Wattle Creek Energy Hub

Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which this Project is located, being the Gundungurra people, and recognise their continuing connection to land, water and community.

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Document Control

Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Definition
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
AEMO	Australian Energy Market Operator
AEMC	Australian Energy Market Commission
AER	Australian Energy Regulator
BESS	Battery Energy Storage System
CEC	Clean Energy Council
CER	Clean Energy Regulator
CO_2	Carbon dioxide
CSEP	Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan
CPI	Consumer price index
DPE, Department	NSW Department of Planning & Environment
EIS	Environmental impact statement
EMFs	Electric and Magnetic Fields
EPA	NSW Environmental Protection Authority
FAQs	Frequently Asked Questions
FTE	Full Time Equivalent
GW	Giga Watt
IAP2	International Association for Public Participation
IPC	Independent Planning Commission
km	Kilometre(s)
kV	Kilovolt
LALC	Local Aboriginal Land Council
LGA	Local Government Area
MP	Member of Parliament
MW	Megawatt
NBN	National Broadband Network
NEM	National Electricity Market
NSW	New South Wales
PCU	Power conditioning unit
RtS	Response to Submissions
SEARs	Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements
SIA	Social Impact Assessment
SSD	State Significant Development
VIC	Victoria

1.Introduction

1.1. Purpose

This Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan (CSEP) outlines the methods and tools for effective engagement with stakeholders through the planning, development, construction, operation and decommissioning of the proposed Wattle Creek Energy Hub Project (or "the **Project**"), proposed by Spark Renewables Pty Limited ("**Spark Renewables**" or "the **Proponent**").This is a live document to be updated and revised as the Project progresses.

1.2. Distribution

The document is internal for use by Spark Renewables and any consulting parties that have been engaged to work on the Project. An external public document will also be developed and included as part of the submission for the Development Consent.

1.3. Engagement Objectives

Spark Renewables aims to increase community acceptance of the Project (the social licence to operate) by undertaking effective and ongoing community engagement through the Project assessment phases.

The CSEP has the following key objectives:

- To utilise appropriate methods to inform the community about the Project and provide updates on Project progress
- To develop trusted relationships with stakeholders through open and transparent communication and engagement
- To ensure the community has a voice in the process and their input is used to inform the social and environmental assessment for the Project and ongoing project design and planning, including the development of community benefit sharing programs.
- To ensure the broader community and stakeholders are kept informed about potential impacts, benefits, and activities associated with the Project.
- To ensure that commitments made to the community in the Project development stage are met.

The above objectives are in line with the NSW Department's *Undertaking Engagement – Guidance for State Significant Projects (2021)* community participation objectives for engaging on State Significant Development projects (refer to Figure 1 below).

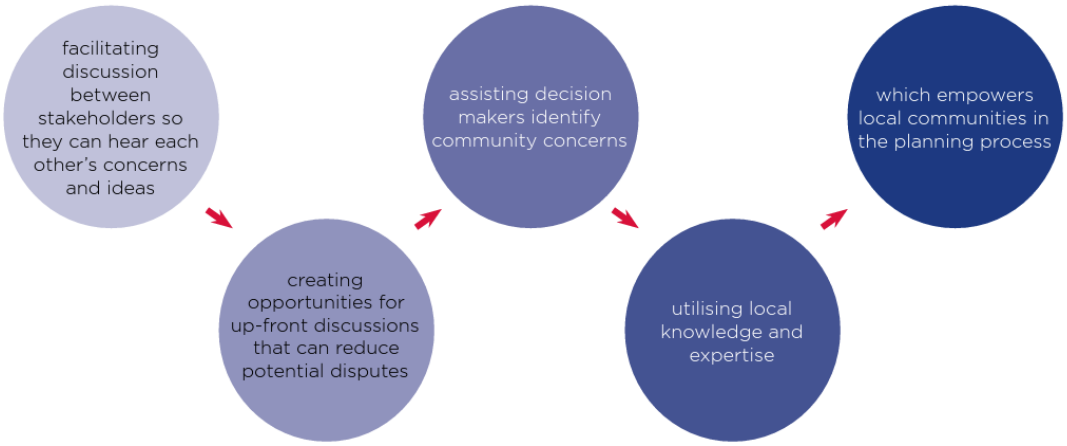


Figure 1 Community Participation Objectives (Community Participation Plan (DPE, 2019)

This CSEP identifies:

- Relevant local community and regulatory stakeholders to be engaged
- Perceived impacts (positive and negative) related to each stakeholder group
- Engagement mechanisms to meaningfully involve different stakeholder groups
- Key Project messages
- Engagement timing
- Responsibilities, and
- Protocols for ongoing consultation and evaluation.

The 10 commitments of the Best Practice Charter for Community Engagement (Clean Energy Council, 2021) have also been considered in the development of the CSEP.

1.4. Governance

The Project is State Significant Development (SSD) and will require development consent under the NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act (EP&A Act). The project will involve the submission of two development applications, one for each component of the Project - solar and BESS - which are each to be accompanied by a detailed Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), that will identify relevant Project impacts and management strategies.

A detailed Social Impact Assessment (SIA) will also be prepared for each component of the project as a component of each of the Project EIS's. The SIA's will be informed by a comprehensive community engagement program, which is outlined within this CSEP, and be prepared in accordance with the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE or 'the Department') *Social Impact Assessment Guideline for State Significant Projects (2021)* and 'Undertaking Engagement – Guidance for State Significant Projects' (2021). These guidelines note that respectful, inclusive, and meaningful engagement is a fundamental part of project planning and development. Engagement with affected communities and stakeholders provides first-hand insight into what people value and how they expect a project to affect them. The community will also have formal opportunities to be engaged on the project in line with the Department's Community Participation Plan (2019).

The Project may also require approval under the federal Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act).

1.5. Industry Best Practice

Spark Renewables is committed to engaging respectfully and transparently with community stakeholders throughout the lifecycle of the Project. Spark Renewables is committed to addressing significant environmental, social and cultural impacts and in facilitating positive social and economic outcomes in the regions in which it operates.

As a member of the industry's peak body – the Clean Energy Council (CEC) - Spark Renewables is signatory to the voluntary set of commitments outlined in the Community Engagement Best Practice Charter for Renewable Energy Developments (CEC, 2018). In line with this charter, when developing, constructing, and operating projects, Spark Renewables will:

1. 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.
2. Provide timely information and be accessible and responsive in addressing the local community's feedback and concerns throughout the life of the project.
3. Be sensitive to areas of high biodiversity, cultural and landscape value in the design and operation of projects.
4. Minimise the impacts on highly productive agricultural land and explore opportunities to integrate agricultural production.
5. Consult the community on the potential visual, noise, traffic, and other impacts of the project, and on the mitigation options.
6. Support the local economy by providing local employment, training, and procurement opportunities.

7. Offer communities the opportunity to share in the benefits of the Project, and consult them on the options available, including the relevant governance arrangements.
8. Commit to using the Project to support educational and tourism opportunities where appropriate.
9. 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.
10. During the life of the project, recycle waste materials where feasible and commit to responsible decommissioning or refurbishment/repowering of the site at the end of the Project's life.

Further, the document addresses the Clean Energy Council's *Community Engagement Guideline (2018)*, which builds on the International Association for Public Participation's (IAP2) participation spectrum. The spectrum outlines levels of participation that define the public's role in public participation processes, from the provision of information (inform) through to increasing levels of collaboration and empowerment, as outlined below.

Inform – the public has access to the information about the Project and potential impacts on them.

Consult – the public can provide suggestions and feedback about the Project.

Involve – their material concerns relating to the Project are directly addressed in risk mitigation plan.

Collaborate – their advice and suggested alternatives are incorporated in the Project to the maximum extent possible.

Empower – they make the final decision that will be implemented in the Project.

1.6. Planning process

There are eight phases within the planning process. Community consultation outcomes during this process will inform the ongoing project design and assessment processes in the preparation of the Scoping Report, Social Impact Assessment, and in the preparation and exhibition of the EIS.

