



Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan

Macorna Wind Farm

Macorna, Victoria

For Atmos

27 April 2026

cogency

Planning | Engagement | Strategy

Document Details

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Document history

Revision	Date	Description	Author	Approved
1	27/04/2026	Final Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan	GC	CH



We celebrate the physical and spiritual connections between Indigenous people and place expressed through the Birrarung Wilam (Common Ground) art project on the banks of Melbourne's Yarra River.

Acknowledgement of Country

Cogency acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land on which we meet, work and write, the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung peoples of the Kulin nation, and their connections to land, sea, and community. We pay our respect to their Elders past and present and emerging.

Cogency also extends that respect and acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Macorna, the Barapa Barapa people. We recognise and respect their cultural heritage, beliefs and continuing connection with the land and waterways. We also recognise the resilience, strength, and pride of the First Nations communities and acknowledge that Sovereignty was never ceded.

Executive Summary

Cogency Australia Pty Ltd (Cogency), on behalf of Atmos Renewables (Atmos) on behalf of Macorna SPV - Atmos MWV Pty Ltd as trustee for the Atmos MHV Trust, has prepared this Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan (the Plan) in relation to the proposed development of a utility-scale wind farm known as the Macorna Wind Farm (the Project).

This Plan sets out the objectives, performance requirements, principles, risks and issues, initial key messages, methodology and action plan for a thorough community and stakeholder engagement process.

Atmos is a signatory to the Clean Energy Council's best practice charter and is committed to genuine and meaningful engagement. Atmos also launched their Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan in November 2024, and has been actively building cultural competency within the business and is proactively seeking opportunities to work with and support with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples connected to their projects.

This Plan primarily serves as an internal document to guide the project team during engagement activities that will occur concurrently during pre- and post-planning application phases.

A summary of the project area and planning controls is presented in the table below.

Project area and Planning Summary	
Project Area	
Address	Faulkner Road, Tragowel 3579
Area	~26,000ha (~26 landholder properties)
Municipalities	Gannawarra Shire Council & Loddon Shire Council
Planning	
Planning Schemes	Gannawarra Planning Scheme & Loddon Planning Scheme
Responsible Authority	Minister for Planning (coordinated by the Department of Transport & Planning (DTP))
Zones	Largely Farming Zone (FZ) - includes various other zones associated with transport, townships and conservation
Overlays	Various overlays which largely relate to drainage and flooding

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Glossary

Abbreviation	Meaning
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
AEMO	Australian Energy Market Operator
AER	Australian Energy Regulator
BESS	Battery energy storage system
BCAC	Barapa Country Aboriginal Corporation
CEC	Clean Energy Council
DCCEEW	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
DEECA	Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action
DJAARA	Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation
DTP	Department of Transport and Planning
EES	Environment Effects Statement
EPA	Environment Protection Authority
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>
FP-SR	First Peoples-State Relations
GMW	Goulburn Murray Water
IAP2	International Association for Public Participation (now known as the Engagement Institute)
LGA	Local Government Area
kV	kilovolt
MER	Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting
MW	Megawatt
NCCMA	North Central Catchment Management Authority
NEM	National Electricity Market
O&M	Operations and Maintenance
Plan	Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan
RAP	Registered Aboriginal Party
REZ	Renewable Energy Zone
VTP	Victorian Transmission Plan
WTG	Wind Turbine Generator
WWAC	Wamba Wemba Aboriginal Corporation
YYNAC	Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation

1. Introduction

Cogency Australia Pty Ltd (Cogency), on behalf of Atmos Renewables (Atmos) on behalf of Macorna SPV - Atmos MWV Pty Ltd as trustee for the Atmos MHV Trust, has prepared this Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan (the Plan) to guide communications and engagement for the proposed Macorna Wind Farm – a utility-scale renewable energy project in northern Victoria (the Project).

The Project will require planning approval, and this Plan outlines engagement activities to be carried out throughout the pre- and post-application phases. It sets out a clear, tailored approach to informing, consulting, and involving the communities of Loddon and Gannawarra, along with other key stakeholders, during the Project's planning, design, assessment, and delivery stages.

Engaging early and meaningfully with the local community is essential to the success of the Project. Experience across Australia and internationally shows that proactive, transparent, and inclusive engagement helps build trust, reduce conflict, and deliver outcomes that align with community expectations.

Ultimately, this Plan positions engagement not just as a project requirement, but as a strategic investment - supporting the long-term success of both the Project and the communities it will partner with.

1.1 Purpose of this document

This Plan has been prepared to support the early development of the Project, in accordance with best practice in Australian community engagement. It details the Project, engagement objectives and principles, outlines the key demographic profile of the Loddon and Gannawarra communities and critical stakeholders. It is intended as an internal document to guide Atmos and its partners to progress the Project.

This Plan will be periodically updated to reflect changes to the Project's design and approvals processes, as well as any emerging engagement needs and issues, including early Benefit Sharing research.

The Plan aims to establish the systems and procedures to develop and maintain a collaborative relationship with community and stakeholders, and to ensure that the approach, tools and activities are consistent with the community and stakeholder expectations.

1.2 Performance requirements

This Plan is informed by and complies with the recommendations and requirements as outlined by the following guidelines and reports.

- [*Draft Community Engagement and Social Value Guidelines for Renewable Energy and Transmission Projects*](#) (VicGrid, 2025). Final to be announced in 2026.
- [*2025 Victorian Transmission Plan \(VTP\)*](#), (VicGrid, 2025).
- [*Draft Renewable Energy Zone Community Benefits Plan*](#) (VicGrid, 2024). Final to be announced in 2026.
- [*Community Engagement and Benefit Sharing in Renewable Energy Development in Victoria*](#) (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, 2021)
- [*The Community Engagement Review Report to the Minister for Climate Change and Energy*](#) (Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW), 2024)
- [*Best Practice Charter for Renewable Energy Projects*](#) (Clean Energy Council (CEC), 2021)
- [*A Guide to Benefit Sharing Options for Renewable Energy Projects*](#) (CEC, 2019)
- [*Public Participation Spectrum*](#) (Engagement Institute, 2018).

1.3 Engagement objectives

The Plan aims to fulfil the following engagement objectives during each phase of the Project.

Table 1 – Engagement objectives

Phase	Objectives
PHASE 0: Early feasibility	- Form strong, ongoing relationships and trust with landowners, neighbours, local industry and the wider Loddon and Gannawarra communities to develop long-term ownership of the Project - Build awareness of the Project's purpose, location, and early benefits
PHASE 1: Preliminary assessment	- Identify key concerns and values held by neighbours and local communities and work with them to achieve beneficial outcomes - Promote the scale of community funding the Project will generate and determine with the community how best to establish funding structures that will support local needs and initiatives - Traditional Custodian engagement prioritised early in the planning and design process, with preliminary benefit sharing discussions initiated
PHASE 2: Impact assessment/ approval	- Develop a thorough understanding of the key local issues, ideas and concerns that need to be considered in the Project design and planning application, and work with stakeholders to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes - Build Project understanding and support ahead of formal planning submissions - Keep a record of all engagement activities undertaken and maintain a database of stakeholders - Participation from interested and impacted stakeholders is sustained throughout Phase 2
PHASE 3: Post-approval / detailed design	- Communicate the rationale behind the refined layout and key technical aspects of the Project - Provide clear, evidence-based responses to community concerns and perceived Project risks
PHASE 4: Construction / commissioning	- Maintain transparency and trust during construction - Support local community expectations (jobs, traffic, noise)
PHASE 5: Operation / maintenance	- Demonstrate tangible benefits and foster community pride in Project - Monitor long-term impacts - Continue delivering and reporting on benefit-sharing initiatives
PHASE 6: Decommissioning	- Carry out decommissioning with community input and transparency - Minimise environmental and community disruption during decommissioning - Honour commitments to site rehabilitation

2. The Project

2.1 About Atmos

Atmos (the Proponent) is a developer, owner, and operator of utility scale renewable energy generators across the Australian National Electricity Market (NEM). Established in 2020, Atmos is currently the fifth largest owner of operational renewable generation assets in Australia, with over 1 GW of registered capacity.

Atmos' mission centres around powering a sustainable future for Australia and building lasting relationships with local communities. The Proponent strives to collaborate with relevant agencies, councils, government departments and other key stakeholders alongside community and First Nations engagement.

The Project was initiated by Don and Graham Webb of WindFarmers Energy Group. Don and Graham are local to the region and used their background in renewable energy development and construction and local irrigation infrastructure development to reach agreements with the landowners of the proposed project.

2.2 Project details and pathway

The Macorna Wind Farm, is a proposed wind energy facility and utility installation, comprising up to 114 wind turbine generators (WTG) and associated infrastructure. With a nameplate capacity of ~820.8MW, the Project will involve a range of activities during construction and operation including vegetation removal, earthworks and potential drainage works to suit local site conditions.

Where possible and feasible, Atmos will explore opportunities for local procurement and work with local contractors and suppliers. While some agricultural activities may be temporarily paused for small portions of the project area, these are expected to continue once the wind farm is operational.

The timing for approvals, eventual construction, commissioning and operation of the wind farm is largely subject to the required planning and environmental approvals process. The *Macorna Wind Farm – Planning and Environmental Approvals Strategy* has been prepared, setting out the approach to avoid an Environment Effects Statement (EES), where possible. This requires undertaking preliminary technical assessments to inform an understanding of existing conditions, identify potential impacts and guide the preparation of an initial concept plan.

Based on current timeframes, it is expected that a referral to the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP), Impact Assessment Unit, will be submitted in early to mid-2026. A decision on whether an EES is required is anticipated by the end of mid-2026. This decision will provide greater clarity of the timing of next steps, including more detailed engagement, final design and construction.

2.2.1 Engagement to date

Table 2 provides a summary of the engagement undertaken to date for the Project, us undertaken for Phase 0 to Phase 2. Further engagement for the Project will be undertaken as described in Section 6.

