

Edify Energy Brewongle Solar Farm

Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan



Acknowledgment of Traditional Owners

In the spirit of reconciliation, Edify Energy acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea, and community. We pay our respect to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Edify Energy is committed to a just, equitable, and reconciled Australia and recognises that we all have a role to play in achieving this vision.

Document control

Change record

Date	Author	Version	Reviewer	Approver	Change Reference
20/11/23	Tania McIntyre	1	Bernie O'Brien	Rhana Fleming	Creation of CSEP
23/1/24	Rhana Fleming	2	Bernie O'Brien	Pat Dale	Final

Periodic evaluation and reviews of this Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan (CSEP) will ensure that it is routinely updated and informed to reflect changing circumstances, community feedback, and ongoing improvements in Edify Energy's community engagement approach.

This will ensure that Edify Energy's communication and engagement remain:

- Relevant to the Project's evolving needs, issues, and outcomes.
- Responsive and tailored to the needs of key stakeholders and the local community.
- At the leading edge of industry and global best practice.

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Definitions and abbreviations

CAG	Community Advisory Group
Cth	Commonwealth
DCCEEW	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
DPE	Department of Planning and Environment
DTP	Department of Transport and Planning
EPBC Act	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999
EP Act	Environmental Protection Act 1994
AEMO	Australian Energy Market Operator Limited
IAP2	International Association for Public Participation
TRG	Technical Reference Group
NSW	New South Wales
Km	Kilometre
kV	Kilovolt
MP	Member of Parliament
MW	Megawatt
RFS	Rural Fire Service
LALC	Local Aboriginal Land Council
SW REZ	South-West Renewable Energy Zone
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
TO	Traditional Owners

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Purpose

This Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan (CSEP) outlines how Edify Energy (Edify) will engage with the community and stakeholders about the proposed Brewongle Solar Farm (the Project).

The CSEP outlines the communication and engagement approach to support constructive relationships with stakeholders and the community, mitigate project risks, build Edify's reputation within the community, and foster an aligned approach to genuine engagement.

The key stakeholders that Edify will engage with on this Project include:

- Host landholders
- Neighbouring landholders
- First Nations stakeholders
- Local and State Government representatives
- The Brewongle community and surrounding areas
- The broader Bathurst LGA
- Opposition groups

This live document will be updated in response to stakeholder feedback, Project requirements, and the completion of key milestones.

Project overview

Edify Energy is a market-leading, Australian-owned renewable energy company with extensive experience in developing and financing renewable projects across Australia. Edify has financed six large-scale solar generation projects (773MWp), an 84MVA synchronous condenser, and three utility-scale battery energy storage systems (360MW / 720MWh) and is a leading developer of utility-scale renewable energy projects.

Edify proposes to develop the Brewongle Solar Farm (BSF), a 90MW renewable energy project with an associated battery energy storage system on-site.

The Project represents Edify's continued investment in renewable energy projects throughout regional NSW. Similar to Edify's prior undertakings in the State, the development will be consistent with the NSW Large-Scale Solar Energy Guideline for State Significant Development (NSW Government, 2022) and is expected to deliver several benefits including:

- the creation of local employment opportunities, including approximately 250 full-time equivalent jobs during the peak construction period
- approximately five permanent jobs during the operation of the Project (>30 years)
- direct local investment via a Community Benefit Fund
- increased electricity generation capacity and grid support, via the solar asset
- increased dispatchable electricity, firming and system strength services, via the battery energy storage system; and
- a Voluntary Planning Contribution to be negotiated with the Bathurst Regional Council.

Having recently lodged its Scoping Report with the Department of Planning in mid-October, Edify will now turn its focus to the preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Edify is aware that a pivotal component moving forward will be the development of a robust engagement strategy and program.

Edify understands the success of BSF relies largely on the development of genuine, open and ongoing relationships with key stakeholders and the local community. Edify recognises the importance of ensuring a “no surprises” approach with the local community and is committed to developing and nurturing long-term relationships between our team and various stakeholders.

This CSEP outlines Edify's community engagement approach and objectives for ensuring that key stakeholders and communities are involved and consulted throughout each stage of the Project's lifecycle. This CSEP has been developed to consider the significant opposition from local groups in Brewongle and surrounding areas and includes mitigation strategies to combat a potential groundswell of outrage towards the solar farm.

The proposed engagement approaches are varied and have been tailored to the expectations of stakeholders. Wherever possible, Edify seeks to deliver engagement in alignment with the INVOLVE, COLLABORATE, and EMPOWER levels of the [International Agency for Public Participation \(IAP2\) Spectrum](#). This approach ensures that stakeholder feedback, interests, and concerns are effectively reflected in the final design and operational approach of the BSF asset. Construction of the BSF is anticipated to commence in 2026.

Key aspects of this CSEP include:

- A community stakeholder analysis that underpins engagement, planning, and risk mitigation.
- Detailed stakeholder engagement activity plan.
- Tailored key messages.

Timeline

Table 1 – Project timeline

Milestone	Date
Site selection	2017
Feasibility	2017 - 2022
Scoping Report lodgement	2023
EIS lodgement	2025
Construction to commence	Q4, 2026/2027
Operations to commence	2028/29

Objectives

The objectives that will guide the engagement activities contained within this CSEP include:

- **Effectively engage** with stakeholders on things that they can influence based on policy, the Project, and the planning process.
- **Integrate feedback** and engagement outcomes into Project decision-making.
- **Build constructive relationships** to position Edify as a trusted community partner.

This plan aligns with Edify's overarching approach to stakeholder engagement, which is based on the guiding principles of:

- **We will communicate** decisions that will affect stakeholders as early as possible, in the clearest possible fashion, and through channels they can access.
- **We will listen** to feedback and be clear with stakeholders where they can influence outcomes / cocreate / participate in the decision-making process, or where they are being advised / informed.
- **We will incorporate stakeholder feedback** wherever possible and follow through where there has been a commitment made.

