

ACCIONA Energía

Tall Tree Wind Farm – Consultation Report for Referral

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1. Introduction

A sensitively designed and comprehensive Community and Stakeholder Consultation Program (the Consultation Program) is underway for the proposed Tall Tree Wind Farm Project.

The Consultation Program, initiated in late 2021, is underpinned by a Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan (CSEP) that is informed by, and reviewed and modified following, engagement at each project milestone to ensure its effectiveness.

Over **300 unique project stakeholders** have been engaged so far, with **844 interactions** to date (as of mid-May 2025).

Issues and concerns raised throughout engagement have included:

- Project location, layout and timelines
- Noise and vibration
- Health and Neurodiverse Communities
- Shadow flicker
- Environmental and ecological concerns
- Visual Impacts
- Fire risk and emergency services
- Aviation safety
- Project design
- Decommissioning and recycling
- Transmission corridor
- Community benefits
- Economy
- Planning process
- Stakeholder engagement
- Blasting
- Property devaluation
- Perceived engagement/consultation gaps

*The above list reflects broad engagement themes and is not listed in order of importance.

Future engagement strategies will be informed by learnings from engagement to date. Key actions identified include:

- Ensuring questions raised are answered at the Community Hub (200 Q&As already populated based on early engagement)
- Further Community Information Sessions through 2025 following referral and beyond as the project develops
- Continuing targeted engagement with key stakeholders (Local Council, First Nations representatives, local aviators and others) to inform project design and the planning approvals process
- Proactive engagement with local neighbours, including developing and delivering Neighbour Benefit Program to those within 2.5km of the proposed project
- Consultation on a wider community benefits sharing program
- Continuing 1800 phone line, email and online engagement methods.

Further information about the engagement undertaken to date is described in the following sections.

2. Project stakeholders

Key Project stakeholders include (but are not limited to):

- Host landholders
- Boundary and project site neighbours
- Community members of Meredith, Teesdale, Shelford and Lethbridge
- State and Federal Members of Parliament
- Golden Plains Shire Council
- Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation
- Department of Transport and Planning (State Government)
- The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (State Government)
- Emergency Services, including the CFA HQ and local brigades
- Lethbridge Airport
- Local community organisations, businesses and schools.

3. Engagement principles and collateral

3.1 Guiding principles

The consultation approach enables consistent, targeted, and meaningful engagement, and focuses on the following guiding principles:

- **Early engagement** to establish and build relationships with stakeholders, including the local council, First Nations stakeholders, project neighbours and community members, and key stakeholders such as the Lethbridge Airport, to identify risks and concerns;
- **Genuine engagement** by sharing timely information both online and in printed form, including layout and footprint details, impacts and benefits, while providing opportunities for consultation relevant to the level of impact and interest in the Project and collaboration with potentially affected landholders and community members; and
- **Local focus** with active listening to community feedback about the project, tailored engagement methods and pivoting when needed to accommodate the community's needs (e.g. preferred engagement approach).

3.2 Engagement collateral

A range of collateral to introduce and explain the Project has been shared widely in print at events and online. Items published to date include:

- Project maps
- Project factsheet
- Planning factsheet
- FAQs
- Questions on notice
- Wind farm facts
- "How Wind Works" factsheet
- Visual representations of key Project locations
- Publication of online sessions, including video and slide decks.

4. Engagement methods and activities

The following engagement methods and activities have been utilised for the project. Each method or activity is listed with a brief description and a summary of the feedback and/or outcomes of the engagement.

