

# Benefit sharing and leaving a legacy in the Central West

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## We are Squadron Energy

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Australia's leading renewable energy company



Five operational projects delivering 1.1GW of renewable energy and 900MW currently under construction



Critical, advanced stage, gas import terminal to firm renewables with no new gas fields



## Why do we need an energy transition?

### Black and brown coal still represent a majority of generation NEM-wide

- Together, black and brown coal account for 60% of generation
- This capacity must be replaced as it is ageing, unreliable and emissions intensive
- NSW, QLD and VIC are most heavily reliant on coal generation, and hence need the most investment in the transition

## **Generation mix in the NEM (last 12 months)**

#### 20000 18000 16000 14000 12000 H 10000 8000 6000 4000 2000 0 Aug-2023 Oct-2023 Dec-2023 Feb-2024 Apr-2024 Jun-2024 Coal (Black) Gas Hydro Wind Solar (Utility) Solar (Rooftop) Coal (Brown)

## Capacity mix in the NEM by state

30000



## What is the cheapest replacement electricity?

#### Renewables and firming is by far the cheapest way to replace our aging coal fleet

- Renewables and firming at a 90% share is 25% cheaper than coal, and 40% cheaper than large scale nuclear
- That gap is expected to widen as the new build cost for renewables comes down with deployment over the coming years



### Levelised cost of electricity (Gencost 2024)

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## **Doing nothing increases power prices**

### Coal outages are a key driver of power prices

- A persistent increase in coal outages have occurred over the past 5 + years, alongside increasing power prices
- Coal outages are expected to increase over the coming years as plants approach end of life and the economic case for maintenance/upgrades erodes

## Prices vs. coal outages



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## **Our projects in the Central West**

### Crudine Ridge Wind Farm – in operation

Located on Wiradjuri Country, 45km south of Mudgee. The wind project became fully operational in 2022, producing enough electricity to power more than 75,000 homes and prevent 266,000 tonnes of carbon emissions annually. The wind farm is supplying clean energy to corporate partners such as Nestle Australia and Sydney Airport.

### **Uungula Wind Farm – under construction**

Located on Wiradjuri Country, 14km east of Wellington, NSW. Once complete, the 69-turbine wind farm will generate enough electricity to power more than 220,000 homes and prevent more than 560,000 tonnes of carbon emissions being released into the atmosphere annually.

### **Spicers Creek Wind Farm**

Located on Wiradjuri Country, west of Gulgong and north east of Wellington, within the Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone. The proposed wind project currently comprises up to 117 wind turbines and battery energy storage.

### **Dubbo Firming Power Station**

A proposed firming power station capable of using hydrogen, biofuels and hydrogen gas blends. The project consists of a dual fuel 64MW power plant and up to 20MW hydrogen electrolysis plant.



## The energy transition needs to be fair for regional communities



Hosts

**Neighbours** 

## Communities



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## **Benefit sharing and leaving a legacy**

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## **Squadron Link**







Permanent local presence





## **Economic Development**



**Building skills** 





# **Thank You**

Any Questions?

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