Edify commits to applying the principle of 'considerate construction' at all times and will work to ensure the local community is the key beneficiary of project development – both in terms of energy supply and local employment and supplier opportunities.

Engagement requirements and guidelines

Statutory requirements

Consultation and engagement with community members and stakeholders will inform the EIS currently being prepared by Edify.

This will include:

- Identification of stakeholders including councils, government agencies, and affected communities.
- The approach to engagement, including when, how, and what information has been provided.
- Opportunities that stakeholders will be given to participate in the process.
- Outcomes and findings of the engagement activities, including what was heard, what has or hasn't changed, and why.


International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) Quality Assurance Standard

The Quality Assurance Standard was endorsed by the IAP2 Federation in May 2015 and is recognised as the International Standard for Public Participation practice.

Designed to respond to market requirements for evidence that effective community and stakeholder engagement has been delivered, the standard supports the delivery of the IAP2 spectrum of public participation which aims to move engagement from one of inform, consult, or involve to more actively collaborating and empowering stakeholders and local communities.

The standard provides:

- A set of principles to ensure consistency in the quality of consultation and engagement.
- An outline of the important elements of any engagement process and what each stage of a community and stakeholder engagement process should incorporate.
- A quality process by which engagement projects can be assessed.
- Certainty for both practitioners and clients that the community and stakeholder engagement practice has been delivered to these standards.

INCREASING IMPACT ON THE DECISION 					
	INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GOAL	To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.	To place final decision making in the hands of the public.
PROMISE TO THE PUBLIC	We will keep you informed.	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will look to you for advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.	We will implement what you decide.

NSW Department of Planning and Environment, Undertaking Engagement Guidelines

The NSW Department of Planning and Environment has developed a comprehensive set of guidelines to help improve the quality of environmental assessments and documentation for State Significant projects. The guidelines also encourage greater community participation by highlighting how the public can participate in the assessment of State Significant projects. The [Undertaking Engagement Guidelines](#) for State Significant projects require upfront and ongoing engagement for all state significant projects. These guidelines help to ensure engagement is meaningful, tailored to the needs of relevant stakeholders, supports a fair and transparent assessment, and is consistent with the department's community participation objectives.

NSW Government's Large-Scale Solar Energy Guidelines

The [Large-Scale Solar Energy Guideline](#) gives the community, industry, and regulators certainty about the planning framework for the assessment and approval of such projects.

The guideline gives advice on a range of assessment matters including the visual impacts of projects and agricultural land use. It ensures the assessment of projects continues to be transparent, consistent, and supported by the best available information.

Clean Energy Council Best Practice Charter for Renewable Energy Development

[The Best Practice Charter for Renewable Energy Developments](#) (Energy Charter) is a voluntary set of commitments for Clean Energy Council (CEC) members designed to clearly communicate the standards that the signatories will uphold in the development of current and new clean energy projects.

As a member of the CEC, Edify has committed to engaging 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.

We have developed this Plan to support the 10 commitments outlined by the Energy Charter, included in Appendix 1.

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) Guidance on Engaging with Traditional Owners

All Australians including government departments, agencies, councils, land and resource managers, developers, and tourism operators – should be aware that Traditional Owners have legal rights and interests across their Country. It is important that consideration is given to Traditional Owner rights and interests at the earliest stages of all new projects and activities. The AIATSIS [Guidance on Engaging with Traditional Owners](#) outlines key engagement principals for engaging with Traditional Owners.

In addition to the above, various acts will guide environmental surveys and statutory processes needed to assess the Project. These include:

Local

- Bathurst Regional Council's Local Environmental Plan 2014
- Bathurst Regional Council's Strategies and Plans: Vision Bathurst 2040
- Bathurst Region Local Strategic Planning Statement Bathurst Community Strategic Plan 2022
- Bathurst Regional Development Control Plan 2014 Bathurst Region Rural Strategy 2008
- Bathurst 2036 Housing Strategy Volume 2 - The Implementation Plan Bathurst Region Vegetation Management Plan 2019

State

- Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979
- Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997
- Roads Act 1993
- Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016
- State Environmental Planning Policy (Planning Systems) 2021 (Planning Systems EPP)
- State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021

Federal

- Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 Native Title Act 1993

Community context

The Brewongle community

Brewongle is a small rural village located in the Bathurst Regional LGA, approximately 15km south-east of Bathurst and approximately 180km north-west of Sydney.

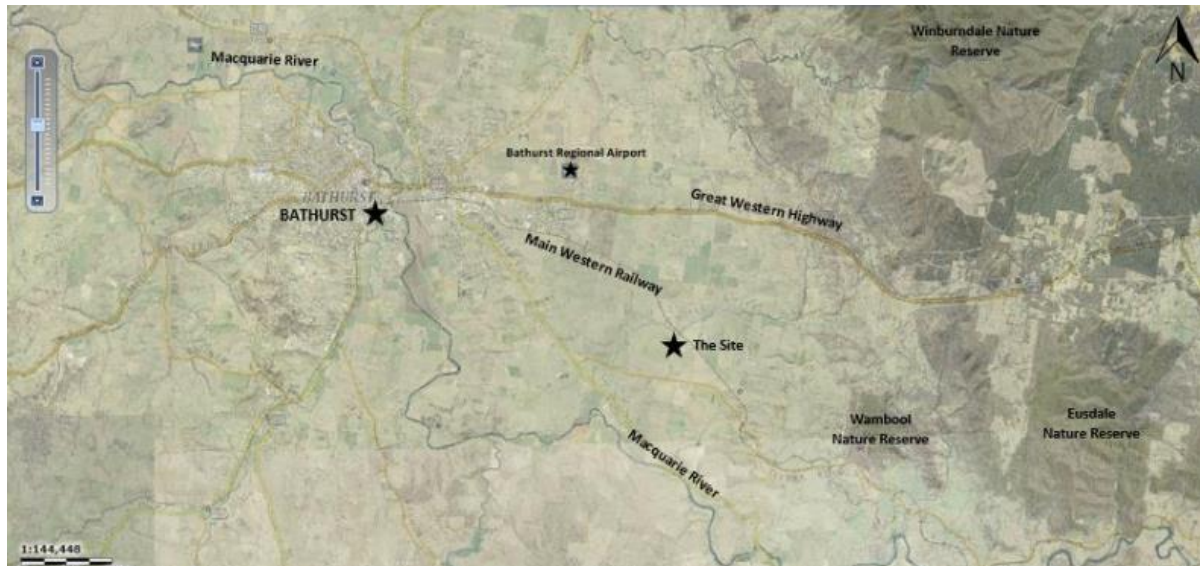


Figure 1: Location of the proposed site (Source: Google Maps)