Table 2 – Engagement to date

Phase 0 2023 – Q2 2025 <i>Complete</i>	Early feasibility In September 2023, WindFarmers introduced the concept for the Macorna Wind Farm to the local community. This event was attended by 30-40 members of the community, which presently form a large percentage of the involved landowner group. A presentation was shared detailing information about the Project, prioritising transparency around the Project's status and intention. WindFarmers also launched an initial website of the Project. A year later, in August 2024, WindFarmers introduced their selected development partner, Atmos, during a targeted session specifically for involved landowners. Hosted and catered at the local football club, the event drew around 60 attendees. Following this, a Project newsletter was created in Q4 2024 and circulated to involved landowners with contact details.
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	Other community engagement activities included: - Project introduction meetings with Gannawarra and Loddon Council planning teams - Two community BBQ events hosted by Atmos September 2023 and August 2024 - Landowner excursion to Kiata Wind Farm - Football & Netball Club Sponsorship.
Phase 1 Q2 – Q4 2025 <i>Complete</i>	Preliminary assessment In 2025, the project team drafted the Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan (CSEP), Engagement Action Plan (EAP) and First Nations Communication and Engagement Plan (FNCEP). A Community Benefit Sharing Framework was also drafted in preparation for wider community consultation. Borealis engagement platform was set up for the stakeholder, complaints and business register. A detailed project webpage was launched in October 2025 (macornawindfarm.com.au), designed to communicate the Project to the wider region. This preceded Atmos's sponsorship of the Kerang Show and a neighbour door-knocking program in October 2025. Key themes raised during conversations included concerns about the visual impacts and size of turbines, questions around noise and fire risk, interest in potential financial considerations, and overall sentiment that was largely neutral to mixed, with most discussions constructive and reasonable. Feedback from near neighbours was considered as part of the turbine layout design process for example to protect visual aspects and proximity concerns. Community drop-in sessions were held on November 18 and 19, 2025, at the Kerang Memorial Hall and Pyramid Hill Memorial Hall respectively (refer to Figure 1). The sessions aimed to engage interested stakeholders and local community members who wanted to learn more about the Project. The sessions ran for six hours each with a total of 20 visitors. The atmosphere during the session seemed to vary between attendees towards the Proposal. There were one to two obvious mentions of members objecting to the proposal, however other conversations raised from positive to neutral/sceptical/slightly negative. Key concerns were mostly raised by nearby neighbours who had concerns about noise and visual impacts, whilst others had concerns regarding potential property price impacts. The sessions were advertised in the Gannawarra Times and Loddon Herald during the weeks beginning November 3 and 10 2025. Neighbours and involved landowners were invited via letter. Invitation for a general follow up with organisations and community groups that were invited that did not attend including: - Loddon Valley Renewable Awareness Group (LVRAG) - CFA Groups, SES, Ambulance Vic, Local Police Local MPs were also sent introductory emails and offers for briefings on the Project. Social Impact Assessment data gathering, coding and collation activities were started by technical consultants Lecroma. Preliminary meetings with the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) and DCCEEW were undertaken to provide an introduction of the Project.
Phase 2 Q1 2026 – Q2/Q3 2027 <i>Ongoing</i>	Impact assessment / Approval In the lead up to the planned EES referral submission, in February 2026, two new project publications were launched: the <i>Neighbour Newsletter</i> and the <i>Landowner Update</i>. These publications were tailored to their audiences and summarised engagement to date, local sponsorship, the planning process and environmental assessments underway. They also promoted the first in-person engagement opportunity with the project team in 2026. Atmos hosted a stall at the Kerang Market on Saturday 28 February 2026 as an opportunity for neighbours and community members to speak with the team, ask questions and receive the latest project information. The market presence was advertised in the Gannawarra Times and Loddon Herald during the week beginning 23 February 2026. Neighbours and involved landowners were invited via the newly launched publications. The website and project collateral were updated after these events. In addition to the community consultation preceding the EES referral submission, a number of stakeholders were engaged, including: First Peoples-State Relations, and representatives of Barapa Country Aboriginal Corporation, Kowang Community and Traditional Owner Group and Wamba Wamba Aboriginal Corporation

- Loddon Shire Council
- Gannawarra Shire Council
- North Central Catchment Management Authority
- Goulburn Murra Water
- DTP
- Country Fire Authority
- Department of Environment, Energy and Climate Action (DEECA)

The project team has been proactively contacting and doorknocking neighbours throughout March-April 2026 both to inform and subsequently share the project layout. Direct contact and doorknocking has been targeted to reach all neighbours within 6 km of the project, and will be ongoing as part of the project's development.

Forthcoming engagement

The project team commenced hosting of 'coffee catch ups' in Kerang and Pyramid Hill in April 2026, whereby community members can meet the project team informally at a local coffee shop and receive a free coffee when stopping for a chat about the Project. The project team will continue to attend local markets and host informal coffee catchups throughout 2026 (proposed monthly, subject to engagement), providing opportunities for the community to connect with the team. Further community drop-in sessions may be considered later in 2026 depending on community feedback on their preferred engagement approach.

The second edition of the *Neighbour Newsletter* and the *Landowner Update* was sent out in April 2026 detailing the turbine layout.

A third edition is planned for mid-2026 following further engagement and the EES referral decision.



Figure 1 – Photo of Macorna Wind Farm community drop-in session in November 2025

2.3 Project area context

The project area is situated within the locality of Macorna and spreads across the Local Government Areas (LGA's) of Gannawarra Shire Council and Loddon Shire Council. These form part of the [Loddon Mallee North and South regions](#), areas characterised by strong Indigenous heritage and a growing population of skilled migrant workers. Macorna is within the project area, with Tragowel, Kerang, Pyramid Hill, Cohuna and Leitchville surrounding the site.

The Draft Victorian Transmission Plan (VTP) identifies seven proposed Renewable Energy Zones (REZ) across the state, (Figure 2) including the North West REZ, which encompasses parts of Swan Hill, Gannawarra and Loddon LGAs. A portion of the project area falls within this REZ (see Figure 4), aligning it with Victoria's broader renewable energy transition priorities.

The draft North West REZ includes a section of the corridor for the proposed [VNI West](#) transmission line, a high-capacity 500kV double-circuit interconnector linking the Victorian and New South Wales energy grids (Figure 3). This region already hosts several large-scale renewable energy projects, particularly wind farms, underscoring the area's high-quality wind resource.

While the REZ designation reinforces the strategic value of the area, it also highlights a key risk for this Project: increasing community concern about cumulative impacts from multiple infrastructure developments. Regional opposition to the VNI West proposal reflects a broader sensitivity to land use change, visual impact, and perceived consultation fatigue - factors that will be considered in the Project's engagement approach.

The project area is located 5-6km kilometres south east of Kerang Airport, owned by Gannawarra Shire Council, is located and may be potentially concerned about turbine layout affecting flight paths.