Engagement method/ activity	Description	Feedback/ outcomes
Project website/ online Community Hub	A dedicated online Community Hub (the Hub) has been established to share project information and updates about the project with project stakeholders. The Hub acts as a one-stop-shop for key project details, including upcoming engagement opportunities, project factsheets, updated layout maps, FAQs, previous Information Session resources (i.e. presentations), webinar recordings, comprehensive Q and A documents, news and updates and much more. The Hub also houses engagement tools such as an interactive project map where stakeholders can drop pins and leave comments, and an 'Ask a question' function where community members can directly ask the project team questions about the project in a public forum. Recently, a project referral update and an updated infrastructure layout have been published to the Hub and sent to subscribers. A subscription service is available to all project stakeholders, providing email updates as they become available (e.g. the project infrastructure layout update in May 2025).	63 stakeholders subscribed to the Community Hub (as of mid-May 2025). 24 individual news items were published on the community hub between 2024 and 2025.
Community Information Sessions	ACCIONA Energía has held two rounds of Community Information Sessions for the project. The first was held in March 2024 (Lethbridge, Meredith and Teesdale), and the second was held in November 2024 (Lethbridge, Meredith, Shelford and Teesdale). The Information Sessions provided stakeholders with an important opportunity to meet the project team, receive key project information,	Nearly 200 members of the community came to the March 2024 sessions, and 127 people attended the November 2024 information sessions. The main areas of interest expressed by attendees at the Information Sessions included:

Engagement method/ activity	Description	Feedback/ outcomes
	<p>ask questions, and provide feedback on the project. While the first round of sessions was set up in a drop-in format, following community feedback, the second round of Community Information Sessions was presented in a hybrid format – with an initial Town-hall setting including a presentation from the project team and a panel Q and A session, followed by an opportunity to speak individually to team members.</p> <p>The agenda, presentations and visual impact representations used during the sessions were all uploaded to the Community Hub.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project location, layout, housing setbacks, and timelines • Shadow flicker • Fire risk and emergency services • Noise and vibration • Environmental and ecological concerns • Aviation safety • Health and neurodiverse communities • Visual impacts • Project design • Decommissioning and recycling • Transmission • Community benefits • Economic impacts • The planning process • ACCIONA Energía's stakeholder engagement approach. <p>Feedback collected helps to inform the project's detailed design and environmental and planning assessments. A Summary Report has been uploaded to the Hub.</p> <p>ACCIONA plans to hold the next round of Community Information Sessions in the second half of 2025, following the submission and publication of the project's Referral. This will include further consultation on the community benefits program.</p>
Feedback forms	The Community Information Sessions used feedback forms to record stakeholder feedback. Throughout the information sessions, a large volume of questions was asked by community and stakeholders. As a	Almost 200 Q&As have been added to an 'Answering Your Questions' document.

Engagement method/ activity	Description	Feedback/ outcomes
	result, ACCIONA Energía published FAQs to ensure the widest possible reach.	This is updated following each major engagement milestone and uploaded to the Community Hub .
Advertising and promotional activities	<p>Community Information Sessions (March 2024):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Golden Plains Times (23 February) • Local social media pages (during February) • Australia Post mailout (26 February) • Flyers being placed in prominent shopfronts and on physical community noticeboards throughout the Lethbridge, Meredith, Teesdale and Shelford communities (16 February). • Updates posted on the Community Hub in February, along with emails to subscribers. <p>Community Information Sessions (November 2024)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local newspapers (Golden Plains Times: 20 September, 4 and 18 October and 1 November; Leigh News October and November editions; and the Meredith and District News October and November editions) • Local social media pages (including Teesdale & Inverleigh Locals, Bannockburn Locals, Lethbridge & Surrounds, Meredith Residents and Elaine Community locals) • Australia Post mailout (on 16 September and 21 October) • Local carrier mailout (on 18 October) and via physical flyers placed on prominent community noticeboards and shopfronts in Meredith, Lethbridge, Teesdale and Shelford • Updates posted on the Community Hub in August, September, October and November 2024, along with emails to subscribers. <p>Online sessions:</p>	Following feedback from the earlier March sessions that more communications were required, ACCIONA increased the range of advertising channels and extended the lead-time for communications in advance of the second round, to improve awareness of the project and community sessions.