Figure 2: Locality map of site boundaries

As of the 2021 Census, Brewongle had a population of 151 people (53.9 per cent male and 46.1 per cent female) with a median age of 38. The number of persons in Brewongle who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander is relatively small representing just 3.3 per cent of the population.

Although Brewongle is a small regional town it hosts some significant environmental features such as a natural waterway (Saltwater Creek) that runs along the northern boundary of the site and Wambool Nature Reserve. Saltwater Creek runs adjacent to the north boundary of the site and is a tributary of

Fish Creek which flows into the Macquarie River approximately 7.5 km south west of the Site. Land use within the local area is primarily used for rural activities such as agricultural farming.

More than half (68.3 per cent) of Brewongle's population is involved in the labour force with 61.9 per cent working full-time, 39.3 per cent part-time, and 4.8 per cent of the population being unemployed. Professionals, managers and clerical/ administrative workers make up 51 per cent of the labour force, while 14 per cent is made up of technicians and trades workers. Sheep and cattle farmers account for almost six per cent of the Brewongle population.

The majority of Brewongle's population own their own home either outright (46 per cent) or with a mortgage (26 per cent) and only 16 per cent of the population rent properties (which equates to eight dwellings). This reflects very limited accommodation options for workers who may be looking to stay in Brewongle during the construction phase of the project.

While the broader Bathurst community acknowledges the need for renewables, the project received significant opposition from the community in 2017 primarily due to aesthetics, impact on property values, and impacts on prime agricultural land. During this noteworthy period of opposition, online petitions were established that received over 365 signatures. The community opposition was supported by Nationals MP Paul Toole.

The Bathurst region

Brewongle is located within the Bathurst Regional Council area which has a population of over 45,000. Bathurst ranks 41st most populated city in Australia, accounting for 0.15 per cent of the national population. Bathurst, located on the Macquarie River is Australia's oldest inland settlement.

The population of the Bathurst Regional Council area has increased over the 11-year period (2011-2022), with an average growth rate of 1.23 per cent.

The recognised Traditional Owners in Bathurst are the Wiradyuri Traditional Owners Central West Aboriginal Corporation. Seven per cent (3153 residents) of the Bathurst LGA population identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people.

The Bathurst Regional Council has a diverse local economy including education, food manufacturing, health care, public administration, and agriculture. Local manufacturing is a well-established industry in the Bathurst region, accounting for over 50 per cent of exports and contributing to nearly 20 per cent of the region's GRP. The manufacturing industry employs over 2,000 people or 10.7 per cent of the total Bathurst region employment. Employment in manufacturing has increased 30 per cent over the past five years. A range of global food manufacturers also operate across the Bathurst region, including Simplot, Mars, and Devro, with Nestle Purina operating out of nearby Blayney (30 minutes from Bathurst). Bathurst is also known for its local food manufacturing and processing businesses, such as Fish River Roasters, McDowells Herbal, Stone Pine Distillery, Nutraviva, and Bathurst Grange Distillery.

The construction industry in the Bathurst Region is a significant contributor to the GRP being the third largest employer with over 2,250 jobs generated by the sector. This growth industry has the highest number of registered businesses, with over 700 construction-based businesses operating in the Bathurst Region. The construction industry generates \$770 million for the economy.

At a local level, the construction sector is driven by the high level of population and industry growth in Bathurst, where the value of building approvals has more than doubled over the past 10 years. In addition to supporting the local economy, the strategic location of the Bathurst region enables construction businesses based in Bathurst to serve the fast-growing Western Sydney corridor and the surrounding Central West and Orana regions.

A large number of construction businesses are based in Bathurst and are ready to assist with industrial, commercial, and residential developments, including Akura, Hines Constructions, Art-tec, Hynash Group, Inscape Projects, and Tablelands Builders. There is also a wide variety of specialist builders and trades covering all stages of the construction process from idea generation through to fit-out.

Impacts on the Brewongle community

While there are many future developments planned in NSW with the introduction of the Renewable Energy Zones, there is only one solar farm (the 60 MW Glanmire Solar Farm) currently planned within close vicinity of the proposed BSP.

The majority of construction personnel (approximately 250 FTE workers at peak construction) will primarily come from communities within the Bathurst and surrounding LGAs and are likely to be transported on a 'bus-in-bus-out' (BIBO) basis. Workers will continue to live at their existing residences within the regional communities, alleviating pressure on rental property availability which is almost non-existent within Brewongle.

Construction labour demand may contribute to competition for labour in the regional study area, particularly if other REZ projects are constructed during the same period. However, the Project's construction labour requirement is small and temporary and would be spread across the region, making it unlikely to contribute to labour drawn from other industries in the region.

Infrastructure constructed on-site and associated traffic movements to support construction may temporarily alter the quiet rural amenity of host and neighbouring landholders' properties, potentially impacting their enjoyment of the rural and natural landscape. Implementing mitigation strategies such as screening, transport planning, and avoidance of work outside normal operating hours will help alleviate this impact to some extent. Ongoing consultation will be conducted throughout construction and into the operations phase to ensure those with genuine concerns are given an opportunity to raise them, and solutions are offered where practical.

Key stakeholders

The table below identifies the key stakeholder groups that will be engaged throughout the Project. This table will be modified in response to feedback and as additional stakeholders are identified.

