and undue influence on the developers part. Acid sulfate soils are a real issue and 3 core samples for the entire planned area at Scott River is ludicrously inadequate.
The framework is fine but ensuring compliance is another issue which needs to be clear. Project studies conducted by developers of renewable projects need to be made available and a third party independent consult review needs to be undertaken. It is too easy given the lack of data on some areas of the regions flora and fauna to make decisions on insufficient data. Once these ecosystems are lost they cannot be replaced key areas would be acid sulphate management and aquifer contamination from large scale civil works
There is strong community worry about the impacts that are being completely ignored and these environmental groups seem to absolutely no care for the environment or wildlife with what's been happening in Australia and around the world. Bulldozing pristine forests and farmlands and murdering the wildlife. Absolutely disgusting.
Impacts must be contained within the project boundaries?!
The entire wind farm proposal boundaries sit within the Scott River flood plain. This is a World Heritage Site and an area of high ecological value with 26 fauna species listed as threatened and requiring protection. The wind turbines pose a very real risk to these threatened species as will the clearing of land with the potential to these animals becoming extinct. Large areas of land will need to be cleared and deeply dug up to install the turbines. This will harm the ecological balance of the area impacting native vegetation and the soil composition. Acid sulphate soils in this area are in danger of being disturbed, when exposed to oxygen acid is produced that will threaten the environment. The proposed siting of wind turbines sits within the boundary of close proximity to biodiverse conservation reserves and tributaries of the Blackwood and Scott River. The siting of the proposed project poses significant risk to the health of these river systems. I would like to see advocacy through policy used to see the project located away from areas of high ecological value.
This policy needs to be derived from extensive studies and not those provided by proponents. There is way too much to lose if these companies are allowed to do what they want. The shire rules over landholders, enforcing building developments etc. Industrial sized wind farms has to be controlled with the strictest guidelines. Beenup situation has to be considered. Water tables. True studies need to be done.
The Shire's local policy should be strengthened to ensure genuine environmental protections. Avoidance must be the first priority: projects should not be permitted in or near Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs), critical wildlife corridors, wetlands, or prime agricultural land. Offsets are not a substitute for prevention, and neighbouring land should not be relied on as an environmental buffer — all impacts must be fully contained within the project boundary. Wildlife and ecosystem protection is essential: bird and bat strike risks must be independently assessed, including impacts on migratory species and raptors. Large-scale developments disrupt insect-eating wildlife, leading to declines in bats, birds, and other species that naturally control insects. This disruption can result in increased mosquito populations, creating potential risks for mosquito-borne diseases that threaten community health. Projects must also strictly manage acid sulfate soils, as past developments such as the Beenup Mine demonstrate the long-term environmental damage that can occur if these are mishandled. Proposals in high-risk locations, such as the Scott River area, present unacceptable risks to soils, waterways, wetlands, agricultural activities, and public health. Cumulative impacts must be considered, not just impacts at the immediate site. Dieback and weed management should be binding conditions with enforceable compliance. Decommissioning and rehabilitation bonds should be required up-front to guarantee long-term restoration and prevent the community from bearing future costs.

Fire safety and toxic smoke are critical concerns: developers must provide extensive, independent baseline data on bushfire risks, including potential ignition sources, site-specific fire behaviour, and proximity to bushfire-prone areas. Detailed evacuation plans and assessment of available fire-fighting resources must be submitted, with compliance to Bushfire Attack Level (BAL) standards or higher where applicable. Fires involving wind turbines can produce highly toxic smoke, as turbine blades, nacelles, and lubricants burn. This smoke is harmful to humans, wildlife, and ecosystems, posing both respiratory and environmental hazards. Finally, developers must provide extensive, independent baseline data on soils, hydrology, biodiversity, fauna movements, potential health impacts, and fire hazards before any Development Application is considered. Without this data, neither the Shire nor the community can make an informed assessment of the potential environmental, health, and safety impacts.
Don't want wind farms
Would like to have local Shire policy added to current planning framework.
I dont have a crystall ball so we wont know until its too late
The Shire's local policy should go further to ensure real environmental protections: Projects should not be permitted in or near Threatened Ecological Communities, critical wildlife corridors, wetlands, or prime agricultural land. No use of neighbouring land as environmental "buffer zones" — impacts must be fully contained within the project boundary. Bird and bat strike risk must be independently assessed, including migratory species and raptors. The Scott River proposal is far too risky in a High Risk Acid Sulphate Soil location. The risk to waterways, wetlands, and farming is unacceptable. Cumulative impacts - assessments must consider not just the immediate site, but regional cumulative impacts of multiple projects. Dieback and weed management must be binding conditions with enforceable compliance. Decommissioning and rehabilitation bonds should be mandatory, secured up-front, to guarantee long-term restoration and not leave costs with the community. Baseline data: Developers must provide extensive, independent baseline data on soils, hydrology, biodiversity, and fauna movements before any Development Application is even considered.
The Scott River proposal is far too risky due to its high environmental value. My property consists of 28 acres of conservation bushland which I purchased in December of 2014 to protect it. This project directly threatens the health of this conservation bushland due to the very high risk of acid sulphate soils being disturbed during excavations being dug for the multiple footings needed for these turbines. No one from the synergy environmental team could explain to me exactly how this risk would be mitigated, again no technical data or soil/water quality results from their studies were shown. I understand BHP started a mineral sands mine some time ago off Scott River road and there was a huge catastrophe with poisoned ground water. The Scott River also boards my property (that's how close I am) and the response or lack of from synergy did not give me any confidence there won't be another environmental disaster about to happen in the Scott River region. One of my neighbouring farmers has been farming this area for 60 years and knows how high the water table is around the Scott River area and the aquifers in the area. This wind turbine project does not belong in this pristine native park and conservation bushland area, and at the risk of destroying one of our biggest food producing agricultural farmlands

Item C – Q8. Verbatim responses

Why doesn't this apply to Gnarabup development since it will degrade visual amenity on the beach for everyone, a natural coastal aesthetic lost
There has to be flexibility in rules.
No
It is impossible to reduce any visual impacts with the height of these monstrosities.
Some projects just should not be considered period! The Scott River turbine project is one of them!!!!
The glossy pictures that Synergy (RED) have supplied are a scam these monstrosities will be much closer than portrayed.
What about wave power, or nuclear, or home owners with solar Why is it that this is just about wind?
Again, reduction of the scale of renewable energy systems is important to reduce visual impact. We can't grow shrubs in front of turbines that are 13 times the height of Cape Leeuwin lighthouse.
This is very subjective. For example some people are more worried about visual impact before a wind farm project is built. Yet others say they are a feature when they are built and others say they can barely see them.
Kills bird life, causes destruction to all our landscapes.
You reference the Leeuwin Naturaliste Ridge policy - this doesn't even apply in the location you know the development is proposed. What about the southern ocean foreshore protection area and restricting impediment of the current coastal view from Augusta to Windy Harbour - which on a clear day is visible. There is no setbacks at a state level for providing an example of 1.5km above is misdirection. 100% support having minimum setbacks from property boundaries, however for a development proposed to have turbines of 270m in height in open agricultural area this will do bugger all from a visual impact perspective, the benefit would be that it would prevent the development impeding the future use of neighbouring properties outside the project area - these developments extend from 30 - 70 years so it is imperative that the development is constrained within land where parties are willing participants to the project. Forced participation should be through land acquisition at full market value.
Europe has turbines as close as 300mtr away from houses, so don't see a reason (if communicated well with owners) to have them closer. Obviously flora and fauna has to be considered, but policies generalise a lot where I reckon it should be looked at individually projects, and obviously brought down to minimum impact,...
The benefit does not anywhere near equal the cost. Not even close. Renewables have become a massive business, designed to hoodwink local, State and Federal government into spending billions to achieve unaffordable power less reliably. Great idea? I think not.
current standards are floored. IMF and EMR from 7mw turbines require a safe distance of 10-20km, depending on terrain what about the red flashing lights at night? or the shadow flicker
It should not change the character of the landscape, flat open rural landscape should not be turned into an industrial park
These are trick questions
As I said before, leave it alone...I much rather see natural vegetation without impact from wind farms or solar farms. They don't work, never have and cost a lot of money which we don't have. What is already in place works fine. If people want renewables then each person sets up their own system individually just like having a rain water tank.
Sign pollution everywhere. There are more signs in Margaret River than in Busselton.
No compromise with preserving natural healthy living of plants, animals and man.
I'm sure all these specifications would incur extra costs and costing. This factor must be also clearly communicated.

There is no mention of size or height of wind turbines wrt visual impact. Those proposed for Scott River are excessive. Smaller turbines may be more acceptable visually.
Wind Turbines should not be built where there is any chance of Bird strikes, and a proper assessment by Birds Australia should be conducted before any Turbines are allowed to be. built
Wind farms are a hideous impost on any environment they are inefficient and degrade the environment permanently defeating the claimed purpose of this infrastructure. Other renewable methodologies are superior with less impact. Wind farms are an attempt by large multinational companies to preserve their grip on the distributed energy supply business.
setbacks from property boundaries to be prescribed depending on the scale of the project. For example, 3 times the height of a wind turbine. This is well short of the 1.5 km requirement to avoid noise pollution and will negatively impact the possibility of human habitation on the adjacent property.
Same as the environment comment.
This is a very weighted anti windmill question fuelled by misinformation and scaremongering. It is disappointing to see this in the survey.
No to wind farms
Flying in to Denmark EU over the sea you fly over the wind turbines - it is shockingly impressive and makes a big statement in regards to comittment to sustainability which is then backed up by the rest of the country. Turbines are not necessarily bad but need to be done right. Still not sold but would consider it....
Some vociferous opponents of renewable energy claim that wind turbines and solar arrays are "ugly". This opinion should be treated carefully as it is quite subjective. Most renewable energy projects can be screened or are located where few people see them. Certainly people living far from these developments should not have too much influence.
Landscape assessment is a highly subjective matter and tends to be site specific. Policy should be framed such that appearance of renewable energy facilities is evaluated in the context of the degree of disturbance of original landscapes. For example, cleared farm with rolling green paddocks over the land is a huge and dramatic change from the original bushland. These landscapes should be seen as highly modified and consequently putting a renewable energy facility into such contexts is just a change of use rather than a significant change to the visual landscape
Nobody wants to see wind farms, we live in Augusta to get away from industry so it should be left un-tampered. The town would pay dearly with the sight of wind farms
I disagree because the question assumes that large scale renewables are going to be allowed and we are being given options on how to manage them
Turbines x20 at 250m high destroys the visual amenity & no amount of planning, consultation & words can mitigate that.
Wind turbines are another visual indicator of the development of the region, just as land clearing for agriculture and housing is. Luckily they are visually appealing and symbolic of the clean energy revolution. I love seeing them. They're awesome. I find them inspiring sculptural monuments to the best of technology. In comparison to any other energy resources they are a beautiful upgrade.
Wind farms should be located a minimum of 20km from the nearest town. There is absolutely no no reason a towns view should be spoilt by these ugly towers.
No one should have to live with the impact of these wind turbines either visually or noise wise, the Scott river proposal will affect the whole beauty of Augusta from scenic flinders bay to the lighthouse . They must not be seen or heard, they must not be allowed .
Set back distances from property and boundary need to be carefully considered. Further explanation is required on "vegetation buffers"
I am not in agreement with current proposals on renewable energy. I am not in agreement with wind farms anywhere within the shire. Nor do I agree with solar panel 'farms' in the landscape. I believe I am well informed on this issue and understand proposed infrastructure to be unsustainable in every respect & degrading to the landscape, environment & visual aesthetic.

Most people move to the Southwest for its natural beauty, definitely not massive, rotating man made structures of any kind. Massive man made structures degrade the value of property investment in once natural environments.
I recognise that renewable energy is an important step toward a more sustainable future for our Shire, but I also hold concerns about the potential impacts on the landscapes and visual character that make Augusta Margaret River unique. Our natural environment, open spaces, and scenic views are central to the identity of our community and are highly valued by both residents and visitors. Large-scale renewable energy projects, such as wind farms or extensive solar arrays, have the potential to alter the character of our rural and coastal landscapes. Changes to skylines, open farmland, and natural vistas could affect how people experience our environment and may also influence tourism, which relies heavily on the attraction of our pristine surroundings. For this reason, I believe it is vital that the Shire's planning policy includes clear guidance on: Sensitive site selection, ensuring projects are located away from areas of high scenic value. Design standards that minimise visual intrusion and blend developments with the landscape where possible. Setbacks and buffer zones to protect residential amenity and iconic view corridors. Community engagement to understand local perspectives on valued landscapes. Cumulative impact assessment, so the overall effect of multiple projects on the visual environment is considered. By carefully addressing landscape and visual impacts, the Shire can support renewable energy in a way that aligns with community values and preserves the character of our region.
embracing renewable fuels more important than visual impacts
The Shire needs to be a strong advocate for protecting Augusta from the visual impact of the proposed Scott River project. The potential impact (as demonstrated by Synergy) is not in keeping with the best interests of the residents whom the council is intended to support.
These options are very contradictory - you cannot have an efficient renewable energy source without any visual impact.
Again, these questions assume that I agree to having windmills installed at all in the first place.
Unsure of current policy/ standards
MR Landscape is more than just the "ridge". People come to AMR because of its landscape and visual amenity across the region. To be away from urban/industrial reminders of factories, noise, pollution and population. This means windfarms and associated noise and environmental impacts are integrated with visual. Any "visual " inclusions for windfarm should be to reduce harm to animals not aesthetic because you think these would make them more acceptable. The SW corner along the coast is one of the last broader vistas of nature as should be kept, not industrialised. It's not just windfarms, paddock of solar panels, clustered housing no trees, but water tanks.
There are no standards that could minimise their impact on the environment or landscape. They are an eyesore that will not solve the perceived problems.
The idea of what constitutes a visual impact is based on subjective ideas. To avoid lengthy debates around what is or isn't a visual impact, policy should address this as best as possible so that it is not left open to interpretation. However, policy in this area needs to be guided by the principle of best possible sustainable environmental outcome.
Long term visual impact must be taken seriously
Wind turbines will be a blight to the scenery and I believe that there should be none on the coastal areas on land or offshore where they can be seen from the Town and local beaches.
The Shire's local policy must acknowledge that landscape and visual amenity are core values of the Augusta-Margaret River region, underpinning both tourism and quality of life. Specific points: Setbacks: Current minimum setbacks (1.5km from dwellings, 3x turbine height from boundaries) are insufficient for turbines now exceeding 250m. Setbacks should be significantly increased and scaled to turbine size. Neighbouring land: Developers must not rely on neighbouring properties as visual or noise buffers. All impacts must

be contained within the project boundary. Cumulative impacts: Assessments must consider not only individual projects but also how multiple facilities across the region alter the broader landscape character. Tourism values: Iconic vistas such as the Leeuwin-Naturaliste Ridge, coastlines, and Blackwood/Scott River landscapes must be declared off-limits to large-scale industrial facilities. Sense of place: Visual impact assessments must consider the cultural, rural, and tourism-based identity of the Shire, not just technical line-of-sight. Again this assumes we want it. Questions are skewed
The largest wind turbines can be seen as far as 50kms away. This should not be allowed in rural areas we cherish as the country side should always remain as country side rather than industrial power plant. Especially if what was once a beautiful vista is now ruined with industrialisation that can be seen from so far away.
I do not want to see any form of renewable development in my Shire. I love the landscape as is. NO windfarms that present this ugly visual impact.
The turbines will stand out like sore thumbs. They can be seen for miles. Go to Merredin, you can see them from 20kms away!
Stop advocating. Your role as shire is to serve and facilitate the local community. Any environmental laws should be managed by the relevant agency or department. Shire can't manage a local Jetty, it should not concern itself with new unwieldy tasks for which it is unqualified
Wind farms were very small originally and now are a visual eyesore . The noise is threatening
Wind turbines are problematic for many people. Solar panels can be more easily be integrated into farming land. Studies/media reports have shown that sheep and cattle can coexist with solar panels. the panels offer shade and improve paddock moisture levels. Back to turbines, I have repeatedly urged proponents for wind farms to take a look at countries like Holland and Denmark which have turbines across their whole landscape. how have they managed to achieve this with little apparent push back from land holders?
Wild places risk becoming uber industrialised landscapes
The visual impact of 250 meter high wind turbines would not be camouflaged by landscaping.
The Shire's local policy must acknowledge that landscape and visual amenity are core values of the AMR region, underpinning both tourism and quality of life.
*the scale of the "unmentioned proposed colossal wind turbine development" makes the questions above seem somewhat trivial.... landscaping will never obscure a 290m turbine. *the south west has long touted its unindustrialised "longview" as a world class holiday destination... a place to escape the congestion and hum of the city.
Need to properly assess impacts of projects on property value depreciation, loss of tourism etc.
No problem with how they look!
The Shire's local policy must acknowledge that landscape and visual amenity are core values of the Augusta-Margaret River region, underpinning both tourism and quality of life. Specific points: Setbacks: Current minimum setbacks (1.5km from dwellings, 3x turbine height from boundaries) are insufficient for turbines now exceeding 250m. Setbacks should be significantly increased and scaled to turbine size. Neighbouring land: Developers must not rely on neighbouring properties as visual or noise buffers. All impacts must be contained within the project boundary. Cumulative impacts: Assessments must consider not only individual projects but also how multiple facilities across the region alter the broader landscape character. Tourism values: Iconic vistas such as the Leeuwin-Naturaliste Ridge, coastlines, and Blackwood/Scott River landscapes must be declared off-limits to large-scale industrial facilities. Sense of place: Visual impact assessments must consider the cultural, rural, and tourism-based identity of the Shire, not just technical line-of-sight.
Visitors and locals have concerns about noise and visual blight changing the landscape they identify with. Other issues include land use, potential effects on property values, questions about the carbon footprint of manufacturing, and worries about the unpredictability of the wind. The visual appearance of large turbines are an eyesore.
Landscape is one of the rare gifts we have in the southwest. The natural beauty of the area will be forever marred by large wind turbines, which will be seen from many angles and from long distances. Wind turbines need to be located where they will not be seen.