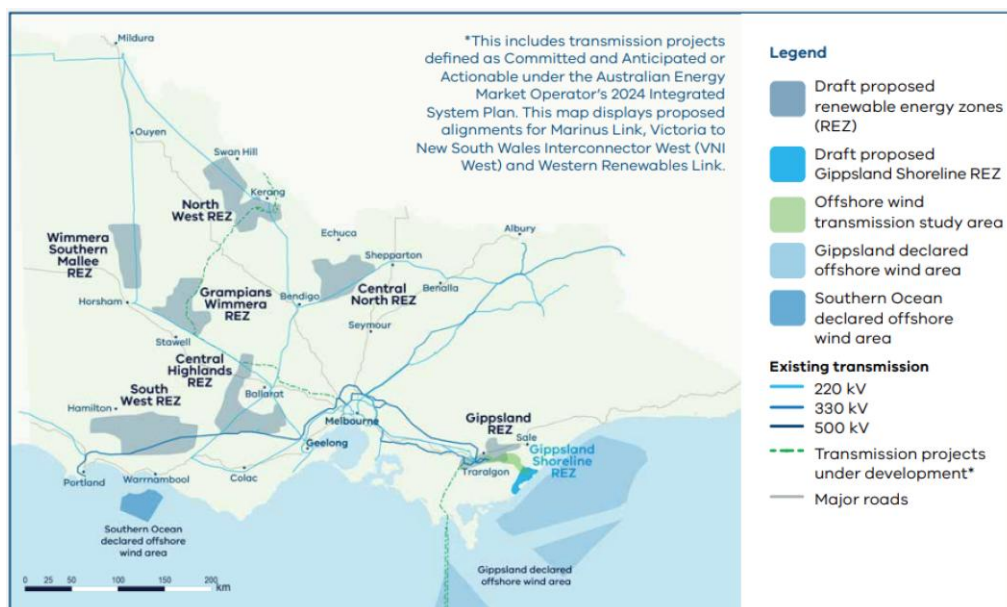


Figure 2 – Draft VTP REZ map

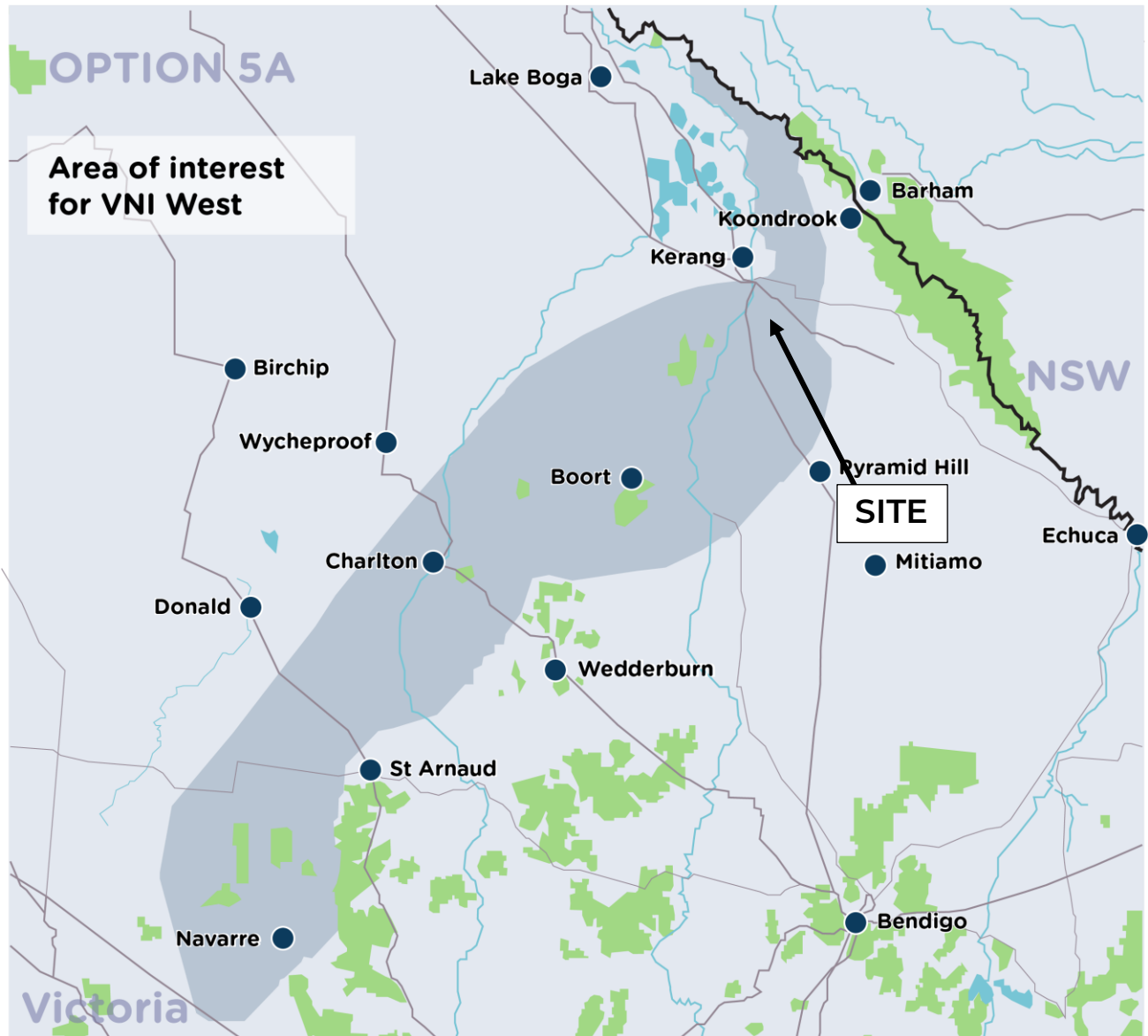


Figure 3 – VNI West area of interest map

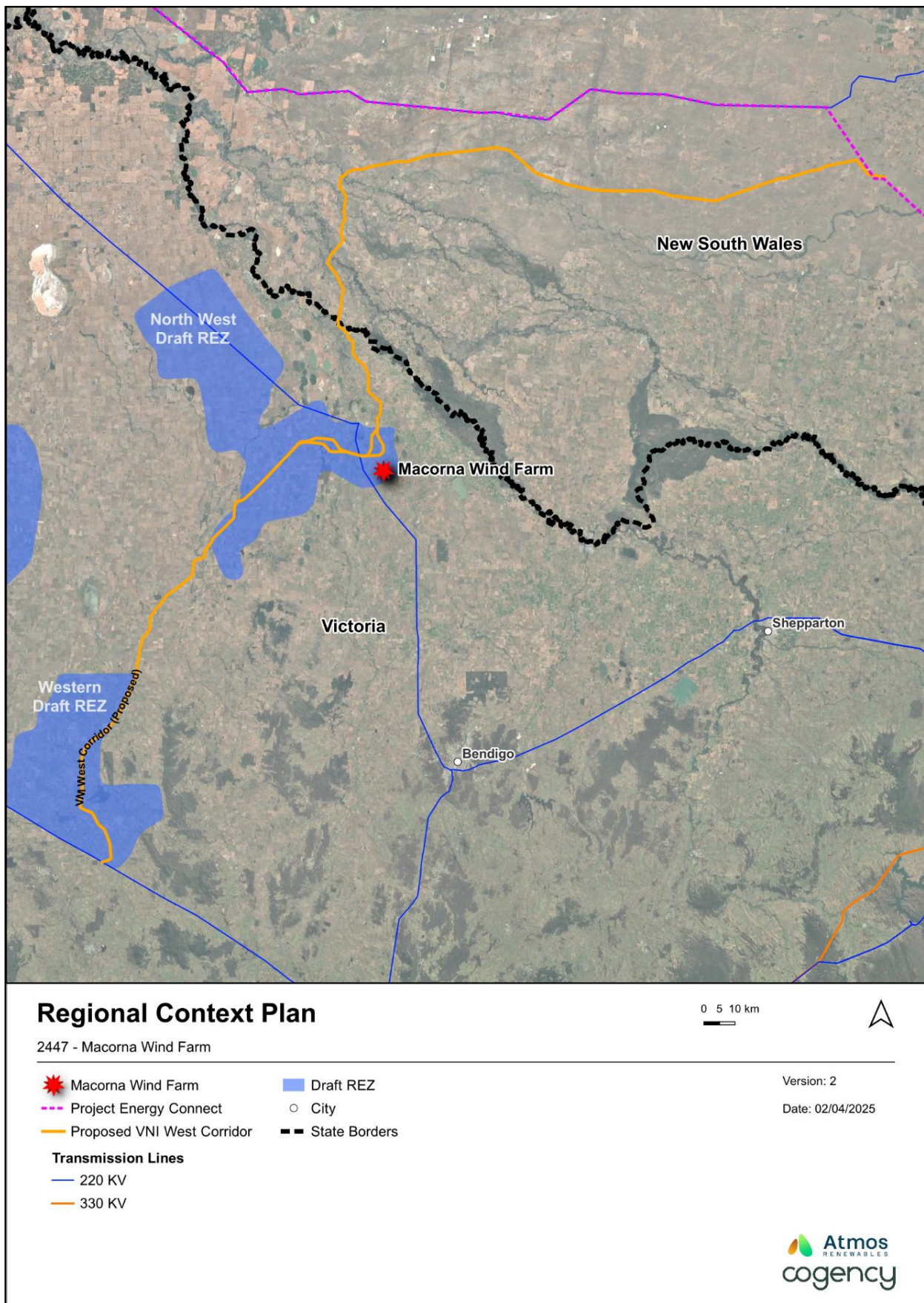


Figure 4 – Regional context plan

3. Principles

The following principles will be adopted to guide the preparation of this Strategy and the implementation of the community and stakeholder engagement process for the Project. This is based on the industry and government documentation detailed in Section 1.2.

3.1 Atmos' values

Atmos are driving the energy transition through developing, operating and responsibly investing in clean energy for the long term. Atmos has four core values shown in Table 3, that guide all its operations.

Table 3 – Atmos values

Value	Commitment
Integrity	We uphold the highest standards of honesty, ethics, and transparency in all that we do. Our actions are guided by our commitment to living our values, even when it's challenging. Trust is a core element of this. We work hard to earn and maintain the trust of our customers, stakeholders, and employees through our consistent actions and ethical behaviour.
Safety	The safety and well-being of our employees and stakeholders is paramount, and we expect all our people to take an active role in creating and maintaining a safe workplace. This commitment extends to creating a psychologically safe workplace where every team member feels safe to express their ideas, opinions, and concerns without fear of judgement or reprisal.
Courage	We are not afraid to pursue ambitious goals. We embrace curiosity to achieve innovative solutions that deliver results for our stakeholders and the environment. Being courageous also means holding each other accountable for our actions, learning from our mistakes, and continuously improving as we strive for excellence in what we do.
Humility	We are confident in our abilities, but we approach our successes with humility, recognising and valuing the contributions of others on our collective journey. We treat every individual with dignity and courtesy, valuing their unique perspectives and contributions. We believe that respect and humility are the foundations of productive long-lasting relationships

3.2 Best practice charter

Atmos became a signatory to the [Clean Energy Council \(CEC\) Best Practice Charter](#) in 2022 which outlines a voluntary set of commitments they will uphold in the development of current and new clean energy projects. Signatories commit to engage respectfully with the communities in which they plan and operate projects, to be sensitive to environmental and cultural values and to make a positive contribution to the regions in which they operate.

The principles from the Charter closely align with Atmos' company values of integrity, safety, courage and humility. For development of the Project, the Proponent will uphold the commitments listed in Appendix A.

3.3 First nations engagement

Beyond the statutory requirements of the Project, the Proponent is committed to ensuring sensitive and respectful engagement with the First Nations communities. Atmos released their [Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan](#) in November 2024 which focused on ensuring they are recognised as an inclusive, culturally competent and culturally safe organisation.

Atmos seeks to build strong partnerships with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, communities, and organisations, in the areas in which they are developing and operating projects, to progress their vision for greater involvement and shared benefits with First Nations Peoples. There are four reconciliation action plan levels that provide a structured approach for companies to advance reconciliation and Atmos is committed to continuing their reconciliation journey through their second plan.

The Proponent recognises that the transition of renewable energy presents an opportunity to collaborate with First Nations communities and establish partnerships that empower First Nations people to participate in the social, economic and environmental benefits of projects.

The Proponent is committed to:

- Consulting early to establish a foundation of trust and mutual understanding.
- Building relationships before seeking knowledge and information.
- Creating local contractor and supplier opportunities for First Nations peoples.
- Creating opportunities for First Nations businesses in the areas of procurement, training, employment, and tourism services.

In addition to their reconciliation action plan, the Proponent's approach to engagement with Traditional Owners adopts principles from the [First Nations Clean Energy Network's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Best Practices Principles for Clean Energy Projects \(2024\)](#) and the CEC's *Best Practice Charter for Renewable Energy Projects* (2018).

The Proponent will seek to:

- Engage in a respectful and inclusive manner
- Prioritise clear, accessible, timely and accurate information about the Project
- Protect and preserve Country, cultural heritage and the environment
- Ensure economic and social benefits are shared
- Ensure and encourage cultural competency
- Implement feedback, monitor progress and report back.

A First Nations Communication and Engagement Plan has been drafted for the Project and is guided by the Proponent's *First Nations Community Benefit Sharing Policy* (2024).

3.4 Commitment to engagement

The Proponent is committed to an open and transparent community and stakeholder engagement process. This includes ensuring proactive and early engagement, developing a benefit sharing model tailored to the local community and project area context, and seeking to create a positive long-term legacy in the region. Furthermore, the Proponent pledges to treat members of the local community and other stakeholders fairly, courteously and in a consistent and ethical manner.

The engagement approach for the Macorna Wind Farm has been guided by the Engagement Institute (formerly IAP2) Core Values and the Public Participation Spectrum. The spectrum is founded on the premise that different stakeholders will have varied levels of involvement in decision-making.

For the purposes of this project, the Proponent **commits to 'inform', 'consult' and 'involve'** the appropriate stakeholders through an effective engagement process based on the objectives and promises outlined in the spectrum in Figure 5.

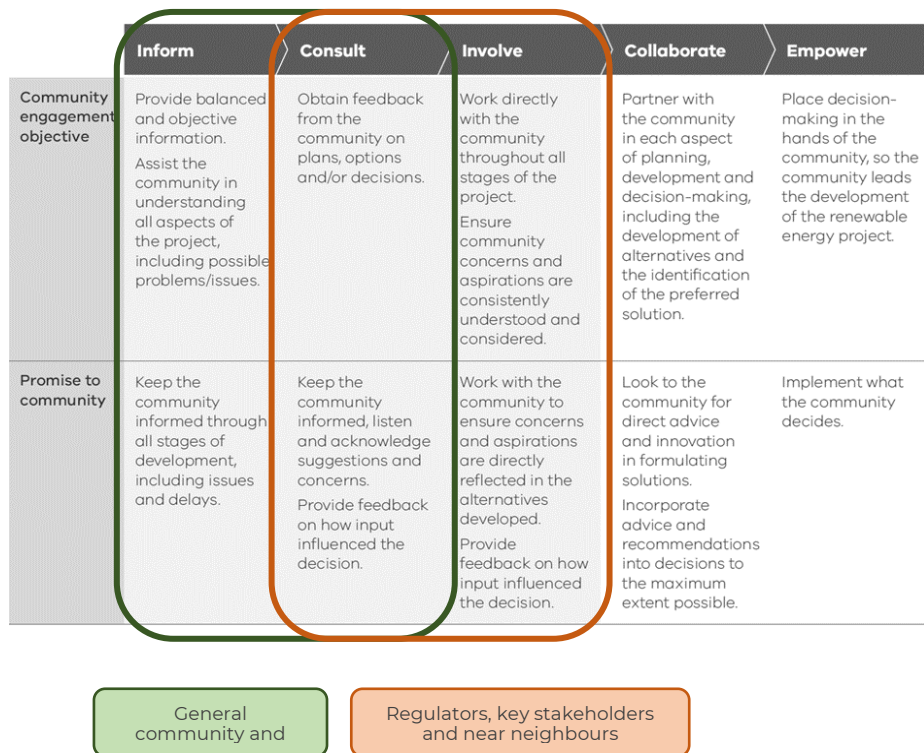


Figure 5 – Engagement commitment in relation to the Engagement Institute (formerly IAP2) spectrum

4. Community profile

This section outlines and analyses the communities potentially impacted by the Macorna Wind Farm. This supports the project team in understanding the unique characteristics and concerns shaped by local values and priorities. Figure 6 shows the Community Context Plan for the area.

By aligning engagement activities with the expectations of the community, Councils and key stakeholders, and incorporating lessons learned from past relevant developments, Atmos will continue to foster long-term trust and deliver shared value throughout the life of the Project.

4.1 Community context

The Macorna Wind Farm is located within a landscape shaped by strong agricultural traditions, close-knit communities, and deep connections to Country. Understanding this context is central to how Atmos approaches engagement, ensuring activities reflect local values, build genuine relationships, and deliver meaningful benefit to the region.