A detailed stakeholder mapping exercise has also been completed for the BSF Project. A process of ranking and recording interests and preferences provides clear guidance on the level of influence and interest each stakeholder is likely to have, informing how Edify should engage. The stakeholder mapping exercise will continue to evolve as the Project progresses.

Table 2 – Key stakeholders

Stakeholder group	Details	Objectives	Engagement activities
Host landholders	Residents hosting solar panels on their land.	Ongoing communication and discussions as the Project progresses. Contribution to the Project's progress, ability to provide local knowledge, advice, and input. Involvement in the development and delivery of a community benefit-sharing scheme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – One-on-one meetings – Landholder updates – Letterbox drops – Project updates – Invitations and involvement in community events. – Website content and 1800 number.
Near neighbours (4kms)	Residents within a 4kms radius of the Project site have the potential to be affected by the visual impact of the solar farm, the noise, and heavy vehicle traffic associated with the construction phase.	To create and maintain a close connection with neighbours that live within a 4kms radius of the solar farm. To keep neighbours informed about the Project from early in the planning phase and provide opportunities to raise issues and provide feedback. To ensure that neighbours share in the benefits of the Project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – One-on-one meetings – Letterbox drops – Project updates – Community information sessions – Invitations and involvement in community events – Website content and 1800 number.

Stakeholder group	Details	Objectives	Engagement activities
Brewongle community (2795 postcode)	Community members living within the Brewongle township adjacent to the Project.	To keep community members informed about the Project from early in the planning phase and throughout subsequent Project phases. Provide ongoing opportunities to raise issues and provide feedback.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Letterbox drops – Community information sessions – Invitations and involvement in community events. – Website content and 1800 number.
Local Council	<p>We will work with the Bathurst Rural City Council to shape the Community Engagement Strategy and Benefit Sharing Program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cr Jesse Jennings, Mayor - Cr Ben Fry, Deputy Mayor - Mr David Sherley, General Manager - Cr Warren Aubin, Councillor - Cr Kiralee Burke, Councillor - Cr Graeme Hanger, Councillor - Cr Margaret Hogan Councillor - Cr Ian North, Councillor - Cr Andrew Smith, Councillor - Cr Robert Taylor, Councillor - Mr Darren Sturgiss, Director of Engineering - Mr Neil Southorn, Director of Environmental Planning & Building Services - Mr Alan Cattermole, Director of Cultural & Community Services 	To ensure a positive and collaborative relationship with the LGA that can support the long-term goals of the local community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Proactive council briefings/ information packs – Letters at key milestones – Project updates – Community information sessions – Invitations and involvement in community events. – Website content
State MP	The Hon. Paul Lawrence Toole (Nat)	As this member was openly opposed to the project, we must ensure that	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – In-person Project briefings – Briefing packs/ materials

Stakeholder group	Details	Objectives	Engagement activities
		he is kept updated on the Project and its progress. We need to ensure that his concerns are understood, and that any mis/ dis information is actively dispelled.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Letters at key milestones – Invitations and involvement in community events – Website content
Federal MP	Andrew Gee (Independent, formerly National)	To ensure that the local member is updated on the Project and its progress.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – In-person Project briefings/ briefing packs – Letters at key milestones. – Website content
Local community groups	Proactive or prominent local community groups	To ensure that strong community groups are supported into the future by local investment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – One-on-one meetings – Project updates – Community information sessions – Invitations and involvement in community events – Website content and 1800 number.
RFS	Local volunteers representing the Rural Fire Service <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – NSW Rural Fire Service – O'Connell East RFS Station 	To ensure Project activities abide by safety and regulatory requirements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Provide indicative design plans and updates on the Project to prepare for local fire and emergency safety requirements – Invitations and involvement in community events – Website content and 1800 number.
Schools, TAFEs, and universities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Brewongle Environmental Education Centre – O'Connell Public School – Raglan Public School – Galloping Gumnut Preschool – Perthville Public School 	To ensure organisations are updated on education and vocational opportunities associated with the Project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Letters with offers for briefings – Project updates – Community information sessions – Invitations and involvement in community events

Stakeholder group	Details	Objectives	Engagement activities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gowrie NSW O'Connell Outside School Hours Care 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Website content and 1800 number.
Business groups / industry stakeholders	We will aim to engage and collaborate with local businesses and business networks to explore opportunities for their participation in the Local Procurement Plan.	To ensure Edify is creating opportunities for local businesses to participate in the development of local renewable energy projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-construction local business expression of interest Invitation to local employment and supplier networking session Project updates Community information sessions Invitations and involvement in community events Website content and 1800 number.
First Nations stakeholders	<p>We will seek to engage and understand what elements of the Project are culturally relevant and/or sensitive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wiradyuri Traditional Owners Central West Aboriginal Corporation Bathurst LALC 	Engaging with local Indigenous groups beyond planning requirements such as Cultural Heritage Management Plans.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One-on-one meetings Letters at key milestones Project updates Invitations and involvement in community events Invitation to co-design Indigenous participation/ procurement plans Website content and 1800 number.
Solar farm opponents	<p>We will aim to identify the concerns raised by local opponents of the solar farm including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brewongle Action Group Elders Rural Services Ray White Emms Mooney PR Masters Stevens and Co 	To be accessible, help to address concerns proactively, and to have a best practice complaints system in place.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Website content and 1800 number Complaints process implemented and transparent

Stakeholder group	Details	Objectives	Engagement activities
Advocacy groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Benalla Sustainable Future Group – Renewable Energy Benalla – Hume Regional Renewables 	Discussions on community energy and zero emissions targets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Project updates – Invitations and involvement in community events – Website content and 1800 number.
Community organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Rotary Club of Bathurst – Lions Club of Bathurst – Bathurst Multicultural Women's Group – Bathurst Library – Bathurst Senior Citizens Centre 	To provide information and raise awareness of the Project so local community groups can update their members.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Project updates – Invitations and involvement in community events – Website content and 1800 number.
Transport NSW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Regulator of made and unmade roads and road reserves. 	To ensure Project activities abide by safety and regulatory requirements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Provide indicative design plans and updates on the Project to prepare for permit requirements.

