

# CLEAN ENERGY COUNCIL BEST PRACTICE CHARTER



## INTRODUCTION

ACCIONA Energía is the world's largest 100% clean energy company and a leader in Australia's renewable energy delivery.

The expectations of true leadership require setting ambitious targets and adopting a best-practice approach that inspires others and drives meaningful change as a collective.

As a signatory to the Clean Energy Council's Best Practice Charter, ACCIONA Energía has compiled this annual report to document its adherence with the Charter's 10 commitments across its Australian portfolio. This report aims to support transparency, accountability and excellence in community engagement practices in pursuit of creating a social licence to operate for all of its projects.

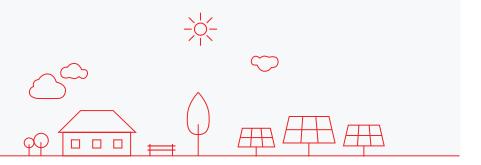
This commitment extends beyond basic compliance and reflects our 'Community First' approach to building long-term community partnerships to drive economic and social change by addressing each community's unique needs and aspirations.

This report celebrates success and identifies opportunities to assess and interrogate ongoing commitments against local changing priorities and challenges to ensure adaptability and continuous improvement.

By sharing ACCIONA Energía's community engagement practices and outcomes, we are aiming to build public trust in Australia's clean energy transition and reaffirming our commitment to making each project community a better place to live, work and visit.

## REPORTING AGAINST THE BEST PRACTICE CHARTER AND ITS COMMITMENTS:

- 1 We will engage respectfully with the local community, including Traditional Owners of the land, to seek their views and input before submitting a development application and finalising the design of the project.
- We will provide timely information and be accessible and responsive in addressing the local community's feedback and concerns throughout the life of the project.
- We will be sensitive to areas of high biodiversity, cultural and landscape value in the design and operation of projects.
- We will minimise the impacts on highly productive agricultural land and explore opportunities to integrate agricultural production.
- We will consult the community on the potential visual, noise, traffic and other impacts of the project, and on the mitigation options.
- We will support the local economy by providing local employment and procurement opportunities.
- We will offer communities the opportunity to share in the benefits of the project, and consult them on the options available, including the relevant governance arrangements.
- We commit to using the project to support educational and tourism opportunities where appropriate.
- We will demonstrate responsible land stewardship over the life of the project and welcome opportunities to enhance the ecological, cultural and/or agricultural value of the land.
- During the life of the project, we will recycle waste materials where feasible and commit to responsible decommissioning or refurbishment/repowering of the site at the end of the project's life.





# ENGAGEMENT WITH TRADITIONAL OWNERS AND COMMUNITIES

**COMMITMENTS 1, 2, 5** 

ACCIONA Energía acknowledges the deep spiritual and cultural connection that Australia's First Nations peoples have with land, skies and waterways.

We recognise that meaningful engagement begins with listening, learning, and building trust through respectful, transparent, and ongoing relationships. Early and sustained engagement with Traditional Owners and First Nations communities is central to our approach. We prioritise meetings on Country to foster knowledge-sharing and ensure that community voices shape the design and delivery of our projects. These touchpoints help build long-term relationships and inclusive participation.

Our First Nations Engagement Team, comprised of First Nations professionals, leads the development of genuine culturally informed engagement strategies. Their work is guided by the principles of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, ensuring that our teams uphold and promote the fundamental human rights of First Nations peoples.

We work in close partnership with Traditional Owners groups to co-develop Cultural Heritage Management Plans. These plans establish agreed processes to avoid or minimise harm to Aboriginal cultural heritage sites and support ongoing access to Country at every stage.

Our popular online Community Hub (www. community.acciona.com.au provides up-to-date information on all projects across Australia. It offers interactive tools for feedback, including 'ask a question' forms, and showcases initiatives such as small grants and scholarships.