Visual impact is a difficult area. Some people have very strong views against wind turbines that are based on emotions and ideology rather than evidence. Most people don't love them but see them as necessary for clean and affordable electricity. Best to take a pragmatic approach that these are just the best option available to decarbonise our power generation system as quickly as possible.
No
In most European countries wind turbines are found throughout the countryside and have been accepted. I would rather see wind turbines than burn fossil fuel to create power. Solar panels can easily be integrated into agricultural land as sheep and cows are able to graze around them and even use them for shade.
Landscape and visual impacts is very important. This shire is famous for its landscape. People come from all around the world to see it. To change is in such a drastic ways like the proposed Scott River Wind farm would be a permanent change. Iconic vistas must be protected at all costs. I have a shop in Augusta. The first thing customers say is "What a magical view. How Lucky you are to live here" Then the immediate neighbours. Why should someone who has lived in peace surrounded by beauty suddenly have that ruined by some who think they are going to be financially better off?
We do not need to spoil our beautiful vistas, to put it bluntly wind turbines are visual pollution!
in some cases it would not be practicable to make boundary distances uniform, there needs to be an amount of tolerance here, in regard to wind tower colouring uniform colouring I think is not so important as a blade colouring eg. a coloured strip on each blade to disturb bird strike
I don't think a policy will impact state decisions made on large projects. Current setback distances are more than adequate. Perspective particularly of a wind farm is so subjective that imposing vegetation buffers etc will be a nightmare.
The proposed technology wind farms are outdated and visually, highly offensive.
Standards are not well defined for renewable projects Consult with all landowners neighbouring any renewable energy project whether it be wind turbine project or a solar panel farm to understand the implications at a local level any project will have on farm operations and the well being of the people that live there
These Turbines are ugly monstrosities. Destroying beautiful scenic countryside.
Current minimum setbacks are insufficient for turbines now exceeding 250m!
The location is unsuitable for the proposed project. Advocate through policy for the proposal not to go ahead in this location. In regards to landscape AMR shire Local Planning Scheme 2 has identified agricultural land zoned as a priority area to be used for the purpose of agriculture. At 250 m high as tall as city skyscrapers the turbines will have a significant visual impact that detracts from the natural landscape of the area. Many tourists come to the area to be away from the visual impacts of the city and be one with nature. The visual impact on the landscape poses a risk to the economy of tourism. The shadow flicker of the turbines has a visual impact with scientific evidence of impact to health.
The Scott River wind farm proposal would have minimal landscape impact and the visual impact is highly subjective. There is also no permanent effect visually, so the current view will return when the wind farm is decommissioned. They are also in the distance and not dominating the Augusta town scene.
We have to remember that visual impact is not just, too bad if you don't like the look. In this shire people have invested in property for an exact view, vista. It should not be able to be taken away for the so called, greater good. This could have very serious mental side effects, monetary stress with property value decline etc This region relies on tourism and tourists come to see the natural beauty.
The Shire's local policy must recognise that landscape and visual amenity are core values of the Augusta-Margaret River region, underpinning both tourism and quality of life. Renewable energy projects, particularly large-scale wind turbines, have the potential to significantly undermine these values. Setbacks: Current minimum setbacks (1.5 km from dwellings, 3x turbine height from property boundaries) are insufficient for turbines now exceeding 250 m in height. Setbacks should be substantially increased and scaled to turbine size to reduce visual and amenity impacts. Neighbouring land: Developers must not rely on neighbouring properties as visual or noise buffers. All impacts must be fully contained within the project boundary. Cumulative impacts: Assessments must consider not only the impacts of individual projects but also how multiple facilities across the region collectively alter the broader landscape character.

Tourism values and sense of place: Iconic vistas such as the Leeuwin-Naturaliste Ridge, coastlines, and Blackwood/Scott River landscapes must be protected and declared off-limits to large-scale industrial facilities. Visual impact assessments must also consider the cultural, rural, and tourism-based identity of the Shire, not just technical line-of-sight. Light pollution: The presence of red aviation lights atop turbines and ground lighting at night would create significant light pollution, destroying the natural skyline that attracts residents and tourists alike. The Shire is a destination for night photography, including aurora viewing, and wind turbine lighting would make these experiences impossible, permanently altering the character and enjoyment of the region's nightscape. Conclusion: Protecting the natural skyline, night sky, and visual amenity should be a non-negotiable aspect of planning policy. Industrial-scale turbines threaten both the daily landscape and the unique nocturnal environment, which are central to the Augusta-Margaret River region's identity, lifestyle, and tourism economy.
Don't want wind farms
Whilst supporting Renewable Energy Initiatives I believe that it is of the utmost importance that visual amenity is not impacted by wind turbines and that prime agricultural land in the AMR Shire is protected. From a tourism perspective we should not destroy the very appeal that brings visitors to the highly popular Southwest region of WA.
It will destroy both
The visual effects of renewables is less important than the role they play in transitioning our energy system
Landscape and visual amenity are core values of the Augusta-Margaret River region, underpinning both tourism and quality of life. Iconic vistas such as the Leeuwin-Naturaliste Ridge, coastlines, and Blackwood/Scott River landscapes must be declared off-limits to large-scale industrial facilities.
Impacting the visual landscape for such close residents should be taken into account. My residence is 1km from the Coostien road project boundary. My address is on Coostien road. I do not wish to spend the rest of my days being able to see these things from my house and yet no one from synergy after all their so called visual impact studies can tell wether they will impact the visual beauty of my home. Set backs should be significantly increased from residents and sensitive conservation and protected native bushland not to harm residence and endemic fauna that is already under threat

Item D – Q10. Verbatim responses

Define noise type within the policy. Some noises are more annoying than others.
Noise travels immensely across the Blackwood River so the constant droning sound will impact dwellings far beyond what the required guidelines suggest it will.
1.5km is a joke! Listen to people impacted by other projects and learn. It's not difficult. Stop being white washed by government policy just because they're trying to make some fanciful net zero target at the expense of our lifestyle in a pristine environment.
The current 45/35db regulations is utterly ridiculous. No allowance for infrasound has been made which is REAL and can affect 30% of the population which can affect people up to the distance of 20 kilometres.
Why has there been no shire neighbour and vicinity consultation?
Most noise impact studies have been in relation to European locations - building designs and standards differ there then Australia and the setback distances should therefore not be relied upon. Noise assessments should be transparent. Synergy have refused to share raw data for independent assessment and have assumed existing background noise levels for neighbouring residents based on models. A policy should have a mandatory requirement that all neighbours are transparently provided an opportunity in writing to have existing noise on their properties measured during the pre-development phase, and it should be proven in the application that the development noise will remain at all time under the 35db at all time. Ongoing monitoring should be auditable and a mechanism for fair compensation for any breaches in place in a way that compensates those affected
Devaluing property not only from noise pollution but destroying the environment.
infrasound is not measured in dB. the pulsating IMF caused by the turbine blade passing the tower is not measured. or acknowledged by the industry.... the Shire is relying on the renewable industry for accurate data....
There's no allowance for the fact that the noise is constant, day and night, never turning off unless the wind is not blowing Even if the wind is low the noise might be softer, but it is still a constant drone
Trick questions
Wind farms are notorious for disruption of nature with the sonic noise they emit. What a disaster they would be to peace and also the shedding of micro plastics into our soil and water..and imagine the nightmare if a bush fire got out of control and went through solar farms or wind farms..the clean up would be enormous and impacted for generations..
None
Neighbouring property owners that are going to get any benefit from a project should not have to be impacted by a development it can have devastating result on mental health and decrease the value of your property
No compromise with preserving natural healthy living of plants, animals and man.
I have no experience to have an opinion about noise.
Noise recreated by new developments should not affect the quality of life for existing communities
I would be more concerned about noise than visual impact. You can look away but it's hard to avoid background noise. The db measurements quoted for common sounds are not clear. Eg 60 db for a dishwasher but how near is the measurement taken?
Turbines should not be built anywhere near where there are dwellings that can be affected by noise
Do not use or allow wind farms within the AMR Shire. These are false economy and always detrimental to environments where deployed. At end of life, normally reasonably short they create extraordinary large amounts of hazardous waste requiring specialist processing to mitigate. Invest in other renewable energy sources instead.
Base the assessment on the measured impact of the noise when the speed and direction of the wind is taken into account.

Same as the environment comment.
I have lived near wind farms, the "noise" claim is an absolute lie and misinformation. You cannot hear the wind, I'll 1.5km away. The kids watching tik tok and instagram are far more noises than the windmills. Don't set policy on misinformation and lies, do better.
No to wind farms
Nighttime noise should be carefully checked and measured scientifically.
35dBA is very quiet, and noises such as traffic, agricultural machinery, parties often exceed these levels. the EPA guidelines require evaluation whether the noise is continuous or intermittent. This should be based on modelling of potentially affected locations and what mitigation is possible e.g. the noise barriers on the freeway.
There should be no noise impacts on any dwellings - therefore windfarms should not be built anywhere near where people live. There is documented evidence that noise and infrasound from wind turbines have a detrimental effect on people's health.
The benefit of the rural lifecycle is the rural/bush soundscape, particular attention should be paid to limit the impact on residents in relation to this.
As little as possible!
I often visit the Flat Rocks wind farm near Kojonup, where you can drive right up to them. I've been there in very light wind, moderate wind and strong wind. On each occasion the turbines are quieter than an idling vehicle at the same distance. The stronger the wind, the less noise you can hear from the turbines. They are very quiet. Well worth a visit
Any noise even if it falsely is compared to rustling leaves is obnoxious! Soon there will be class actions claims against any noise!
No one should be impacted from the noise, they should not be within close enough range to be heard, they should not be anywhere near homes or towns . 12 km to Augusta is too close
further clarity is required, but DWER or similar is better placed to provide guidance and ensure compliance.
I am not in agreement with current proposals on renewable energy. I am not in agreement with wind farms anywhere within the shire. Nor do I agree with solar panel 'farms' in the landscape. I believe I am well informed on this issue and understand proposed infrastructure to be unsustainable in every respect & degrading to the landscape, environment & visual aesthetic.
Yes. Increasing noise in any level from mechanical turbines in the pristine areas of Margaret River should not be destroyed. The rating of any mechanical device may be rated at 35DB but give it 5 years or 10 and will be a lot higher. Ratings cant be trusted as are day 1 and until warranty lapses. The tranquility of Margies is the low noise all the time especially at Night.
Infrasound is a proven frequency not necessarily heard and is detrimental to good health. Wind turbines are proven to create it. Any risk at all of disturbing local residents is unacceptable.
While I support the transition to renewable energy in the Augusta Margaret River Shire, I believe it is important to acknowledge and manage the potential noise impacts that may arise from developments such as wind farms or associated infrastructure.
Noise can affect both residential amenity and the natural environment. For residents, ongoing or excessive noise—whether from turbine blades, mechanical equipment, or construction activities—has the potential to impact quality of life, particularly in a region known for its peace, natural quiet, and rural character. For wildlife, noise can disrupt natural behaviours, including communication and breeding patterns.
To address these concerns, I would encourage the Shire's planning policy to:
Set clear noise standards and limits aligned with best practice and health guidelines.
Require independent noise assessments as part of the planning and approval process.
Ensure appropriate setbacks between renewable energy infrastructure and residences or sensitive land uses.
Include monitoring and compliance measures throughout the life of the project to address any issues that arise.
Provide transparent information and consultation with the community so residents understand potential impacts and mitigation strategies.
By embedding these protections into the local planning framework, renewable energy can be developed responsibly while safeguarding the health, wellbeing, and amenity of our community
The standard EPA guidelines may not be appropriate for specific settings in the Shire. What is 'acceptable' background noise in a rural setting is different to an urban standard, as are the distances that may or may not be acceptable. the Shire needs to take the lead on the standards that work for residents.
Here we are again, assuming I agree to windmills being installed to begin with.

Requirements to follow renewable energy policy as long as it puts the environment first through supported scientific evidence not NIMBY opinions
How is it that this noise is considered acceptable. If I had a dog and it barked constantly or a party that went past midnight and the neighbours complained I would be forced to do something about it to cease permanently. I have "no right" to complain about this noise as it is deemed acceptable as it falls with regulated limits. This noise will be constant for more than 20 years. Impact on creatures with hearing/senses more acute than ours not investigated extensively or mitigated. Bats as an example.
Subjecting a community to the perpetual hum of 35db is something our wonderful Augusta Margaret River Shire must protect its ratepayers from.
They need to have zero noise
Stronger setbacks: Minimum setbacks should be scaled to turbine size — at least 3 km from dwellings and 5x turbine tip height from property boundaries.
Containment: Developers must not rely on neighbouring land as a noise buffer. All noise impacts must be contained within the project boundary.
Infrasound and low-frequency noise: Current EPA guidelines do not address infrasound, which is a major community concern. These impacts must be measured and regulated.
Independent monitoring: Noise assessments and ongoing compliance checks must be carried out by independent experts, not consultants hired by the developer.
No host agreements overriding limits: Developers should not be permitted to bypass standards by signing private agreements with landowners. These create unfair outcomes for neighbours who bear the brunt of excess noise without consent.
Construction noise: Strict conditions must apply to construction phases, including curfews and monitoring, to protect residents' health and amenity.
Impact on wildlife and livestock: Noise and infrasound will sterilise the environment. If turbine blades don't kill birds and bats, the noise and vibration will drive them away, displacing wildlife from their natural habitats. International studies have also reported major deformities and health impacts in livestock exposed to prolonged turbine noise and infrasound.
As far as we have experienced noise levels that concern homeowners is not supported by the W.A. State Government noise levels. Suggest these people setting these noise level requirements come live in our area to hear for themselves.
Why should landowners who will not benefit have to put up with the constant whooshing sound?
The Shire makes a lot of noise about whatever agenda WALGA sets. We are onto you.
It's cruel and unjust How dare you
The noise emanating from a wind turbine can be affected by the topography of the countryside it is located in. A flat open farming land will have quite different characteristics compared to an area of low rolling hills. so legislation needs to consider these variables.
The current attitude of "we wont know until we put them up" it not sufficiently quantifiable
EPA regulations do not address infrasound and the impacts. Noise pollution should be monitored by independent experts, not the developer.
Again - dont have the wind farms
Stronger setbacks. Infrasound and low frequency noise: Current CPA guidelines do not address infrasound, which is a major community concern. Developers should not be permitted to bypass standards by signing private agreements with landowners. These create unfair outcomes for neighbours who bear the brunt of excess noise without consent.
how is the community supposed to weigh in on noise Impact (35dB) with out any understanding or examples / experience of what that equates to? This feels deceptive to expect a Layman to harbour immediate specialised knowledge of the particular subject.
Thorough and independent data needs to be used in assessment; not just those produced by project proponents.
No problems with noise!
Stronger setbacks: Minimum setbacks should be scaled to turbine size — at least 3 km from dwellings and 5x turbine tip height from property boundaries. Containment: Developers must not rely on neighbouring land as a noise buffer. All noise impacts must be contained within the project boundary. Infrasound and low-frequency noise: Current EPA guidelines do not address infrasound, which is a major community concern. These impacts must be measured and regulated. Independent monitoring: Noise assessments and ongoing compliance checks must be carried out by independent experts, not consultants hired by the developer. No host agreements overriding limits: Developers should not be permitted to bypass standards by signing private agreements with landowners. These create unfair outcomes for neighbours who bear the brunt of excess noise without consent. Construction noise: Strict conditions must apply to construction phases, including curfews and monitoring, to protect residents' health and amenity. Impact on wildlife and livestock: Noise and infrasound will sterilise the environment. If turbine blades don't kill birds and bats, the noise and