Atmos is committed to engaging broadly and inclusively with all people and groups who have an interest or may be affected by the Macorna Wind Farm. This includes.

1. **Involved landowners** who are associated with the project
2. **Neighbouring rural and agricultural** property landowners up to 6 km from the project area.
3. **Residents of surrounding towns and regions** including Marcona, Tragowel, Pyramid Hill, Kerang, Cohuna and Leitchville. While these communities may not be directly adjacent to the project, they are part of the social and economic fabric of the region.

Understanding this context is central to how the Project approaches engagement, ensuring activities reflect local values, build genuine relationships, and deliver meaningful benefit to the region.

A targeted and inclusive approach to engagement will help to build social value, reduce the risk of opposition or misinformation, and ensure that diverse perspectives are genuinely acknowledged and respected.

4.2 Local values and concerns

The Gannawarra and Loddon Shire Council areas are defined by their strong rural character, deep agricultural roots, and strong community identity. Across both regions, residents take pride in their farming heritage, local sports clubs, and the rural lifestyle that defines life in this region.

Atmos understands that any new development must respect and complement existing land uses rather than displace them. The ability to maintain farming operations alongside infrastructure is an expectation that will be placed at the forefront of design consideration.

The natural environment, such as the Kerang Lakes RAMSAR site and its waterways and biodiversity values, is something this community cares deeply about. Atmos is committed to environmental assessment and responsible management throughout all stages of the Project.

Atmos recognises that communities across this region have experienced significant engagement activity in recent years and renewable energy developments have grown with the REZ rollouts. Atmos is committed to engaging early, clearly and with a genuine intention of not adding unnecessarily to the engagement burden.

Communities in this region expect clear, tangible local benefits from development. These include regional employment, investment in local infrastructure, and contributions to community wellbeing that reflect local needs and aspirations.

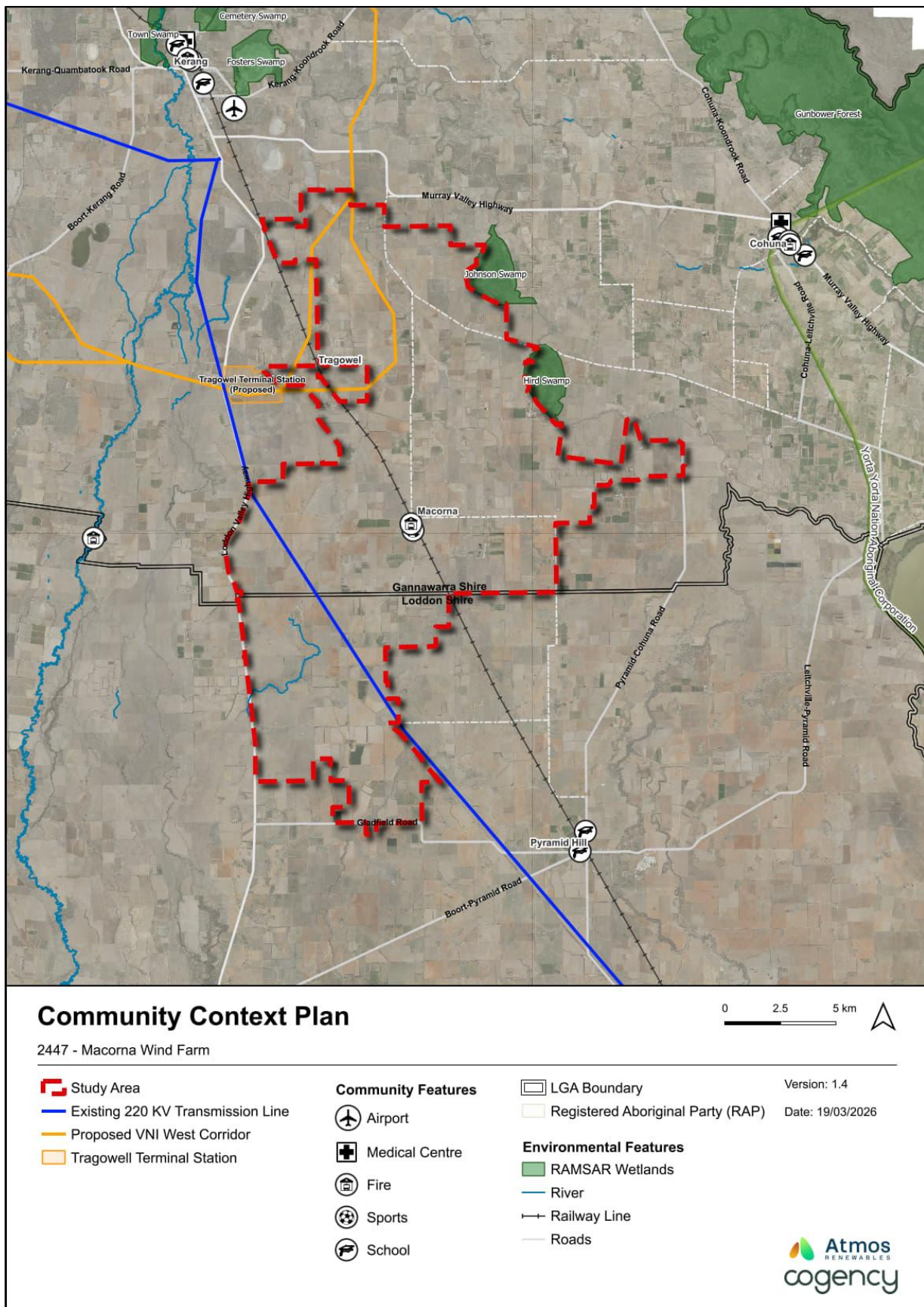


Figure 6 – Community context plan

4.3 School and education services

The region is well serviced by a network of schools and educational facilities across Kerang, Pyramid Hill, and surrounding areas, including primary, secondary and vocational education through institutions such as Kerang Technical High School, and the Bendigo Regional Institute of TAFE (BRIT) campus in Kerang.

Atmos sees opportunities to connect the project with local educational programs, including around renewable energy, environment and regional careers, which may be considered as part of the project's community benefit sharing.

4.4 Traditional Custodians

Atmos recognises the Barapa Barapa people as the Traditional Custodians of the region. Barapa Barapa Country spans parts of northern Victoria and southern New South Wales, including the Gannawarra and Loddon Shires. With a continuous connection to their lands, waters, plants, and animals for over 60,000 years, the Barapa Barapa people have cared for and lived in deep relationship with the diverse landscapes of their Country, including woodlands, swamps, forests, and significant waterways such as the Gunbower Forest and Creek, the Kerang Lakes, and the Loddon and Murray Rivers. Water is central to Barapa Barapa culture, playing a vital role in both sustaining life and underpinning spiritual and cultural identity.

The Barapa Barapa people prefer to be referred to as Traditional Custodians, rather than 'Owners', reflecting a deeply embedded cultural ethic of care and responsibility, rather than possession of land. Their Country remains rich in both tangible and intangible cultural values, and they maintain strong contemporary practices of cultural heritage management, including cultural ecological burning (*a regenerative technique that reduces the risk of uncontrolled fires while supporting ecosystem health*).

Recognising the importance of engaging proactively with Traditional Custodians, beyond statutory channels, helps to foster meaningful, respectful, and enduring collaboration. In Victoria, the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* recognises Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAP) as the primary guardians, keepers, and knowledge holders of Aboriginal cultural heritage. While the Barapa Barapa people do not currently have an appointed RAP, they are represented by several groups, including:

- Barapa Country Aboriginal Corporation (BCAC)
- Barapa Land and Water (BLW)
- Barapa Ltd
- Kowang Community and Traditional Owner Group.

Atmos is working with the project heritage advisor, Extent Heritage to consult with the various groups to inform the development of the Project. While none of the groups represent a RAP, they each play an active role in representing the interests of the Barapa Barapa community in cultural heritage and land management matters, and has previously engaged with other infrastructure or environmental projects in the region.

Recognising the Barapa Barapa people as key stakeholders in the project area is vital to ensuring that the Wind Farm is planned and developed in a way that respects Country, supports cultural heritage protection, and contributes to enduring social and environmental value. However, due to the size of the project and overlap and proximity of the Barapa Barapa organisations and the neighbouring RAP area of the Wamba Wemba Aboriginal Corporation (WWAC), early engagement with this RAP entity has also occurred. This geographic overlap will require coordinated engagement with multiple groups to ensure that cultural heritage matters are addressed both comprehensively, and respectfully.

4.5 Opportunities for engagement

A range of community-based events and local gathering places in proximity to the project area present valuable opportunities to connect with the community.

Engagement opportunities include:

- Community markets and shows
- Local sporting events including football and netball events
- Drop-in information sessions
- Coffee catchups.

Atmos will continue to adapt engagement activities as the project progresses, responding to community feedback and emerging opportunities to connect.

5. Key stakeholders

Table 4, below, provides an overview of the key stakeholder groups, and the level of engagement expected to be required with each of them at this stage. It will be updated as the Project progresses.

Table 4 – Overview of key stakeholders

Key Stakeholder Groups		IAP2 level
LANDOWNERS	Owners of the land on which the Project is constructed	Involve/ Consult
NEIGHBOURS	Landowners and residents within 6 kilometres of the project area.	Consult/ Inform
STATE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES	Departments such as the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP), Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) and the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) among others.	Collaborate/ Involve
LOCAL INDIGENOUS GROUPS	The Barapa Barapa people and surrounding RAPs and First Nations groups whose traditional lands will be affected. First Peoples – State Relations	Involve/ Consult
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES	Gannawarra and Loddon Shire Councils	Involve/ Consult
UTILITY COMPANIES	Energy providers and grid operators including AusNet and Transmission Company Victoria	Involve/ Consult
BUSINESS GROUPS	The local Chambers of Commerce (Kerang, Boort, Pyramid Hill) and Kerang Traders Group, amongst others	Consult/ Inform
NEIGHBOURING PROJECTS	Surrounding the project area are several energy projects, in operation or development (planning) mostly used for power generation.	Consult/ Inform
CONTRACTORS AND SUPPLIERS	A lead contractor will be responsible for the construction, installation, and maintenance of the wind infrastructure, and will engage local contractors and suppliers of wind turbines and related equipment.	Consult/ Inform
REGIONAL COORDINATION GROUPS	Regional Development Australia (RDA) Loddon Mallee and Wimmera Southern Mallee Development	Consult/ Inform
REGULATORY BODIES	Authorities that ensure compliance with building codes, safety standards, and environmental regulations.	Consult/ Inform
SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES	Loddon and Gannawarra residents and local businesses who might experience changes due to the Project, potential economic impacts and changes to the local landscape.	Consult/ Inform
REGIONAL RESIDENTS	Dwellings located in the area and on the main roads that may be used for traffic routes during construction.	Consult/ Inform
ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS	Organisations focused on the impact of the wind farm on local ecosystems and wildlife, involved in advocacy and ensuring environmental compliance.	Consult/ Inform
LOCAL MEDIA	Outlets that provide information and updates to the community about the Project's progress and impact, including <i>Gannawarra Times</i> and <i>Loddon Herald</i> .	Inform

6. Methodology and engagement schedule

6.1 Engagement approach

Engagement for the Project will be tailored, respectful, and grounded in local knowledge. A range of communication tools will be used to suit different community needs – keeping language clear and free of jargon. Feedback will be captured in a stakeholder database and used to shape project design and planning.