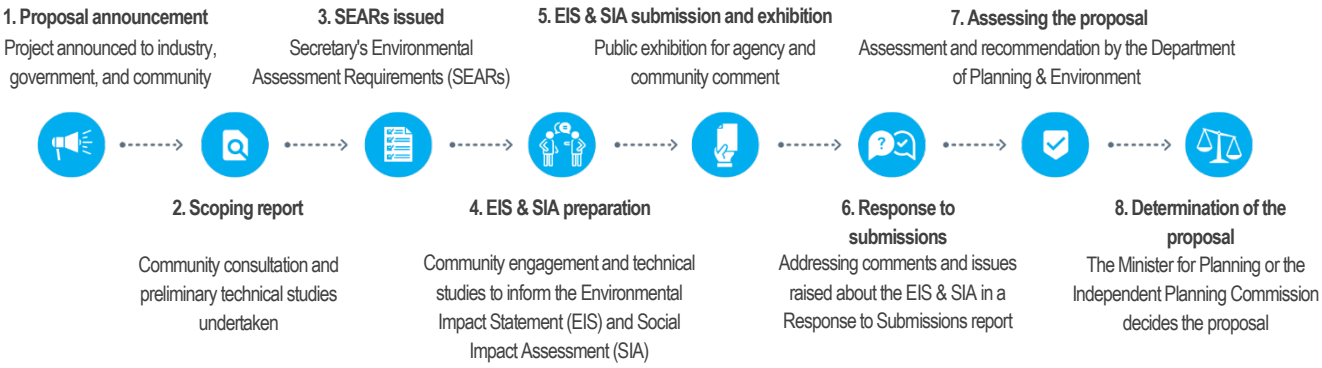


Figure 2 Planning and assessment process for state significant development in NSW

1.7. Roles and responsibilities

Spark Renewables has ultimate responsibility and accountability to ensure that the Project is developed, designed, built, operated, and decommissioned in accordance with the Project's Development Consent. Spark Renewables has engaged Umwelt Environmental and Social Consultants ("Umwelt") to develop the EISs and SIAs for the project, and thus, Umwelt also have responsibilities related to the implementation of the stakeholder engagement program in line with the CSEP.

Table 1 Key roles related to communication and stakeholder engagement

Organisation	Role	Responsibilities and authorities
Spark Renewables	Senior Development Manager	– Overall management of community and public relations during development. – Face-to-face consultation, meetings, phone calls and correspondence with community members and stakeholders. – Run public information drop-in sessions. – Ensuring that issues are responded to quickly and mitigated where possible. – Local media interviews.
	Development Manager	– Assistance with research and management of stakeholder database.
	Senior Development Engineer	– Provide figures and maps to assist with stakeholder communication.
	Communications Manager	– Maintenance and updating of the Project website. – Prepare and distribute public information materials (e.g. newsletters and media releases.
	Head of Development	– Provide oversight to community engagement activities.
	Head of Legal and Community	– Provide community engagement support and compliance oversight on engagement activities.
	Head of Renewables	– Overall accountability for obtaining and maintaining the social licence to operate, and reputation. – High profile/national media interviews.
Local Community Liaison	Community liaison	– Assistance with face-to-face consultation, meetings and phone calls with community members and stakeholders. – Review of public information materials.
Environmental Consultants (Umwelt)	Environmental assessment	– Provide technical information to assist Spark Renewables to prepare communication collateral, project updates, respond to stakeholder holder enquiries and review key messages as appropriate to ensure it meets technical requirements. – Assistance with figures and maps to assist with stakeholder communication.
Social Impact Consultants (Umwelt)	Social impact assessment and associated engagement	– Assist Spark Renewables with the preparation and delivery of engagement materials – Collaborate with Spark Renewables to deliver targeted engagement to support the development and delivery of a social impact assessment and associated inputs.

2 Project overview

2.1 Project scope

Key aspects of the Project (as of September 2022) are provided below.

Table 2 Project scope (September 2022)

Proponent	Spark Renewables is a developer, and long-term owner and operator of renewable energy assets. The company's operational portfolio includes the 100 MW Bowmen Solar Farm near Wagga Wagga, which commenced operations in 2020, alongside a diversified portfolio of wind, solar and storage developments, in excess of 5 gigawatts (GW). Spark Renewables is owned by the Spark Infrastructure Group, an owner of critical energy assets, including generation, transmission, and distribution infrastructure across Australia.
Project generation capacity	The Wattle Creek Energy Hub has a proposed solar generation capacity of 265 MW(ac), and an 800MW Battery Energy Storage System (up to 2 hours storage).
Components	Solar farm:490,000 modules Battery Energy Storage System: 416 containerised PCUs
Annual power	Up to 80,000 houses powered annually[1] and offsetting up to approximately 380,000 tonnes of CO2 emissions annually[2].
Grid connection	Direct connection into the Marulan 300kV/132kV substation owned by Transgrid. The site is located adjacent to the substation.
Community	Proposed establishment of a community benefit sharing program to support the local community.
Contact & receiving information	Project website www.wattlecreekenergyhub.com Project email info@wattlecreekenergyhub.com Phone 1300 271 419

The Project is strategically located to take advantage of the existing electricity transmission network.

The Project Site is located within a rural setting, with the site itself, adjacent properties and the broader locality currently used for agriculture and research by the University of Sydney. Agricultural land use will continue as an agrisolar system, through the integration of grazing during operation and agricultural rehabilitation following decommissioning. The site is in proximity to the Hume Highway and there are a number of potential sensitive receivers located in a new housing estate, Equinox Marulan, and Holcim's Lynwood Quarry located proximal to the Project site.

Initial investigations associated with the Wattle Creek Energy Hub included consideration of wind, solar and battery energy storage system (BESS) technology. However, Spark Renewables have decided not to proceed with the wind farm component of the Project due to recorded wind speeds indicating a low wind resource; and will proceed with developing the solar farm and BESS components only.

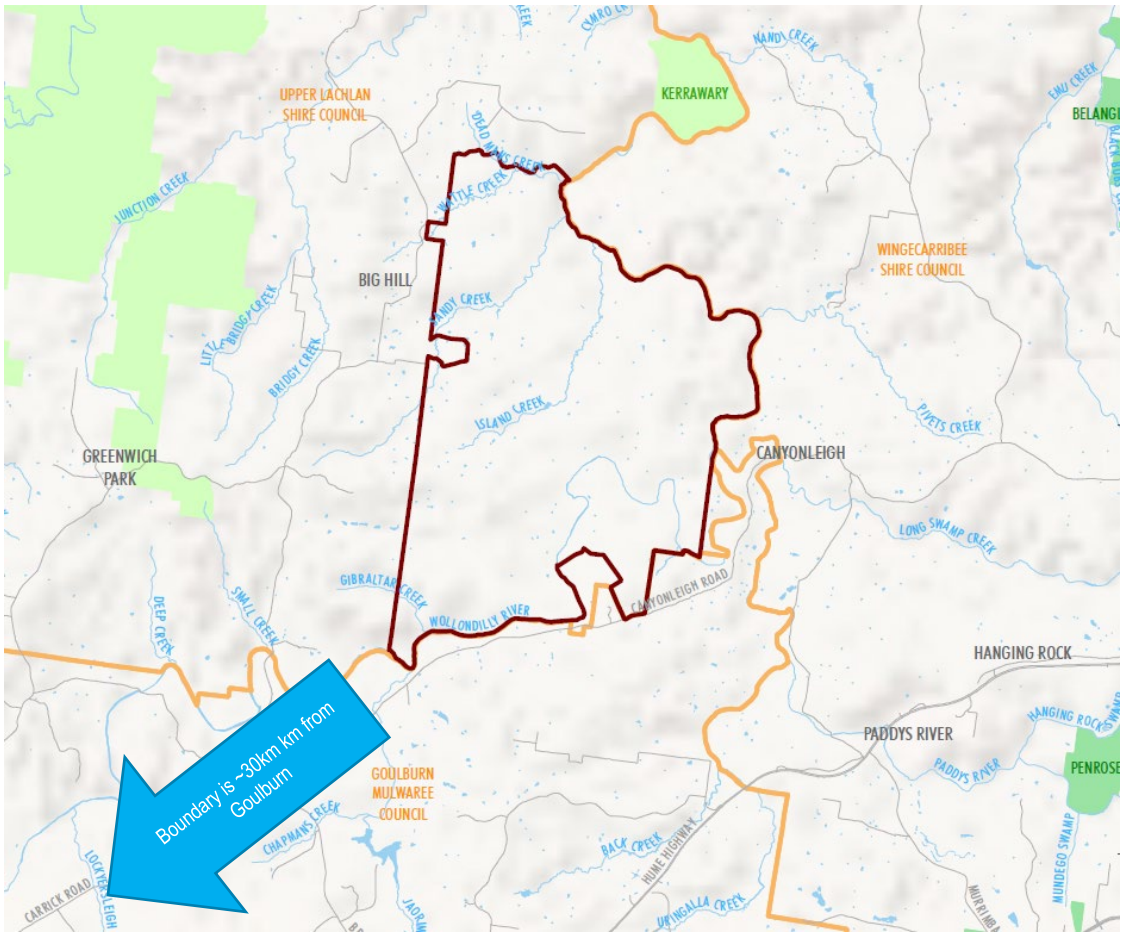
2.2 Project location

The Project is proposed to be located east of Big Hill, which is approximately 25 kilometres (km) south-east of the Taralga township, 20km to the north of the Marulan township, 30km north-east of the rural city of Goulburn and 7km north of the

[1] Based on household consumption of 6700kWh/year.
[2] National Greenhouse Accounts Factors (DCCEEW, 2021).