Summary of engagement to date

Landholders and near neighbours

Adjacent landholders and those situated within 4kms of the Study Area have been initially contacted via registered mail containing Project specific materials including an introductory letter, concept site map, and FAQs, to inform them about the Project and to offer project briefings. Following the registered mailout, various calls and emails were placed with neighbouring landholders.

Edify has provided initial answers to community enquiries, with key areas of discussion including:

- Visual amenity changes to the site.
- Fragmentation and isolation of agricultural land.
- Site access roads and their usage.
- The viability of grazing sheep within the solar farm ('Agri-solar').
- Implications for neighbouring landholders regarding insurance or property values; and
- Alternative sites and other potential projects occurring in the area.

Bathurst Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) and other Representative Aboriginal Groups

In advance of the submission of this Scoping Report, Edify consulted with the Bathurst LALC and provided information on the proposed Project. An initial call was made on 25 May 2023 to introduce the Edify Project Manager and the Brewongle Solar Farm site, followed by regular emails with Project updates. A follow up visit in Bathurst was carried out on 24 August 2023.

Edify briefly met with members of the Gunhigal Mayiny Wiradyuri Dyilang Enterprise in August 2023 to discuss the Project in its current phase and open up a line of communication to allow sharing of Project updates.

Bathurst Regional Council

Edify convened a preliminary introductory meeting with Bathurst Regional Council representatives on 5 December 2022. This meeting was held before entering into the Option agreement with the landholder, to understand the local context and general considerations towards solar and battery project proposals in the region. Subsequent meetings were held with Council representatives on 17 May 2023 and 9 August 2023, to provide Council with additional information on Edify Energy and the Brewongle Solar Farm, and to gather feedback on the initial planning efforts that support this Scoping Report. Edify will continue to share correspondence with Council as the planning process matures.

The key issues raised were:

- Community concerns and objections for previous and nearby renewable facilities.
- Consideration of the site zoned for agricultural purposes.
- Traffic volumes and access routes.
- Potential visual impact from adjacent neighbours; and
- Potential cumulative impacts from nearby developments (as outlined in Section 7.2.7).

In addition, Edify and Council held an in-person 'Working Party' with various Council representatives on 23 August 2023, to present details of the Project and the Scoping Report as well as the supporting technical studies completed. The meeting served as a 'pre-lodgement meeting' to introduce the Project and gain feedback from the Council on the content and further requirements.

Feedback from Council during this meeting focussed on:

- Results of soil testing completed for the Agricultural Impact Assessment. Implications on the soil verification for the Project, such as for the footprint and siting of infrastructure. Implications of the Project development on LSC Class Three soils.
- Visual impact on neighbouring landholders. Edify's visual consultant prepared viewshed analyses demonstrating a 'worst case' scenario for viewpoints of landholders within 4km of the Project which was presented alongside 3D artistic impressions of the development from three different locations proximate to the site.
- Community and stakeholder engagement. Council queried stakeholder engagement to date and what the strategy for future engagement contained.
- Impacts on the road network and traffic. Council noted Tarana Road and its associated structures were impacted recently by flooding and have since been remediated.
- Potential implications on neighbouring landholder insurance.

State and Federal Members

In conjunction with community member engagements, a letter of information was sent on 10 July 2023 to the office of the Federal Member for the Calare Electorate as well as the Member of Parliament of NSW for the Bathurst electorate.

The Federal Member's office noted via phone that a meeting would be initiated at the request of Edify later into the EIS phase.

The State Member responded via email to note that a firm stance on behalf of the community would be taken for this Project. A meeting has been initiated with the State Member for Bathurst on 27 September to discuss the community views further as well as share the Project plans in greater detail.

Key features of ongoing engagement will include:

Email updates – email updates are being used to provide information on the Project status, timing, and approach. Options for providing feedback to the Project team are included.

Social procurement planning – development of a social procurement plan is underway to ensure social enterprises and organisations concentrating on the advancement of key social groups have fair and equitable opportunities to obtain work during Project construction and operations.

Social impact assessment – a detailed social impact assessment has been compiled to confirm socioeconomic opportunities and risks. Input from key stakeholders has informed this analysis, which will be used to refine and expand the Project's engagement approach.

First Nations engagement – ongoing consultation with Indigenous representative groups is being conducted to explore the Traditional Owner's understanding of the local Country and options for collaborating on the delivery of mutually beneficial initiatives (i.e. employment for Indigenous work crews).

Community and social benefit planning will be multifaceted and adaptive and will align with industry best practice standards.

Engagement and communication approach

Overarching approach

The approach detailed in this plan outlines a process to enable consistent, targeted, and meaningful engagement and will focus on the following guiding principles:

- **Engage early and often** to establish and build relationships with key stakeholders including local council and occupiers of neighbouring land to identify any risks and concerns.
- **Genuine engagement** by providing clear and concise information about the Project, including impacts and benefits, providing opportunities for consultation relevant to the level of impact and interest in the Project, and in collaboration with potentially affected landholders and community members.
- **Local focus** to proactively develop two-way communication channels tailored to the needs and interests of the local community.

Engagement tools and techniques

The table below summarises potential engagement and communications tools to enable participation by stakeholders and community members. Engagement and communications will be structured around key Project milestones and events. Details on when these tools will be implemented are outlined in the Action Plan.

Table 3 - Engagement tools and techniques

Tools	Purpose
Stakeholder and community feedback database	Edify will maintain a stakeholder and feedback database. This database will capture stakeholder information and specific engagement details, ensuring that stakeholder feedback, concerns, and enquiries are recorded and addressed. The database will be used to record all queries including those raised at community meetings and assign actions to relevant staff to ensure these are followed up promptly.
Project webpage	An Edify-branded Project webpage will be established and will be used as a key interface with stakeholders and the wider community. Hosted on Edify's website, it will include general Project information, factsheets, and contact information, including an online feedback form. It will be updated regularly to reflect the latest Project information.
Community enquiry number	Edify will promote a toll-free community feedback phone number in all communications.