We use a variety of formats (infographics, videos, written content and interactive maps) to ensure information is accessible and easy to understand. These resources address common community concerns such as visual, environmental, noise, and traffic impacts, and provide clear explanations of technical aspects like wind turbine shadow flicker and photovoltaic glare. Communications content is interactive, accessible and designed to inform, educate and elicit feedback. For example, our online 'ask a question' project forms are a popular feedback channel for projects like the Nyaninyuk and Tall Tree Wind Farms, and our team of community and stakeholder engagement specialists take pride in providing prompt and public responses to every question, comment and query.

Community concerns often focus on the potential visual, safety, environmental, noise and traffic impacts of a project. These issues are proactively addressed in community forums, face-to-face meetings and through a myriad of online resources.

Wherever possible, our engagement team members are recruited locally to strengthen community ties and ensure culturally appropriate communication.



Individual project pages are frequently updated with engagement opportunities and new project information, including interactive maps, newsletters, images, FAQs, and storytelling through digital media.



By way of example: Online interactive maps of all our proposed projects allow users to drop pins and provide feedback about culture, ecology, geography and wildlife. These tools help us develop and plan better projects as well as involve the community in development of the project.

We actively seek opportunities to deliver long-term employment, procurement, and social benefits to First Nations people. For example, in planning the Wallaby Creek Wind Farm in New South Wales, we hosted workshops with project neighbours to codesign community benefit-sharing initiatives, including neighbour benefits, grants, and scholarships.

All projects in construction have physical Community Hubs in the closest town centre, staffed by ACCIONA community engagement team members, allowing the community and stakeholders to meet face-to-face. This physical presence facilitates conversations with job seekers and allows local residents to provide feedback and learn more about the project.







#### RESPONSIBLE LAND STEWARDSHIP AND SENSITIVITY TO BIODIVERSITY **CULTURE AND LANDSCAPE VALUE**

**COMMITMENT 3** 



The planning, design and construction of renewable energy infrastructure projects is as important as the final outcome of delivering clean energy to mitigate the effects of the climate emergency.

Preserving local biodiversity, culture and landscapes requires strategic thinking and a plan for future generations, and there is no 'standardised approach' to ACCIONA Energía projects. Consideration is given to the priority needs and aspirations of each community and its culture, every unique landscape, and individual local flora and fauna species.

The Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 is designed to protect Australia's unique plants, animals, habitats and places. Early in the planning stage, environmental specialists are on site conducting surveys and mapping habitats to provide information on places of sensitivity so disturbances can be avoided or minimised.

We have changed the locations of project infrastructure to avoid culturally significant sites like Indigenous scar trees, and the Mt Gellibrand Wind Farm turbine design was altered to avoid a rock formation that held notable meaning for Traditional Owners.

Important feedback and studies have preserved native vegetation known to be koala habitats, and ecologically significant wetlands home to breeding brolga pairs.

Our environmental stewardship extends beyond construction and commissioning, through the life of each project. Ongoing testing is conducted to monitor water resources, wildlife, air quality and soil erosion in compliance with regulatory standards. Weed and pest monitoring is conducted around all infrastructure sites.

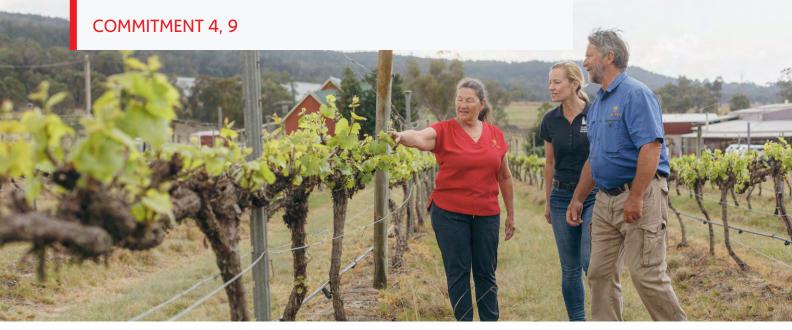
At our Cathedral Rocks Wind Farm, extensive works have been carried out over the last seventeen years. This has included eradication of feral pests such as foxes, rabbits and rodents as well as minimising erosion. Coir logs made from coconut fibre have been placed strategically to avoid water run-off, which also encourages the growth of native vegetation around the logs.