vibration will drive them away, displacing wildlife from their natural habitats. International studies have also reported major deformities and health impacts in livestock exposed to prolonged turbine noise and infrasound.
Procedures need to be put in council renewable energy policy for scheduled inspections and monitoring noise levels. Along with the identification, assessment and control of risks of harm to human health and the environment from wind turbine noise.
The statement says a dishwasher is 60dB. A dishwasher is not on all the time and is not that noisy for the whole cycle. We only run ours at night when we are in our rooms with the door shut as it is too noisy to have a relaxing wind-down in the open area of our house where our lounge area is. If wind turbine is 45db, that is a huge amount of background noise. There are many other noises already present in our daytime environments and this large amount of background noise will be detrimental to our mental health. The beauty of Augusta in particular is that it is a beautifully quiet and peaceful place. That is at risk with nearby wind farms.
Hard to find credible scientific evidence that noise from wind farms causes harm to human or animal health so best to get on with it.
publish research results
If the distance from dwellings is far enough away the noise should not be an issue.
No one should be able to be impacted by noise. It does not matter the distance , it's the sound. No one likes a once a year party, a permanent noise from turbines is unacceptable. We are living in the regions, not the city. Infrasound is definitely needing to have guidelines. It is known that it is dangerous to humans and animals. It is possible to be affected 15km away so this distance needs to be seriously looked at for the safety of all residents.
Having worked for many years in the mining industry at sites that were located near sparsely populated areas and were compliant to noise levels - Any noise that affects the surrounding neighbours would be considered pollution!
The current state and EPA requirements are more than adequate.
Infra-sound is real, despite Govt propaganda on the matter. 1.5 km is way too close and probably does not give any consideration to the size of the monstrosities being installed. When living in a very quiet environment, any rhythmic unnatural noise is unacceptable on a long term basis.
There are numerous studies regarding infrasound which needs to be fully evaluated and the long term impacts considered in any project on people and livestock/native animals. Currently there are a number of scientific institutions challenging the assumption that infrasound is non harmful With regards to a 35dB requirement - consideration should be given to where any turbines are sited and the ambient noise level considered, for example Scott River has a low ambient noise level so the disturbance from wind turbines would be much more noticeable. There would need to be a mechanism to ensure regulatory compliance, which currently is something that I believe is untested In addition noise flicker, vibration needs to be considered
Noise from these Turbines is harmful to humans, livestock and wildlife. They are not safe anywhere.
Developers should not rely on neighbouring land as noise buffer!
The location of the proposed turbines within a less than 5 km radius of residential dwellings poses a significant health risk to the residents of the AMR shire. There are numerous scientific evidence that indicate these pose a very real threat. In the face of this evidence AMR shire has a responsibility to protect the health of their residents. Therefore the proposed location of this project is not suitable.
Noise can be measured from various distance, weather dependant. We cannot have a blanket rule. No person living in this tranquil location should be impacted at all by any noise from an industrial development. Infrasound is even more serious. It needs to be taken seriously, not by Synergy saying it isn't anything. Too many scientists now sharing their research. Very harmful.
Stronger setbacks: Minimum setbacks must be scaled to turbine size — at least 3 km from dwellings and 5× turbine tip height from property boundaries. Current minimums are outdated and inadequate for turbines now exceeding 250 m.
Containment: Developers must not rely on neighbouring properties as noise buffers. All noise and vibration impacts must be fully contained within the project boundary.
Infrasound and low-frequency noise: Current EPA guidelines focus on audible noise (measured in dB(A)) but fail to address infrasound and low-frequency noise, which are among the most serious community concerns. Numerous international studies (including from Australia, Europe, and Canada) report that chronic exposure to turbine infrasound can cause sleep disturbance, headaches, dizziness, nausea, concentration difficulties, stress, and anxiety disorders. These impacts are particularly pronounced at night, when background noise is low. Health bodies such as the World Health Organization recognise that sleep disruption from noise is a significant risk factor for cardiovascular disease, hypertension, and mental health decline.
Independent monitoring: Noise assessments and compliance monitoring must be carried out by independent experts with no ties to the developer. Allowing developer-funded consultants to assess their own projects is a clear conflict of interest and undermines community trust.
No host agreements overriding limits: Developers should not be permitted to bypass standards through private "host agreements" with landowners. These arrangements create unfair outcomes for neighbours who are forced to live with excessive noise without consent.

Construction noise: Strict conditions must apply during construction, including set working hours, curfews, and independent monitoring, to protect residents' health and amenity. Impact on wildlife and livestock: Noise and infrasound will sterilise the environment. If turbine blades do not kill birds and bats, the constant noise and vibration will drive them away, displacing wildlife from their natural habitats. International studies also report birth deformities, miscarriages, and reduced milk production in livestock exposed to prolonged turbine noise and vibration, raising major concerns for farming regions. Conclusion: Noise impacts from industrial wind turbines are not minor or hypothetical — they are real, serious, and well-documented health and environmental hazards. The Shire must adopt policies that set stronger setbacks, regulate infrasound, and enforce independent monitoring, ensuring community safety and wellbeing are prioritised above developer profits.
Don't want wind farms
Have not done any research and therefore not able to properly comment. However those who oppose wind turbines have serious concerns regarding noise carry and vibrations as well as electromagnetic interference.
I think implementing a standard of double or triple glazed windows and doors would mitigate noise issues of wind turbines
Stronger setbacks — at least 3 km from dwellings and 5x turbine tip height from property boundaries. Developers must not rely on neighbouring land as a noise buffer. All noise impacts must be contained within the project boundary. Infrasound and low-frequency noise: Current EPA guidelines do not address infrasound, which is a major community concern. Noise assessments and ongoing compliance checks must be carried out by independent experts. No host agreements overriding limits - Developers should not be permitted to bypass standards by signing private agreements with landowners. These create unfair outcomes for neighbours who bear the brunt of excess noise without consent. Strict conditions must apply to construction phases, including curfews and monitoring, to protect residents' health and amenity.
bigger setbacks to local residence so we are not impacted at all. 35 decibels is too much to have constantly hearing in your home, everyday my peace and quiet will be disturbed. Im not even sure I will be able to sleep with that kind of level of noise. I was told it's the same level as a general conversation. I doubt very much anyone would be able to fall asleep with someone having a general noise levelled conversation in their room/outside their door/outside their window. Again I was not shown any such studies supposedly completed my synergy to ease my mind on this topic. Again why should my quality of life be impacted by this project? I have never been approached by synergy to talk about a neighbouring agreement and I live 1km away from this project! is that not close enough? yet they say there will be a community benefit fund to the value of 100k annually to the Augusta community but they can't offer any compensation to the 100% possibility of disrupting my everyday life at home! as well as possible health effects from infrasound. Again I was told by a synergy rep, to our research and our knowledge there will no effect, yet no studies were shown.

Item E – Q12. Verbatim responses

Why don't these principals apply to Wallcliffe site
If heritage impact was important in all of this, then wind farms would never have been considered for this particular area as the issues that will arise will have a far reaching impact.
As per previous comments
It seams the state govt will just push through so prove me wrong
relying on a is problematic when both these framework require local knowledge to identify heritage sites. The RIO Tinto fiasco shows the state heritage protections are lacklustre and cannot be relied upon to effectively protect heritage sites.
Here we go again!!
Synergy red have already signed up the local indigenous groups, paid them off and they've signed non disclosure.... why are you asking when this is already done & dusted??
They have been paid off already ,and they don't even live locally .why have they got a confidential agreement already
Trick questions
The way our National Parks are being closed off to the public I can not even wonder why this question comes up at all. Its like there is no regard for history any more or the natural pleasures of camping in the bush.
Too much red tape, time and money spent on what we can and cannot do on indigenous land
There must be detailed assessment of environmental impact on any renewables. And then again more detailed assessments.
No compromise with preserving natural healthy living of plants, animals and man.
Each area would need updated relevance.
Heritage impacts definitely involve traditional owners however all those that live in the AMR Shire are equally invested in the heritage impacts of renewable energy infrastructure.
Intangible. Hard to assess. A matter of opinion.
Same as the environment comment.
There is too much red tape within the shire, state government and federal government , look at the current housing crisis as an prime example, we need less red tape to progress our society, community, heritage and culture.
No to wind farms
First thing to be done. Do it now.
We do not need another layer of bureaucracy impeding the installation of renewable energy projects. The shire should stick to its core business and knot waste ratepayers money on trying to make it more difficult for renewable energy projects
The Heritage Acts and particularly how they are applied are only site and location based. Projects should be evaluated based on long term context e.g. Aboriginal movement routes, rather than whether there is a registered Aboriginal site. WRT european heritage, this, generally is site based and should continue as such. I dont see any merit in the idea off cleared farm land being seen as "heritage", this is similar to the issues with impact on visual amenity.
Who is going to assess these impacts and how confident can we be that genuine community concerns are going to be overlooked once more?

Projects such as windfarms & solar should be placed in areas where the beauty of landscape is least affected & least impinges on flora fauna & aboriginal factors. Areas that have already desecrated (eg Collie, Port Headland etc) should be used in preference.
Given the history of the area and the stories of the displacement of the indigenous peoples from the area several generations ago, I feel that there's a need for a heritage impact assessment
I am not in agreement with current proposals on renewable energy. I am not in agreement with wind farms anywhere within the shire. Nor do I agree with solar panel 'farms' in the landscape. I believe I am well informed on this issue and understand proposed infrastructure to be unsustainable in every respect & degrading to the landscape, environment & visual aesthetic.
I support renewable energy in our Shire, but I'm concerned about potential impacts on heritage. Our area is rich in Aboriginal and European cultural sites that are important to the community. Any development should carefully avoid damaging these places, with early consultation with Traditional Owners and heritage experts, and strong protections for known sites and landscapes. Renewable energy can be done responsibly if heritage values are respected.
I'm losing my patience, again, these questions assume I agree to windmills in the first instance.
Heritage needs to consider a sustainable and positive future for our land/ environment
Government has no regard for heritage impacts and can't be taken seriously as evidenced by Broome.
As said above - new, stronger policy needs to be implemented for better protection of all heritage. However, this needs to be balanced - if we don't do this here, is the impact going to be greater elsewhere.
Heritage impacts are important.
The areas beauty that attracts so many people to live and visit to the area will lose the uninterrupted natural beauty if these monstrosities are erected in the coastal areas.
Local heritage focus: Many significant cultural and historical landscapes are not formally listed but remain critical to the identity and sense of place of Augusta-Margaret River. A local policy must recognise and protect these values. Aboriginal cultural heritage: Developers must engage in genuine, ongoing consultation with Traditional Owners, not just one-off surveys or cash payments to purchase a social licence. Once a commercial arrangement is signed, transparency is often lost due to gag clauses. Engagement must occur early — before any DA is considered — and cultural mapping should be independently verified. Wider recognition: Heritage is more than just artefacts or listed sites; it includes cultural landscapes, farming history, early settler heritage, and the scenic rural environment that underpins tourism and community pride. Independent assessments: Heritage assessments must be conducted by independent experts with local knowledge, not consultants engaged by developers. Cumulative impacts: Assessments must consider cumulative threats to heritage landscapes — for example, multiple industrial-scale facilities altering the region's cultural character and sense of place. No "buffering out" heritage: Developers must not rely on neighbouring land to dilute or downplay heritage impacts. Heritage must be respected as integral to the region, not something that can be offset, relocated, or compensated for. To be informed our Aboriginal families in this region are in paid consultation with developers on many developments, my question is, are they readily accepting to sell us all out because of the decisions they decide upon during their consultations.
Heritage only matters til someone or group gets paid.
Once an area has been developed, you can't rehabilitate the heritage that has been destroyed.
when does heritage start? it seems to be subject to economic value.
Get it done asap!

Local heritage focus: Many significant cultural and historical landscapes are not formally listed but remain critical to the identity and sense of place of Augusta-Margaret River. A local policy must recognise and protect these values. Aboriginal cultural heritage: Developers must engage in genuine, ongoing consultation with Traditional Owners, not just one-off surveys or cash payments to purchase a social licence. Once a commercial arrangement is signed, transparency is often lost due to gag clauses. Engagement must occur early — before any DA is considered — and cultural mapping should be independently verified. Wider recognition: Heritage is more than just artefacts or listed sites; it includes cultural landscapes, farming history, early settler heritage, and the scenic rural environment that underpins tourism and community pride. Independent assessments: Heritage assessments must be conducted by independent experts with local knowledge, not consultants engaged by developers. Cumulative impacts: Assessments must consider cumulative threats to heritage landscapes — for example, multiple industrial-scale facilities altering the region's cultural character and sense of place. No "buffering out" heritage: Developers must not rely on neighbouring land to dilute or downplay heritage impacts. Heritage must be respected as integral to the region, not something that can be offset, relocated, or compensated for.
WA Government doesn't respect cultural heritage. Wind farms can also negatively affect Indigenous cultural heritage due to the large footprint of infrastructure, potential destruction of significant sites, and disruption to traditional practices or connections to Country. Addressing these issues requires formal identification of cultural heritage values, sensitive site selection, community and Indigenous consultation, and implementation of mitigation strategies during the planning and development stages of wind projects within your renewable energy policy.
No
Heritage impacts are very important to consider. No heritage sites should be damaged in construction of renewables, or for any other reason for that matter.
The shire has been very strong on protecting heritage areas so it must continue to protect regardless of the net zero push. Or it should drop all regulations for future developments and land use.
Owners are the people that currently occupy the land so consider their needs, no need to pander to those who no longer inhabit the land.
Currently I see no concern from the bodies that should look after these sites noted on the Aboriginal Heritage register and that are impacted by large scale projects are protected in Scott River, this is evident by the recent gravel pit. All levels of Government should be active in ensuring compliance
Heritage includes cultural landscapes, farming history, settler heritage and the scenic rural environment that underpins tourism and local community pride!
The Blackwood and Scott River are registered aboriginal heritage sites. The tributaries of these rivers are intersected by the project boundaries. The river systems of this proposed project pose a significant risk to the ecological balance of these river systems and in turn to these important areas of aboriginal heritage. This is also an area of agricultural cultural heritage.
Heritage must be respected as integral to the region, not something that can be bought off. This region has many cultural and historical landscapes that must be protected
Local heritage significance: Many important cultural and historical landscapes in Augusta-Margaret River are not formally listed but are central to the region's identity and community character. Local planning policies must explicitly recognise and safeguard these values. Aboriginal cultural heritage: Developers must engage in genuine, ongoing consultation with Traditional Owners, not rely on one-off surveys or transactional arrangements that often come with confidentiality clauses. True engagement should begin well before any Development Application and must include independently verified cultural mapping to ensure authenticity and transparency. Broader heritage values: Heritage is not limited to registered sites or artefacts. It includes cultural landscapes, farming traditions, settler history, and the scenic rural environment that underpin both tourism and community pride. Independent expertise: Heritage assessments should be carried out by independent professionals with strong local knowledge, rather than consultants engaged by developers whose reports may minimise impacts. Cumulative impacts: The cumulative effect of multiple industrial-scale facilities must be assessed, as these projects can collectively erode the region's cultural character, sense of place, and heritage landscape. No "buffering out" heritage: Developers must not treat heritage as something that can be offset, relocated, or masked by neighbouring land. These landscapes are intrinsic to the Shire's identity and must be fully respected and protected.

Don't want wind farms
Have real concerns regarding increased restrictions on private property with the proposed amendments to the Federal and State Acts. ie Nature Positive and Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act.
Many significant cultural and historical landscapes are not formally listed but remain critical to the identity and sense of place of Augusta-Margaret River. A local policy must recognise and protect these values. Aboriginal cultural heritage - Developers must engage in genuine, ongoing consultation with Traditional Owners, - once a commercial arrangement is signed, transparency is often lost due to gag clauses. Heritage is more than just artefacts or listed sites; it includes cultural landscapes, farming history, early settler heritage, and the scenic rural environment that underpins tourism and community pride. Independent assessments: Heritage assessments must be conducted by independent experts with local knowledge, not consultants engaged by developers.
a local policy should protect historical landscapes and water ways. The Scott River borders my property so I know how much aboriginal cultural significance it has. I had strict guidelines I had to abide by before I was allowed to build. Same should apply in this instance. The very real risk of the water ways Scott River and the Blackwood river will be impacted is huge, too risky to build this project in the Scott.

Item F – Q14. Verbatim responses

Large renewable projects such as these will negatively impact all farming land, especially as they degrade in the near future and become an environmental nightmare.
So many impacts that these projects just need to be shut down.
Pyritic soils should never be exposed for wind turbines foundations.
Advocate through policy to minimise impact on agricultural use, which policy? An Ag policy? What are the impacts on selling red meat on or near wind farms???
This is an industrial landuse. To argue that this is a complementary use to existing agricultural practices is incredibly ignorant. If you propose a 2km setback to residential areas this should also be the setback applied to residential dwellings, regardless of the planning scheme zone.
Using any land currently used for agricultural production of food is absurd. What is more important? Ticking a box to say we're saving the planet (reality is it makes no difference) or producing quality, local, sustainable and affordable produce to feed the population? No brainer.
Planners do not understand the impact of large scale renewable turbine projects on agriculture.....so how can they advocate for something they know nothing about.? Minimum distances to residential areas..?? what about minimum distances for livestock and other animals that are trapped behind fencing and cannot move away from the impact.? Minimum distance for residential areas should be 20km
If livestock have had access to wind farm or solar panels area, this must be declared in the quality assurance paper work This alone should be a warning
Trick questions
Leave agricultural land for that purpose, farming. Leave natural bushland for that purpose, recreation. Keep to what you are purposed for, a shire council that collects rubbish and maintains gardens.
No wind farms!
Scott River wind farm is set to make the largest farmers in the district wealthier at the expense of neighbouring land holders set to see their properties devalued due to visual and audible pollution personally i worked hard for the last 30 years to buy my land not being a generational farmer the affect this project is having is devastating
No compromise with preserving natural healthy living of plants, animals and man.
No.
Turbines should only be built on Farming land, at the consent of other Farmer, and should not be built if it will affect agriculture production. We have little enough Farming land as it is, with the Shire's policy of taking good farming land and turning it into housing, which is a total disgrace. Soon we will have no farmers and we will have to import our food. Think about this
Carefully consider weather large renewable projects are actually required especially as these also require distribution networks to be constructed alongside renewable locations sometimes even more undesirable and disruptive.
Lets be scientific about it. There is no substitute for testing and measurement. No rule of thumb will suffice.
Use the existing framework. Don't go creating more layers of policy, complexity, time and cost.
Farmers can still farm, they also get extra income! The shire is responding to scaremongering, and it feels the author of this survey wants an outcome to support their personal views.
No to wind farms
Land use compatibility with renewables represents a wonderful opportunity for landholders. Grazing and solar arrays have been shown to be compatible. Sheep often benefit from having solar panels in the paddocks. Some vigneron in Europe are growing vines with solar panels. Agrivoltaics is a rapidly expanding farming development.