Tools	Purpose
Email address	A Project email address will be established and available to stakeholders and the community during the life of the Project.
FAQs	Frequently Asked Questions to enable consistent responses to common questions across the Project team and stakeholders.
Letters	Tailored letters will be used for formal engagement with directly affected stakeholders and MPs. Letters will include relevant updates on the Project and key details such as Project and construction milestones.
Media releases	Media releases will be issued to communicate key messages, milestones, and announcements. Copies will be provided to relevant media outlets, as required. Major Project milestones are to be formally announced through a media event.
In-person meetings	Face-to-face meetings can take a variety of forms including scheduled meetings and site visits. Meetings are designed to offer information about the Project, establish and maintain open lines of communication, and establish a relationship should there be any future concerns or queries related to the Project. Meetings are to have an agenda, with minutes recording key decisions and all meeting participants. Community members will be notified of upcoming meetings via direct emails and follow-up phone calls where they are direct invitees, and via media advertising when the meetings are open to the wider community.
Surveys and questionnaires	Should stakeholder feedback on the proposal and engagement activities be required, online surveys and physical handout questionnaires will be used.
Virtual consultation tools	If necessary, remote consultation activities will be implemented, including video conferencing to conduct stakeholder briefings or as an alternative to in-person meetings.
Factsheets	A relevant factsheet to be prepared for distribution at community engagement activities to provide Project information on various topics. Factsheets will also be published on the Project website.
Advertisements	Community-focused consultation information will be included in local media advertising to

Tools	Purpose
	promote awareness, provide updates, and advise on key community meetings and consultation events.
Facilitated meetings	Facilitated meetings between key stakeholders and the Project team to provide transparency and access to technical experts and ultimately build a constructive relationship between Edify and the community.
Information events	Where required, local information sessions to support understanding of the Project by broader community members and stakeholders. These may be hosted by Edify or may include attendance at local regional events.

Potential risks, issues and concerns

A summary of the key risks and proposed management strategies or messaging is set out below.

Table 4 – Risks, issues and concerns

Subject	Risk / Issue / Concern	Potential management strategy / project response
Mistrust in the consultation process	Stakeholder concerns that the consultation process is 'merely for show' and is not genuine.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Clear messaging on how stakeholder feedback has been and will continue to be used going forward (transparency). – All team members to show genuine interest in stakeholder feedback and always capture feedback irrespective of sentiment.
Active 'anti' campaign commenced against Edify and / or the Project proposal	Engagement and communications focus on vocal minorities (including anti-renewable groups) taking focus away from the broader engagement process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Structured and transparent early engagement. – Consistent approach to engagement and communications. – Promotion of consultation with broad stakeholder groups, with varied interests. – Structured and responsive (rather than reactive) issues management.

Subject	Risk / Issue / Concern	Potential management strategy / project response
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Positive media strategy.
	Unsupportive community and / or the activation of community / landholder protest groups.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Structured and transparent early engagement. – Consistent approach to engagement and communications, including Project benefits targeted at the local community. – Development of a local procurement strategy.
Negative media interest	Media takes a negative interest in the Project and launches an active campaign with a negative focus.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Structured media strategy to address media issues. – Clear media protocols for management of media enquiries. – Transparent, open, ongoing communications to external stakeholders. – Ongoing appropriate issues management.
Project impact concerns	Cultural heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ongoing engagement and collaboration with key stakeholders, including Aboriginal groups and other heritage knowledge holders. – Develop clear messaging on how cultural heritage assessments are conducted and what happens if an artifact or place of significance is identified and confirmed.
	Construction impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Consulting with the local community to include construction impacts. – Development of a construction impact management and mitigation strategy addressing potential construction impact including traffic, noise, and air quality. – Development of an emergency response plan.

Subject	Risk / Issue / Concern	Potential management strategy / project response
	Environment, flora and fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ongoing engagement and community involvement in identifying key areas of flora or fauna importance. – Develop clear messaging on how ecology surveys are conducted and what happens if specific flora or fauna are identified and confirmed.

Community Engagement Action Plan

Table 5 – Community Engagement Plan

Activity	Description / Format / Tools / Resources	Target stakeholders	Purpose	Timeframe	Responsibility
EIS Development/Pre-Construction Phase					
Stakeholder mapping	Develop a comprehensive stakeholder map including the current level of influence/interest, sentiment, etc.	– Project team	Inform	Complete	– Premier Strategy
Re-initiation briefings	Re-engage with key stakeholders to confirm expectations and concerns – update in stakeholder database. Use these meetings to consult on shared benefit preferences and provide an update on the Project approach and timing.	– Council – MPs – Traditional Owners	Involve	Jan 2024	– Project Manager – Premier Strategy
Landholder engagement	Re-engage with host landholders to address any emerging issues or concerns, and update on timelines.	– Landholders	Involve	Jan 2024	– Premier Strategy – Project Manager

Activity	Description / Format / Tools / Resources	Target stakeholders	Purpose	Timeframe	Responsibility
Agrisolar	Consultation with host landholders for agrisolar including fencing and other requirements.	– Landholders	Collaborate	Jan 2024	– Project Manager
Neighbour consultation	Engage with near neighbours (up to 4kms) to address any emerging issues or concerns, and update on timelines. Use these meetings to also discuss the Community Benefit Fund and get input from neighbours.	– Neighbours to 4kms	Involve	Feb 2024	– Premier Strategy – Project Manager
Workshops on technical reports	Workshops to walk key stakeholders through the draft project technical reports including: – Ecology – VIA – Archaeology	– Landholders – Neighbours (up to 4kms) – Local Council	Inform	March 2024	– Premier Strategy – Project Manager
E-newsletter	Produce an e-newsletter (recommended monthly moving forward) to provide updates on Project timing and approach. Invite feedback and offer further opportunities to engage.	– Adjacent neighbours – Brewongle community – Key stakeholders	Involve	Feb 2024	– Premier Strategy – Community Engagement Advisor
E-database	Include promotion of website function for subscription to email updates and stakeholder communications as required.	– All	Inform	Jan 2024	– Community Engagement Advisor

