

WORKING WITH THE Community

ACCIONA Energía develops, builds and owns renewable energy assets in Australia. Since 2002, we have worked with communities to create jobs, support local businesses and to produce renewable energy solutions that benefit all Australians.

Community lies at the heart of ACCIONA Energía projects. Our unique approach to ownership across the whole project lifecycle helps us to develop and maintain strong relationships with local people and deliver long-term benefits. The following case studies are a small snapshot of some of the work we do with and for communities.



Benefiting neighbours and the local economy

The Mortlake South Wind Farm Neighbourhood Benefit Program was developed to share the economic benefits of the project with neighbouring residents.

People living within 4 km of a turbine are eligible for an EFTPOS card that can be used at more than 30 participating businesses in the towns surrounding the wind farm. The program supports residents in close proximity to the turbines, and also encourages spending within the local community.

Powering education

Between 2022 to 2024, we have provided 27 scholarships to students in our project regions.

In 2024, UniSQ's MacIntyre Wind Farm Scholarship was awarded to three applicants within the local and neighbouring regions of the MacIntyre Wind Farm project near Karara in Southern Queensland. Among the successful applicants were Wei Wong, who is enrolled in a Bachelor of Engineering (Honours), as well as Harrison King, studying a Bachelor of Clinical Exercise Physiology (Honours), and Alana Gray, enrolled in a Bachelor of Education (Primary) program. Covering the cost of tuition and other educational expenses, the scholarship has enabled recipients to focus on their studies and achieve their academic goals while balancing study, work and family.



Above: Scholarship Recipients Harrison King (left) and Wei Wong (right) pictured with ACCIONA representative Anna-Selina Young.
Below: Wei and Anna-Selina with Wei's family.



Facilitating site tours

In line with our approach to open communication and engagement with local residents, we showcase our projects to the community on a regular basis.

The MacIntyre Wind Farm Community & Stakeholder Engagement Team provided 32 site tours in 2023 and 18 site tours in 2024 to community, industry, and other stakeholders, welcoming over 1,500 visitors to the site.

We ran tours specifically for groups including emergency services, local high schools, chambers of commerce and government.

Engaging with young people

Over a series of visits to the Mortlake South Wind Farm, Mortlake P-12 College students have learned about the growth and transition to renewable energy through a very local project.

Dozens of students from years 7 to 9, accompanied by teachers from the college, have seen turbines close up, getting the chance to explore inside, and found out more about how an ACCIONA Energía wind farm operates.



Increasing connectivity

ACCIONA Energía is replacing the temporary telecommunications infrastructure installed for the construction of the MacIntyre Wind Farm with a permanent 4G Telstra tower.

The tower is expected to significantly enhance the local connectivity and phone reception for residents, especially during severe weather, making it easier for emergency services to reach and notify people.

Caring for the environment

As part of ACCIONA Energía's global mission to plant one million trees, we contribute to local biodiversity restoration by planting more than 10,000 trees annually over the course of five years in Australia (2023-2027). The Central Otway Landcare Network (COLN) is crucial in delivering this ambitious initiative. To teach our own team members the importance of habitat care and restoration, we organise an annual Tree Planting Day with COLN. In August 2024, the team planted 800 trees near Colac, Victoria.



Empowering community organisations

Small grants have made a big difference to all kinds of local projects across Australia

Mt Gellibrand Wind Farm

Near our Mt Gellibrand Wind Farm, we have provided support for local markets as part of a community-led grants program which has delivered over \$70,000 a year.

“The grant received from ACCIONA Energía for the Birregurra Sunday Markets 2023/24 season has enabled our Sunday markets to go to the next level. Over 70 stallholders attend our market.”

— Vicki Jeffrey, President,
Birregurra Community Group Inc.



Mortlake South Wind Farm

We work closely with schools – we have provided support to several schools near our Mortlake South Wind Farm site, including Noorat Primary School.



“The ACCIONA Energía grant has allowed us to strengthen our Kitchen Garden program where we plant, care for and harvest seasonal vegetables and fruit which is then utilised in cooking sessions. Working with all students from foundation to Year 6, we promote collaboration and supportive relationships among all students.”

—Ilona Watkins, Acting Principal,
Noorat Primary School

Aldoga Solar Farm

The Aldoga Solar Farm launched its first Small Grants Program in 2024. The program was a great success with 12 recipients from across the Gladstone Regional Council area.

These community groups and organisations contribute to sustainable development locally. Through this program, we were able to fund important initiatives such as Integreat

Queensland's Sisterlife Circle, which provides a safe and supportive gathering for women to connect, heal, grow, and celebrate together in a secure environment.



MacIntyre Wind Farm

Through the MacIntyre Wind Farm Small Grants Program, ACCIONA Energía provided funding to support Allora P-10 State School to build the Gnarralah Yarning Circle.

The Yarning Circle provides a space for storytelling, learning and community gatherings. It promotes not only cultural awareness but also respectful relationships among and connections between students and staff.

Investing in fire safety

Through the community-led Waubra Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund, which receives close to \$100,000 a year, the local Waubra Country Fire Authority part-funded the “Big Fill” unit – a high-capacity pump mounted on a Land Cruiser.

This equipment can fill several fire tankers at a time, supports firefighting across the region.



Supporting farmers' sustainability

We are proud to support farmers in the Southern Downs and Goondiwindi Regions of Queensland through the Energy Southern Queensland (Energy SQ) program.

The two-year program helps farmers understand and manage their on-farm energy consumption and will enable Queensland Farmers Federation to work with between 100 and 150 farms during the project lifespan.

Supporting sustainable transport

Upper Lachlan Shire's first electric vehicle charging station, located in Gunning, is an initiative of the Gunning District Association and was funded through an ACCIONA Energía grant from the council's Bushfire Community Recovery and Resilience Fund.

The availability of an electric vehicle charging station is helping to attract visitors and highway traffic to Gunning, and supporting sustainable transport choices for the local community.



Ensuring community representation

ACCIONA Energía establish Community Engagement Committees (CEC) for all projects at the construction stage.

Most recently, the CEC for our Aldoga Solar Farm was established, in a bid to get valuable

and direct feedback from a cross-section of community members in a collaborative forum. The local community representatives help to ensure we make the best decisions for the project community in the long term, and also evaluate the allocation of grant funding.



CONTACT US

Feel free to get in touch for information or with feedback about any of our activities. You can call the freephone number 1800 283 550 or email enquiries.australia@acciona.com

You can also visit our Community Hub for more information about our projects: community.acciona.com.au

Use the below QR Code to sign-up for community updates