The renewable energy project should be evaluated based on its impact and mitigation rather than on blanket use of policy or planning frameworks. Agriculture has a major impact on the environment and visual amenity, and many renewable energy projects are very compatible with agriculture e.g. biogas and dairies. Why not support synergies between renewable energy and agriculture rather than seeing them as mutually exclusive
Don't ruin prime agricultural land and our precious pristine environment in the name of renewables.
No
With so many wind farms around the world that are co located on agricultural land, there's very little that has not been assessed and worked out.
I don't support any land use any where for these wind turbines . Or sea use , the environmental risk are too great
residential areas, both current and future, need to be clearly mapped, including any expansion or encroachment so they can be avoided. To be clear, rural dwellings are not considered residential areas.
I am not in agreement with current proposals on renewable energy. I am not in agreement with wind farms anywhere within the shire. Nor do I agree with solar panel 'farms' in the landscape. I believe I am well informed on this issue and understand proposed infrastructure to be unsustainable in every respect & degrading to the landscape, environment & visual aesthetic.
A 2km setback is absolutely ridiculous when it comes to a wind farm. A wind farm should never be anywhere near homes within a 10km radius. Infrasound can still be recorded outside of a 10km radius but negligible.
Current planing schemes did not consider 230m tall constructions.
again these options are contradictory - minimising ag impact and removal from residential areas, one has to suffer.
Here I am again, I've agreed to NO windmills ruining the environment.
Once again, scientific proof and evidence needs to be more important than NIMBYism
Policy should be addressing a solar policy on all new builds in Shire to ensure self sustainable, and reduced demand at system level so the need for wind turbines is reduced. Not advocate large scale industrial development as solution without mitigation at other end of spectrum
Renewables if used should be as close to residential areas as possible to minimise transmission lines crisscrossing the country.
Degraded agricultural land where appropriate
Current policies are not sufficient to protect and appreciate the importance of our agricultural land.
Using valuable farm and agricultural land in the Southwest which is the food bowl for the whole state should be ring fenced to keep it that way. Food Security is going to become a bigger issue for us in the future. As the Population grows retaining our valuable agriculture land preserved for food production will be critical. No Wind Turbines or Solar farms should be permitted to be on Agricultural land.
Prime farmland must be protected: The Scott River district is an area of nationally significant agricultural production. Industrial-scale facilities are incompatible with food and beverage production and should never displace long-term farming. Agricultural viability: Claims that grazing can continue around turbines are misleading. Access roads, substations, concrete pads, fire risk, and constant noise all reduce farming productivity. Once prime farmland is industrialised, it is effectively lost. Setbacks and containment: Large projects must be set well back from both dwellings and property boundaries. Developers must not rely on neighbouring farmland as a buffer. Biosecurity risks: Construction and operation introduce weeds, dieback, and disease risks which threaten viticulture, livestock, and grazing systems.

Water resources: Foundations and soil disturbance in high-risk acid sulphate zones put groundwater and surface water flows at risk, undermining agricultural sustainability. The aquifers and river systems of the Scott River and Blackwood catchments must be strictly protected. Cumulative land use impacts: Policies must consider how multiple projects could transform a productive farming district into an industrial zone, permanently eroding the region's agricultural identity and food security role. Decommissioning: Land use compatibility must extend beyond construction. Projects must have secured rehabilitation bonds to guarantee land is returned to viable agricultural use after decommissioning.
Wind turbines need to be in residential areas where the power is required. Why should they be in rural areas?
The majority of land use in our area is for farming. No farmers, No Food. I want to see our land being used to feed us. I want to see our agriculture having number one priority. There are already reports of the impacts of the noise of windfarms on animals, on humans.
Impacts to agricultural land is important in these key agricultural areas which aren't covered well under current legislation. Therefore further consideration should be made here.
Stop meaningless advocacy. Protect food, agriculture and local industry. These industries are already at the forefront of regenerative and sustainable practice in our area. Support them for once.
Do you have to ask this? This would be criminal
Food security and food miles matter
Valuable farm land must be protected. Industrialising farm land increases the risk on bio security and pollution.
No wind farms near residential or farming land
Prime land must be protected. The Scott River area is of national significance for agricultural production. Industrial scale facilities are not compatible with food. The aquifers and river systems of the Scott River and Blackwood catchments must be protected.
any renewable energy policy must begin with the principle of community consent. Large scale industrial facilities such as wind factories dramatically change the character of a region and bring long-term impacts. We have a responsibility to protect the farmland and biodiversity our region is defined by, with its world class food and wine production. Prime agricultural land and ecologically sensitive areas such as the Scott river wetlands and iron stone soils cannot be compromised for short term industrial projects. Farmland in the region is still very much biodiverse... and once lost cannot be restored. A strong local policy must clearly state that protection of agriculture and the biodiversity of the region comes first, ahead of speculative energy development.
Put the turbines on the ridge.
Prime farmland must be protected: The Scott River district is an area of nationally significant agricultural production. Industrial-scale facilities are incompatible with food and beverage production and should never displace long-term farming. Agricultural viability: Claims that grazing can continue around turbines are misleading. Access roads, substations, concrete pads, fire risk, and constant noise all reduce farming productivity. Once prime farmland is industrialised, it is effectively lost. Setbacks and containment: Large projects must be set well back from both dwellings and property boundaries. Developers must not rely on neighbouring farmland as a buffer. Biosecurity risks: Construction and operation introduce weeds, dieback, and disease risks which threaten viticulture, livestock, and grazing systems. Water resources: Foundations and soil disturbance in high-risk acid sulphate zones put groundwater and surface water flows at risk, undermining agricultural sustainability. The aquifers and river systems of the Scott River and Blackwood catchments must be strictly protected. Cumulative land use impacts: Policies must consider how multiple projects could transform a productive farming district into an industrial zone, permanently eroding the region's agricultural identity and food security role. Decommissioning: Land use compatibility must extend beyond construction. Projects must have secured rehabilitation bonds to guarantee land is returned to viable agricultural use after decommissioning.
The forests, wetlands, and rivers we love and depend on are being destroyed at a dangerous rate. The way we grow our food is a major cause of this nature destruction. Every year hundreds of thousands of hectares of habitat for animals like the koala and gang-gang cockatoo are bulldozed to make room to produce green not clean renewables. Introducing potential issues such as noise, visual impacts (shadow flicker, blade glint), and interference with agricultural activities. Windfarms can be seen as a change to the established character of an area, potentially impacting property values and creating complex negotiations with adjacent landowners, whose rights to develop their properties are protected. A drop in home values for properties that could see wind turbines is evident.
It is hard to believe that all companies commissioned to assess impacts on land use and ability to coexist with renewable energy sources, particularly wind farms will be unbiased. There needs to be consideration of wide ranging approaches and multiple parties independent of each other, including non-profit organisations to ensure accurate assessments.

Agricultural land must be protected. We want less food miles so we need to protect land that can grow our food and fibre. When selling livestock you have to do a livestock assurance program. In this accreditation you have to declare if your livestock are living near possible contamination. solar and wind have been added as they know these renewables can contaminate the land. Why then would anyone risk destroying prime agricultural land? It must be protected for the future.
Definitely should not be reducing the area of cleared prime agricultural land.
it has been seen from overseas experiences that windtowers can be installed on agriculture land with owners permission and coexist
A policy would need to be too vague regarding minimum distances to residential areas to encompass all the types of renewables projects there are. Current legislation and planning scheme limitations are sufficient. It has been shown time and time again that renewables can work in great harmony with agricultural uses, in many cases enhancing them. It is a teeny tiny price to pay to reduce agricultural productivity when the alternative (i.e. climate change) will be far more devastating. Since the farm owner is always financially compensated, can we PLEASE PRIORITISE A RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CHANGE!?
These things should not be anywhere near residential or agricultural land.
Renewable policy should be aligned with current use be in agriculture or tourism. If large scale renewable projects are to be developed it should not be at the detriments of the current landowners and the larger community who will be impacted. If these projects are to co-exist with existing activities they should be of a scale and size that does not disadvantage the people who's livelihood it jeopardises whether it be lower land values, changing farming practises, loss of amenity and potentially moving from the area. It should not be understated how these projects can change the landscape forever
These policies are not made in favour of the land owners/residents. The are made to suit the government.
Prime farmland must be protected!
Reputable Scientific evidence indicates that agricultural land is an unsuitable site for agriculture. The area is dug up and soil composition changed through the construction phase of the turbines. The land becomes devalued due to the lack of commitment of renewable energy companies to commit to the management and decommissioning of turbines. This an area of high fire danger, the turbines pose a threat to being able to manage fires due to their material composition, access, height, no fly aviation zone. The AMR shire has a responsibility to protect its residents from such threats.
We must protect our food growing land at all costs. It cannot be compatible having industrial size turbines combining with agriculture. The section in the LPA lists possible contamination from wind and solar. Why risk that on prime agricultural land? Scott river is also prone to acid sulphate soil. Are we prepared to risk the health of the land and our waterways?
Protection of prime farmland: The Scott River district is nationally recognised for its high-value agricultural output. Industrial-scale renewable energy projects are fundamentally incompatible with this land use and must not be allowed to displace long-term food and beverage production. Impact on farming viability: Suggestions that grazing or farming can continue alongside turbines are misleading. Access tracks, substations, concrete foundations, increased fire risk, and constant noise all diminish productivity and create long-term management challenges. Once prime farmland is industrialised, its agricultural value is effectively lost. Setbacks and containment: Large-scale projects must be set well back from both dwellings and property boundaries. Developers should not be permitted to treat neighbouring farmland as a buffer to absorb noise, visual, or environmental impacts. Biosecurity threats: Construction and ongoing operation introduce weeds, dieback, and livestock disease risks, threatening viticulture, grazing systems, and broader agricultural resilience. Water and soil risks: Disturbance of high-risk acid sulphate soils for turbine foundations poses serious risks to groundwater and surface water systems. The aquifers and river catchments of Scott River and Blackwood must be safeguarded as critical resources for farming and community sustainability. Cumulative impacts: Policy must assess the wider land-use consequences of multiple industrial projects. Allowing piecemeal approvals risks transforming a productive agricultural district into an industrial zone, permanently undermining both the region's identity and its contribution to national food security. Decommissioning guarantees: Land-use compatibility must extend to the full project life cycle. Developers should be

required to provide secured rehabilitation bonds up-front, ensuring land is restored to viable agricultural use once projects are decommissioned.
Don't want wind farms
Land use Compatibility does not take into account Visual amenity. Wind turbines in the Synergy proposal for the Scott River will be highly visible from Augusta and Flinders Bay creating an industrialised outlook from what is a pristine coastal location. Whilst supporting renewables I believe we must undertake good policy that looks carefully at the positioning of Wind turbines and transmission lines to ensure the best possible outcome for the lived environment of people no matter where they reside.
Yes put it next to the politicians house and not in our back yard
The Scott River district is an area of nationally significant agricultural production. Industrial-scale facilities are incompatible with food and beverage production. Agricultural viability: Claims that grazing can continue around turbines are misleading. Access roads, substations, concrete pads, fire risk, and constant noise all reduce farming productivity. Once prime farmland is industrialised, it is effectively lost. Large projects must be set well back from both dwellings and property boundaries. Developers must not rely on neighbouring farmland as a buffer. Construction and operation introduce weeds, dieback, and disease risks which threaten viticulture, livestock, and grazing systems. Foundations and soil disturbance in high-risk acid sulphate zones put groundwater and surface water flows at risk, undermining agricultural sustainability. The aquifers and river systems of the Scott River and Blackwood catchments must be strictly protected. Land use compatibility must extend beyond construction. Projects must have secured rehabilitation bonds to <u>guarantee land is returned to viable agricultural use after decommissioning.</u>
Prime productive agricultural farmland should be protected. Active farmland and industrial projects do not mix. Claims that grazing can still continue around these turbines is false, the farmers have to sign accreditations to governing bodies to say their beef has not been in close proximity of industry such as wind turbines and solar panel projects due to contamination

Item G – Q16. Verbatim responses

To be paid for in full before being built.
"Best practice at the time" of decommissioning sounds like it is open to interpretation and another environmental hazard.
Make Synergy put their main company on the line, not synergy red or some other \$2 company. This should be a bank guarantee that covers impact claims and decommissioning etc
The land will be forever tarnished because of the deep foundations which will affect drainage and habitat
There is no Australian precedence about decommissioning so why to these questions suggest that there is?
The Local Government should hold bonds for the life of the development that accrue interest overtime to increase in value that fully cover the full decommissioning costs of these developments. There are so many instances worldwide where projects of this type have been abandoned at the costs of the landowner or local government to clean up the mess.
Do you really think land owners, local shires or renewable companies really care about end of life planning for renewable infrastructure? I very much doubt it.
proponents/project owners can walk away from responsibility... The only way to insure decommissioning is going to be ensured is by Government guarantee.... which is still risky.
These companies are that big, there's no way the shire can control them,they use multiple layers of contractors,so they all just pass the buck Going on the comments about recycling,sounds like the shire is already hood winked If the shire is going to have a opinion,it should do it's own independent research and not just quote wind companies propaganda
Trick questions
Just forget ugly, inefficient wind turbines and solar farms
Dreadful path to even consider going down..neither solar panels or wind turbines are safe for the environment. Just don't even consider putting any in place.
No wind farms!
No compromise with preserving natural healthy living of plants, animals and man.
Is difficult at this stage to know contributing factors in our particular region. As time passes new factors will more than likely emerge.
Responsibility for decommissioning must be clear and a legal binding obligation. If it is to be the landowner or the shire then they must be compensated up front as the energy company may not be around to pay at the farm's end of life,
All land should be returned to its original state at the end of any project, and this should be implemented by a large bond held in trust by the Shire/Gov. until the project has been decommissioned
Also consider if specialist recycling utilities exist and then transportation requirements to specialist recycling locations of decommissioned infrastructure, wind generation in particular requires handling of very hazardous materials. Also the decommissioning of any associated project distribution infrastructure MUST be considered.

Re: At least 95% of solar panels, 95% battery storage systems and 90% of wind turbines can be recycled or reused at the end of their life. But is that recycling justified from an opportunity cost point of view? What is 'possible' is not necessarily the best choice. The cost may be prohibitive.
Advocate for construction and decommissioning practices to be part of the state government policy (I expect it should be) instead of creating more layers of process for developers to have to deal with. Remember - everything comes at a cost. Policies, consultation, compliance - we all end up paying for it one way or another. Have effective policy and regulation at state (or even better federal) level and make them work. Do not start creating more layers of policy, process and compliance.
If we are advocating for best practices then why are we taking it on in the first place. As it's very clear that wind turbines are not what is best. Other countries and states are now removing them as they are plagued with un-environmental efficiency. Surely WA can forge its own path when it comes to renewable energy!
Where are we going to house the construction workers? When the Flat Rocks windfarm was built in Kojonup, all the hotels and short term accommodation in Kojonup and Katanning was booked out, adding to the housing crisis there. What is the plan by the shire to get more houses quickly built so the local community is not displaced during construction?
No to wind farms
Creating policies to regulate what may happen 25 years in the future is fraught with problems and regulations made now will probably be irrelevant
The sustainable reuse and decommissioning processes for renewables are important. Landholder agreements must specify the process precisely, and perhaps a bond allocated to provide certainty.
The main issue is having a clearly identified, and well qualified, agency which is responsible for assessing the decommissioning strategy and its implementation. The decommissioning strategy should also be open to beneficial reuse strategies rather than requiring complete removal
I do not agree with them being built in the first place.
We are opposed to the project regardless.
Given that the government are the owner operator of the project, decommissioning is basically ensured. Having the existing high voltage transmission infrastructure already in place, including the land clearing corridor for the transmission towers that went forward for the mineral sand mine, this is a definite positive bonus for the development
Another reason why they are not suitable .
end of life is an important consideration. relying on best practice sometimes lacks clarity and commitment. end of life planning can change significantly over 30-40 years.
I am not in agreement with current proposals on renewable energy. I am not in agreement with wind farms anywhere within the shire. Nor do I agree with solar panel 'farms' in the landscape. I believe I am well informed on this issue and understand proposed infrastructure to be unsustainable in every respect & degrading to the landscape, environment & visual aesthetic.
There is a major cost in decommissioning and the value of what is decommissioned is much lower than the labour costs of removal so funds should be held at the front end of any development for decommissioning whether it be 5 10 20 or 25 years down the track with a weighting of 100% more than today's estimated cost. I bet this isn't being built into costing models.