Activity	Description / Format / Tools / Resources	Target stakeholders	Purpose	Timeframe	Responsibility
Website	Update the Project website to reflect Edify branding, including key project information, information on planning and pre-construction works, including relevant planning documents as required.	– All	Inform	Jan 2024	– Community Engagement Advisor – Project Manager
Project fact sheet	Update Project fact sheet, provide during stakeholder and neighbour meetings or as required.	– All	Inform	Jan 2024	– Project Manager – Community Engagement Advisor
Local business community information session	Host and run an information session for local businesses to find out about supply packages and provide support to tailor tenders. Potentially coordinate in conjunction with the Council.	– Local businesses (suppliers)	Collaborate	March 2024	– Project Manager – Premier Strategy
Media	Set up media monitoring to track coverage of Project construction and development.	– All	Inform	Jan 2024	– Community Engagement Advisor
Community survey	Implement a community survey with selected recipients that are representative of the local community. Use deliberative polling to confirm current sentiments towards the Project and provide feedback to the construction team, to inform approaches to ongoing engagement and issues management.	– Neighbours – Brewongle community – Key stakeholders	Involve	Feb 2024	– Premier Strategy
Stakeholder register	Maintain a stakeholder database	– Project team	Inform	Ongoing	– Premier Strategy – Project Manager

Activity	Description / Format / Tools / Resources	Target stakeholders	Purpose	Timeframe	Responsibility
Enquiries and Complaints Register	Maintain Enquiries and Complaints Register. Include current enquiries and complaints procedures on the Project website. Monitor the 1800 Project number.	– Project team	Inform	Ongoing	– Project Manager – Premier Strategy
Local Investment Register	Establish and maintain a detailed register of direct/indirect economic investment and employment metrics for ongoing use in communicating the positive impact of the Project (i.e. in response to Ministerial/media enquiries).	– Project team	Inform	Ongoing	– Project Manager
Traditional Owners	Engage further with Traditional Owners for purposes of sharing details of detailed planning outcomes on cultural heritage.	– Traditional Owners/ – LALCs	Collaborate	Ongoing	– Project Manager
Social Impact Assessment	Develop a Social Impact Assessment and use findings to refine engagement and community benefit fund	– Project team	Inform	Early 2024	– Project team
Agency engagement	Facilitate required meetings with local agencies for purposes of compiling remaining technical studies and reports before construction.	– Regulatory authorities – EPA	Involve	Jan 2024	– Project team
EPC input	Host pre-tender workshops for potential EPCs to understand Edify's social procurement requirements. Prepare a community context fact sheet for EPC contractors and subcontractors to	– EPC	Inform	March 2024	– Project team

Activity	Description / Format / Tools / Resources	Target stakeholders	Purpose	Timeframe	Responsibility
	ensure they are informed of the local community, context, and key issues.				
Social procurement	Initiate engagement with key stakeholders to identify opportunities the Project can offer to Aboriginal stakeholders, disadvantaged groups, and women.	– Community groups, local businesses and networks	Collaborate	Feb 2024	– Community Engagement Advisor – Project Manager – Premier Strategy

Activity	Description / Format / Tools / Resources	Target stakeholders	Purpose	Timeframe	Responsibility
Construction Phase					
Start of construction media	Issue proactive media release to mark the start of construction. Highlight local benefits and local employment targets, approaches, and outcomes.	– Media	Inform	TBC	– Community Engagement Advisor – Project Manager
Key stakeholder meetings	Further meetings with key stakeholders to introduce the Project Manager and EPC where necessary. Invite feedback on the planned approach to monitor for new issues/concerns.	– Council MPs – Regulatory Authorities – Local community groups	Involve	TBC	– Community Engagement Advisor – Project Manager EPC

Activity	Description / Format / Tools / Resources	Target stakeholders	Purpose	Timeframe	Responsibility
Site signage	Provide informative site signage in addition to minimum compliance signage. This will include contact details for the community.	All	Inform	TBC	Project Manager EPC
Community benefit fund	Establish a community benefit fund advisory committee via local advertising and newsletter coverage and host the first meeting. Provide and agree on a term of reference.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local council Neighbours Brewongle Community General community 	Collaborate	TBC	Project Manager
Building capacity for local employment	Continue discussions and face-to-face introductions with key employment and economic representatives to establish the best means of supporting local hire objectives with EPC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local suppliers Local workers 	Inform	TBC	Project Manager
Social procurement	Continue engagement with key stakeholders to engage organisations that work directly with Aboriginal stakeholders, disadvantaged groups, and women, to offer opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traditional Owners/ Aboriginal businesses Local NFP Employment agencies Schools 	Collaborate	TBC	Community Engagement Advisor

Activity	Description / Format / Tools / Resources	Target stakeholders	Purpose	Timeframe	Responsibility
Community e-newsletter	Continue production of community e-newsletter and provide updates on construction as required. Deliver to neighbours within 4km, and email to key stakeholders and community database.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neighbours Key stakeholders 	Inform	TBC	Community Engagement Advisor
Transport route engagement	Consider additional stakeholders impacted by transport route, and site deliveries, and commence targeted engagement in advance of transport occurring.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport route residents Australia Post local service 	Involve	TBC	Project Manager
Neighbours	Continue close engagement with neighbours to inform them of Project progress, and timings, and monitor for issues as they arise. Implement the use of construction amenity funds as required to mitigate impacts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neighbours 	Collaborate	TBC	Community Engagement Advisor
Agrisolar	Continue to consult with host landholders on agrisolar design requirements, including site design, fencing, etc. Incorporate on-site meetings to assess progress and identify any operational issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landholders 	Collaborate	TBC	Project Manager