M31 Hume Highway. The Hume Highway is an important national highway, connecting Melbourne and Sydney. The Project falls within the Upper Lachlan Local Government Area (LGA), with the bordering LGAs including Wingecarribee LGA to the east and Goulburn-Mulwaree LGA to the south.

Figure 3 The project site is located in the Upper Lachlan LGA



Community Context

Upper Lachlan Shire is a local government area in the Southern Tablelands region of New South Wales. The Shire was formed in February 2004 from Crookwell Shire and parts of Mulwaree, Gunning and Yass Shires. The Shire has a population of 8,514 (ABS, 2021) and covers an area of approximately 7,200km^2. Upper Lachlan is a regional area that is known for its quaint villages, fine wool and potato production, windfarms, local history and its picturesque countryside.

Goulburn Mulwaree LGA, bordering the Project boundary to the south, is more populous than Upper Lachlan Shire, with a current population of 32,053, but covering a smaller area (approximately 3,220km^2). The township of Goulburn, is the largest town in the LGA, accounting for 24,565 of the total population. Goulburn was historically a regional centre dependent on a large railway workshop, wool stores, and textile mills. Today, Goulburn hosts a diverse industry that includes IT, communications, retail, distribution and logistics, engineering, mines, renewable energy and commercial precincts.

Big Hill and Taralga have significantly smaller populations than Goulburn (78 and 403 respectively). Marulan, located to the south of the Project area, has a slightly larger population, currently 1,428, and is home to 4 quarries. Given the nature of this industry, it is not surprising that road freight transport, construction material mining and site preparation services are the top three industries of employment, accounting for a total of 11.1% of total employment.

Wingecarribee LGA, bordering the Project to the east, is the most populous LGA, with a population of 52,709. The major townships within the LGA include Bowral, Moss Vale, Mittagong, and Bundanoon. The LGA also has a semi-rural landscape, characterised by small towns and villages (Wingecarribee Shire Council, 2022).

The site is located within the boundaries of the Pejar Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC). The Pejar LALC was established in 1977 and sits within the Wiradjuri region. The Traditional Owners are recognised as the Gundungurra People, with Wingecarribee also acknowledging the Tharwal People as Traditional Owners in the shire area.

Renewable energy has been recognised within both local and regional plans as an area for future investment, with the Upper Lachlan Shire LGA Regional Economic Development Strategy 2018-2022 identifying the need for a plan for renewable energy that benefits the community. Similarly, the Southeast and Tablelands Regional Plan 2036 (NSW Planning and Environment, 2017), in which the three LGA's sit, has a clear direction to position the region as a hub for renewable energy to ensure a connected and prosperous economy.

Characteristics of Upper Lachlan Shire LGA	Characteristics of Goulburn- Milwaree LGA	Characteristics of Wingcarribee LGA	Considerations for Engagement
Median age 49 years	Median age 41years	Median age 48 years	A higher than state average median age suggests more personal face-to-face mechanisms may be more suitable to facilitate engagement e.g., telephone surveys, personal meetings. Likely to have an interest in the Project.
81.2% of housing owned outright/with a mortgage compared to 64.0% in NSW	67.5 of housing owned outright/with a mortgage	77.1% of housing owned outright/with a mortgage	Landholders are likely to be more invested in outcomes of the Project/concerned about the impacts on their property and livelihoods
Significantly low rate (2.5%) of Languages other than English (LOTE) spoken in the home, compared to 29.5% in NSW.	8.0% of households speak a LOTE in Goulburn Mulwaree	9.5% of households speak a LOTE in Wingecarribee	Low proportion of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse communities suggests it is unlikely to require translation of materials into other languages.
The site is located near multiples other proposed renewable projects.			There may be a chance of consultation fatigue, as well as high levels of interest in renewable energy development projects.
Upper Lachlan Shire (21.9%) and Wingecarribee (18%) have significantly higher rates of volunteering than the state average (13%) and Goulburn-Mulwaree (13.8%).			Volunteering rates are used as an indicator of how well connected and cohesive a community is. High rates suggest that there may be a fast spread of information throughout the community and investment in the sense of community in the local area.
80.1% had the same address one year ago, and 60.7% had the same address five years ago.	77.4% one year prior and 53.4% five years prior to the census	79.7% one year prior and 53.5% five years prior	Low household mobility rates are indicators of how established and invested

			people are in their local community.
Upper Lachlan Shire has an unemployment rate of 3.9%, slightly lower than the state average. Sheep and beef cattle farming accounts for 18% of total employment in the LGA.	Goulburn Mulwaree has a significantly higher unemployment rate (7.9%) than the other LGA's and the State (4.1%). Top industries of employment are largely focused around the provision of healthcare / social assistance (accounting for 10.2%).	In contrast to the other LGA's, Wingecarribee has recently seen a decline in unemployment, currently sitting at 2.7%. The largest industry of employment Aged care and residential services (3%), hospitals (3%), followed by cafes and restaurants (2.9%).	Opportunities for the Project to provide employment and/or contractor/supplier opportunities may be limited due to the existing skills profile and a limited labour pool. Collaboration with local Council, employment services and business groups will be key to maximise opportunities.

Potential Concerns

In recent times, proposed renewable energy projects across NSW have had diverse responses from local communities in relation to their perceived environmental and social impacts. Following a preliminary review of submission reports and other publicly available documentation on nearby renewable energy projects within the region, we understand the following key local issues to be of importance in the planning and potential development of the Project:

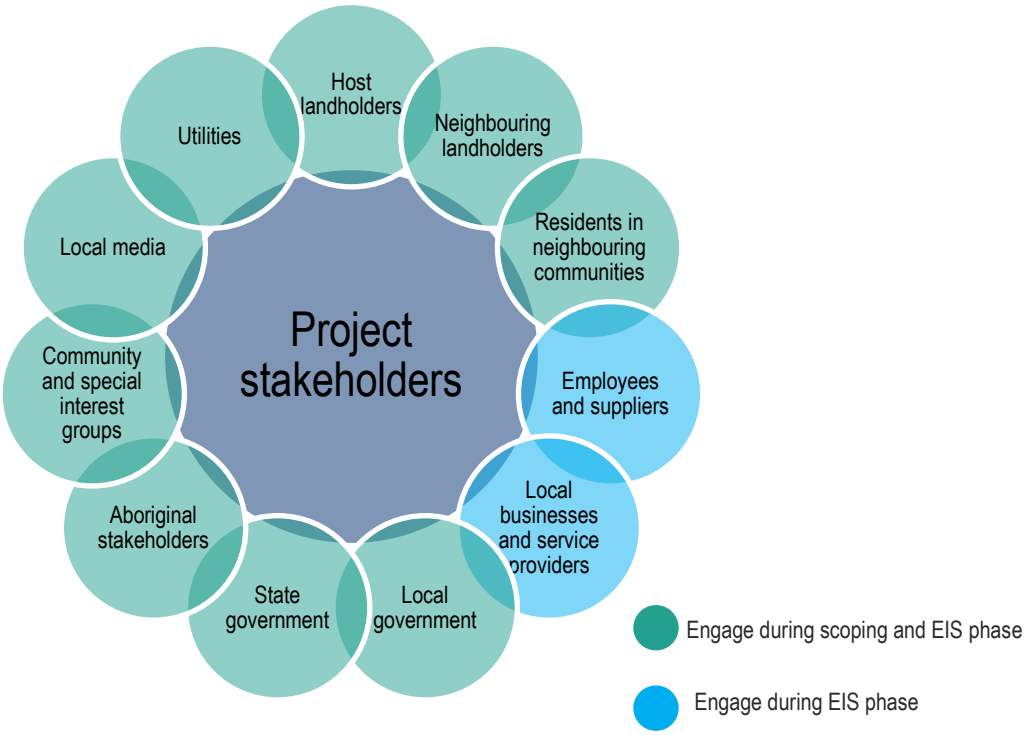
- Visual impact on social amenity due to view lines.
- Land use conflict due to renewables development in productive agricultural areas, with land primarily used for grazing.
- Perceived public health and safety concerns of neighbouring residents associated with Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMFs), radiation, hazardous materials, sleep disturbance from noise impacts and heat generation and flow on effects on livestock e.g., cattle and sheep.
- Concern regarding the management of project land and the potential spread of noxious weeds to surrounding properties.