Engagement method/ activity	Description	Feedback/ outcomes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local newspapers (Golden Plains Times: 20 September, 4 and 18 October; Leigh News, October edition; and the Meredith and District News, October Edition) Local social media pages (including Teesdale & Inverleigh Locals, Bannockburn Locals, Lethbridge & Surrounds, Meredith Residents and Elaine Community locals) Australia Post mailout (on 16 September and 21 October), local carrier mailout (on 18 October) Flyers placed on prominent community noticeboards and shopfronts in Meredith, Lethbridge, Teesdale and Shelford. 	
Online webinars and information sessions	<p>To provide continuous opportunities for stakeholders to engage with the Project team between face-to-face Community Information Sessions, ACCIONA Energía held two online information sessions (19 September and 30 October 2024). The sessions aimed to provide project stakeholders with clarifying information on complex topics raised by community stakeholders (the Victorian planning process) and to provide stakeholders with project updates ahead of the face-to-face Information Sessions in November.</p> <p>Following each online session, the recordings were uploaded to the Community Hub.</p>	While attendance of the online sessions was lower than the in-person sessions, this channel does ensure that those who would find it physically difficult to attend sessions are able to receive project information and ask questions directly. Slide decks and videos posted online also community members and stakeholders to engage with content as a follow-up.
Targeted Stakeholder Meetings: Golden Plains Shire Council	ACCIONA Energía commenced meetings with the Golden Plains Shire Council (including the CEO, interim CEO, Councillors and Council staff) in late 2021 and has subsequently met in February 2023, November 2023, May 2024, January 2025 and May 2025.	<p>Council meetings provide ACCIONA Energía with an opportunity to share up-to-date project information with Council representatives and address the community's key concerns.</p> <p>Meetings also act as an opportunity for ACCIONA Energía to discuss future engagement activities with Council to gauge their appropriateness and to receive Council feedback.</p>

Engagement method/ activity	Description	Feedback/ outcomes
Targeted Stakeholder Meetings: Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation	ACCIONA Energía initiated meetings with the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation in January 2022 and has subsequently met with the group over the course of the feasibility stage between 2022 and 2025. The Tall Tree project team participated in Cultural Awareness training guided by the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners in February 2025 and has started conversations with Wadawurrung to undertake a Cultural Values Assessment to better understand the Country they are working on.	As a key project stakeholder, ACCIONA Energía will continue proactively meeting with representatives from the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation to engage on Aboriginal and Cultural Heritage matters, identify future procurement opportunities and co-design First Nations-related project benefits.
Targeted stakeholder meetings: Aviation	<p>ACCIONA Energía commenced engagement with Lethbridge Airport in September 2022 and subsequently with the airport owner and adviser in February 2023.</p> <p>In response to feedback, ACCIONA Energía established a series of targeted stakeholder meetings to address the unique concerns of specific groups. As such, a series of meetings has been set up with the Lethbridge Airport stakeholders (including the owner, hangar tenants and pilots). ACCIONA Energía has met with the Lethbridge Airport stakeholders online on 25 June 2024 and in person on 9 August 2024 and 7 April 2025.</p> <p>Prior to the most recent meeting on the 7th of April ACCIONA Energía provided Lethbridge Airport stakeholders with a document (the 'aviation memo') that summarised key findings of the Aviation Impact Assessment being prepared for the project by specialist aviation consultants and sought to respond to a number of concerns and queries that had been raised in previous engagement activities.</p>	<p>Key concerns raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project location and turbine height • Proximity to airport/buffer zone • Turbulence impacts • Pilot/ aviation safety • Impacts on the airport's training area • Firefighting practices • Safety issues • Impact to training area • Airport operations • Risk assessments being undertaken as part of ACCIONA's assessment process. <p>ACCIONA Energía has committed to continuing these meetings with airport stakeholders throughout 2025.</p> <p>Feedback received during these targeted stakeholder meetings has been considered as part of the Aviation Impact Assessment.</p>