Our goal is to ensure the community is informed, consulted, and involved – helping to reduce:

- Conflict or misunderstandings
- Disruption to land use
- Delays in the planning process.

An Engagement Summary Report will be developed and updated at regular intervals.

6.2 Project phases and timelines

Each phase has been designed to ensure the project team can deliver early, proactive, and meaningful engagement with neighbours, the local community and stakeholders. It has been developed with the intention of allowing sufficient time for interested parties to be informed and involved, and for the project team to address any concerns.

Table 5, below outlines the phases related to the key steps in the planning process.

Table 5 – Engagement phases related to the Macorna Wind Farm

Phase	Planned engagement
Phase 0 2023 – Q2 2025 <i>Complete</i>	Early feasibility ▪ Preliminary landholder engagement including landowner excursion to Kiata Wind Farm ▪ Early community engagement in Macorna (September 2023 - August 2024) ▪ Introduction meetings with Gannawarra and Loddon Council planning teams ▪ Establishment of project contact details ▪ Macorna Football & Netball Club Sponsorship ▪ Establishment of stakeholder register
Phase 1 Q2 – Q4 2025 <i>Complete</i>	Preliminary assessment ▪ Draft and finalise Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan ▪ Draft and finalise First Nations Communication and Engagement Plan ▪ Preliminary technical assessments undertaken and design revisions to minimise impacts ▪ Preparation of EES referral ▪ Preliminary meetings with referral and consent authorities ▪ Letter and factsheet to local community within ~6 km of the project area ▪ Project briefing meetings with Loddon and Gannawarra Councils, DTP, First Nations representatives, and local representatives (national and state) ▪ Launch project webpage ▪ Liaison with CFA and local RAPs ▪ Community engagement via door knocks, mailouts, drop-in sessions, and local event presence ▪ Establishment of Project feedback channels

Phase	Planned engagement
Phase 2 Q1 2026 – Q2/Q3 2027 <i>Ongoing</i>	Impact assessment / Approval - First Nations and RAP engagement - Landholder and neighbour meetings - Benefit sharing and social impact engagement - Pre-lodgement community engagement with local townships and surrounding area - Feedback and consultation mechanisms for EES scoping - Community & Stakeholder Engagement Summary Report prepared - Statutory advertising mailout - Community benefit priorities identified through engagement - Website updates and maintenance
Phase 3 Timing TBC	Post approval / Detailed design - Community and stakeholders invited to make submissions on Planning Application and EES - Project team to receive submissions and respond to enquiries - Post-approval project update provided to community and stakeholders via meetings and targeted community engagement - Environmental management plan consultation - Pre-construction information packs distributed - Workforce and local business engagement - Establishment of communication channels for construction phase - Pre-construction briefings - Update webpage and collateral, when required
Phase 4 Timing TBC	Construction / Commissioning - Benefit sharing program launch - Construction notifications - Community contact points established and distributed - Complaints and enquiries management - On-site signage and information boards of construction notification - Local business and workforce procurement - Local media engagement - Monitoring and reporting - Further stakeholder meetings, if required
Phase 5 Timing TBC	Operation / Maintenance - Regular community updates - Community liaison officer or contact point established - Complaints management system established and regularly reviewed - Benefit sharing program delivery - Environmental monitoring reporting - Local media engagement
Phase 6 Timing TBC	Decommissioning - Site review and evaluation, including implementation of the Decommissioning Strategy - Project update and notification - Community and stakeholder engagement - Post-decommissioning community report - Legacy engagement

7. Communication and engagement tools

A variety of tools will support our engagement approach, ensuring communication is clear, balanced, and free of jargon. These tools aim to keep the community and stakeholders informed, involved, and engaged, helping to reduce:

- Conflict or misunderstanding
- Disruption to businesses and land use
- Consultation fatigue.

Table 6 – Communication and engagement tools and techniques

Tool	Description and purpose	Stakeholders	Level of engagement
Door knocking	Engagement teams go door-to-door to liaise with all dwellings and landowners within a specified radius of the Project. To provide an opportunity for neighbouring landowners to meet the project team face-to-face. To inform neighbouring landowners about the Project, process, and upcoming community consultation opportunities.	Neighbouring landowners	Inform Consult
'Sorry we missed you' card	To leave behind if no one is available to speak to the door knocking team. Informs people of dates, times and process of the door knock, and how to contact the project team.	Neighbouring landowners	Inform Consult
Notification letters	Direct letters delivered to households within a specified radius of the Project (to be agreed with client/project team) to notify about the Project, consultation opportunities, and updates. To inform stakeholders of any upcoming assessment activities that may be relevant to their property to provide detailed information about the work and contact details.	Neighbouring landowners Local businesses	Inform Consult
Presentation and briefing pack	To provide clear and concise information about the Project as it develops. To notify the stakeholders about key milestones in the Project and how to influence the planning and design. To avoid the spread of misinformation and to mitigate concerns, where possible.	All stakeholders	Inform Consult
Face to face and online stakeholder meetings/ interviews	To establish rapport and ongoing relationships with stakeholders and neighbours. To inform, consult or involve interested and concerned local community members and stakeholder groups. To identify potential risks and issues associated with the Project's construction or operation.	State and Local government Community groups Neighbouring landowners	Inform Consult Involve
Contact phone and email address	To establish a point of contact via email and phone to stakeholders wanting to learn more about the Project, voice their concerns or raise matters of interest. To be widely distributed through external communication and media.	All stakeholders	Inform Consult
Project website/ webpage	To provide clear and user-friendly information about the Proponent, team, and the Project itself.	All stakeholders	Inform Consult

Tool	Description and purpose	Stakeholders	Level of engagement
	To provide a central location for all technical documents relating to the Project, regularly uploaded with up-to-date information.		
Surveys & polls	To provide a platform to receive structured responses on specific issues to obtain quantitative measurable results that can be reported on monthly throughout the Project lifecycle.	All stakeholders	Inform Consult
Fact sheets and information posters	To provide clear and concise information about the Project as it develops. To notify the community about key milestones and how to get involved. To avoid the spread of misinformation and to mitigate concerns where possible.	All stakeholders	Inform
Media release	To ensure members of the local and wider community are advised about the project status, project milestones and lodgement details through publications in local and regional media outlets. To engage a wide audience through publications in local, regional, and state media outlets.	Local media State media	Inform
Local advertising	To promote the community information session and project information in the local radio, newspaper and online.	Local media	Inform
Community drop-in information sessions	To facilitate face to face interactions between the project team (and the community / stakeholders). To provide project information through mixed visual collateral, and assist in better understanding the Project. To provide an opportunity for community members to clarify information, voice their ideas and concerns, encourage engagement in the planning process and to establish a point of contact for the Project.	Nearby landowners Local community members Wider two municipalities Local businesses	Inform Consult
Meet and greet events	To provide an informal setting for early engagement. To encourage open dialogue, answer questions, and listen to community perspectives. To increase Project visibility and demonstrate approachability and accountability.	Nearby landowners Local community members Wider two municipalities Local businesses	Inform Consult
Closing the loop summary	To close the loop with the community and key stakeholders, relaying discussions heard through engagement activities and informing them of next steps and actions to be undertaken. To foster trust and confidence within the community and to strengthen existing relationships, aligning with the Proponent's commitment to transparent communication.	All stakeholders	Inform Consult

7.1 Project communication protocol

This external communication protocol relates to all Project representatives, including employees, consultants, contractors and sub-contractors and partners. It is designed to maintain and protect the brand and reputation of the Project, its representatives and its partners.

The protocol sets out initial early works and project development requirements for external communication including managing enquiries, complaints and issues; issues management; media enquiries; and social media management.

7.1.1 Key points of contact

The following organisations will be responsible for communication with stakeholders and the community about the Project via the Borealis consultation platform.

All communication should be exchanged through the email address macornawf@atmosrenewables.com.au.

Landowners can contribute to liaise with the Project team directly via WindFarmers.

Table 7 – Communications Responsibilities

Enquiry type	Lead responder
Involved landowners	WindFarmers
Uninvolved landowners adjacent to the project area	WindFarmers
Neighbours within 6 km of project area	Atmos
Community and local media enquiries	Atmos
Referral authorities and other stakeholders	Atmos and Cogency

7.1.2 Stakeholder interactions

A record of all community engagement activities will be maintained in a dedicated stakeholder engagement database platform called Borealis.

Borealis is a cloud-based stakeholder engagement platform designed to help organisations manage, track, and enhance their relationships with stakeholders throughout a project's lifecycle. It centralises all stakeholder-related data, enabling teams to plan, engage, and measure their engagement activities effectively.

The platform supports functions such as stakeholder mapping, issue and complaint management, land access and acquisition, and social investment tracking. With features like integrated GIS tools, customisable dashboards, and AI-powered insights, Borealis facilitates proactive engagement strategies, ensures compliance with regulatory requirements, and fosters transparency and trust among stakeholders.

The database will also be used as a means of two-way communication, to provide feedback to stakeholders upon considerations made through the planning process based on their input.

8. Monitoring, evaluation and reporting

Monitoring and evaluating community engagement throughout the project lifecycle identifies project successes, areas for improvement or modification, and to learn from experiences and community feedback. Victorian planning guidelines – most recently of note, the draft VicGrid Community Engagement and Social Value Guidelines detailed in Section 1.2 – specify monitoring, evaluation, and reporting requirements.

Atmos commits to integrating the findings of key engagement activities into the evaluation of the Project, and to establishing sustainable community engagement methods for the operational life of the Project.

Table 8 – Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting practices

Initiatives	Description
Monitoring	Developers are expected to implement comprehensive monitoring systems that track environmental, social, and economic impacts. This includes assessing effects on local ecosystems, noise levels, visual amenity, and community well-being. Regular monitoring ensures that projects comply with planning permit conditions and promptly address any unforeseen issues.
Evaluation	Periodic evaluations are required to assess the effectiveness of mitigation measures and the overall performance of the project against its stated objectives. This involves analysing monitoring data to determine if the project is meeting environmental standards, community expectations, and contributing positively to the local economy. Evaluations should be conducted at key stages, such as post-construction and during operation, to inform adaptive management strategies.
Reporting	Transparent reporting is crucial for maintaining public trust and regulatory compliance. Developers must provide regular reports to relevant authorities, detailing monitoring results, evaluation findings, and any corrective actions taken. These reports should be accessible to the public, fostering community engagement and demonstrating the project's commitment to responsible development.

As part of the process, Atmos will develop a Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (MER) Plan will be developed following receiving planning approval to be used in conjunction with this Plan.

8.1.1 Enquiry and escalation management

Atmos will manage enquiries and complaints relating to the project, ensuring its approach is community focused; timely and fair; transparent and clear in our communications; accountable; and use complaints to improve Atmos' future approaches.

This procedure has been informed by:

- International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 10002:2018
- the Australian/New Zealand Standard AS/NZS 10002:2022 Guidelines for Complaint Management in Organisations.
- Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner Complaint Handling Policy 2023.