The problem is with ownership of the project and how it can be sold off, potentially changed to a different name and subsidiary then liquidated with no capital because of degradation of infrastructure and therefore bankrupt with no funds for decommissioning. Can this asset be sold off ? If it can, there lies a potential problem.
I feel that decommissioning Policy needs to be robust enough that it occurs in a timely manner and is appropriate
look at ways to use wind turbines after decommission- hopefully more alternatives and cheaper in future i.e. housing
We have not adequately seen the end of life on projects like this. We have seen large scale issues with end of life resource projects around the world where operators are not able to fund decommissioning. This is an unknown for this industry.
Who would be writing said policy given the work to date this raises concerns that the shire will do everything it can to follow the current renewable fad with minimal consideration for decommissioning these projects. This is always the case with weak policy and a full understanding or advanced engineering products utilised in these projects. This is a prime case with wind turbine blades that are starting to reach end of life worldwide. Bury them where they lie because there is no incentive to remove or reuse.
I'm getting tired of this! When will you ask if I want the windmills or not at all???
Current industry policies can be expensive and irrelevant in productivity and the environment not being major considerations. Can be unaffordable when consultants and planning are a major cost portion of the project. This is where AMRS policy needs to be clear and show consideration for these factors
Historical evidence doesn't support your recycling and alternative use. Who bears the cost? It may be best practice at time but should it have occurred in first place...
Best practices seem to be to bury the blades, hardly renewable
Without lengthening the capacity to begin implementation, I do believe policy needs to be reexamined and revised to insure best practice is current.
Please do not allow this horrific project to proceed.
The recycling of renewables at end of life is not proven yet. There has been no large-scale refurbishing of renewal energy done yet in Australia. It will be costly when it is done and will not be good for the environment. Demolishing footings for large windfarms is going to be very expensive and also damaging to the environment. The cost of refurbishment or removing infrastructure of renewables just makes the whole exercise far too expensive and uneconomical. It is also damaging to the environment. It seems that this renewable energy madness is about Killing the Environment to be seen to be trying to save the Environment.
Construction phase: Roads: Heavy vehicle transport routes must avoid local residential roads and school bus routes. Developers must also repair any damage caused to public infrastructure. Noise & dust: Strict limits, curfews, and independent monitoring are required during construction to protect residents' health and amenity. Site disturbance: Clearing and soil disturbance must be minimised, particularly in high-risk acid sulphate soil zones like the Scott River. Worker accommodation: FIFO-style work camps can place strain on small communities. Housing and services must be managed carefully to avoid social disruption. Decommissioning phase: Mandatory decommissioning bonds: Financial assurances must be secured before construction begins to guarantee full removal and rehabilitation. Without this, landholders and the community will be left with massive costs.

Full removal: Footings, pads, and transmission infrastructure must be completely removed — not buried or abandoned — and soils fully rehabilitated to farming standard. Life cycle assessment: Developers must provide a transparent, independent life cycle plan addressing recycling, reuse, and disposal of all components. Independent oversight: Decommissioning plans and compliance must be independently audited and enforced by the Shire, not left to developer discretion. End-of-life certainty: Refurbishment or repowering must require fresh approvals, as new technology may change the scale of impacts significantly. Cautionary example: The Beenup Mineral Sands Mine is a clear warning. Despite operating for only two years, its acid sulphate soil disturbance created an environmental disaster that will take over 120 years to rehabilitate. The same risk exists if large turbine foundations are sunk into high-risk soils without guarantees of safe removal and full land restoration. These need to be fully engineered and insured against any failure whatsoever. They must exceed engineering specifications and allow for ease of decommissioning by the developers at the end of life.
I highly recommend the AMR Shire consultation group start looking at the unbelievable destruction taking place in constructing windfarms. Imagine being a marine mammal i.e. a whale and having your environment completely thrown into upheaval. The decommissioning would be the same. The short sightedness of our Australian Government to keep pushing this Agenda and remain in the Paris Agreement to destroy our land and oceans in criminal. , let alone our Shire pushing this agenda is most concerning.
Decommissioning shortlived wind and solar projects is an environmental nightmare
Even if in the contract I don't believe sustainable reuse will happen I don't trust people who are not affected
I am not familiar with the current requirements, however I am certain that they will require updating to keep abreast of the latest technologies used in the build and decommissioning of wind farms, solar and battery arrays.
Heavy vehicle transport routes must avoid local residential roads and school bus routes as a school bus contractor I strongly support this. Repairs to any road damage should fall on developers. Limits, curfews and independent monitoring is required during construction to protect health and amenity. Assurances should be secured on the decommissioning of the facility insuring that infrastructure be completely removed and not buried or abandoned. Soil should be fully rehabilitated to ensure normal farming standards.
Need to ensure project proponents have a decommissioning fund held in trust to ensure the shire ratepayers don't get lumped with the burden of decommissioning assets when they go insolvent.
Construction phase: Roads: Heavy vehicle transport routes must avoid local residential roads and school bus routes. Developers must also repair any damage caused to public infrastructure. Noise & dust: Strict limits, curfews, and independent monitoring are required during construction to protect residents' health and amenity. Site disturbance: Clearing and soil disturbance must be minimised, particularly in high-risk acid sulphate soil zones like the Scott River. Worker accommodation: FIFO-style work camps can place strain on small communities. Housing and services must be managed carefully to avoid social disruption. Decommissioning phase: Mandatory decommissioning bonds: Financial assurances must be secured before construction begins to guarantee full removal and rehabilitation. Without this, landholders and the community will be left with massive costs. Full removal: Footings, pads, and transmission infrastructure must be completely removed — not buried or abandoned — and soils fully rehabilitated to farming standard. Life cycle assessment: Developers must provide a transparent, independent life cycle plan addressing recycling, reuse, and disposal of all components. Independent oversight: Decommissioning plans and compliance must be independently audited and enforced by the Shire, not left to developer discretion. End-of-life certainty: Refurbishment or repowering must require fresh approvals, as new technology may change the scale of impacts significantly. Cautionary example: The Beenup Mineral Sands Mine is a clear warning. Despite operating for only two years, its acid sulphate soil disturbance created an environmental disaster that will take over 120 years to rehabilitate. The same risk exists if large turbine foundations are sunk into high-risk soils without guarantees of safe removal and full land restoration.

The materials used to manufacture turbines, such as metals and concrete, have environmental impacts associated with their production. While many components are recyclable, turbine blades are currently difficult to recycle and can pose waste challenges at the end of their service life. Cement pads when breaking down can seep into the underground Aquifer.
I am sceptical that although these products CAN be recycled, they actually are recycled. I have seen plenty of pictures of huge wind turbines blade burial sites. We have been recently made aware of FOGO waste being put in landfill rather than composted. There has long been an issue with recycling bins being emptied into landfill. We shouldn't create something in the first place which won't be dealt with appropriately at end of life.
wind farms are generally built and operated by the private sector who generally focus on minimising costs and maximising profits. All levels of government have a responsibility to ensure construction and decommissioning follows best practice not least cost.
Construction has already been proven around Australia to be severely damaging to roads, infrastructure the environment. There needs to be very strict rules in place that developers abide by rules, pay all costs for set up damage and decommissioning. Life especially on roads cannot be hindered. There is great concern on decommissioning, who will really pay?
Needs to be a mechanism in place to compensate neighbours should they be adversely affected during these periods.
These facilities are nothing compared with projects which have been built in WA in the past 50 years. Why do we need a special policy? It is not rocket science to contemplate decommissioning in landholder agreements, and I'm sure there is an obligation somewhere for legal support to be provided to support the land owner. This does not need a new shire policy.
Given the environmental sensitivity of the region I would not trust that the developer and operator would be the people to provide the best outcomes. It is a commercial venture that must provide returns for shareholders and as such the parties developing the project should always be held to account With any wind turbine project the works should be monitored throughout the construction phase to ensure that groundwater is not disturbed and there is not another major issue with acid sulphate soils. Pollution and Environmental damage is a real risk and would require a high level of monitoring. At completion the site should be left as it was found and any concrete foundations removed
Decommissioning should be the developers responsibility. Disagree because again the policy will be not be made in the interests of the local community , landholders etc.
The site should be fully rehabilitated to farming standard!
Turbines components cannot be recycled they will become a waste hazard for our future generations to deal with.
In depth investigation needed as to where other turbines , solar are now going and who is paying. Not listening to a proponent like Synergy who will only own 20%!!
Transport and road impacts: Heavy vehicle movements must avoid residential streets and school bus routes. Any damage to local roads or public infrastructure must be fully repaired by the developer, not left as a burden on ratepayers. Noise, dust, and disturbance: Construction should be tightly managed, with strict curfews, dust suppression measures, and independent monitoring to protect the health and amenity of nearby residents. Site impacts and soil disturbance: Vegetation clearing and earthworks must be kept to an absolute minimum, especially in high-risk acid sulphate soil areas such as the Scott River. Disturbance in these zones poses long-term environmental and water quality risks.

Worker accommodation and social effects: FIFO-style work camps and sudden population influxes can place major pressure on housing, services, and the social fabric of small towns. Any workforce accommodation must be carefully planned and managed to avoid community disruption. Mandatory decommissioning bonds: Before construction begins, developers must lodge secured financial bonds to guarantee complete decommissioning and rehabilitation at project's end. Without this, landholders and the community face the risk of being left with massive removal costs. Complete removal and rehabilitation: At the end of project life, all turbine foundations, pads, substations, and transmission infrastructure must be fully removed — not abandoned or buried — and the site restored to viable farming or natural condition. Whole-of-life accountability: Developers must provide a transparent, independently reviewed plan for the full life cycle of all components, including recycling, reuse, or safe disposal. Refurbishment or repowering proposals should not be automatic but instead require fresh approvals, as new technologies may change impacts significantly. Independent oversight: All decommissioning plans and compliance must be enforced by the Shire or an independent regulator, not left to developer self-reporting. Lessons from the past: The failure of the Beenup Mineral Sands Mine is a clear warning. Despite operating for only two years, its disturbance of acid sulphate soils created an environmental disaster still being managed more than a century later. The same risk exists if turbine foundations are sunk into high-risk soil areas without guarantees of safe removal and full land restoration. Would hope that there are no construction and decommissioning issues to contend with in the proposed Synergy wind farm for the Scott River as I do not believe it should go ahead in that location.
Why do they bury old blades if they can be recycled?
During construction heavy vehicle transport routes must avoid local residential roads and school bus routes. Developers must also repair any damage caused to public infrastructure. Noise and dust - Strict limits, curfews, and independent monitoring are required during construction to protect residents' health and amenity. Clearing and soil disturbance must be minimised, particularly in high-risk acid sulphate soil zones like the Scott River. Worker accommodation can place strain on small communities. Housing and services must be managed carefully to avoid social disruption. Financial assurances must be secured before construction begins to guarantee full removal and rehabilitation. Without this, landholders and the community will be left with massive costs. Decommissioning plans and compliance must be independently audited and enforced by the Shire, not left to developer discretion. how have I not been offered compensation for the disruption construction activities will cause me. My access too and from home is from Scott River road, Governor Broome road and Coostien. three direct links to this project. When Alexander bridge is being worked on residents get caught for up to 5/10 minutes at a time in both directions when traffic is reduced to a single lane. A project of this size will completely close off Scott River road for hours at a time mobilising wind turbine blades, concrete trucks, trucks carting gravel and road base, trucks carting crane counterweights and components and for the size, height, weight of these turbine components they will need huge cranes meaning more trailers per crane. I am a crane driver so I know it takes 52 semi trailers to mobilise a 750T Crawler crane with its multiple boom sections, cab, tracks, multiple counterweights, winch packs ect plus construction workers, buildings such as crib rooms, office blocks, toilet blocks, tooling ect ect what kind of compensation will local residents expect for this impact? if synergy are prepared to fund 100k to the surrounding community who won't have to deal with this through the whole construction phase.

Item H – Q17. Verbatim responses

Impact to the Blackwood River with accidental run off. Impact of toxic dust particles in the air, especially to pregnant women.
Property devaluation related to these types of projects.
Infrasound a standard is required to measure and limit the the sound generated and it's affects on humans and other living creatures
To Agriculture
Realistic reduction of visual impact on pristine coastal tourism areas
Community engagement - having a clear and measurable framework for transparent consultation is essential, with greatest weight given to those directly impacted with no benefit from such projects. Stating that sometimes you have to support something for the greater good of the wider community at the detriment and impact to a small minority is the wrong mindset to apply for this type of development which has the ability to negatively impact surrounding communities if not managed correctly. Already the scott river project is dividing the local communities due to the poor consultation approach which is now impacting the wonderful community bonds that previously existed in this area. Development that impacts a community should be considering the needs of that local community regardless of the broader benefits to a wider cohort on paper. Many property owners in the direct zone of the proposed development are 100% sustainable and off grid, managing this within their own property footprints. Why should a community who have to pay in the tens to hundred thousands of dollars to connect to the electricity network be impacted to allow people who live in suburban neighbourhoods to have the option to purchase green energy. Emphasis should be placed on smaller scale community benefit renewal development projects that have the ability to invest back into a community. Committees should be formed that have primarily voices of the local impacted community at the table to then determine the priority investments back into those communities. These projects shouldn't be used as a tool to top up the coffers for the Shire due to historical mismanagement or overcapitalisation on assets they can no longer afford to manage that have no direct benefit or use to the communities impacted by renewable projects
Bankrupting the country and sending power costs through the roof, sending even more manufacturing and business off shore.
Can you provide independent medical evidence showing no adverse health impacts from turbine infrasound, shadow flicker, EMF or infrasound. INDEPENDENT. When health effects do occur will you pay for independent medical tmt and relocation support.? How much public funding and subsidies are the AMR shire and WALGA receiving for the Scott River wind turbine project.? Who are the beneficiaries of the Scott River wind turbine project.? Can the project be sold to another company without community approval.? Will the Shire guarantee there will be no long term contamination of soils and waterways during all stages of project ie build, operation & decommissioning.? The AMR shire is responsible for noise regulations. Will the Shire accept independent noise monitoring data.? Separate to data produced by the proponent/operator? Will the shire reimburse property owners for loss in land value. ? Will the AMR Shire ensure that weekly checks of the turbines by the proponent/ owner of the project are carried out and data collected. eg leading edge erosion, diesel and oil leaks from the hub, maintenance of operating equipment to ensure there is no risk of soil contamination.
What about doing a survey of neighbours who are not getting paid off So far the only locals who are in favour of it are the ones that are getting paid hundreds of thousands of dollars to host them Doesn't that say something
The cost to the tax payer.
New speed limits are a joke. AMRShire loves to be the first to put their hand up for schemes that have not been thought through. Busselton said no to the new speed limit trial. Why do we always say yes. We all know this won't just be a 'trial' and will be here to stay.

To put a wind farm at the Scott River in the heart of some of the most productive dairy and beef farming land which is also a biological sensitive area is disgraceful. The project is only proposed in the area due to the Beenup sub station being in close proximity to the project so the power is conveniently put into the grid the state government are being driven purely by greed. 3 of the largest farmers are only enthusiastic proponents of the project due to the monetary gains they are to make from it. The adjoining land owners are set to live with potential audible and visual affects and have their lifestyle affected accordingly. People that have worked hard all their lives to be able to buy a piece of land and have a project such as this devalue their property is a disgrace the shire has a duty of care to protect its rate payer's
Yes, just leave Nature and man alone!
it is critical that agriculture remains operational and that development can occur in conjunction not instead of
When there is discussion within the community that spreads false information how is this acknowledged and redirected?
Impact on wildlife, especially birds with wind farms. Will they be put off being nearby? We have such a lovely variety of wild birds on the waters around Augusta, it would be a shame to disturb / lose them.
No
Community consultation should be taken on any project within the Shire to determine residents views
Impact of new energy distribution networks on the environment, landowners and the visual aesthetic of the pristine rural AMR Shire environment. Once it is gone its gone!
No
Intermittency involves costs to the system as a whole that are currently not attributed. They should be if we are to make rational choices.
Visual aspects to our tourism economy.
Boosting economy, more employment opportunities, diversity in the economy, reducing climate change impacts, more reliable energy for the shire
No to wind farms
Mental health - the planning and development need to include stakeholders from now and for the life of any project. People need to be supported and provided with information. For some people this step is very challenging. They have seen the impact it has had on farmers elsewhere and are very scared. Adequate compensation and support needs to be provided.
I live in Augusta and our power supply is already fickle at best with frequent outages. As part of this local policy, I would like to see AMRS establish their own vision for the quantum (how much energy we think we need now and into the future) and reliability (durability of supply / acceptable outage frequency and duration). I would not want to see AMRS establish a local policy that starts with the presumption that we will accept what we are given on these two critical aspects. Surely we must have as a key outcome for energy transition to make the supply of sufficient electricity to local homes and businesses better than current arrangements. I would also like to see the local policy include parameters governing the construction and maintenance of the new infrastructure eg. a road access plan and an operations plan - weekdays only other than emergencies and between what hours of the day this will occur. This should be done to minimise local disruption.
Impacts must always be balanced with community benefits, both local and general. An additional general rule that I would propose is that wind farms be not located within 10 km of the coast.
Putting the renewable energy projects into the context of a climate change mitigation strategy, i.e. if we don't switch to renewables, the consequences will be worse than they currently are. Also the Shire can't please everybody all the time, and it is recommended that they don't bow to the pressure of the conservatives who don't believe in climate change and use a range of arguments about visual amenity, noise etc as a reason for rejecting projects because they are going to minority change their locality
Clearing the land should be out of the question. Way too pristine down this way to be molested with industry. Keep it out
A major concern is devaluation of farmland adjoining a windfarm, particularly if people want to live there. No-one is mentioning the huge government subsidies paid to overseas companies to develop these monstrosities.