ACCIONA Energía Australia has committed to planting more than 10,000 trees annually over the next five years in Australia as part of a global mission to plant one million trees.

The Central Otway Landcare Network has provided valuable insights on plantings that create ecosystems necessary for establishing sustainable habitats for insects, birds, and other wildlife. The partnership with ACCIONA Energía and our employees has generated widespread interest and participation among local residents and businesses in the region.

### AGRICULTURAL, ECOLOGICAL, CULTURAL SUSTAINABILITY AND RESPONSIBLE LAND STEWARDSHIP



We work closely with primary producer landowners and incorporate their feedback into project planning to find mutually beneficial solutions ensuring projects and existing land uses can co-exist and renewable installations don't interfere with landowner operation. For example, a dual-use agrivoltaics model is being proposed with landowners. This involves the installation of solar panels above agricultural fields, allowing for continued farming activities underneath.

Promoting the experiences of farmers and landowners like Kane McDonald at the Mortlake South Wind Farm, helps to educate rural communities about the successful co-existence of renewable energy projects in rural Australia.

The sheep are good around the turbines. The noise doesn't worry them. There's not much in the way of shade out here so the turbines have been good in that aspect. We had cattle out across that paddock all summer last year and they were never away from them.

- Kane McDonald

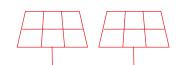
As part of an Australian-first deployment of world-leading transport technology, two blade manipulators have been commissioned that attach turbine blades to a hydraulically operated adapter, helping manipulate blades around tight corners and over vegetation. This eliminates the need for large sweeping roads to accommodate the long turning circle of turbine blades, resulting in more than 20,000m2 of farmland and vegetation being left undisturbed.

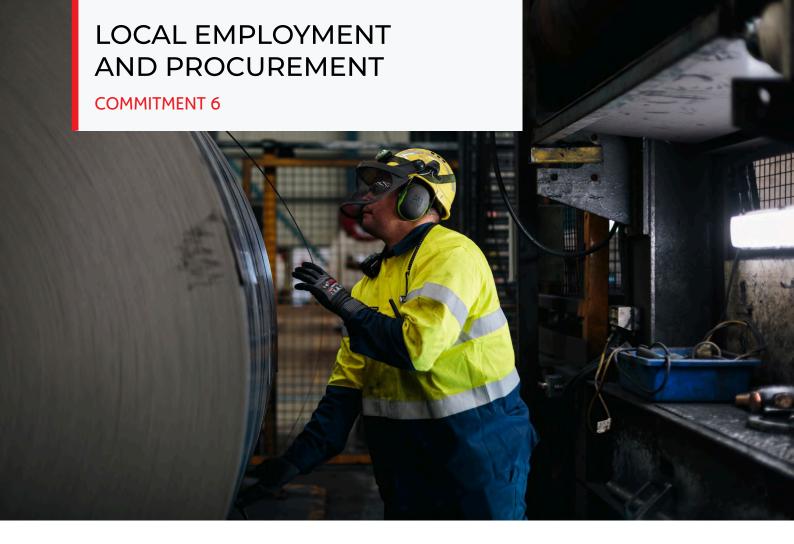
Where land is temporarily used for projects, we commit to restoring vegetation to its original state, or making improvements after the project's completion. This includes implementing measures to rehabilitate the soil and surrounding environment.

These efforts are part of a broader strategy to balance the need for renewable energy development with the preservation and enhancement of agricultural land and other primary resources. This includes a new financing model that links renewable energy investment with measurable local benefits. Our 'Sustainable Impact Financing Framework' was first launched in 2023, combining green and sustainability-linked finance with a commitment to deliver positive outcomes for the communities where projects are built. This initiative provided energy audits and technical advice to 87 farms across Southern Queensland, making recommendations which, if implemented, could save over 2 million kilowatt-hours of electricity and 223,000 litres of diesel annually. In 2025, we also sponsored the Renewables in Agriculture Conference, bringing landowners, the industry and other stakeholders together – and are actively paying for farmers to attend the Farmers for Climate Action conference later in the year.