The Atmos Enquiry and Complaint Procedure (2026) is publicly available:

<https://atmosrenewables.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Atmos-Renewables-Complaints-Management.pdf>

Community members can lodge a complaint via:

- **Phone:** 1800 548 559
- **Email:** macornawf@atmosrenewables.com.au
- **Post:** Atmos Renewables, Level 9, 123 Pitt Street, Sydney NSW 2000
- **In person:** At engagement events or scheduled meetings

9. Benefit sharing

The Proponent is committed to achieving positive environmental outcomes and lasting relationships with local communities that host our clean energy projects. Importantly, benefit sharing is not a replacement for engagement – it complements ongoing conversations with residents and stakeholders to ensure that the Project is a good neighbour and a meaningful contributor to local life.

The Macorna Wind Farm Community Benefit-Sharing Program will be shaped by the Clean Energy Council's benefit-sharing principles (Appropriate, Flexible, Transparent, Integrated, Mutually Beneficial and Strategic) in the *Guide to Benefit-Sharing Options for Renewable Energy Projects* (2021).

Two critical documents will guide benefit sharing on the Project and set out funding priorities:

1. Atmos – Community Benefit Sharing Policy (2024) and
2. Atmos – First Nations Community Benefit Sharing Policy (2024).

A detailed *Benefit Sharing Plan* will be drafted for the Project at an early stage of planning to emphasise the importance the Proponent places on ensuring social value is generated throughout the life of the Project. The document will outline who is eligible for funding or compensation, how benefit decisions will be made, timelines and how to get involved.

The following section provides an overview of the types of benefit sharing the Project seeks to fund in the region, including sponsorship which has already commenced.

9.1 Benefit Sharing approach

Atmos is committed to delivering meaningful, long-term social value to the communities surrounding its renewable energy projects. Figure 7 sets out the local benefit sharing summary for the Project.

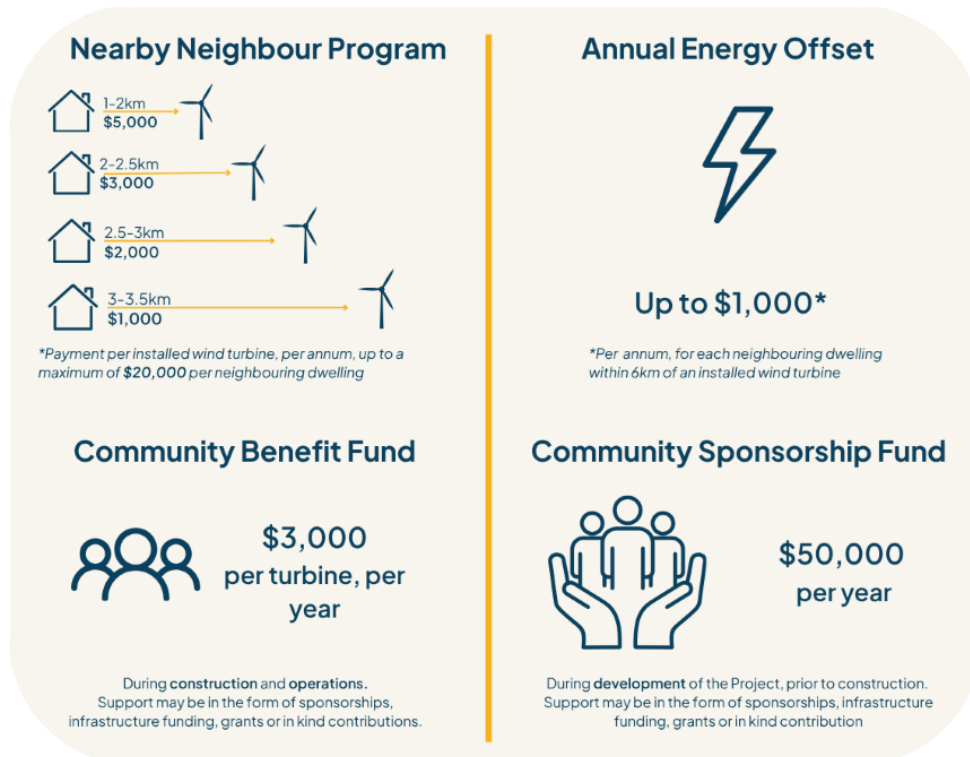


Figure 7 – Macorna Wind Farm local benefit sharing summary

9.1.1 Funding priorities

As detailed in the Proponent's policies, a diverse range of community benefit initiatives are sought to be funded, including:

Table 9 – Benefit sharing priorities

Projects/initiatives	Description
Attract and retain	- Help keep people living in the local community - Increase or promote local tourism - Promote education, training, and skill development - Stimulate economic growth and entrepreneurship
Health and wellbeing	- Enhance the safety for members of the community - Enhance and support vulnerable community members e.g. elderly, mental health, disabled, youth and family - Support local arts, sporting and cultural events
Enhance biodiversity and reduce greenhouse gas emissions	Nature positive, environmental conservation and rehabilitation projects
First Nations initiatives	- Support indigenous owned organisations or businesses - Strengthen connectedness to culture and country - Improve health and wellbeing - Enhance education and economic opportunities

The Project's benefit-sharing framework is likely to be delivered through several mechanisms, identified in Table 10.

Table 10 – Benefit sharing mechanisms

Mechanism	Description
Community Benefit Funds (CBFs)	Atmos establishes CBFs for many of its wind farms, providing annual financial contributions to support local projects and initiatives. For instance, Lal Lal Wind Farm allocates over \$100,000 annually throughout the duration of the wind farm lifecycle to fund community-based projects in areas such as health, education, environment, and economic development. The Macorna Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund will be established to deliver long-term, positive outcomes for the local communities of Macorna, Tragowel, and surrounding areas. Funded annually for the life of the project, the initiative is designed to ensure that the benefits of renewable energy investment are shared directly with the people who live, work, and contribute to the region. Administered in consultation with a Community Reference Group comprised of individuals from both Loddon and Gannawarra municipalities, the fund will support community-led projects, services and initiatives that align with the community's priorities – such as enhancing local infrastructure, supporting youth and education programs, improving community health and wellbeing, preserving cultural and natural heritage, and fostering innovation in agriculture and sustainability. Priority will be given to proposals that deliver lasting value, promote community cohesion, and help maintain the vibrancy and resilience of the region. Funding will be open to local schools, sports clubs, not-for-profits, volunteer groups, and social enterprises.
First Nations funding allocations	Each First Nations group associated with our projects will receive an annual funding allocation, scaled to reflect the size of the constructed project. This funding is provided with full respect for the autonomy of each First Nation community and may be used at their discretion to support locally defined priorities. Atmos will seek to identify benefit-sharing opportunities related to training, apprenticeships, work-readiness programs, local tourism, support for indigenous owned organisations or businesses, cultural heritage protection initiatives, local arts, sporting and cultural events or any other initiative identified by local First Nations people.

Mechanism	Description
Sponsorships	Beyond structured funds, Atmos offers sponsorship opportunities for local events and causes. Communities can apply for sponsorships to support activities that enhance local well-being and cohesion. These are one off donations or sponsorships.
Grants	Financial assistance to provide eligible organisations or groups to implement community benefit initiatives.
In kind contributions	Donation of equipment, materials, or technical expertise to support community projects.

Through these initiatives, Atmos ensures that the advantages of renewable energy projects are shared with host communities, fostering sustainable development and strong community relations.

9.1.2 Early funding opportunities

Based on the Macorna-Tragowel Community Plan, funding that aligns with the town's values and aspirations would be especially welcome if it supports the funding opportunities identified in Table 11.

Further discussion with Loddon and Gannawarra councils will build on this information, expanding the initiatives to wider areas.

Table 11 – Benefit sharing and funding opportunities in Macorna

Funding opportunity	Description	Why it matters
Sporting and community facilities	Upgrades to Macorna Recreation Reserve, clubrooms and sporting infrastructure (especially football, netball, and community events). Support for local sports clubs and events that bring people together and boost community pride.	The Macorna Football Netball Club is central to community life. Investment builds social connection and trust.
Road safety and infrastructure	Sealed or improved rural roads, particularly those frequently used by farming equipment or school traffic. Lighting streets and public spaces. Safer intersections or signage to improve traffic conditions and reduce the risk of accidents.	Poor roads were identified as a safety risk and a source of frustration, especially for older residents and farming families. Lack of lighting was also identified by other energy proponents.
Community events and social connection	Grants for small-scale community events like seasonal gatherings, working bees, or heritage days. Support for volunteer-led initiatives, including equipment, venue hire, or catering support.	Social isolation is a concern. Events foster belonging and allow intergenerational connection.
Environmental and Landcare projects	Funding for tree planting, erosion control, pest/weed management and native habitat restoration. Partnerships with Landcare groups to protect and enhance the local environment.	The community values its rural environment and agricultural productivity, and is protective of local waterways and farmland.
Digital connectivity and youth engagement	Funding for improved internet/mobile coverage. Support for youth programs or creative learning opportunities that keep young people engaged locally.	Connectivity issues limit access to education, business growth, and emergency information. Youth engagement was also seen as key to the area's future.

9.1.3 Sponsorship to date

Since project inception, Atmos has been providing sponsorship to local groups.

Table 12 – Benefit sharing mechanisms

Local organisation	Sponsorship commitment	Amount
Kerang Show	Platinum Show Sponsor	\$2,000
Macorna Football Netball Club	Resurfacing netball courts (refer to Figure 8)	\$25,000
Northern District Community Health	Investing in community nursing, additional 0.5 days of community nursing for a full year	\$46,000
Pyramid Hill Community Hub	Fit out of the Pyramid Hill Community Hub	\$25,000



Figure 8 – The resurfaced courts at Macorna Football Netball Club, proudly sponsored by Atmos

10. Conclusion

This Plan reflects Atmos' long-term commitment to becoming a trusted and active member of the Loddon and Gannawarra communities. It provides a clear roadmap for fostering enduring, meaningful relationships in Macorna and its surrounding township, guided by industry best practice and tailored to local values and expectations.

The Plan outlines a strategic, respectful, and transparent approach to engagement that goes beyond compliance. It aims to ensure all voices are heard and considered through every stage of the Project, using flexible channels such as online, face-to-face, drop-in, and informal meetings, particularly to suit the needs of the community and local stakeholders.

It commits to building trust through transparency from day one, with open communication of project impacts, benefits, and scientific facts in community-friendly language. The plan champions the value of local knowledge by involving landholders, the CFA, and Traditional Custodians early in the design phase, recognising their insights as critical to Project success.

Through this Plan, the Macorna Wind Farm is positioned not just as an energy Project, but as part of a sustainable agricultural future – supporting farming resilience, regional economic diversification, and long-term viability.

As this engagement program evolves, it will take into consideration:

- Engaging genuinely and authentically with the people of the Mallee, including Traditional Custodians.
- Providing updates to stakeholders about project milestones and 'closing the loop,' where applicable.
- Documenting all stakeholder interactions and feedback, ensuring follow up actions are carried out promptly.
- Proactively developing collateral reflecting the Project's current milestones, including a website.
- Monitoring of similar and controversial projects in the region.

With open-access community benefit programs, including potential grants, scholarships, and energy discounts, this Plan ensures the project delivers lasting, tangible value. It also supports the expectations of investors, regulators, and community members alike.