There are a number of key aspects of the Project that would benefit from the input from community members and key stakeholders, namely:

- Design of the solar farm and BESS
- Identification of potential Project impacts to inform investigations for the EIS and SIA
- Suggestions for mitigation and enhancement measures to manage the Project's potential impacts
- Preferred methods and tools for ongoing engagement with the community and key stakeholders
- Community and stakeholder benefit-sharing programs and initiatives.

3 Stakeholders

Spark Renewables will consult widely as part of the planning and EIS/SIA for the Project, and throughout the construction, operation, and decommissioning phases of the Project. Stakeholder groups include but are not limited to:



The contact details of individual stakeholders and organisations will be kept securely by Spark Renewables in a database (Simply Stakeholders). Table 6 in 'Appendix A' of this document outlines the stakeholders of relevance to the Project, their potential issues of concern or interest in the proposed Project, and the primary responsibility holder for stakeholder relationships.

5.1 Engagement tools and methods

A range of online, in-person and offline tools and methods may be used to communicate with and engage the community and other stakeholders during the Project. Face-to-face activities will be subject to any public health orders in effect at the scheduled time of delivery. Tools and methods utilised will, where possible, reflect the preferences of the community and may be modified in response to stakeholder feedback and to ensure that the engagement program is meetings its objectives.

All engagement data obtained through consultation will be stored in Simply Stakeholders, an online secure platform to record engagement outcomes with Project stakeholders, and in order to keep track of commitments made and suggestions or issues raised.

Table 7 Tools for engagement and indicative participation level

Tool/Method	Detail	Participation level
Advertising	Advertising in local newspapers and radio stations to advise of upcoming consultation opportunities and provide Project updates.	Inform

Tool/Method	Detail	Participation level
Briefings	Formal letters, phone calls, and face-to-face or virtual meetings with key stakeholders including MPs, councillors and council staff to provide updates on the Project.	Inform
Community contact cards	Business card provided to specialists and contractors to give to community stakeholders if approached.	Inform
Community Newsletters	Project information distributed by email or in hard copy to registered stakeholders.	Inform
Door-knocks	Project representatives go door-to-door to speak with impacted landowners and neighbours and/or provide them with Project materials.	Inform Consult
Drop-in sessions	Multi-hour time periods when stakeholders can drop in to speak to the Project team and experts, view documents and plans and ask questions.	Inform Consult
Email inbox	A dedicated Project email address (info@wattlecreekenergyhub.com) for managing community and stakeholder correspondence.	Inform
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)	A generalised brochure (both online, sent to emails, and handed out at information sessions) responding to common questions from the community regarding project impacts, benefits, mitigation efforts, and technology.	Inform
Letterbox drops or unaddressed mail	Unaddressed collateral containing information about the Project delivered by the Project team or Australia Post.	Inform
Letters	Addressed mail containing information, clarification, response or request to a particular household, business or individual.	Inform
Media releases/statements	Proactive or responsive media announcements distributed to the media outlets and other key stakeholders to provide updates on the development application process, reaching Project milestones, address concerns, and clarify information.	Inform
Meetings	One-on-one or small group meetings to discuss Project issues and concerns in more detail.	Inform Consult Involve Collaborate
Phone line	A dedicated number for stakeholders to contact Spark Renewables. The number is 1300 271 419.	Inform Consult
Photography	Photos, composites, concept and artist imagery can help illustrate processes and make technical information more accessible.	Inform
Pop-up stalls	An engagement booth/stall set up at community events and centres to engage and consult with stakeholders.	Inform Consult
Posters	Printed material visualising Project information such as location of the proposed site, background information of the proponent, technology overview, approximate timeline, steps in the planning process, milestones, potential studies required to address impacts to the environment,	Inform Consult

Tool/Method	Detail	Participation level
	construction activities, benefit-sharing options and mitigation of impacts on the community.	
Presentations/Project Briefings	A presentation about the Project delivered to a group of interested persons, club or committee on request or by invitation, provided in digital and written form.	Inform
Project overview	A high-level summary of the Project that includes the Project scope, location (including regional and locality maps), the strategic context and rationale for the Project, the Project's potential impacts and benefits, contact information for the Project team and information on the consultation process.	Inform
Signage	Identification, directional, informational, and regulatory signs, boards and banners used to inform and direct people around the Project site.	Inform
Stakeholder Database	A distribution list of contacts of individuals and/or organisations considered to be a relevant stakeholder to the Project.	Inform
Surveys	Online surveys to obtain input and feedback on Project decision-making.	Consult
Website	A website dedicated to the Project (www.wattlecreekenergyhub.com) including a description and overview of the Project, development application process, company information, responses to key concerns, risk management plans, maps, media releases and contact information.	Inform
Workshops	A structured method of working with groups of stakeholders to identify and suggest solutions for Project issues and concerns.	Inform Consult Involve

Delivery Plans

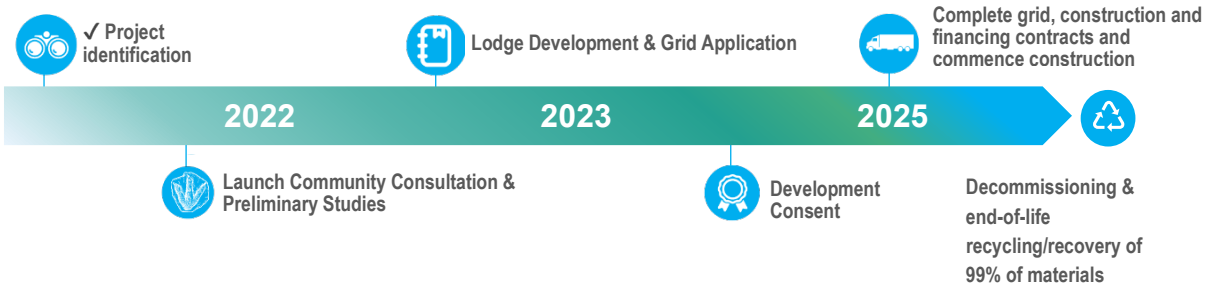
Spark Renewables has a high-level framework for the delivery of communication and engagement through the planning and assessment process for each stage of the Project, which has been developed in line with the SIA Guideline (the Department, 2021) and Community Engagement guideline (the Department, 2021). However, as the Project evolves, and based on stakeholder and community feedback, the delivery plans for the Project and/or stages may be updated. Therefore, all dates in the delivery plan are indicative and subject to change. Delivery plans for different Project phases are also included below and described in more detail in the appended tables.

Phase	Approach
Scoping phase: *Delivery plan for community engagement during the scoping phase*	Spark Renewables understands the role the NSW DPE plays in the SSD planning and approvals process and understands, that as part of the Application for SEARs it will: • consult with relevant government agencies and councils when preparing projects • publish the SEARs on the major projects website and notify the relevant councils • publish the SEARs on the major projects website (once issued).
EIS development phase: *Delivery plan from receipt of SEARs to lodgement of the EIS*	Engagement activities during the development of the EIS have been developed in line with the requirements in the SIA Guideline (the Department, 2021) and Community Engagement Guideline (the Department, 2021). Issues raised during engagement will inform the social and environmental assessments and the preparation of the EIS. Spark Renewables will continue to engage with the community, through various methods in order to understand people's perceived impacts, to appropriately manage identified social impacts, and to ensure an appropriate community benefit-sharing program is put in place to enhance positive impacts of the Project at the local community level.
EIS exhibition phase: *Lodgement of the EIS*	This engagement will build on the communication and stakeholder relationships formed during the Scoping and EIS development phases and will continue to provide information about the Project and seek feedback from the community and stakeholders on the EIS. The EIS will be placed on public exhibition for a period of at least 28 days, or as per any requirements outlined in the SEARs, and may be extended on request and with the agreement of Spark Renewables. During the exhibition period, any stakeholder may make a written submission on the EIS and lodge this with the Department through the NSW Government Major Projects website. The formal feedback process in this phase will be managed by the Department in line with their Community Participation Plan (2019).
Response to Submissions: *Engagement following exhibition of the EIS*	Following the exhibition period, Spark Renewables will respond to submissions received during exhibition. Once the EIS has been assessed and a decision determined for the Project, Spark Renewables will seek clarification from the Department about any aspects of the approval that are unclear. Post approval, Spark Renewables will continue to engage with the community, relevant council and government agencies during the pre-construction, construction, operation and decommissioning of the Project (and/or rehabilitation of the site) in line with the development consent conditions of approval.