Our 'build, own and operate' model sets us apart as a developer that works closely with landowners, neighbours and the community over the long term, building a workforce that is part of the community.







ACCIONA Energía has more than 5GW in its Australian pipeline across wind, solar and Battery Energy Storage System projects, which translates into hundreds of jobs and millions of dollars in economic activity in regions that are often most in need of investment.

In regional communities where there is a shortage of job opportunities, ACCIONA Energía's projects offer openings for direct employment and the chance for local industries to flourish through increased spending in businesses like cafes and hotels, retailers, mechanics and transport operators.

Across two projects in construction in Queensland, more than \$750 million in local work has been procured and construction contracts have been awarded to locals like Zac Haslam, who runs his own earthworks and concreting business. A contract with the MacIntyre Wind Farm enabled Mr Haslam to purchase a bobcat and excavator, which paved the way for his business to expand and hire additional staff.

ACCIONA Energía is currently energising the 380MW Aldoga Solar Farm near Gladstone to produce electricity which will provide clean energy into the National Electricity Market.

350 people are being employed during construction, and we have committed to ensuring that a minimum of 10% of the project's work hours are undertaken by local workers within a 125-kilometre radius of the site.

The project also supports an upstream supply chain of Australian-made components. Solar panels are mounted on tubing manufactured in Brisbane, using steel from Bluescope's Port Kembla Steelworks in the Illawarra, which is made with iron ore from the Pilbara in Western Australia. This illustrates the important economic impact of renewable energy in supporting the manufacturing and mining industries.



In addition to supply chain benefits for major listed companies to small primary producers, our projects can be a lifeline for farmers who receive drought-proof incomes that help protect the family farm.



ACCIONA Energía has contributed more than \$4.7 million to local communities through grants, scholarships and other shared benefit initiatives since entering the Australian market in 2002, with over \$570,000 being invested during 2025 alone. The majority of this funding has come from its four operating sites (three in Victoria, one in NSW) with a combined capacity ~500MW.

Each community participates in creating programs that share the value of projects in ways that really matter, creating real outcomes that support healthcare, education, sustainability or community wellbeing.

Regardless of the state planning requirements, Social Impact Assessments (SIA) are conducted for every project to provide comprehensive insights into the impact and opportunities for the local area. The Herries Range Wind Farm project team is currently conducting an SIA to understand the nature of local issues and challenges that may be addressed through potential shared benefit initiatives – this will directly inform a Social Impact Management Plan and Community Benefits Agreement for the project.

In 2025, we joined B4SI (Business for Societal Impact), a global standard in measuring and managing corporate social impact, and will report for the first time later this year.



ACCIONA Energía awarded \$80,000 towards a major renovation of the Calliope Community Hub near the Aldoga Solar Farm, creating a new community centre to host health, social services, and events. Local organisation 'Strong Communities' is leading the project and will repurpose the hall into a central and accessible community space including five consulting rooms, two multi-purpose rooms, a meeting room and connection lounge.

Each shared benefit initiative addresses the unique needs and aspirations of the community, ensuring ACCIONA Energía's impact is meaningful, and respects the diverse environments we work in. Schools, sporting clubs, community groups and other local organisations are the beneficiaries of our Small Grants Program, which aligns with ACCIONA Energía's Social Action Plan.

Our wind farms at MacIntyre, Gunning, Mortlake South, Mt Gellibrand and Waubra along with our Aldoga Solar Farm have all contributed to much-needed funding for events, community services and upgrades to facilities and equipment. Community Engagement Committees (CECs) are established for projects in construction and act as a two-way feedback and information-sharing channel. For some projects like the Aldoga Solar Farm, the CEC evaluates grant applications to provide an additional level of governance and transparency, and this involvement in decision making fosters a sense of community empowerment. These committees include active members of the local community, local government and ACCIONA Energía representatives.