There are vast developments happening at Kadardup, Karridale, Witchcliffe, Redgate, Margs, Cowaramup & we are not seeing figures for how much increased electricity & water demand there'd be & as a consequence makes consultations & talk-fests a bit meaningless.
Tourism will increase due to the visual appeal
As Trump said recently that wind farms are UGLY. See what happens if one is proposed at Gnarabup!! It's going to spoilt Augusta forever and any sound even 10 km away will impact neighbours and upset their well being. It's not too late to move any wind farm to Lake Jasper area.
The whole town of Augusta will be greatly impacted by the proposed wind farm
The waste of resources seems too high for wind turbines. I feel we the Australian Government are rushing into this far too fast and should be a gradual measured approach over a 20 to 50 year timeframe as tech is changing so fast madness to jump in as we appear to be doing.
the impact that by not doing this we are saying to the rest of the world you don't need to do this
The impact of a wind turbine hitting Pelicans, Black Swans, Ospreys, or any bird in general.
None
The proposed location of this project will have a huge impact on the town of Augusta and the surrounding area. the Shire needs to consider the impact to residents that it is intended to serve.
Proper capability should be provided to develop a sound policy.....
Yes, the Whales and fish that will be impacted. Where else will the whales go each year for important breeding grounds when the impact of windmill sound, motion and vibration results in them being pushed out to further dangerous waters? How about the mind blowing number of birds that are killed each year from the windmills? What about the degrading of windmill material resulting in particles being eaten by farm stock and wool being contaminated in animals below and surrounding?
No
Ground water pollution happened before same location. Wasn't supposed to happen then either.
Do the landowners you are the likely candidates for transmission lines and mills have the right to say NO?
The fact that a local Margaret River-urban based environmental movement supported by some of the Shire planners have supported a proposed Windfarm project at Beenup. They have turned a "Blind Eye" to this biodiversity-destroying project to meet renewable-energy and emissions-reduction targets. This has created tensions within our local community as affected ratepayers seek to defend their landscapes, property rights and rural lifestyles.
The long term impacts on the Augusta community are overwhelming, please do not allow this project to go ahead.
The cost and disruption of construction a new power transmission network will have to the area. This will also see a dramatic increase to our energy costs to pay for this.
Yes – there are several important impacts not adequately covered in the Issues and Options Paper: Community consent: The Paper never asks the most fundamental question — does the community actually want large-scale industrial energy facilities in this Shire? Without genuine social licence, no planning framework will have legitimacy. Property values and rural amenity: Industrial-scale facilities reduce surrounding property values and undermine rural lifestyle, community wellbeing, and tourism-based amenity. This impact must be formally recognised. Public health: Infrasound and low-frequency noise are not addressed in current State guidelines. Independent studies show links to sleep disturbance, stress, and health impacts in both people and animals. Fire risk: Turbines, substations, and battery storage increase fire risk in rural landscapes. Emergency access, suppression capability, and liability for damages must be mandatory considerations.

Tourism and regional branding: Augusta-Margaret River relies heavily on scenic landscapes, food and wine, and eco-tourism. Large industrial energy facilities directly threaten this identity and the long-term economy. Water security: Projects in high-risk acid sulphate soil areas threaten surface water, aquifers, and river systems (e.g. Scott and Blackwood Rivers). This risk is not adequately acknowledged. Community trust and transparency: Current "consultation" practices are shallow and developer-led. The Shire's policy must set higher standards for transparent, ongoing, and independent engagement with the whole community. Cumulative regional impact: Policies must address the combined effects of multiple projects across the district, not just each proposal in isolation.
Community impacts. Animal impacts. Much more environmental impacts that exist. Mental health. Tourism. Distrust with the govt and Shire due to improper consultation and agendas
Leading edge blade erosion. Biggest priority. This is completely unacceptable to have blades that degrade and pollute the surrounding pristine rural environments Of up to 60-90kg of micro plastic from every wind turbine each year. This is a complete disaster and should not be allowed anywhere.
Yes, I cannot see on this site, where I can tick a box which says "Strongly Disagree", I have chosen the final box on each question line in the hope it covers my choice. Other impacts which are affecting the so called "Climate Change" agenda are the following. Weather modification, Geo engineering. This is fact. Our Government contracts companies to spray chemicals which adjust our weather. Chem trails are seen in the skies of our region at least twice a week. What is going on? What are they spraying, chemicals for cloud seeding, or chemicals to harm the population. The lines criss cross our skies constantly. The Victorian and NSW Government have both been questioned as to what they did with the flood situations in Victoria and the Snowy Mountain Region of NSW. They admitted to using geo engineering, weather modification. We have had our Prime Minister meeting with Bill Gates? My God, this man is wanting to dim the Sun.
The fact that this will not lower our electricity bills at all. There are already wind and solar farms in rural WA and we are still paying heaps for our electricity. If you want these build them in the city. Stick them on your buildings!
Shire overreach and Shire's organisational capacity is not up to the task.
There listed but investors do not care
No, but I am not an expert. However I do know that the quicker we can move away from fossil fuels and into renewables the better it will be for the climate and climate change
This questionnaire does not ask the main question..... Do the members of our community want a large scale wind factory on our door step. People in Margaret River will never have to see it or experience the impact of it on their lives.
*mental health impacts.... a community that has been preyed upon and devided the town . * the whole town of Augusta faces the proposed site. *the property value *transmission lines and related infrastructure have not been discussed or visually presented to the community. *lack of transparency in general regarding the whole proposal.... * aviation law regarding lights and light pollution
No
What constitutes as community consent? What methods have been used to collate the electorates wants regarding these projects? A current survey does not illustrate the shires determination to pursue these projects over the last few years without direct feedback from their entire electorate. No community consultation has been undertaken with independent feasibility studies (or Synergy feasibility studies for that matter). How can the shire represent an uninformed community?

Understanding the environmental impact of renewable technologies is to understand how much land would be required to meet future energy demands. Scott River is not a suitable area for a proposed windfarm due to its pristine environment and unique flora and fauna found nowhere else in the World.
Specifically concerned about the affects on bird life and bats.
Vibration effects from wind turbines
Please talk about Bird strike and minimisation of thereof. Research overseas experiences.
Absolutely essential is true community consultation. And I do not mean an online survey. A proposal such as the Scott River wind farm has not has any community gathering organised by the shire or the proponent, Synergy. People on both sides learn more if it is an open gathering, not secret one on one meetings or online which not everyone can do. And it needs to be more than one "town Hall"
There are better uses for our tax dollars. Especially when the tax credits and energy can be transferred to other countries and businesses. This industry is not green.
Need to understand why other countries that once supported the installation of wind turbines are now very much opposed to them. What are the real impacts on our bird life?
The fact that climate change is upon us and our state and shire is dragging its heels in advocating for the transition to renewables.
The reliability and cost of this renewables insanity with respect to our electricity dependent society. Reliability always decreases and cost always greatly increases.
Ensure that the community is involved especially those within close proximity with any project. It is important that there is transparency with the process.
Pressurised Aquifers. Black Swan breeding ground and Fight Paths. Contamination of the food chain - highly toxic PPB shards being ingested by dairy cows and the milk we drink or give to our kids is contaminated by one of the deadliest substances known to mankind.
Harmful effects to humans, livestock and wildlife.
Infrasound and low frequency noise and fire risks.
The impacts of not taking steps to address climate change are greater than any effects of having a wind farm at Scott River. I believe it will have minimal impact on the environment or community .
The example of the proposed Scott River industrial farm will impact far more of the land and population than Synergy are portraying. We need to look after humans,animals and plants.
Yes – there are several important impacts not adequately covered in the Issues and Options Paper: Community consent: The Paper never asks the most fundamental question — does the community actually want large-scale industrial energy facilities in this Shire? Without genuine social licence, no planning framework will have legitimacy. Property values and rural amenity: Industrial-scale facilities reduce surrounding property values and undermine rural lifestyle, community wellbeing, and tourism-based amenity. This impact must be formally recognised. Public health: Infrasound and low-frequency noise are not addressed in current State guidelines. Independent studies show links to sleep disturbance, stress, and health impacts in both people and animals. Fire risk: Turbines, substations, and battery storage increase fire risk in rural landscapes. Emergency access, suppression capability, and liability for damages must be mandatory considerations. Tourism and regional branding: Augusta-Margaret River relies heavily on scenic landscapes, food and wine, and eco-tourism. Large industrial energy facilities directly threaten this identity and the

long-term economy. Water security: Projects in high-risk acid sulphate soil areas threaten surface water, aquifers, and river systems (e.g. Scott and Blackwood Rivers). This risk is not adequately acknowledged. Community trust and transparency: Current “consultation” practices are shallow and developer-led. The Shire’s policy must set higher standards for transparent, ongoing, and independent engagement with the whole community. Cumulative regional impact: Policies must address the combined effects of multiple projects across the district, not just each proposal in isolation. Other comments relating to impacts: Scale matters: The Shire must clearly distinguish between small-scale renewable projects (e.g. rooftop solar, farm-based generation) which are broadly supported, and large-scale industrial facilities which are fundamentally incompatible with our farming, tourism, and residential landscapes. Long-term legacy: These projects are not temporary. Once prime farmland and natural landscapes are industrialised, the impacts are permanent — on soils, water, biodiversity, heritage, property values, and community wellbeing. Fire risk: Wind turbines, transmission infrastructure, and large-scale batteries add significant bushfire risk in rural areas. Emergency response, suppression capability, and liability for damages must be built into planning requirements. Aviation and no-fly zones: Turbines impose permanent no-fly zones over rural areas, restricting aerial firefighting, crop spraying, tourism flights, and essential farm operations. This is a direct threat to public safety and agricultural productivity. Biodiversity at risk: Augusta-Margaret River is home to extraordinarily rich biodiversity — from threatened flora and TECs to birds, bats, and marine-linked ecosystems. Industrial-scale projects pose unacceptable risks to these natural assets. Farmers’ livelihoods: Prime agricultural land underpins the region’s wine, beef, and dairy industries. Large renewable energy facilities threaten long-term farm viability through land sterilisation, biosecurity risks, water contamination, and reduced productivity. Precautionary principle: Given these high risks, the Shire should adopt the precautionary principle: if impacts cannot be eliminated, projects should not proceed. Economic fairness: The costs of noise, water risk, fire risk, lost property values, and degraded amenity are borne locally, while financial benefits flow offshore to investors and corporations. A local policy must protect residents from being collateral damage. Trust and transparency: Past projects show that community consultation is often developer-led, selective, and shallow. The Shire must insist on independent, transparent engagement and give the community a genuine say in whether such projects proceed. Social licence: Above all, there must be recognition that without community consent, these facilities do not belong in Augusta-Margaret River. The question is not just how impacts are managed, but whether these projects are acceptable at all in this Shire. Community choice: The Paper fails to ask the central question: does the Augusta-Margaret River community genuinely support industrial-scale energy projects in this Shire? Without broad community backing, policies will lack legitimacy and risk creating division.

Impact on property and amenity: Experience elsewhere shows large renewable energy facilities can reduce nearby property values and compromise rural lifestyle. These impacts extend beyond individual landholders, affecting the sense of community and the tourism appeal of the district.

Human health considerations: Current regulations focus on audible noise, ignoring low-frequency noise and infrasound. A growing body of international evidence links these exposures to sleep disruption, chronic stress, cardiovascular issues, and adverse effects on both people and animals. These risks must be explicitly recognised and addressed.

Fire management and evacuation: Turbines, substations, and battery storage introduce significant ignition hazards in fire-prone rural landscapes. Any proposal must include comprehensive fire management strategies, guaranteed emergency access, and adequate firefighting resources. Liability for damages must be clearly assigned to the developer.

Critically, Molloy Island, Molloy Hideaway Holiday Park, and East Augusta each rely on a single exit — with Molloy Island accessible only via barge. In a fire emergency, these communities would face extreme risk if evacuation routes are blocked or compromised. Approving large-scale energy facilities in such areas without fully addressing these evacuation vulnerabilities would be unacceptable.

Tourism and regional identity: Augusta-Margaret River’s global reputation relies on scenic landscapes, premium food and wine, and eco-tourism. Industrial-scale facilities threaten both the region’s character and its long-term economic foundations.

Water and soil protection: Disturbance of high-risk acid sulphate soils creates unacceptable risks to aquifers, rivers, and wetlands, particularly in the Scott and Blackwood catchments. These threats are underplayed in the Paper, yet they are critical for agriculture and community sustainability.

Consultation and transparency: Current engagement practices are tokenistic and developer-led. A credible Shire policy must guarantee independent, transparent, and ongoing engagement with the entire community, not just selected landholders.

Regional-scale impacts: Approving projects individually ignores the broader transformation caused by multiple developments across the district. Policies must address cumulative effects on landscapes, communities, and local industries.

Impact on the amenity of the coastal location of Augusta.

Go ask folk living near one.

There are several important impacts not adequately covered in the Issues and Options Paper:

The Paper never asks the most fundamental question — does the community actually want large-scale industrial energy facilities in this Shire?

Industrial-scale facilities reduce surrounding property values and undermine rural lifestyle, community wellbeing, and tourism-based amenity.

Infrasound and low-frequency noise are not addressed in current State guidelines.

Turbines, substations, and battery storage increase fire risk in rural landscapes. Emergency access, suppression capability, and liability for damages must be mandatory considerations.

Augusta-Margaret River relies heavily on scenic landscapes, food and wine, and eco-tourism - large industrial energy facilities directly threaten this identity and the long-term economy.

Projects in high-risk acid sulphate soil areas threaten surface water, aquifers, and river systems (Scott and Blackwood Rivers).

Current “consultation” practices are shallow and developer-led. The Shire’s policy must set higher standards for transparent, ongoing, and independent engagement with the whole community.

Policies must address the combined effects of multiple projects across the district, not just each proposal in isolation.

Surrounding residence property values should be taken into consideration, not only the hosting land owners who are getting funding from the project. if our property values go down our loans and mortgages will remain the same meaning I won't be able to refinance and lend against my very healthy equity I have currently which will impact my future being able to get a lower interest rate, invest into my property by having a valuable asset to gain more funds for further development on my property.

short term accommodation interest. I know the sight of wind turbines is subjective but I for one would never visit a wind turbine farm as a tourist activity there fore my Airbnb will be greatly effected as my target audience has greatly been effected.

increased risk of fire. None of the synergy reps could tell me how they plan to mitigate the increased risk of fire if one of the turbines was to malfunction casing a fire and potential embers falling from 250m tall landing in near by bushland. No evidence was shown they had any consultation or plans to deal with fires either from aerial support or group support. One rep told me they will have water tanks placed around the project boundary. Fire hoses are only 30m long, I know this because I have done some volunteer fire fighting in East Augusta, to have any chance to reach these tanks where there may be a fire, you would have to have tanks 30m apart across the whole project, is that viable? I don't think so.