3.1 Project timeline

There is a rigorous process for assessing State Significant Developments (SSD) under NSW planning legislation. Community and stakeholder engagement is a critical component of this process; with opportunities for community and stakeholder input during preparation of the Scoping Report, preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), in the public exhibition phase and, if approved, during construction of the Project.

Figure 3 Indicative milestones for the Project



4 Benefit-sharing

Spark Renewables is looking to work with the community to co-design a program that meets the unique needs of the wider community, and delivers long-lasting social, economic and environmental benefits for decades to come, Table 3 and Table 4 outline preliminary commitments to the program that will be further refined throughout the planning and assessment process.

Table 3 Cash commitments

Criteria	Per annum	Project life[3]
Community and neighbours	$50,000 (CPI adjusted)	~$2 million
Research and education	$100,000 (CPI adjusted)	~$4 million
Enhanced access, bushfire management and stock-proofing security	N.a.	~$10 million

Table 4 Research and education in-kind commitments

Criteria	Research and education commitments
Other in-kind commitments	– Spark Renewables Project Manager to participate as a member of the University of Sydney steering body. – Extensive sharing of data.
Hosting Interns and Researchers	– Students and researchers could either be hosted locationally at the Project, or at the Spark Renewables' office in Manly. – Educational opportunities.
Sharing data	– Meteorological, plant performance and SCADA data. – Historical and ongoing survey data from bird, bat and environmental monitoring. – Construction contract information. – All environmental studies and management plans. – Graphic mapping and plant design data, including site infrastructure and environmental constraints.

[3] Calculated using assumptions of 33 years and CPI average rate of 2%.

Key messages

Key messages (for external purposes) and quotes will be developed and refined throughout the EIS process, around the following critical message categories and will be used to inform the engagement strategy and material development:

- Top message – the headline message that characterises the Project in one sentence and provides a memorable feature for the audience.
- Proponent – details on Spark Renewables, its background and development, activities in NSW, Australia and internationally.
- Project – details on the site and plans, quick facts and profile of the proposed Project.
- Process – the development planning and assessment process, including community consultation and key EIS milestones including submission, public exhibition, and determination.
- Issues and benefits – key issues in relation to the Project i.e., social, and environmental issues, interests, or concerns.

Top Message

- Project is strategically located to provide energy security to critical electrical infrastructure including the Sydney transmission ring.
- Solar and BESS layout utilises the least productive land onsite and sheep will continue to graze beneath the solar panels.
- The project is well screened by surrounding topography and vegetation.

Suggested Proponent Messages

- Spark Renewables is a leading developer, long-term owner, and operator of renewable energy projects in Australia. The Spark Renewables portfolio comprises the Bomen Solar Farm, operational since 2020, and is currently developing in excess of 7GW of solar, wind, and renewable storage projects across the National Electricity Market, including the Dinawan Energy Hub.
- Spark Renewables is owned by the Spark Infrastructure Group – an owner of leading essential energy infrastructure, including generation, transmission and distribution infrastructure across Australia
- Spark Renewables is a NSW based company, primarily operating in NSW and SA.
- Spark Renewables is a member of the Clean Energy Council (CEC) and a signatory to the CEC's Best Practice Charter for Renewable Energy Developments.
- Spark Renewables is committed to energy system stability, reliability and minimising costs to customers as well as contributing to long-term sustainability and adding value to communities by investing in renewable energy infrastructure.
- Spark Renewables is focussed on providing local employment opportunities and giving back to the local community by establishing community funds to provide long-term, distributed benefits equitably across the community.

Suggested Project Messages

- Spark Renewables are proposing to develop a renewable energy hub, including solar and BESS on a site approximately 25km south-east of Taralga, and 30km north-east of the rural city of Goulburn.
- The project area is currently operated commercially and is used for a range of research initiatives including animal science, pasture agronomy and unmanned aerial vehicle applications. Agricultural land use will continue with the operation of the project, with sheep grazing within the solar farm areas.
- The areas within the project area associated with Solar will continue as an agrisolar system through the integration of grazing during operation and agricultural rehabilitation following decommissioning
- The project would have an installed capacity of 1,065 MW, consisting of 265MW of solar capacity megawatts solar generation with an 800MW, 2hr battery energy storage system.

- The Project will have the capacity to power up to 80,000 houses annually, offsetting up to 380,000 million tonnes of CO_2 emissions annually.
- Site access points are still to be determined but are likely to follow existing entrances along Canyonleigh Road and to be upgraded to facilitate the delivery of construction materials and components.
- Temporary infrastructure would also be developed to support the construction of the Project, including site office buildings, storage areas and concrete batching plants.
- The project would generate up to 300 jobs during construction and sustain 10 direct jobs during its operational life span.
- Construction would commence as soon as possible after all environmental and regulatory assessments and approvals are received. Construction would last approximately 18 months.
- As part of the project, a research collaboration will be setup between Spark Renewables and the University of Sydney with a supporting fund for research initiatives focused on supporting the energy transition. Research initiatives will be in line with the Office of the NSW Chief Scientist & Engineer 20yr R&D road map titled: Shaping the future of NSW in science and technology (May 2022).
- This will include the development of a new Research Facility (or 'Test-bed'), which could be used to test innovative technologies, such as Gelion batteries, a spin-out company from the University of Sydney.

Suggested Process Messages

- The Wattle Creek Energy Hub is in the early stage of planning works. The three components will be assessed as separate State Significant Developments (SSDs) under Part 4 of the NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (the EP&A Act).
- The NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) is the State planning authority for the Project.
- The EP&A Act requires preliminary Scoping Reports to be prepared for each component and be submitted to the Department. The Department will then prepare and issue the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) to guide the development of each EIS.
- As part of Spark Renewables applications to the Department, Umwelt has been engaged to develop Scoping Reports to inform the assessment, that will include a number of technical studies to assess the potential impacts of the Project. These technical studies will include noise and vibration, visual amenity, shadow flicker, biodiversity, Aboriginal heritage, historical heritage, traffic and access, contamination, flooding and hydrology, soils, hazards (electromagnetic fields and interference (EMF/EMI), blade throw, bushfire and preliminary hazard analysis), waste, air quality, utilities, land use and social impact.
- Once complete, the Department will assess each EIS, considering all potential impacts across each component of the Project, and provide a determination on each component of the Project to Spark Renewables.
- The SIAs will assess the impact of the Project on people and communities. To inform the SIAs, Spark Renewables and Umwelt will consult with the community to understand their concerns, interests, issues, or the benefits that people perceive the Project may deliver. Spark Renewables will endeavour to undertake regular, open, and transparent engagement that is helpful and constructive and to ensure feedback is addressed in project design and planning.
- Spark Renewables and Umwelt will work closely with the host landholder, neighbouring landholders and property owners, Aboriginal community representatives, and the wider community, in addition to the Upper Lachlan Shire, Goulburn Mulwaree and the Wingecarribee Councils and NSW Government agencies, to gain a detailed understanding of the views, issues, and interests on the Project.
- Engagement to inform the Scoping Reports will occur from in November 2022, with the second round of engagement expected to take place during the preparation of the EIS's.
- Involvement of Traditional Custodians in project design and planning including guaranteed ongoing access to sites of Significance if relevant.
- Prior to the determination from the Department, the EISs will be made public, allowing for submission to be made by any member of the community or interested party. This gives the public and the wider community the opportunity to further contribute to the Project's assessment

4.1 Suggested Issues and Benefits Messages

Spark Renewables is committed to sharing the benefits of the Project with the community in a number of ways:

- The 265 MW Solar Farm will have the capacity to generate enough clean electricity each year to supply electricity to approximately 80,000 homes.
- The Project will be utilised as a training and research facility for interns and researchers at the University of Sydney, with the active sharing of data between Spark Renewables and the University of Sydney during its operational period.
- The Project will advance resource recovery solutions for end-of-life solar panels and other associated waste through research opportunities.
- The Project is expected to employ a construction workforce of approximately 200 people and generate an estimated 7 jobs during the operation phase.
- Where possible, Spark Renewables aims to source the construction workforce from the local area. Local service providers and suppliers will also have opportunities to contract services during the construction period.
- Additionally, Spark Renewables will endeavour to provide employment opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents of areas nearby the Project.
- Accommodation plans for construction workers will be formulated following the undertaking of the Scoping Report.
- Spark Renewables will conduct a community engagement process to refine the Project's design and embed local concerns and opportunities in the Project's planning and assessment.
- It is Spark Renewables' intent to develop an annual benefit fund for community and neighbours to provide a long-term positive contribution to the local community and to ensure benefits of the Project are shared locally.
- The Project will result in enhanced access roads that will also benefit bushfire management, river crossing, landscaping and stock-proofing security for local residents and property owners.
- The Project will support co-locational and mutually beneficial agri-solar grazing opportunities across the solar site.