Ultimately, this Plan is not just about building a wind farm, it's about building lasting partnerships and shared outcomes for decades to come.

Appendices

Appendix A	Best Practice Charter
Appendix B	Project engagement collateral

Appendix A Best Practice Charter

The *Best Practice Charter for Renewable Energy Projects* is a voluntary set of commitments for Clean Energy Council members designed to clearly communicate the standards that the signatories will uphold in the development of current and new clean energy projects.

The Proponent commits to upholding the following commitments during engagement on the Project:

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.

6

We will support the local economy by providing local employment and procurement opportunities, where possible.

2

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.

7

We will offer communities the opportunity to share in the benefits of the Project, and consult them on the options available, including relevant governance arrangements.

3

We will be sensitive to areas of high biodiversity, cultural and landscape value in the development and operation of the Project.

8

We commit to using the Project to support educational and tourism opportunities, where appropriate.

4

We will minimise the impacts on highly productive agricultural land and explore opportunities to integrate agricultural production.

9

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.

5

We will consult the community on the potential visual, noise, traffic and other impacts of the Project, and on the mitigation options.

10

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.

Appendix B Project engagement collateral

Project newsletter distributed in Q4 2024.



Project Newsletter

Q4 2024



Project Overview

The Macorna Wind Farm Project is a proposed ~10W wind farm near Kerang in the Gannawarra/Loddon Shire area. There are a number of factors that make the land around Macorna an excellent location for wind farm development including strong wind speeds, proximity to the proposed VNI West Kerang Substation and good availability of flat, cleared, agricultural land. The project is in the early stages of development with wind monitoring and environmental studies being undertaken to inform the site extent and a preliminary layout.

Ecological Surveys

Our environmental consultant, Ecology and Heritage Partners (EHP) has continued ecological surveys to inform constraints mapping on the site.

A Brolga roosting survey and habitat assessment was undertaken in October. No evidence of Brolga breeding activity was observed during the survey with most wetlands within the site classified as low-quality breeding habitat. One individual Brolga was observed foraging within a paddock adjacent to Kow Swamp, around 7.5 km east of the site.

Whilst further surveys are required during 2025, the initial survey results are good news for the project as they indicate that the wind farm's impact on the Brolga is likely to be low.

Migratory and marine bird surveys will commence in November and continue through December and January. This fieldwork will be carried out by EHP's zoologists Claire and Megan.





www.atmosrenewables.com.au info@atmosrenewables.com.au

Wind Monitoring

Wind monitoring for the proposed Macorna Wind Farm is ongoing, with the original mobile LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) unit on-site, monitoring wind and weather conditions at different heights above the ground.

Planning is underway for the installation of two, ~150m high meteorological masts in the project area. The met masts will validate the LIDAR measurements and improve the certainty of the wind resource and energy production estimates, as well as inform the wind farm design.

It is anticipated that these masts will be delivered and installed in Q1 2025.

Landowner Trip to Kiata Wind Farm

On 10th September 2024, Atmos Renewables supported a trip for landowners to visit the company's operating Kiata Wind Farm in western Victoria. All reports were that the trip was enjoyable and useful for understanding what it's like to be near an operating turbine and the impact on the land. Please let Don or Graham know if you are keen to join a similar trip in 2025.

Football & Netball Club Sponsorship

The Macorna Wind Farm is pleased to be able to contribute a financial contribution of **\$25,000** towards the Macorna Football and Netball clubs grant application to the 2024-2025 Country Football Netball Program.

If successful, the grant will be used to expand the changeroom facilities at the club's grounds which will improve the amenities available to sporting and other community groups and business who use the facilities for events.

About Atmos Renewables

Atmos Renewables is leading Australia's energy transition with ownership interests in over 1,850 of operating renewable assets and a significant pipeline of developments, including wind, solar, and energy storage.

What makes us different?

Atmos benefits from having a board based in Australia that has a deep understanding of the Australia electricity market. This local expertise enables Atmos to be agile in decision making and well equipped to respond to the challenges and opportunities within the Australia energy sector.

- Rollable Expertise in Renewable Energy
- Nurturing Lasting Relationships
- Transparency for Empowered Decision Making
- Shaping Australia's Clean Energy Future





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2024 Victorian Transmission Plan Guidelines

September 2024



VicGrid

Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
energy.vic.gov.au

Wind Energy Guideline

November 2024



Guidance for State significant wind energy development

2024 Victorian Transmission Plan

VicGrid is developing a new statewide approach for renewable energy and transmission infrastructure. The long-term strategic plan will be outlined in the Victorian Transmission Plan, which will identify proposed renewable energy zones (REZs). These are areas of the state with abundant renewable energy resources, such as wind and/or sun. The proposed area for the Macorna Wind Farm is anticipated to be included in one of these proposed REZs.

The Victorian Transmission Plan Guidelines can be downloaded from <https://energy.vic.gov.au/victransmissionplan>

Renew Economy

A newspaper for renewables it is interesting reading for those looking to understand the clean energy industry and transition in Australia. <https://reneweconomy.com.au/>

Billions in the Bush: Renewable Energy for Regional Prosperity

The Clean Energy Council released a new report on the economic benefits clean energy is delivering to farmers and regional communities across Australia. <https://cleanenergycouncil.org.au/news-resources/billions-in-the-bush-landholder-benefits>

NSW Wind Farm Guidelines

The NSW Government has recently released a new Renewable Energy Planning Framework to promote faster planning decisions, provide investment certainty for industry and host communities and boost economic benefits for regional community. The new framework includes:

- Wind Energy Guidelines
- Transmission Guidelines
- Solar Energy Guidelines
- Benefit Sharing Guidelines
- Private Agreement Guidelines

Whilst not directly applicable to the Macorna Wind Farm in Victoria the guidance has relevance to all wind farm projects in Australia and is a good source of information for potential landholders. They can be accessed: <https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/policy-and-legislation/renewable-energy/renewable-energy-planning-framework>

Contact Details

Graham Webb: 0455337578 graham@windfarmers.com.au info@atmosrenewables.com.au



www.atmosrenewables.com.au info@atmosrenewables.com.au

Project advertisement distributed in October 2025.

Macorna Wind Farm

Community Drop In Sessions

Atmos Renewables, in collaboration with WindFarmers Energy Group is developing the proposed Macorna Wind Farm, located on Barapa Barapa Country.

The Macorna area was selected due to the strong and steady winds, flat and cleared farmland, and onsite access to existing and proposed electricity infrastructure.

The project is still in early planning, with technical studies and surveys underway. We're designing the project with strong environmental protections, cultural respect and local knowledge in mind.

A member from our ecology team will be available from 1-5pm at the Pyramid Hill Session to discuss the ecological assessments and a chance for the community to provide information on local flora, fauna, birds and bats.

The best outcomes happen when communities are involved early. Come by to ask questions and share your initial feedback on the project.

Kerang Session

Date: Tuesday, 18 November
Time: 1:00pm - 7:00pm
Venue: Kerang Memorial Hall

Pyramid Hill Session

Date: Wednesday, 19 November
Time: 1:00pm - 7:00pm
Venue: Pyramid Hill Memorial Hall

No RSVP required. Please stop by at any time. We look forward to meeting you!

Get in touch
1800 548 559 | MacornaWF@atmosrenewables.com.au
www.macornawindfarm.com.au

Neighbour invitation distributed in October 2025.

Macorna Wind Farm

Upcoming Community Drop In Sessions

Overview

Atmos Renewables, in collaboration with WindFarmers Energy Group is developing the proposed Macorna Wind Farm, located on Barapa Barapa Country.

The Macorna area was selected due to strong and steady winds, flat and cleared farmland, and onsite access to existing and proposed electricity infrastructure. The proposed wind farm includes up to 140 wind turbines, carefully positioned to reduce the impacts on the local environment and residents.

The project is still in the early planning stage, with technical studies underway. We're designing the project with strong environmental protections, cultural respect and local knowledge in mind.

Pending approvals, construction is expected to begin in 2029 and the wind farm would operate for 30-35 years.

Community Drop In Sessions

The project team has two upcoming opportunities for residents, community members and local organisational representatives to learn more about the project and provide preliminary feedback. No RSVP required.

By sharing your thoughts early, you help us:

- Respect local culture and heritage
- Identify and avoid potential issues
- Design smarter, more practical solutions
- Support what matters most in your community
- Shape benefit-sharing programs that deliver real value
- Understand the land and environmental conditions
- Avoid disruption to farming, local events, or sensitive areas
- Design traffic and access plans that make sense.

Atmos acknowledges that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have occupied and cared for the land on which we develop and operate our projects for more than 65,000 years. We respect their deep connections to land and waters and the traditional knowledge and experience they have caring for Country.

November 2025

Benefits for the region

- 750,000**
Approx Equivalent
No. of Homes Powered
- \$3 billion +**
Regional
Investment
- 20**
Permanent
Jobs Created
- 450**
Construction Jobs
Created

Kerang Session

Date: Tuesday, 18 November
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Pyramid Hill Session

Date: Wednesday, 19 November
Time: 1:00pm - 7:00pm
Venue: Pyramid Hill Memorial Hall

November 2025

For more information

Scan the QR code for more information about the project.

Turbine layout

The turbine layout, and associated development footprint, will be informed by extensive technical studies and community engagement.

Design of the project will also be undertaken in close collaboration with landowners to ensure impacts to existing farm practices, including irrigation infrastructure, is reduced as far as possible.

As part of the environmental assessment and planning process and to inform the turbine layout, extensive technical assessments are conducted.

Figure 1: Map of the proposed Macorna Wind Farm (September 2025)

Get in touch
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www.macornawindfarm.com.au



September 2025



Macorna Wind Farm

Overview

Atmos Renewables is developing the Macorna Wind Farm, located on Barapa Barapa Country in the Loddon Mallee region.

The proposal was started by local brothers Don and Graham Webb through their company, WindFarmers Energy Group. They know the land, the people and the community – and have been leading engagement with landowners since the beginning.

With more than 20 years of renewable energy experience as well as a local history of farming and irrigation, Don and Graham bring valuable knowledge and a strong connection to the region. Atmos Renewables has joined with them to deliver this project for the community.

The Macorna area was chosen because it offers strong and steady winds, flat and cleared farmland, and good access to existing and proposed electricity infrastructure.

The project is still in the early planning stage, with technical studies underway. If approvals are granted, construction is expected to begin in 2029 and the wind farm would operate for 30–35 years.

Project Snapshot

Project Status: Planning and approvals

Capacity: Approx. 1,000 MW

Location: Macorna, Victoria (100 km north of Bendigo)

Turbines: Up to 140 turbines

Blade tip: Approx. 250m

Host landowners: ~25 host landowners over approximately 30,000ha

Transmission: Connection to proposed VNI West Tragowel Substation

Benefits for the region

The Macorna Wind Farm will bring new jobs, business opportunities and clean energy to the region.



\$3 billion +
Regional Investment



450
Construction Jobs Created



20
Permanent Jobs Created



750,000
Approx Equivalent No. of Homes Powered

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Real benefits for local people.

We believe renewable energy projects should create lasting value for the regions that host them. That's why community benefits are central to Macorna Wind Farm.

Beyond generating clean energy, the project has the potential to deliver direct advantages for neighbours and the wider Loddon community. Over the coming months we'll be asking what matters most to you? Your input will shape how these benefits are shared.