Engagement method/ activity	Description	Feedback/ outcomes
Targeted stakeholder meetings: Near neighbours	<p>ACCIONA understand the importance of engaging early with those that will be the closest to the project. In late 2022, ACCIONA commenced engagement with neighbours located within the project boundary and extended this engagement in early 2023 to those neighbours that border the project.</p> <p>Engagement with near neighbours from 2022 included letterbox mailouts to introduce the project, phone calls, emails and one-to-one meetings.</p>	<p>Key concerns raised</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proximity of turbines to neighbour dwellings and property • Visual impacts • Property values • Neighbour benefits • Impacts to health • Shadow flicker • Perceived gaps in consultation • Fire risk • Blasting. <p>In late 2024, ACCIONA released details of the proposed Neighbour Benefit Program to those who live within 2.5km of the proposed project and is currently seeking feedback. ACCIONA will continue neighbour engagement throughout the project lifecycle.</p>
Neighbourhood Meeting: Near Neighbours	<p>At the request of some project boundary neighbours, the ACCIONA Energía project team attended a meeting on 23 September 2024 to discuss concerns unique to this stakeholder group.</p> <p>Boundary neighbours also requested that details of the project's transmission line be shared with them. The transmission line route was subsequently published to the Tall Tree Wind Farm Community Hub on 18 February 2025.</p>	<p>Key issues raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perceived gaps in the consultation approach with boundary neighbours • Project location • Proximity to local townships • Economic impacts on neighbours' properties • Environmental impacts • Blasting • Visual impacts • Health concern • Transmission line location • Neighbour benefit schemes

Engagement method/ activity	Description	Feedback/ outcomes
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future Community Benefit Fund Frameworks • Victorian planning process <p>ACCIONA Energía continues to prioritise engagement with boundary neighbours and has contacted owners and residents through various means, including in-person meetings, organising letterbox drops, making phone calls and emailing. ACCIONA Energía is committed to continue engagement with boundary neighbours across different channels.</p>
Stakeholder and Community Roundtables	In response to a request by the Tall Tree Action Group (project opposition group), ACCIONA Energía has hosted two Stakeholder and Community Roundtable meetings (26 August and 27 November) with a group of project neighbours, Lethbridge Airport Stakeholders, interested community members (including representatives from Tall Tree Action Group and Three Towns, One Voice), representatives from the office of the Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner (AEIC), the Golden Plains Shire Council and a representative from the Department of Transport and Planning. The objective of the Roundtable meeting format is to provide an opportunity for opposing community groups and members to raise concerns directly with the project team, the AEIC and other key project decision-makers	<p>Key issues raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project location and design • Victorian planning process • Impacts on the neurodiverse community • Future growth corridors • Economic impacts on project neighbours • Health and well-being • CFA engagement • Compensation <p>Feedback received during these targeted stakeholder meetings informs the project's detailed design and environmental and planning assessments.</p> <p>ACCIONA Energía is open to continuing to host future Stakeholder and Community Roundtable meetings that coincide with project milestones or key developments.</p>
Schools engagement	During the Community Information Sessions in March 2024, some community members expressed a desire for the project team to meet	ACCIONA Energía is committed to continuing engagement with local schools and educational

Engagement method/ activity	Description	Feedback/ outcomes
	<p>with local schools and share key project information, allowing principals and school staff to provide initial feedback.</p> <p>Following communications with local schools in the area, the project team met with the principal of the Meredith Primary School in February 2025.</p>	<p>providers and will continue to make proactive attempts to engage moving forward.</p>
Australia Post Mailouts, Local Courier Mailouts and Electronic Direct Mail	<p>To raise awareness of the Community Information Sessions in March and November 2024, Australia Post mailouts were used to deliver flyers directly to local residents' letterboxes. Following feedback from community members after the March 2024 Information Sessions, a local courier service (in addition to Australia Post) was engaged to deliver flyers, thereby increasing local mailout reach.</p> <p>To date, mailouts have predominantly been used to disseminate letters and information flyers.</p>	<p>Electronic Direct Mail will continue to be used frequently to communicate Project Updates to Community Hub subscribers, such as project design changes and upcoming engagement opportunities.</p>
1800 phone number and electronic mail	<p>A free 1800 phone number and project email (talltree@acciona.com) have been established for stakeholders to contact the project team directly. Through these mechanisms, stakeholders are encouraged to provide feedback and submit queries at times that are convenient for them.</p>	<p>ACCIONA has received and responded to many questions and feedback from stakeholders via these channels.</p> <p>Frequently asked questions received have also been included in the Answering Your Questions document available on the online hub.</p>

5. Engagement outcomes

5.1 Engagement records

All stakeholder interactions (including objections, enquiries, calls, feedback forms, etc.) are recorded within Consultation Manager, a centralised stakeholder relationship management platform that acts as a dynamic repository for the project’s engagement-related data.