5 Engagement throughout the planning process

Spark Renewables has a framework for the delivery of communication and engagement through the planning and assessment process. However, as the Project evolves, and based on stakeholder and community feedback, the delivery plans for the Project and/or stages may change. All dates in the delivery plan are indicative and may be subject to change.

Table 7 Delivery plan from Project announcement to lodgement of Scoping Report

Activity	Targeted stakeholder group	Objectives	Timing	Tasks	Responsibility
Meeting	the Department	Pre-scoping meeting with the Department to present the Project timeline and the draft CSEP for comment	September	Organise and attend meeting with the Department	Spark Renewables
Briefing letters	Council State MP Federal MP NSW Energy Minister AEMO CEO	To provide a Project overview, process, and timeline.	H1 2022	Develop and distribute briefing letters	Spark Renewables
Meetings, emails, phone calls	Host Landholder	To negotiate land access agreements for the Project site and gain feedback to inform the SIA.	Ongoing	Identify, undertake and record landholder engagement	Spark Renewables
Letters, meetings, emails, phone calls	Proximal landholders	To inform them of the project, share outcomes of studies, work to design project refinements and mitigation measures to address potential project impacts, negotiate neighbour agreements, gather information to inform the scoping and assessment of social impacts.	Ongoing	Identify, undertake and record proximal landholder engagement	Spark Renewables
Project website	All	To provide a comprehensive online portal for Spark Renewables and its projects. The website will include information and channels to interact with community stakeholders. The website will include FAQs, maps, plans, documents, videos, photos and schematics, consultation events and announcements, a Project timeline and information about Spark Renewables.	Feb 2022	Develop and update website	Spark Renewables
				Review website materials and content	Umwelt
Briefing meetings	Upper Lachlan Shire Council Goulburn Mulwaree Council Wingecarribee Council Councillors State MP Federal MP Councillors	To seek input into the Scoping Report, specifically the identification of perceived Project impacts.	H1 2022	Send invitation to stakeholders regarding a briefing meeting	Spark Renewables
				Organise and attend briefing meeting	Umwelt/Spark Renewables

Project Information sheet (No.1)	Broader community	To provide high level project and proponent information, introducing the broader community to Spark Renewables and the Project. The information sheet/newsletter will also outline upcoming engagement and communication channels and contact information encouraging community members to provide feedback and improve understanding of key project impacts.	Distribution W/C 27 February 2023	Develop information sheet/newsletter	Umwelt/Spark Renewables
				Organise printing and distribution	Umwelt
Online community survey	Broader community	Gather information to inform the scoping and assessment of social impacts. It will also provide the SIA team with detailed and specific information about the needs, desires and impacts on stakeholders related to the Project.	H1 2022	Review draft community survey	Umwelt
				Finalise and upload community survey	Spark Renewables
Key Stakeholder interviews	Community groups Environmental groups Service providers Business representatives Aboriginal groups	Gather information to inform the scoping and assessment of social impacts. It will also provide the SIA team with detailed and specific information about the needs, desires and impacts on stakeholders related to the Project.	H1 2022	Develop interview guides and conduct interviews	Umwelt
				Review interview guides	Spark Renewables
Newspaper/ Radio advertising/ Media interviews	Broader community	To inform the community about the Project and upcoming community events	H1 2022	Develop and organise newspaper and radio advertising Organise and prepare for media interview	Umwelt/Spark Renewables
Information session	Broader community	Face-to-face engagement with the community, providing opportunity for community members to meet the Project team and ask questions about the Project and/or how they may be impacted (positively and negatively). Opportunity for Umwelt to take detailed notes to better inform the team's understanding of social impacts.	W/C 6 March 2023	Organise and advertise info session	Umwelt
				Attend information session	Umwelt/Spark Renewables
Scoping Meeting and site tour, if requested	the Department Referral agencies	To provide an opportunity for agencies to tour the site and speak to the Project team to facilitate input into the SEARs.	If requested	Organise and attend scoping meeting	Spark Renewables

5.1 Engagement during development of the EIS

Issues raised during engagement for the SIA Scoping Report will inform the social and environmental impact assessment and the preparation of the EIS.

Stakeholder engagement activities to be undertaken during the preparation of the EIS are outlined in Table 10.

Table 10 Activities in the delivery plan from receipt of SEARs to lodgement of each EIS

Activity	Targeted stakeholder group	Objectives	Timing	Tasks	Responsibility
Project information Sheet (No.2)	Broader Community	To provide a Project update and share notes and feedback received from community received during the scoping phase.	TBC post receipt of SEARs	Develop information sheet/newsletter Organise printing and distribution	Umwelt/Spark Renewables
Briefing letters	Upper Lachlan Shire Council Goulburn Mulwaree Council Wingecarribee Council State MP Federal MP Community and interest groups	To advise key stakeholders about the issue of SEARs, upcoming consultation opportunities and offer a meeting	TBC post receipt of SEARs	Develop and distribute briefing letters	Spark Renewables
Meetings, emails, phone calls	Host Landholders Proximal Landholders	To provide continued engagement with landholders adjacent to the Project site. Gather insights for the SIA regarding potential project impacts and mitigation and enhancement measures.	TBC post receipt of SEARs	Identify, undertake, and record landholder engagement	Spark Renewables
Project Website	All	Update project website to include information about the SEARs, EIS process, next steps, and upcoming community engagement. The website will include FAQs, maps, plans, documents, CCC minutes, videos, photos, and schematics.	TBC post receipt of SEARs	Update website	Umwelt/Spark Renewables
Briefing meetings	Upper Lachlan Shire Council Goulburn Mulwaree Council Wingecarribee Council Councillors State MP Federal MP	Discuss Project updates, planning pathways and engagement opportunities. Gather insights for the SIA regarding potential project impacts and mitigation/ enhancement measures.	TBC post receipt of SEARs	Send invitation to stakeholders regarding a briefing meeting Organise and attend briefing meeting	Umwelt/Spark Renewables

Activity	Targeted stakeholder group	Objectives	Timing	Tasks	Responsibility
Community survey	Broader community	To provide opportunity for the community to provide feedback, for Umwelt to understand project acceptance and scope social impacts. Validate impacts from scoping phase, understand potential mitigation and enhancement measures.	TBC post receipt of SEARs	Review draft community survey Finalise and upload community survey	Umwelt/Spark Renewables
Key Stakeholder interviews	Council Community groups Environmental groups Service providers Business representatives Aboriginal groups	Gather information to inform the assessment of social impacts and discuss potential mitigation and enhancement measures. It will also provide the SIA team with detailed and specific information about the needs, desires and impacts on stakeholders related to the Project.	TBC post receipt of SEARs	Develop interview guides, set up key stakeholder interviews and conduct	Umwelt/Spark Renewables
Newspaper/ Radio advertising/ Media interviews	Broader community	To inform the community about the Project and upcoming community events	TBC post receipt of SEARs	Develop and organise newspaper and radio advertising Organise and prepare for media interview	Umwelt/Spark Renewables
Information session	Broader community	Face-to-face engagement with the community, providing opportunity for community members to meet the project team and ask questions relating to the Project and/or how they may be impacted or benefited. To present the draft findings of EIS & SIA to the community with Q&A	TBC post receipt of SEARs	Organise, promote and attend information session	Umwelt/Spark Renewables
3rd community newsletter / information sheet	Broader Community	To provide a Project update and present the draft findings of EIS & SIA. To inform the community of the EIS exhibition process, noting how stakeholders can make a public submission.	TBC post receipt of SEARs	Develop information sheet/newsletter Organise printing and distribution	Umwelt/Spark Renewables

5.2 Engagement during exhibition of the EIS

Engagement during the exhibition of the EIS would build on the communication and stakeholder relationships formed during the Scoping and EIS preparation phases and would continue to provide information about the Project and seek feedback from the community and stakeholders on the impacts and proposed mitigation measures in the EIS.