Nearby Neighbour Program

1-2km	\$5,000
2-2.5km	\$3,000
2.5-3km	\$2,000
3-3.5km	\$1,000

*Payment per installed wind turbine, per annum, up to a maximum of \$20,000 per neighbouring dwelling

Annual Energy Offset



Up to \$1,000*

*Per annum, for each neighbouring dwelling within 6km of an installed wind turbine

Community Benefit Fund



\$3,000
per turbine, per year

During construction and operations. Support may be in the form of sponsorships, infrastructure funding, grants or in-kind contributions.

Community Sponsorship Fund



\$50,000
per year

During development of the project, prior to construction. Support may be in the form of sponsorships, infrastructure funding, grants or in-kind contributions.



Graham Webb
WindFarmers Energy

I've known some people in this community since school days, others I've played sport with or connected through family and in later years installed irrigation systems on some of the farms here. I know these people have worked very hard to grow their farming businesses and many are significant employers and highly progressive.

I'm looking forward to seeing how the support of the wind farm backs further agricultural development, while helping to drought proof these farmers and the community.



Don Webb
WindFarmers Energy

"When I played junior football against Macorna, we only knew of wind mills that pumped water from dams. Then when I started in this industry, turbines were small and limited to the windiest sites along the coast. Now with modern technology accessing good wind speeds at greater heights, site viability drivers have shifted more toward low construction costs, scale and grid connection opportunity – all key aspects of the Macorna project.

It's great to be back at Macorna, and be partnering with a major player in Atmos to bring some real benefits to the club and community."



September 2025

Why here?

- Reliable wind speeds across flat, cleared farming land
- Close to existing and proposed electricity infrastructure
- Within the proposed North West Renewable Energy Zone

Only a small part of the 30,000 hectare investigation area would host turbines and infrastructure. The vast majority of the land will continue to be used exclusively for existing agricultural practices.

Turbine layout

The turbine layout, and associated development footprint, will be informed by extensive technical studies and community engagement.

Design of the project will also be undertaken in close collaboration with landowners to ensure impacts to existing farm practices, including irrigation infrastructure, is reduced as far as possible.

As part of the environmental assessment and planning process and to inform the turbine layout, extensive technical assessments are conducted. Atmos will share an initial layout with the community later this year, subject to finalisation of these studies.

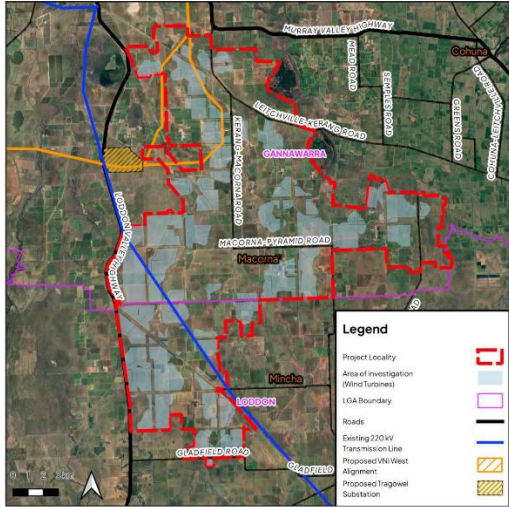


Figure 1: Map of the proposed Macorna Wind Farm (September 2025).



September 2025

Community

We're here to develop this project together.

We know large projects like Macorna Wind Farm affect real people and real places. That's why we're committed to working with communities from the start, listening carefully and developing planning solutions that reflect local priorities.

Whether you're a Traditional Custodian, a resident, a business owner, or a local organiser, your knowledge and experience can help us design a better project that fits in with your community.

In the meantime, here's how to stay informed:

- Visit our website for regular updates
- Contact us directly - we're happy to chat by phone, email or in person
- Join our mailing list



Next steps

2023-2025: Early feasibility

2025-2026: Technical studies, referrals and engagement

2026-2027: Planning approval and design

2028: Grid connection

2029: Construct on (subject to approvals)

2030: Operations (subject to approvals)

Share your thoughts

The best outcomes happen when locals are involved early.

By sharing your knowledge, you can help:

- Respect culture and heritage
- Avoid issues and risks
- Shape benefit-sharing programs for locals
- Design smarter traffic and access plans
- Protect farming activities and local events
- Support what's most important to your community.



Atmos RENEWABLES



WINDFARMERS ENERGY GROUP

Atmos is a developer, owner, and operator of utility-scale renewable energy generators across the Australian National Electricity Market. We are Australia's fifth largest renewable energy generator and own or hold an interest in seventeen operational Australian wind and solar farms.

Our mission is to be part of the solution to decarbonising Australia's electricity network by building and operating a portfolio of renewable energy generation and storage assets while achieving positive environmental outcomes and lasting relationships with local communities.

WindFarmers Energy Group was established for the purpose of developing the Macorna Wind Farm. Originated by Graham Webb as the land and farming interface and community liaison and Don Webb to support viability, design, planning, partnering and execution.

Get in touch

We know projects like this affect real people and real places. Please get in touch with any questions, concerns or ideas.

www.atmosrenewables.com.au

MacornaWF@atmosrenewables.com.au



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Neighbour newsletter distributed in February 2026.



Welcome to the first Neighbour Newsletter on the Macorna Wind Farm.

This newsletter is part of our commitment to keep neighbours informed about project planning and community engagement. We intend to issue newsletters when key milestones are reached.

The next scheduled update will likely be in June, following the Environment Effects Statement (EES) referral decision. Our aim is to share clear, relevant information about the project's progress and opportunities for engagement.

Over the coming months, you will also likely see advertising for local meet and greet events in the Loddon Herald and Gannawarra Times.

Kind regards,
The Macorna Wind Farm Project Team

2025 consultation summary

Throughout 2025, the project team spoke with neighbours, local residents and community groups to gather feedback on project design and information needs.

We appreciate everyone who shared their views. We heard there was an emphasis on keeping benefit sharing holistic and focused on delivering long-term benefit to neighbours and the community. We also heard concerns about protecting local fauna and birds.

This feedback has been valuable in shaping how we prioritise studies and communication going forward. Ongoing dialogue remains a priority as the project progresses through planning and approvals.



Sponsorship to date

- Kerang Show**
Platinum Sponsor - \$2,000
- Macorna Football and Netball Club**
Resurfacing netball courts - \$25,000
- Northern District Community Health**
 - Investing in community nursing, additional 0.5 days of community nursing for a full year - \$20,000
 - Fitout of the Pyramid Hill Community Hub - \$25,500

Planning process

Macorna Wind Farm is continuing through the planning and assessment phase required before construction can proceed.

The project team is preparing documentation for formal referrals and advancing technical studies. We anticipate providing further details on timelines for referral lodgement and approvals in our next Neighbour Newsletter.

A preliminary turbine layout map has also been developed to support upcoming planning referrals. This layout is indicative and may change as environmental assessments are completed and additional feedback is incorporated.

We plan to share the latest draft map with neighbours ahead of next major engagement materials.

If you would like to discuss how the layout relates to your property or area, please contact the project engagement team.

Environmental assessments

A series of environmental surveys and assessments are either complete or progressing across the Macorna Wind Farm site.

Assessments completed or underway include:

- Flora and fauna studies
- Bird and bat surveys
- Landscape and visual assessments
- Shadow flicker analysis
- Traffic, cultural heritage, and surface water assessments.

Findings from these assessments will inform the project's planning referrals and will be shared as they become available.

Next steps

- EES referral decision expected in 2026
- Release of the preliminary turbine layout
- Environmental surveys (autumn-winter)
- New local engagement opportunities

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Get in touch

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www.macornawindfarm.com.au

Neighbour newsletter distributed in April 2026.



Environment Effects Statement (EES) Referral Lodgement

The Macorna Wind Farm is currently in the process of carefully considering impacts on neighbours, landholders and the local environment.

We are now preparing to lodge an Environment Effects Statement (EES) Referral with the Victorian Government. This is an important early step to determine whether an EES is required and what assessments may be needed. The EES referral will include:

- The project details and its potential impacts
- The impact assessments completed to date
- Assessment against the EES criteria

Following lodgement, the Minister will decide if the project requires an EES and what further studies are needed.

Community Engagement

Coffee drop-ins

We look forward to buying you a coffee and discussing the latest news on the project.

Come by and have a chat anytime between 9:00am and 12:00pm on:

- Tuesday 14 April** - Chino's on Victoria, Kerang
- Wednesday 15 April** - Coffee Bank, Pyramid Hill

See you soon!

How the layout was developed

The project layout has been refined over time to balance energy generation with environmental and community considerations.

Environmental assessments

- Ecology and biodiversity studies
- Cultural heritage assessments
- Landscape and visual impact analysis
- Preliminary noise modelling

Technical investigations

- Wind resource monitoring
- Topography and land constraints
- Grid connection
- Aviation and safety requirements

Landholder engagement

- Ongoing discussions with host and neighbouring landholders
- Consideration of property access and operational impacts

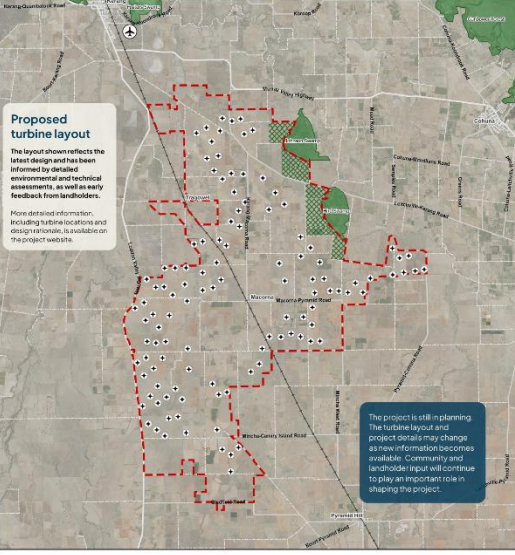
This process is ongoing. Further refinements may occur as additional studies and consultation are completed.

If you have any enquiries about EES or any information in this update, please reach out to Graham Webb (0455 337 579) (graham@windfarmers.com.au) or Don Webb (0423 454 258) (dong@windfarmers.com.au).

What happens next

After referral submission:

- The referral will be made publicly available
- Government agencies will review the project
- A decision is issued by the Minister for Planning



Proposed turbine layout

The layout shown reflects the latest design and has been informed by detailed environmental and technical assessments, as well as early feedback from landholders.

More detailed information, including turbine locations and design proposals, is available on the project website.

The project is still in planning. The turbine layout and project details may change as new information becomes available. Community and landholder input will continue to play an important role in shaping the project.

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Planning | Engagement | Strategy

Cogency provides planning, environmental assessment and stakeholder engagement services for the renewable energy, property, clean tech and circular economy sectors.

Our collaborative teams bring a uniquely nuanced understanding of planning processes and the technical aspects of renewable energy property, infrastructure and circular economy projects, which helps to build a strong rapport and trust with local community members and stakeholders.

Unlike many in-house engagement and planning teams that are managed separately, our planners work in collaboration with our engagement practitioners to ensure that stakeholder and community consultation is at the heart of the planning process and a critical tool for delivering positive outcomes for our clients.

www.cogencyaustralia.com.au