Item I – Q18. Verbatim responses

Impacts to the water table and bores
Start listening to the people who you represent! Start protecting the environment and the lifestyle this area is renowned for! If you can't or won't do that, then resign and let someone represent the area more respectfully!!!
There will be red flashing lights on top of each tower which will be seen for kilometres The Black swans will disappear from Scott River it is a flood plain upto a thousand swans have been counted. The disturbance to the swans will be disastrous.
Just encourage home owners to put solar on their rooves and be done with it
Reduction of scale of wind turbines important. Maximum heights must be considered.
yes - don't support large scale industrial renewable energy projects in our Shire. It is simply too populated, to biodiversity rich and to environmentally important to be detrimentally undone for the benefit of developers and rich investors. Support strategically placed, smaller scale projects that can be designed in a manner that is complementary to the existing landscape. Do not support developments of the scale proposed of the scott river wind farm, with turbines higher than the highest buildings in the perth CBD. A tower is 250m in height can be seen up to 56km away. 56km is the distance from the northern most boundary of the Shire to Augusta. Are you fully aware of what you will be supporting?
Wake up, it's a total con.
This project has already put a huge divide in the local community and why is there so much gaslighting and secrecy involved Nothing good will ever come out of all the secretive dealings,if something is noble and worthy it will handle the sunlight
Why would you even consider these terrible rebewables. Plenty of data based studies to prove their unworthiness, unreliability and a huge detrimental impact on natural environment.
No wind farms!
No compromise with preserving natural healthy living of plants, animals and man.
For a positive transfer to sustainable energy in our community I believe it is imperative to list the benefits loudly and proudly as soon as they can be measured.
No
Yes, stop all the never ending housing developments going on in the Shire.Soon we will lose the beautiful areas that made us come here in the first place.If there are no houses available, tough, wait until there are or go somewhere else
I believe the Shire must impose a dedicated planning policy for renewables and perhaps careful consideration of the actual requirement for any large scale energy project within the Shire, especially Wind Farms!
Developing renewable energy is the most important priority and must take place and not be thwarted by Nimbyies
What is fashionable is not necessarily rational. The rationale for the use of renewables is based on false premises. The elephant in the room of human progress is access to cheap energy that, when not used directly to create warmth or power engines, can be converted to electricity that can be conveyed by wire to drive motors that drive transportation and magnify the creativity of man. The test of the utility of a source of energy is whether it will be employed in the absence of a subsidy from the public purse. As for the climate, there is such diversity. We have lots of choice. As for the so called average climate, our ability to measure the change in the temperature of the air at ground level accurately and comprehensively remains in doubt. The change that we see from day to night, from winter to

summer and from year to year exceeds by far the degree of change that, if our measurement were indeed to be correct has occurred over the period of a hundred years. The back radiation argument is falsified by the unequal rates of warming and cooling of the two hemispheres over time. The atmosphere is well mixed. The 'chicken little' alarmists should be disregarded.
This should not be a local government issues. Powering the state should not impact minorities and farming communities. It should be managed at a state level.
Stop the spread of misinformation
No wind farms
provide transparency and access to any and all information so that disinformation and paranoia does not become an issue in the community.
One parameter / principle the local policy should have at its heart is to limit financial costs to households. Too often these Government imposed schemes end up costing local residents. In the current cost environment we need to do all we can to ensure the transition to renewables will have no cost impacts on local residents.
There is an ideological opposition to renewables developing in rural areas. Some people seek to oppose renewable energy projects for political purposes. This sort of opposition should be identified and resisted.
The Augusta-Margaret River Shire is a biodiversity hotspot and shouldn't be ruined by industrial green energy projects.
Perhaps there should be a referendum. Many people in Augusta are against the windfarm but know in our hearts that our views will count for nothing...same old...
The resulting drop in carbon emissions will be much appreciated by the present and future generations
Noise travels easily in our region as the failed BHP mine proved 10km away from us. It was horrendous. A lot of ratepayers on Molloy are going to suffer once these monsters start turning!! We are being sold a lot of bull...t about them being friendly. Bit like the cut council did to the river. Now the Ocean has direct access to council infrastructure hence costly repairs. Independent noise consultants should be employed to check these wind farm noise effects on neighbours.
Visually , environmentally and physically. I strongly oppose the wind farm
Unfortunate that they whole thing has been hijacked by misinformed vocal individuals when the majority of the community support renewables but are not as vocal
I am not in agreement with current proposals on renewable energy. I am not in agreement with wind farms anywhere within the shire. Nor do I agree with solar panel 'farms' in the landscape. I believe I am well informed on this issue and understand proposed infrastructure to be unsustainable in every respect & degrading to the landscape, environment & visual aesthetic.
Reduced impact is batteries. If the council can sway our allocation federally or state to large batteries scattered around the south west maybe a much smarter and better option than wind.
most people dont like change. everything changes
The potential impact of polluting our precious water in any shape, way or form is unacceptable so the decision for projects that risk this at all is a simple one.
none
I VOTE NO TO WINDMILLS!!!!
Once established how will any of proposed impacts be monitored. And if negative what then? To late. Will half turbines be decommissioned sooner as too loud? Ground water contamination..aquifer forever polluted. Can't go back. Any policy must be community focused not big business and not standover government

No
The impacts from the State and Federal government renewable energy projects threaten agriculture and nature in many of the same extractive ways of the industrial revolution. I encourage the Shire Planners to reach out to the affected ratepayers and the Lower SouthWest Growers Group and the Lower Blackwood LCDC and developed strategies to managed the impacts
I beg our shire officer's and councillor's to not allow the Scott River Wind Farm project to proceed.
I believe the future generations will look back to our generation and will ask what we were thinking of putting these renewable resources in place that scar the environment? The are costly to construct, establish and demolish at end of life. Maybe they will see this madness that causes so much damage to the environment on the same scale that Plastics do today to the environment.
Other comments relating to impacts: Scale matters: The Shire must clearly distinguish between small-scale renewable projects (e.g. rooftop solar, farm-based generation) which are broadly supported, and large-scale industrial facilities which are fundamentally incompatible with our farming, tourism, and residential landscapes. Long-term legacy: These projects are not temporary. Once prime farmland and natural landscapes are industrialised, the impacts are permanent — on soils, water, biodiversity, heritage, property values, and community wellbeing. Fire risk: Wind turbines, transmission infrastructure, and large-scale batteries add significant bushfire risk in rural areas. Emergency response, suppression capability, and liability for damages must be built into planning requirements. Aviation and no-fly zones: Turbines impose permanent no-fly zones over rural areas, restricting aerial firefighting, crop spraying, tourism flights, and essential farm operations. This is a direct threat to public safety and agricultural productivity. Biodiversity at risk: Augusta-Margaret River is home to extraordinarily rich biodiversity — from threatened flora and TECs to birds, bats, and marine-linked ecosystems. Industrial-scale projects pose unacceptable risks to these natural assets. Farmers' livelihoods: Prime agricultural land underpins the region's wine, beef, and dairy industries. Large renewable energy facilities threaten long-term farm viability through land sterilisation, biosecurity risks, water contamination, and reduced productivity. Precautionary principle: Given these high risks, the Shire should adopt the precautionary principle: if impacts cannot be eliminated, projects should not proceed. Economic fairness: The costs of noise, water risk, fire risk, lost property values, and degraded amenity are borne locally, while financial benefits flow offshore to investors and corporations. A local policy must protect residents from being collateral damage. Trust and transparency: Past projects show that community consultation is often developer-led, selective, and shallow. The Shire must insist on independent, transparent engagement and give the community a genuine say in whether such projects proceed. Social licence: Above all, there must be recognition that without community consent, these facilities do not belong in Augusta-Margaret River. The question is not just how impacts are managed, but whether these projects are acceptable at all in this Shire. They are too expensive, too visually unappealing, intermittent in power generation, create excessive pollution in micro plastics by the tonne for every wind farm. Mining requirements outweigh the generation of power made. They don't belong in pristine environments. No local benefit for the area's population or amenity.
I grew up listening to decades of stories about the ice caps melting, global warming, Al Gore made millions from his educational videos and public conferences on this issue. We were taught in school the ocean would cover islands and they would disappear. The same narrative goes on and on. As I said, I do not support this renewal energy project. I believe our tax payers money should be used for Australian companies, not paying international firms money. I do not support tax payers money being used for renewables whatsoever. I do not support our AMR Shire with a policy on renewable energy and find it concerning members of our AMR Shire promote and push this, what I would call, another agenda of Government. Someone is making a lot of money out of taking Australian taxpayers money. I also feel our Australian Government has sold us out to the World Economic Forum promoting this agenda. We have lost massive

manufacturing industry. Our country is on a deep decline. We are going to have wake up to the fact sooner than later, Australians do NOT want this renewable agenda which has caused gas and electricity prices to sky rocket. I find this Renewable energy push in Australia so contradictory when our Federal and State Governments have just agreed to Woodside continuing drilling, A Texan company wanting to Frack in the Kimberley, our own West Australian gas supply being signed over Woodside due to low supplies for their international market. And to finally, to think any of us want to see or hear windfarms in our view when we are, once again promoting this part of Australia for tourism. Honestly, the future of our country is currently in the hands of greedy fools. to think the renewables are doing any good for livelihoods, our future costs of living, our environment our animals, someone please wake up and STOP this insanity. I want to see industry back in my country. Australian manufacturing, cars, trains, buses, boats, ships, you name it and renewables is not the way to go.
The impact for birds will be huge
Impacts should include financial.
List to what is happening in the rest of Australia and the world. Wake up
many more
No
Research suggests that not only will wind farms require more land to hit the proposed renewable energy targets but also, at such a large scale, would become an active player in climate impact.
Consider impacts on wildlife not mentioned in policy paper
A development of a renewable scale will impact people in many ways. It needs to be treated very carefully and given huge consideration, case by case . The shire needs to have feet on the ground at the start of any possible proposal and get on the front foot to see straight away who and how people and the environment will be considered. It might save community angst if the proposal was deemed unsatisfactory earlier than later.
As above.
https://youtu.be/YbxpieEQ7bc - Sky News - The Real Cost of Net Zero: The shocking truth of the renewable energy push. Also the many, many scientific papers that prove that CO2 is not the driver of climate change.
There are impacts at all levels with any large scale project - construction phase with noise/dust/infrastructure and building (there will be inconvenience to local people during these types of work). When operational - impact to wildlife especially bird strikes.
Really peeved that all my other detailed responses have been lost.
Having worked with AMRCCE to achieve agreement from Western Power to submit 22.5MW of wind power into the grid, I am familiar with the assessment of impacts within the state government.
Breaking up communities and family's
Property values!
Before any further policy is developed I request that AMR shire provide the opportunity for a community forum to voice their concerns in person. AMFR shire has a responsibility to protect the health and wellbeing of their residents and therefore listen and strongly advocate that this project is not given approval to be located within this shire.
The stated impacts of the wind farm by those opposing it , are I believe, overstated and could be allied with the 'NIMBY' approach to any development.

The proposed Scott River farm has to be considered by communication with locals. Definitely not residents out of the affected area. This shire is too diverse to be able to get a clear indication if you take a view from someone who lives in Margaret River. Vs someone in Augusta or Scott River. It is now when I wish Augusta was a shire on its own.
Project scale: The Shire should clearly differentiate between small-scale renewable energy initiatives — such as rooftop solar or farm-based generation, which are generally compatible with local landscapes — and large-scale industrial developments, which are fundamentally incompatible with Augusta-Margaret River's residential, agricultural, and tourism values. Long-term consequences: Large industrial facilities are not temporary. Once prime farmland and natural landscapes are industrialised, the impacts are enduring — affecting soil health, water systems, biodiversity, heritage values, property prices, and community wellbeing for decades or longer. Bushfire risks: Wind turbines, transmission lines, and large-scale battery storage significantly increase bushfire potential. Planning must incorporate emergency response planning, fire suppression capacity, and clear liability measures to protect residents and assets. Aviation and operational limitations: Industrial turbines create permanent no-fly zones over rural areas, constraining aerial firefighting, crop spraying, tourism flights, and other essential farm operations. This poses a tangible threat to public safety and agricultural productivity. Biodiversity protection: The Augusta-Margaret River region supports exceptionally rich biodiversity, including threatened flora, TECs, and fauna such as birds and bats, as well as marine-linked ecosystems. Large-scale energy developments present unacceptable risks to these natural assets. Impact on farmers: Prime agricultural land sustains the region's wine, beef, and dairy industries. Industrial projects threaten long-term farm viability through land sterilisation, biosecurity threats, potential water contamination, and reduced productivity. Precautionary approach: Given the significant and potentially irreversible risks, the Shire should apply the precautionary principle — if impacts cannot be reliably mitigated, the projects should not proceed. Economic fairness: Local communities bear the costs of noise, water risk, fire danger, lost property value, and degraded amenity, while financial benefits largely accrue to offshore investors and corporations. Policy must safeguard residents from bearing disproportionate costs. Community engagement and trust: Past projects highlight that consultation is often selective, developer-driven, and superficial. Shire policy should require independent, transparent, and meaningful engagement to ensure the community has a real voice. Social licence: Above all, community consent must be recognised as essential. These facilities do not automatically belong in Augusta-Margaret River — the question is not only how impacts are managed, but whether such projects are acceptable in the first place.
Don't want wind farms Get the picture
Believe the best way to minimise impacts is to find the best locations... which may not be the closest to a substation or transmission lines but are ones that have least impact on the amenity of an area and peoples livelihoods. Feel overall that government policy is being driven by urgency rather than innovative planning and very considered decision making.
The Shire must clearly distinguish between small-scale renewable projects which are broadly supported, and large-scale industrial facilities which are fundamentally incompatible with our farming, tourism, and residential landscapes. These projects are not temporary. Once prime farmland and natural landscapes are industrialised, the impacts are permanent — on soils, water, biodiversity, heritage, property values, and community wellbeing. Wind turbines, transmission infrastructure, and large-scale batteries add significant bushfire risk in rural areas. Emergency response, suppression capability, and liability for damages must be built into planning requirements. Turbines impose permanent no-fly zones over rural areas, restricting aerial firefighting, crop spraying, tourism flights, and essential farm operations. This is a direct threat to public safety and agricultural productivity. Augusta-Margaret River is home to extraordinarily rich biodiversity — Industrial-scale projects pose unacceptable risks to these natural assets.

Prime agricultural land underpins the region's wine, beef, and dairy industries. Large renewable energy facilities threaten long-term farm viability through land sterilisation, biosecurity risks, water contamination, and reduced productivity. Given these high risks, the Shire should adopt the precautionary principle: if impacts cannot be eliminated, projects should not proceed.

The costs of noise, water risk, fire risk, lost property values, and degraded amenity are borne locally, while financial benefits flow offshore to investors and corporations. A local policy must protect residents from being collateral damage.

The Shire must insist on independent, transparent engagement and give the community a genuine say in whether such projects proceed.

Above all, there must be recognition that without community consent, these facilities do not belong in Augusta-Margaret River. The question is not just how impacts are managed, but whether these projects are acceptable at all in this Shire.

if impacts that local residents are concerned about can't be managed this project should not go ahead. its hard to make a judgment as I said I have zero confidence in synergy after two rounds of information drop in centres with a total of roughly two and a half years or study and research yet they share nothing of hard evidence I am truly worried about all the negative impacts we as residence face and the health and future of our water ways, conservation bushland, flora and fauna endemic to the area. I fear we will be left out in the cold and the only people truly living with the negative daily impacts like noise, land value deceasing, fire risk and health effects

Item J – Q20. Verbatim responses

Follow Denmark model
We expect community benefits from this will be cheaper electricity bills.
What benefits?
There have been NO benefits offered by Synergy RED or the other companies
How is it assessed who is most effected?
There are no direct community benefits regarding any current proposals
There are no benefits
Communities most affected by the development should see the greatest benefits from the development. These developments should not be used to top up providing more facilities for other parts of the shire or not accessible or used by impacted communities.
What benefits?
Community benefits = bribes. community benefits divide communities. Will the AMR shire ensure that people who are negatively affected by the turbine project are protected from those who wish to silence people who speak up against the desired narrative. community benefits should not include non disclosure agreements.
N/a as don't agree to pursuit of RE In the first instance
Answer in last question Is it community benefits or blood money or bribes In the end the big boys get their money from the government and the locals are left holding the baby
Trick questions
The cost would be enormous and its a bit like the travelling sales men with his snake skin ointments...for your benefit but the ongoing cost just hidden from plain sight.. Stay away from these frilly salesmen, they only want to make money for their pocket. Just stay within your job requirements.
No compromise with preserving natural healthy living of plants, animals and man.
When the community is sure of the benefits to everyone then it is successful.
If there are renewable energy projects approved in the Shire then the local residents should benefit in the form of cheaper power or installation of a Battery for the community to benefit from
Consider smaller community based micro grid renewable systems especially in rural settings rather than commercially driven large centralised renewable projects. Moving centralised energy generation requires expensive, ugly and disruptive distribution networks.
It is generally agreed that offshore wind has been a disaster from the economic point of view. Onshore wind allocates land to a use that is incompatible with living within the area that is developed, a consideration that would normally lead to rejection at the outset, were it not supposed to more than offset a calamity that is believed to be about to occur. That is not the case in this instance. Much of the Southern Hemisphere suffers from temperatures that are suboptimal for photosynthesis. We in the southern hemisphere would benefit from warmer temperatures.