The EIS will be placed on public exhibition for a period of at least 28 days, or as per any requirements outlined in the SEARs, and may be extended on request and with the agreement of Spark Renewables. During the exhibition periods, any stakeholder may make a written submission on the EIS and lodge this with DPE through the Major Projects website.

Engagement mechanisms to be utilised during this period are outlined in Table 11.

Table 11 Tools used in delivery plan for public exhibition of each EIS

Activity	Targeted stakeholder group	Objectives	Timing	Tasks	Responsibility
Briefing letters	Upper Lachlan Shire Council Goulburn Mulwaree Council Wingecarribee Council State MP Federal MP Community and interest groups Industry Traditional Owners	To advise key stakeholders about public exhibition process, consultation opportunities and offer a meeting.	First week of public exhibition	Develop briefing letters Distribute briefing letters	Spark Renewables
Project website	All	Update to the project website to advise the community about public exhibition, opportunities to speak to the Project team and how to make a submission.	First week of public exhibition	Update website	Umwelt/Spark Renewables
Media release	All	To advise the community about public exhibition, opportunities to speak to the Project team and how to make a submission.	First week of public exhibition	Develop media release	Umwelt/Spark Renewables

Activity	Targeted stakeholder group	Objectives	Timing	Tasks	Responsibility
Umwelt/Spark Renewables4th Information sheet/ newsletter	Broader community	To advise the community about public exhibition, opportunities to speak to the Project team and how to make a submission.	First week of public exhibition	Develop info sheet/ newsletter Design info sheet/newsletter Organise printing and distribution of info sheet/ newsletter	Umwelt/Spark Renewables
Meetings (face-to-face, phone or virtual)/ expert presentations	Host landholders Proximal landholders Upper Lachlan Shire Council Goulburn Mulwaree Council Wingecarribee Council Councillors State MP Federal MP Councillors Community groups Environmental groups Traditional Owners	To present an overview of the EIS, answer questions and inform groups how to make a formal submission	First week of public exhibition	Organise and conduct meetings/ expert presentations as requested	Umwelt/Spark Renewables
Information session	Broader community	To provide an opportunity for residents to speak to the Project team about the EIS, view information, ask questions and find out how to make a formal submission.	TBC post confirmation of public exhibition timeline	Organise, promote and attend information session	Umwelt/Spark Renewables

5.3 Engagement following exhibition of each EIS

Following each exhibition period, Spark Renewables will respond to submissions received and may undertake further engagement to respond to the issues raised. Spark Renewables will provide regular updates on the process during this phase and will keep key stakeholders informed of Project progress.

Subject to obtaining approvals, Spark Renewables will continue to engage with stakeholders and the community during construction phases. Spark Renewables will also develop a Construction Management Plan which will include a community engagement program. Spark Renewables will continue to be the single point of contact about the Project for all stages of the development.

Once operational, Spark Renewables will continue to maintain a high level of engagement with the community and provide regular updates to the Project website and through local media.

6 Communication management protocols

6.1 Communication management system

Spark Renewables will use Simply Stakeholders to record details of all contact and correspondence with stakeholders and the community. Simply Stakeholders will be updated to:

- Record all contacts with stakeholders and the community, and the actions resulting from this engagement.
- Track the progress and closeout of enquiries and complaints.
- Identify trending issues and opportunities.
- Enable the implementation of mitigation strategies.
- Maintain accurate contact details of stakeholders.
- Prepare regular reports for Spark Renewables on communication and engagement activities.

6.2 Complaints and enquiries

Complaints and enquiries in relation to the Project may be received via phone, email, dedicated social media channels, post or in person. An enquiry is defined as a question or request for information. A complaint is defined as a statement that something is unsatisfactory or unacceptable.

Spark Renewables will acknowledge and/or respond to complaints and enquiries about the Project:

- Within a reasonable timeframe from the time of a complaint, aiming for no later than 2 business days.
- Record the complaint, and contact with the complainant and its resolution in Simply Stakeholders.
- Within a reasonable timeframe from the time of an enquiry, aiming for no later than withing three business days.
- Provide a response to the enquiry, depending on the input required, within 5 business days for emails and phone calls or ten business days for letters.
- Record the enquiry, all contact with the enquirer and its resolution in Simply Stakeholders.

6.3 Government relations

State and Federal MPs for the area, relevant ministers and councils will be offered the opportunity for face-to-face Project briefings at Project announcement, at lodgement of each of the Scoping Reports, on completion of the EIS' and during the Response to Submissions phases.

6.4 Media relations

From time to time, Spark Renewables may choose to issue media announcements to provide an update on the Project for the benefit of the community, investors, council, government, and other stakeholders. Spark Renewables Head of Renewables and Head of Development are the approved spokespeople for the Project. They may delegate this authority to others working on the Project.

7 Reporting, evaluation and monitoring

7.1 Reporting

Progress against this CSEP will be reported to Spark Renewables, the Department and the community and other stakeholders via the Spark Renewables website, regular electronic and postal Project updates (newsletters and notifications), in the Scoping Report, in the SIA and EIS, and by request.

7.2 Monitoring

Regular monitoring of engagement and communication activities will ensure the plan is delivering on the engagement objectives.

Monitoring can take many forms and includes pulse checks and environmental scanning to track community and stakeholder sentiment. This can be by way of media and social media monitoring, feedback received through formal and informal channels, feedback received through the CCC (to be established during the EIS exhibition period) and regular analysis of complaints and enquiries received.

7.3 Evaluation

Community and other stakeholder engagement will be evaluated against the engagement outcomes identified in the Scoping phase and referenced in the SEARs. Spark Renewables shall identify measures and evidence of engagement success and report on engagement outcomes.

Table 12 Example of evaluation methodology

Engagement outcome	Methods used to achieve the outcome	Results to measure the outcome	Evaluating the success of the outcome
Work with the community and other stakeholders to understand their values and opinions of the Project and the opportunities to reflect these values and opinions in decision-making.	Community drop-in sessions to identify the values and opinions of the community and other stakeholders and the perceived impacts of the Project on these. Phone or online surveys to establish a baseline for awareness, sentiment and levels of acceptance towards the Project and renewables in general.	Number of people attending drop-in sessions. Number of people surveyed. Satisfaction with the engagement process by those surveyed or attending the drop-in sessions. Community perspectives accurately detailed in the SIA and EIS reports	Responses to address the Project's impact on the values and opinions of the community can be determined (e.g. the community has concerns about visual amenity). Mitigation measures to address the Project's impact on the values and opinions of the community and other stakeholders can be finalised (e.g. landscaping options are negotiated with the community). Future engagement to address issues identified can be planned (e.g. complaints protocol established). Ongoing engagement to provide updates on decision-making can be established (e.g. regular project updates and photography to show change over time).