5.2 How engagement findings are used

The continued refinement and implementation of the project’s CSEP has provided stakeholders with multiple avenues to provide feedback, which has proven invaluable to the project team. As a result of the engagement undertaken to date, the Project team has a robust understanding of the leading issues from a community and key stakeholder perspective. The Project team has proactively sought to engage with residents who may be most impacted, as well as key stakeholders, on these issues. The team will continue to engage with these stakeholders to address concerns and explore potential mitigations going forward.

5.3 Key issues identified

The following table reflects the overarching issues and sub-themes identified throughout engagement with project stakeholders to date. ACCIONA Energía’s responses to these issues, sub-themes and more are articulated in a comprehensive ‘Answering your Questions’ document initially published in [April 2024](#) and updated in [June 2024](#) and [March 2025](#).

Issue	Sub-theme
Project location, layout and timelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The appropriateness of the project location and what other options were considered • Key changes from the previous layout and reasons for these changes • Upcoming key project milestones and timelines • Proximity to four towns and neighbours
Shadow flicker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shadow flicker regulations in Victoria and compliance • Shadow flicker impacts on neighbouring properties • Shadow flicker impacts on roads and vehicles • Shadow flicker impacts on health and wellbeing • Shadow flicker distances
Fire risk and emergency services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bushfire risks and proposed mitigations • Engagement to date with CFA

Issue	Sub-theme
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire Management Plans • Impacts on ground and aerial firefighting • Turbines and fire risk • Insurance and liability
Noise and vibration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noise regulations in Victoria and compliance • Impacts of low frequency noise on residents and animals • Turbine design impacts on noise
Environmental and ecological concerns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impacts on ecology, endangered species and native birds • Buffer zones and compliance with fauna, flora and waterways • Turbine blade erosion and environmental impacts • Risks to conservation areas • Survey/ study results and public availability
Aviation safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turbulence impacts • Impacts on aviation training zones and general operations • Impacts on aerial firefighting • Impacts on Lethbridge airport operations
Health and Neurodiverse Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impacts on the neurodiverse community • Available studies/ prospect of future studies • Social Impact Assessment: Neurodiverse inclusions
Visual impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual impacts on neighbouring properties and the community • Lifestyle impacts
Project design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turbine make and model • Turbine height • Associated infrastructure within the project footprint • Blasting impacts
Decommissioning and recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decommissioning responsibilities • Blade recycling

Issue	Sub-theme
Transmission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transmission route • Transmission lines and fire risk
Community benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community benefits inclusions • CPI application
Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land/ home devaluation • Insurance increases • Local job opportunities during construction and operations • Local businesses and procurement during construction
Planning process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Impact Assessment methodology
Stakeholder engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement to date with landholders, boundary neighbours and the community • Communication methods and their effectiveness

6. Future consultation

A robust CSEP has been developed for the project that contains an Engagement Action Plan outlining the key engagement activities corresponding to each project milestone. This plan is reviewed and adjusted following each key engagement milestone to ensure that community and stakeholder feedback regarding engagement activities is considered and applied to future engagement opportunities.

Community and stakeholder engagement will continue throughout 2025 and beyond, focusing on referral submission and working with community and project stakeholders as ACCIONA Energía awaits the Minister's decision as to the approval pathway. Once the pathway is known, ACCIONA Energía will share a draft consultation plan to illustrate its proposed engagement throughout the planning process.

ACCIONA Energía is committed to continuing the bespoke engagement activities established to date (such as the roundtable meeting and targeted stakeholder group meetings) throughout the project's feasibility, investigations and EES phases to ensure that the many unique project stakeholder voices are heard and acknowledged. Additionally, ACCIONA Energía plans to bolster its engagement program by continuing to initiate proactive engagement with community stakeholders, including local educational institutions, emergency service providers, local businesses and community organisations.