This question is fatally flawed. The primary benefit of a rapid, massive shift to renewables will be avoiding the catastrophic consequences of climate change. I know that concept is hard to sell and every (hopeless human) person in the community will say "What's in it for me? I want XYZ before agreeing to a wind farm in my area." So do what it takes to get the locals on board - but somehow they need to see the bigger picture of what their great grandkids will be dealing with in 100 years time if we don't get our act together now.
Community should not have to bare this at all for the great good of the rest of the state.
This sounds like socialist nonsense to me. Do the wineries or other industries share their benefits with the community?
Community benefits demands should not be used to make a renewable energy development uneconomic. Transparency is key to having a serious and reasonable negotiation with the proponents. Sometimes, the local community is dominated by opponents to renewables. This means that a wider view may have be taken of the overall benefits of a renewable energy project.
The main issues are: is who will administer the scheme, the policy framework which guides the scheme, and transparency around the financial accounting.
Community benefits are just another name for corporate bribery or hush money - 'we will, pay you not to kick up a fuss'.
No
Basically the entire community will benefit from having our massive renewable energy resources put to use. Bring it on as soon as possible
If you're admitting that people will be affected then don't let the proposed wind farm go ahead . You can't buy people off with a bit off profits
benefits need to be fair, reasonable and transparent.
I am not in agreement with current proposals on renewable energy. I am not in agreement with wind farms anywhere within the shire. Nor do I agree with solar panel 'farms' in the landscape. I believe I am well informed on this issue and understand proposed infrastructure to be unsustainable in every respect & degrading to the landscape, environment & visual aesthetic.
Power bills have never gone down anywhere in Australia. They only go up . Corporations that run the renewable scam don't share, they only take. If any money is ever shared it will be your hard earned taxes the government has already taken from you.
This should not be seen as a fait accompli - the biggest benefit to the community may be to not proceed.
What about issues - there will be more of these than benefits
Sick and tired of saying these questions assume that I want windmills installed.
Limited benefits from windfarm. Corporate "gifts" to community to endear support is a form of blackmail
The benefit is to us all in prtecting the climate.
Community should be consulted as to the negative effects of such projects.
I do not agree with the comments that renewable energy will be rewarding for residents when all the costs are considered. The damage to the environment is not fully understood yet until it is lived and experienced for 20 years after these monstrosities are erected.
Community should have input into how the benefits are shared - Not satisfied. While community input is important in principle, this assumes that projects are acceptable in the first place. Our community is not for sale, and we reject the idea that financial packages can substitute for consent. Benefits should provide more to those communities most affected by the development - Not satisfied. No amount of money can compensate those most affected for the permanent loss of farmland, biodiversity, and amenity. The only true "benefit" is protecting what we already have. We do not want "dirty money" and we will not be bought off. Our community is not that cheap. Benefit-sharing schemes are simply bribes dressed up as consultation, and they risk dividing communities while enriching developers. The Shire's policy must be clear: financial sweeteners cannot override community consent or offset unacceptable

impacts on land, water, farming livelihoods, biodiversity, heritage, and tourism. If a project cannot protect these values, it should not proceed — no matter what financial package is offered.
We are not for sale.
There less benefits than issues.
There are very little to no community benefits.
The community benefits would be is if we say NO to this entire renewal agenda.
Show me the community benefits for Merredin with their turbines. A bit of sponsorship for local sport, that is it. Nearly ready for decommissioning
There are no benefits except to those being paid off.
The local community is more divided than it ever has been thanks for Shire initiatives such as the wind farm.
The shires role is not to experiment with energy or infrastructure, but to provide well documented high value solutions.
Destroying land and environment cannot be undone Listen to previous farm owners and why are the farms being pulled down and not renewed Too expensive not reliable
I would like to see that all new housing developments are mandated to include 100% solar feeding into a community battery. This is surely the way forward?
I feel that giving grants to the community is just a way of placating the people.
reluctant to agree or disagree as the buying off of our town seems disgusting and immoral
100% should be assigned to those communities affected.
No
This question is loaded to the community allegedly accepting the project in the first place. Where is that information? How is the feedback weighted towards those that are directly impacted as opposed to those living 40km away?
People live in the South West because of the lifestyle. There is a house shortage so consideration for workers would have to be addressed. The community may not want economic growth and investment in their towns but content the way they are. Would be good to know how much money will be paid to shire council. Kalbarri has been offered 1.5 million from Murchison Green Hydrogen export facility 15klms from their town. Kalbarri residents were surveyed and 95% of the community opposes the Ammonia/Hydrogen plant.
Benefit would be greater not having the wind farm in the first place
I have never heard of any vineyards, cattle grazers or other large scale landusers who transform landscapes being mandated to provide economic outcomes to the community (beyond providing employment, paying taxes and choosing to support local community organisations). I think it would be good if a commercial renewable energy facility was mandated to give to the community but begs the question why all profitable commercial enterprises are not required to do so?
This shire is too large and diverse to see a satisfactory community benefit. Why should someone in Margaret river wanting turbines in Scott River benefit at the expense of the community that suffer the effects of the turbines.
I am totally against any sort of windfarm.

Suggest any financial benefits should go to residents most affected by the project. If the shire benefits then ensure any funds are spent in the area affected by the project.
It would be great if the substantial funding generated by these projects were put to use in further reducing the impacts of climate change.
Although I am dubious of any real benefits being achieved by net zero initiatives.
It doesn't impact Margaret River so benefits ought not be relevant UNLESS... these ' - community benefits'- inducements are buying off people support and that is a BRIBE. Nowhere north of Karridale ought get any benefit.
Any benefits do not compensate for the massive destruction of the environment, wildlife, livestock and livelihoods of those effected.
No amount of money can compensate locals affected for the permanent loss of farmland, biodiversity and amenity!
There is nothing in this to benefit the community, this is a form of gaining perceived favour of the community to enable the project to proceed and have an ongoing presence in the community. There is no long term community gain
Again as mentioned before. This shire is too large and diverse. Community out of the affected area should never receive any form of community benefit. A huge consideration for any shire to approve a development is to look at who is benefitting and who is not. Why do some people get paid and others completely ignored, even as direct neighbours. Criminal. They(all affected) need to be compensated
Community involvement: While engaging the community is important in principle, it must be recognised that consultation cannot assume the projects are acceptable to begin with. Financial incentives or "sweeteners" cannot replace genuine consent. The Augusta-Margaret River community is not for sale, and no monetary offer can justify approving projects that harm our land, water, or way of life. Distribution of benefits: Any discussion of benefits should prioritise the communities most directly affected. However, no financial package can truly compensate for the permanent loss of farmland, biodiversity, heritage, and visual amenity. Protecting these values is the only real benefit the community will accept. Rejecting "buy-off" schemes: Benefit-sharing schemes risk dividing communities and enriching developers, while presenting the illusion of consultation. The Shire's policy must be explicit: financial offers cannot override community consent or justify unacceptable impacts on agriculture, natural environments, heritage, or tourism. Principle: If a project cannot guarantee the protection of these fundamental values, it should not proceed under any circumstances, regardless of the size of any proposed financial package. The message is clear: our community and our environment cannot be bought.
Community benefits should be increased dramatically.
There are no benefits from turbines
The Shire's policy needs to be clear - financial benefits cannot override community consent or offset unacceptable impacts on land, water, farming livelihoods, biodiversity, heritage, and tourism. If a project cannot protect these values, it should not proceed — no matter what financial package is offered.
This project should not go ahead where it has been proposed and answering yes to this question doesn't mean I want it to go ahead. Benefits should be given to those most effected around the project if it was to go ahead

Item K – Q21. Verbatim responses

Wind Farms are not the answer, they still need back up coal fired plants to supplement when there isn't enough output. We should be looking towards Nuclear for renewable energy.
We don't believe that renewables should be put on prime farmland.
If folk are so against coal or nuclear the for example why is Australia exporting coal? Honestly, why? Stop that
this is essential and considerations also should have been built into your recent LPS. Keep all of community up to date on this project by publishing transparent updates as they occur. Taking our email addresses is just a cop out to have a last minute email send out a day or 2 before the Council are asked to vote on an item. Be transparent and publish information in accessible locations. Stop using facebook as a primary communication tool as it isn't the key communication tool most people use
Concentrate on urgent repairs and reducing waste.
No to be over complicated and drawn out. Pathetically poor at best project time Management is nothing that riles the public more.
This policy should have been considered and the community consulted in 2019. Land owners directly affected should have been approached by either the AMR shire or the AMRCCE. The AMR Shire is looking for a social licence. I strongly object to a large scale renewable project within the AMR shire and WA in general.
Stop wasting money. More n more people are beginning to realise that the whole net zero rhetoric is a giant scam
The rest of the country has gone mad with these wind farms,wouldn't it be a point of unique difference if our shire didn't have them
Please don't make this a personal crusade by those in the council with their own agenda. We need PRACTICAL solutions
Just don't do it.
Renewable Energy Policy is a scam and does not make any sense even as a planet earth saver!
AMR shire has to stay well informed and abreast of global progress in this matter. We definitely can be wayshowers. Based on lived experience of other recognisable community progress and real reports we can stay relevant.
Good idea to have a policy to apply when the time comes
I believe there is definitely an important role for the AMR Shire here, there is some renewable "panic" politically motivated here that needs to be modulated and considered against the actual needs and unique requirements of the AMR Shire jurisdiction. There is an undeniable need for clean renewable energy going forward however it must be the "best" possible fit case by case not purely driven by multinational commercial interests.
Simplify the process for rapid, effective assessment of renewable energy projects. Avoid creating more layers, more complexity, more policies, more consultation, more delays, more meetings, more red tape. We (as a species) have created a big problem and we do not have the time and cannot afford the cost of reducing or slowing down the uptake in renewables.
Renewable energy should not be the burden of regional communities.
Stop the misinformation, reduce red tape, make it easy to work for the community
No to wind farms
I am pleased that the AMR Shire is taking a proactive view of this important issue. I hope that, as a result, we will have numerous well-regarded renewable energy projects in suitable locations around the Shire.
Yes if there's going to be any renewables they MUST be Australian companies. Support Australia
I think the Shire's planning policy is adequate, it has protection for the land and the environment.
NO WIND FARM IN AUGUSTA/SCOTT RIVER!!!!

Support the off grid and micro grid possibilities to get as many people as possible able to produce and store the abundant renewable energy resources without the middle man, and use the big energy hubs to provide industry. Every house should have solar and access to battery storage. Every commercial building should have solar panels. Every car park should be covered and topped with solar panels. The shire buildings should be powered by their own renewable energy resources
Focus on solar panels and new batteries and technology. Move wind farms away from towns and treasured landscapes.
I do not support wind farms here or anywhere along our coastline .
Unfortunate that they whole thing has been hijacked by misinformed vocal individuals when the majority of the community support renewables but are not as vocal
I do not believe the shire should in any way facilitate the activities of developers or the state government in pursuing a renewable energy policy that includes wind farms or solar farms anywhere in the shire, including offshore. The shire should concentrate on its core objectives for residents as is its remit. People power will mobilise when and if necessary as developers push forward with their agendas, likely with the backing of the state government.
go for it !! lets be the leading shire in Australia.
You have been forced by state government to provide this policy. I would advise you listen to the people who actually live in the areas proposed for these so called renewable projects. I didn't see any Shire reps at the Molloy Island drop in today and I suggest if you do really care, to put some feet on the ground to really see how people are reacting to these "renewables" which a lot of people now see as part of the Net zero scam which is proven impossible to achieve and very costly to every taxpayer. I hope and pray the shire tells Synergy Red to go somewhere else with their wind farm.
Consider carefully the capability of renewable energy to be able to adequately supply the local electrical demand within the shire, rather than keep a handful of people happy
I am all for creating renewable energy, however windmills is not the way to do it and Scott River is not the place for it, being so close to the natural water ways.
Think Global, Act Local !
Policy should have demand reduction startigies on large scale included, not just shire buildings. Should be based on endorsed detailed plan as to what is the vision on all avenues being explored across regions not just windfarms. Must retain landscape value as integrated aspect of nature conservation and visual amenity of natural landscape. Key principle of any policy..do no harm not just to people but nature in short and long term
I am against the proposed wind farms. The shire's policy should not include these eyesores. 75% of the world's emitters are not signed up to emission targets, we are wasting our time, money and even worse energy. We sell coal, gas , minerals to the 75% so they can make the renewables whilst they create more emissions. Ponzi fraudulent scheme
Please do not allow the Scott River Wind Farm project to proceed. This is outdated visual polluting technology, please to not allow it to happen.
I believe both the Federal and State Labor Governments are hell bent to push through with its ideological environment agendas and this consultation process is just a tick a box exercise that will not sway them toipull back from this madness.

The Shire's Renewable Energy Policy must start from the principle that large-scale industrial renewable energy facilities are not automatically compatible with our region. Augusta-Margaret River is defined by its farming heritage, food and wine production, rich biodiversity, and world-class landscapes that support tourism. These values are irreplaceable and must always come before the interests of developers. Key points: Community consent first: A local policy must explicitly ask whether the community wants large-scale facilities at all. Without genuine social licence, no project should proceed. Protection of prime farmland and biodiversity: Agricultural production and ecological integrity are the backbone of our region. They cannot be sacrificed for short-term industrial energy projects. Precautionary principle: In high-risk areas such as Scott River — with acid sulphate soils, aquifers, and nationally significant biodiversity — the risks are simply too great. If impacts cannot be eliminated, development must not be permitted. Independent and enforceable standards: All assessments (noise, environment, heritage, decommissioning) must be independent, transparent, and binding — not left to consultants hired by developers. No buy-offs: Community “benefit” schemes must not be used as bribes to buy social licence. Our community is not for sale. We are seeking change in the current policies and regulations. They are not adequate to protect communities and wildlife from the long-lasting impacts of these projects — including health issues, environmental damage, and social division. The Shire has a rare opportunity to show leadership by putting residents, farming livelihoods, biodiversity, and cultural heritage first. A strong local Renewable Energy Policy must provide certainty, fairness, and genuine protection for the people and landscapes of Augusta-Margaret River. We are not for sale — and our land, water, and way of life are not negotiable. Listen to the community, don't follow what the govt is pushing, they are untruthful and have agendas. I would hope you have common sense and morals to be able to see what is going on. This is not the answer to energy. Renewable energy will make no difference to the environment or climate especially while we export a majority of our own coal and gas to the biggest polluters of the world. The taxpayer should not fund any project that has foreign ownership or operation. Hypocrisy No I do not. I want see a completely overhauled policy which supports how we can ensure our agricultural land is kept for farming, our oceans are kept pollution free for all marine animals, our heritage of country is kept in tact, our environment remains pristine. When there is no way that windfarms or batteries are safe or able to be fully recycled, then I will have nothing to do with this form of energy. We are losing our way in considering this action as the future. Make it transparent. Show ALL of the facts. Show the impact of producing the turbines, where they come from. The amount of energy into producing them, the environmental factors of all the concrete in the bases, the transportation of them. How long before it's all carbon zero? Show all the facts. Where's your infrastructure maintenance policy? Where's your council elections policy? Start by keeping it in Australia No windfarms - try solar panels on residence and business roofing No wind turbines sadly I've run out of time..... Hurry up! Community consultation is ESSENTIAL before adopting any renewables policy. Independent review of potential projects to ascertain risk vs benefit must be undertaken and put forward for public review. At the current standard, no one is able to make an informed and education position of supporting these projects. Consult community, respect their feedback. Remember people are against windfarms especially in the ocean. Ensure the policy is water tight and can't be changed by just a flick of a pen. Impressed by the idea of your Energy Policy. Hopefully other Shires will follow. Good Luck. No
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The national climate risk assessment report came out this week. Anyone reading that should conclude we don't have time to wait to speed up decarbonising our economy.
These questions that doing in this survey are not the option, shore already approved that???
I agree with a renewable policy in all shires but in the Augusta Margaret river shire the policy should be used to control the size of any proposal and the land it is proposed for. Our valuable farm land is shrinking due to subdivision for housing , we cannot allow a huge industrial development that will impact so many be allowed. Keep the policy for small projects like the Scott River one was supposed to be!
The research the current government and shire are going by is outdated. Windfarms are more dangerous to living beings and the environment, are costly, and only support the businesses that are pushing this agenda Not the constituents of the shire.
No - other than council should encourage state and federal government to build these wind farms on uninhabited land not on prime agricultural land.
Ensure that there is adequate community consultation from all
Only when there is a completely Green, Safe and Environmentally friendly Renewable should there be a policy.
A Renewable Energy Policy should protect people and landscapes of Augusta/Margaret River.
The need for climate change action is real and urgent. The Shire needs to be mindful of this in any policy considerations.
I am hoping this possible Renewable Energy Policy is given the most serious attention and intensive studies to get the best outcomes. Not drawn up by any environmentalist in the shire office.
The Shire's Renewable Energy Policy must recognise that large-scale industrial facilities are not inherently compatible with Augusta-Margaret River. Our region's identity is rooted in farming heritage, premium food and wine production, rich biodiversity, and world-class landscapes that sustain tourism. These irreplaceable values must take priority over the interests of developers. Community consent as a foundation: Any policy must start by asking the fundamental question — does the community want these large-scale projects at all? Without genuine social licence, no development should be allowed to proceed. Protecting farmland and natural assets: Prime agricultural land and ecological integrity are central to the region's economy and way of life. They cannot be traded away for short-term industrial gains. Policies must safeguard farmland, biodiversity, and critical ecosystems. Precautionary approach in high-risk areas: Sites like Scott River, with acid sulphate soils, sensitive aquifers, and nationally significant biodiversity, present risks that cannot be fully mitigated. Where impacts cannot be eliminated, projects must be prohibited. Independent, enforceable standards: All assessments — including noise, environmental, heritage, and decommissioning — must be conducted independently, fully transparent, and legally enforceable, not left to developer-selected consultants. Rejecting buy-offs: Community “benefit” schemes must not be used as a substitute for consent. Financial incentives cannot compensate for permanent harm to farmland, water, biodiversity, heritage, or rural amenity. Our community is not for sale. Policy leadership: Current frameworks and regulations fail to provide adequate protection against the long-term health, environmental, and social impacts of large-scale projects. The Shire has a unique opportunity to lead by putting residents, farming livelihoods, natural ecosystems, and cultural heritage first. A strong Renewable Energy Policy should ensure certainty, fairness, and genuine protection for the people, land, and landscapes of Augusta-Margaret River. Our land, water, and way of life are non-negotiable — and must remain beyond the reach of industrial-scale projects. Would be interested in taking part in any workshops or further discussion with renewable energy groups.
Please provide evidence that the 3% manmade Co2 is causing climate change and 97% made from nature is not

The Shire's Renewable Energy Policy must start from the fundamental principle that large-scale industrial renewable energy facilities are not automatically compatible with our region. Augusta-Margaret River is defined by its farming heritage, food and wine production, rich biodiversity, and world-class landscapes that support tourism. These values are irreplaceable and must always come before the interests of developers.

The policy should have a clear outlines on where these projects should be built, not in Scott River where there is so much at risk of being destroyed and once its gone no amount of money will bring it back. we have already seen what large scale industrial projects will do to this area in been mineral sands mine. do not make the same mistake.



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Phone enquiries

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If you are deaf, or have a hearing impairment or speech impairment, contact us through the National Relay Service:

- TTY users phone 133 677 then ask for 08 9780 5255
- Speak and Listen users phone 1300 555 727 then ask for 08 9780 5255
- Internet relay users connect to the NRS www.relayservice.com.au then ask for 08 9780 5255