Appendix A: Stakeholder Groups

Table 5 List of stakeholders and potential issue, interest or concerns

Stakeholder group	Stakeholder	Description of Issue/Interest/Concern	Responsibility
Community and interest groups	Landowners within the Project site	– Lease arrangements and land acquisition – Impacts to dwelling – Impacts to land use – Water use – Bushfire risk – Property values and insurance premium – Biosecurity	Spark Renewables
	Neighbours to the Project site	– Access and use of existing, and potentially limited, water supply – Changes in bushfire risk associated with the Project – Changes or limitations to existing land use potentially limiting livelihoods or property access – Cumulative changes to community way of life and character – Health and wellbeing impacts associated with construction/operation noise and vibration and increased dust pollution during construction – Impacts on availability of temporary accommodation and rental properties due to workforce needs during construction – Impacts on local environmental values such as local fauna and flora, local ecosystems and/or ecosystem services – Impacts on local labour force availability due to construction workforce needs – Increased traffic on/changes to local roads resulting in changes to road use and potential safety concerns – Perceived negative impacts on property values and insurance premiums – Potential land use conflicts impacting agricultural/commercial livelihoods – Visual amenity impacts on the local area, views from dwellings and landscape character –	Spark Renewables / Umwelt
	Wider community of Project and nearby LGAs: – Upper Lachlan Council – Wingecarribee Council – Goulburn-Mulwaree Council	– Cumulative changes to community way of life and character – Impacts on availability of temporary accommodation and rental properties due to workforce needs during construction – Impacts on local environmental values such as local fauna and flora, local ecosystems and/or ecosystem services – Impacts on local labour force availability due to construction workforce needs – Increased traffic on/changes to local roads resulting in changes to road use and potential safety concerns	Spark Renewables / Umwelt

Stakeholder group	Stakeholder	Description of Issue/Interest/Concern	Responsibility
		– Increase in direct and indirect economic benefits including workforce, project expenditure and local procurement – Increase in local employment opportunities – Temporary increase in demand for rental properties associated with construction workforce needs – Visual amenity impacts on the local area, views from dwellings and landscape character –	
	Other community organisations: – Landcare branches – Progress Associations – Lion's Club branches – Rotary branches – Local action groups	– Cumulative changes to community way of life and character – Diversification of farming livelihoods and incomes creating an economic benefit – Grants and funding opportunities to support community development – Impacts on availability of temporary accommodation and rental properties due to workforce needs during construction – Impacts on local environmental values such as local fauna and flora, local ecosystems and/or ecosystem services – Impacts on local labour force availability due to construction workforce needs – Increase in direct and indirect economic benefits including workforce, project expenditure and local procurement – Increase in local employment opportunities – Increased employment, supply and procurement opportunities for vulnerable members/groups of the community – Increased traffic on/changes to local roads resulting in changes to road use and potential safety concerns – Potential land use changes – Temporary increase in demand for rental properties associated with construction workforce needs – Visual amenity impacts on the local area, views from dwellings and landscape character	Umwelt
Traditional Owners	Pejar Local Aboriginal Land Council representative of Gundungurra Traditional Owners Other Aboriginal corporations: – Gundungurra Aboriginal Group – Mulwaree Aboriginal Community Inc.	– Impacts on local environmental values such as local fauna and flora, local ecosystems and/or ecosystem services – Grants and funding opportunities to support Aboriginal communities in the local area – Identification and protection of sites of significance or items of Aboriginal cultural heritage value, including intangible values – Increased employment, supply and procurement opportunities for the local Aboriginal community – Land access and use over Native Title land	Spark Renewables / Umwelt

Stakeholder group	Stakeholder	Description of Issue/Interest/Concern	Responsibility
		– Local knowledge-sharing – Recognition and consideration of Country in design process to reduce cultural impacts for the local Aboriginal community	
Industry	Clean Energy Council (CEC)	– Industry body and advocate for clean energy	Spark Renewables
	Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO)	– Energy retail market	Spark Renewables
	Australian Energy Market Commission (AEMC)	– Rule maker for the National Electricity Market (NEM)	Spark Renewables
	NSW Farmers Association	– State industry body and advocate for farmers – Changes or limitations to existing land use potentially limiting livelihoods – Access and use of existing, and potentially limited, water supply – Diversification of farmers' income and livelihoods – Cumulative impacts on availability of local workforce due to COVID-19 and potential Project demand – Cumulative changes to community way of life and character	Spark Renewables
	National Farmers Federation	– National industry body and advocate for farmers – Energy generation – Climate change – Access, supply and use of water – Sustainable development and livelihood diversification – Cumulative changes to community way of life and character	Spark Renewables
	PV Industries	– Recycling and end-of-life cycle services for solar panels	Spark Renewables
Business and Service providers	Marulan Chamber of Commerce	– Local employment and training opportunities – Opportunities for local supply and procurement – Grants and sponsorship opportunities to support community development	Umwelt
	Regional Development Australia and Industry Capability Network	– Increase in regional employment opportunities – Increase opportunities for regional supply and procurement	Spark Renewables
	Accommodation and housing providers	– Increased demand for accommodation services due to incoming construction workforce – Strain on accommodation services – Decreased capacity for tourism related accommodation	Umwelt
	Education providers	– Potential for collaboration regarding learning workers and apprentices	Umwelt
	Health care providers	– Demand for health services due to incoming construction workforce	Umwelt

Stakeholder group	Stakeholder	Description of Issue/Interest/Concern	Responsibility
Federal government	Clean Energy Regulator (CER)	– Economic and clean energy regulation	Spark Renewables
	Australian Energy Regulator (AER)	– Electricity network regulation	Spark Renewables
	Minister for, Energy and Emissions Reduction (Department of Industry, Science, and Resources)	– Federal government agency for energy – Investment in network infrastructure – Network reliability – Network connectivity between states	Spark Renewables
	Member for Hume: Angus Taylor	– Community impacts and benefits associated with Project – Environmental impacts associated with Project – Increased employment opportunities associated with the Project	Spark Renewables
NSW state government	Member for Goulburn: Wendy Tuckerman	– Community impacts and benefits associated with Project – Environmental impacts associated with Project – Increased employment opportunities associated with the Project – Increase in local supply and procurement opportunities – Media opportunities	Spark Renewables
	Minister for Planning and Homes	– Planning and assessment process – Consent authority	Spark Renewables
	Minister for the Environment and Heritage	– Environmental impacts – Planning and assessment process	Spark Renewables
	Treasurer and Minister for Energy	– Investment in network infrastructure	Spark Renewables
	NSW Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	– Environmental impacts – Recycling of Project infrastructure, including solar panels	Spark Renewables
	NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE)	– Planning and assessment process – Proximity to Tarlo River National Park and Kerrawary Nature Reserve – Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage	Spark Renewables
	Heritage NSW	– Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage	Spark Renewables
	NSW Department of Industry	– Crown land, water and agriculture	Spark Renewables
	Department of Regional NSW	– Primary industries, local land services, mining, exploration and geoscience	Spark Renewables
	Transport for NSW	– Traffic and roads	Spark Renewables
	Fire and Rescue NSW and NSW Rural Fire Service	– Fire safety	Spark Renewables
	SafeWork NSW	– Construction and operations workforce safety	Spark Renewables
	Independent Planning Commission	– Planning and assessment process – Alternate consent authority	Spark Renewables
Local government	Upper Lachlan Council: Mayor Pam Kensit Wingecarribee Council: Council Administrator, Mr Viv May Goulburn-Mulwaree Council: Mayor Peter Walker	– Planning and assessment process – Community impacts and benefits associated with Project – Environmental impacts – Employment opportunities – Local supply and procurement opportunities – Council rates – Changes to road conditions and usage	Spark Renewables / Umwelt

Stakeholder group	Stakeholder	Description of Issue/Interest/Concern	Responsibility
		– Land use changes – Cumulative impacts caused by the incoming construction workforce	
Utilities	Transgrid	– Network provider	Spark Renewables
	Essential Energy	– Network distributor	Spark Renewables
	Telstra	– Telecommunications services	Spark Renewables
	National Broadband Network (NBN)	– Broadband services	Spark Renewables
	WaterNSW	– Impacts on surface and groundwater	
Emergency services	NSW Rural Fire Service Fire and Rescue NSW	– Bushfire risk	Spark Renewables
	NSW Police	– Hazards and risks – Traffic and roads – Safety and security	Spark Renewables
	NSW Ambulance	– Hazards and risks – Safety	Spark Renewables
	NSW State Emergency Service (Goulburn Unit)	– Hazards and risks	Spark Renewables
Education	TAFE NSW Goulburn Charles Sturt University University of Sydney	– Scholarships and training opportunities to upskill current and future workforce	Spark Renewables / Umwelt
	Big Hill Public School Marulan Public School	– Grants and sponsorship opportunities to provide community benefit to the local area	Spark Renewables / Umwelt
Media	Local and regional radio and TV stations: ABC	– Project updates – Promote community engagement activities – Community impacts and benefits	Spark Renewables
	Social media groups	– Communicate community impacts and benefits – Advertise local supplier and procurement opportunities	Spark Renewables
	Regional newspapers and magazines: – Goulburn Post	– Project updates – Promote community engagement activities – Community impacts and benefits	Spark Renewables
	Metropolitan newspapers: – The Guardian Australia	– Investment in renewables	Spark Renewables
	Industry online news: – Renew Economy	– Project updates – Investment in renewables	Spark Renewables
	National and financial publications: – Australian Financial Review	– Project updates (major milestones) – Investment in renewables	Spark Renewables