First Nations Grants are offered as part of our commitment to supporting local First Nations initiatives and projects. Funding is available to help local groups focused on making a difference by enhancing social well-being and/or improving environmental, educational, cultural or economic outcomes for their communities. For example, we supported Warwick State High School to run a series of targeted initiatives including mentorship programs and cultural workshops. Aimed at Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander girls, these initiatives are equipping students with the skills and resources necessary to achieve their academic goals and become leaders within their community.



ACCIONA Energía is proud to support projects that elevate local tourism offerings, and increase economic activity, while boosting community pride.

A scenic viewing area has opened at Mt Noorat, providing a unique panoramic view of the Mortlake South Wind Farm and surrounding pastoral land. The viewing platform has been integrated into the Mount Noorat walking track, also funded by ACCIONA Energía, which leads to a volcanic crater and has attracted over 5,000 visitors since its launch in late 2024. The scenic viewing area in Corangamite Shire and another viewing platform at the Waubra Wind Farm just off the Sunraysia Highway, assist with educating local communities about specific projects, and lead to increased understanding and acceptance of the important role regional communities are playing in the clean energy transition.



ACCIONA implements annual Scholarship Programs at a number of our sites during operations. Each year we are proud to provide scholarships of up to \$5,000 to numerous students wishing to undertake tertiary study that will benefit their community.

Tyson Phillips received a grant of \$5,000 through the scholarship program launched in partnership with CQU for the Aldoga Solar Farm. Tyson started his degree in Psychological Science in Gladstone in 2023.

I would like to personally thank you all from the bottom of my heart for recognising me as a scholarship recipient for your first ever CQU scholarship round ... This money will truly make a substantial difference in my life allowing to ease living pressures and continue contributing to my community ... I thank you so much for boosting that confidence that I can make change in the world. " - Tyson Phillips

Our project teams explore opportunities to attend career expos like the Maths and Science @ Work Careers Fair in Terang and the Warrnambool and District Careers Expo, where students, graduates and workers can learn about the many and varied career opportunities available in the development, construction and operation of wind, solar and Battery Energy Storage System projects.





ACCIONA Energía's history spans over thirty years, with 22 years since entering the Australian market, and a commitment to business leadership in sustainability, climate action and driving regenerative infrastructure.

The company has unparalleled experience and expertise in developing and operating a portfolio of projects in more than 40 countries, and is at the forefront of global recycling, waste diversion and recycling initiatives. ACCIONA Energía's international technological innovation and expertise leads and informs sustainability practices in Australia.

As technology progresses and new recycling facilities are established, the percentage of recycled products will increase. ACCIONA Energía's turbine supplier Nordex will increase its recycling target for its turbines from 85%-95% to 100% recyclable turbines by 2032 as part of the group's sustainability strategy.



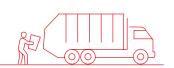
Current life cycle assessments have indicated that 85-95% of the mass of a wind turbine is recyclable. Materials that can be sustainably recycled at existing facilities include steel, iron, aluminium, copper, bronze, brass, electronics, wiring and concrete.

We are planning for the decommissioning of the first generation of wind turbines in the early 2030s using evolving recycling methods, and lessons learnt in other parts of the world and looking to use our global reach to import mature technology from abroad to resolve future sustainability needs in Australia.

In 2025, we unveiled the world's first surfboards made from decommissioned wind turbine blades. In collaboration with professional surfer Josh Kerr and his surfboard brand, Draft Surf, we've created 10 prototype surfboards that utilise retired turbine blades. This project is part of our Turbine Made initiative, which explores innovative ways to repurpose retired wind turbine blades into new materials and products. By transforming blades into surfboards, we're not only reducing waste but also pushing the boundaries of sustainable innovation in the renewable energy sector.

The initiative was recognised for its leadership as a finalist in the 2025 Clean Energy Council Awards. ACCIONA Energía was ranked among the top companies for Sustainability in the Australian Financial Review.

The initiative has sparked a national conversation about the potential of turbine blade recycling, and conversations with local councils and Australian innovators and manufacturers are underway.







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