Activity	Description / Format / Tools / Resources	Target stakeholders	Purpose	Timeframe	Responsibility
Emergency services	Continue to engage with RFS and other emergency services to ensure the Project supports local emergency response.	– Emergency services	Inform	TBC	– Project Manager
Ongoing media and community outreach	Continue to provide factual, informative media stories to local papers to update the community/stakeholders on Project achievements and deliverables against social benefits and local procurement plans.	– Media – Brewongle community – Bathurst LGA	Inform	TBC	– Communications
Enquiries and Complaints Register	Maintain Enquiries and Complaints Register and respond in line with procedure. Monitor 1800 Project number and website enquiries. Periodically report feedback from this process to the construction team to adjust approach / engagement plans if required.	– Project team	Inform	TBC	– Project Manager
Community drop-in session	Consider hosting an onsite or nearby community drop-in session for community members to meet with the construction team and participate in an informal update / discussion on ongoing works onsite.	– Neighbours – Brewongle community	Involve	TBC	– Community Engagement Advisor

Activity	Description / Format / Tools / Resources	Target stakeholders	Purpose	Timeframe	Responsibility
Key stakeholder tours	Provide an in-person experience of solar farm construction by providing key stakeholder site tours, hosted by Edify and EPC. Use initiative as an opportunity for media if appropriate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council - MPs - Chamber of Commerce - Community groups 	Involve	TBC	Project Manager
Community engagement monitoring and review	<p>Periodically monitor / assess quality, timelines, and reach of engagement initiatives.</p> <p>Confirm engagement plan is meeting the proposed objectives.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project team 	Inform	TBC	Community Engagement Advisor

Activity	Description / Format / Tools / Resources	Target stakeholders	Purpose	Timeframe	Responsibility
Operations Phase					
Start of operations media/event	Consider running a start of commercial operations media event announcement. Invite key stakeholders, and neighbours as an opportunity to share the outcomes delivered by the Project to date.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Media Neighbours Council MPs Special interest groups Project team 	Inform	TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Engagement Advisor Project Manager
Project fact sheet	Redevelop Project fact sheet to suit operations and use for distribution in hard copy during school visits, tours, and the website.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All 	Inform	TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asset Management (TBC)
E-newsletter	The final edition of the e-newsletter to detail the approach to asset management and to support the transition into operations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neighbours Brewongle community 	Inform	TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asset Management (TBC)
Neighbour relations	Maintain relations with immediate neighbours via direct communications, involvement in wider community activities, and provision of an annual onsite event. Use neighbour communications for early identification of issues and risks (i.e. noise).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neighbours 	Involve	TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asset Management (TBC)
Enquiries and Complaints Register	Ongoing implementation of formal enquiries and complaints procedure to ensure ongoing best-practice management of community contacts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All 	Involve	TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asset Management (TBC)

Activity	Description / Format / Tools / Resources	Target stakeholders	Purpose	Timeframe	Responsibility
	Maintain 1800 Project number.				
Incident response procedure	Specific communications and engagement input to incident management to ensure community and stakeholder perspectives are included (i.e. media management, neighbour notifications).	– All	Inform	TBC	– Asset Management (TBC)
Community benefit fund	Implement annual community grants commitment each year, to run for the life of the asset. Implementation includes planning, activation (advertising and stakeholder communications), media, and liaison with social benefit partners in collaboration with the grants committee.	– Neighbours – Council – Brewongle community	Collaborate	TBC	– Asset Management (TBC)
Council and Emergency Services meeting	Maintain periodical meetings with the Council Mayor and General Manager (Council, quarterly). Maintain annual site meetings with RFS before the bushfire season.	– Emergency services – Council	Collaborate	TBC	– Asset Management (TBC)

Activity	Description / Format / Tools / Resources	Target stakeholders	Purpose	Timeframe	Responsibility
Website	Maintain the existing BSF website and update it with relevant operations, news, and community news as required. Maintain as the primary source of detailed project information.	– All	Inform	TBC	– Asset Management (TBC)
Industry advocacy	Proactively identify opportunities to promote BSF operations to the broader energy industry (i.e. conferences, and memberships). Respond to industry requests for asset operations data for purposes of research and advocacy.	– Energy industry	Involve / collaborate	TBC	– Asset Management (TBC)

Activity	Description / Format / Tools / Resources	Target Stakeholders	Purpose	Timeframe	Responsibility
Decommissioning Phase					
<p>As part of the responsible management of all assets, Edify will develop a Decommissioning Plan in the later years of the Project.</p> <p>The DA requires this 12 months before decommissioning. Engagement with neighbours and key stakeholders remains a key activity before and through this phase.</p> <p>An engagement plan will be developed alongside the BSF Decommissioning Plan and will include the following essentials:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continuation of the Enquiries and Complaints Register, 1800 number and website. - Collaboration with Council and key community groups to forward-plan for potential impacts on the socioeconomic status of the region. - Informative communications on the approach to decommissioning, timing, impacts, and mitigation of environmental concerns. - A structured approach to ensure the site can return to full grazing/agricultural land use, in close cooperation with landholders. - Support for onsite personnel to transition to other employment in the area. - Support for community groups and grant recipients to sustain partnership programs and initiatives. 					

Key messages

The following messages are based on this CSEP's objectives, guiding principles, key issues, and objectives per key stakeholder. The messages are to be updated as the Project progresses and customised for the communications channels outlined in this CSEP. It is recommended Edify's FAQ document accompanies the messaging to stakeholder groups that require detail or response to specific concerns.

Table 6 – Key Messages

General Edify and Project topics	Key messages
About Edify	<p>Edify Energy is a market-leading, Australian-owned renewable energy company with extensive experience in developing and financing renewable projects across Australia.</p> <p>Edify has a strong track record, as a leading developer of utility-scale renewable energy projects in Australia, having financed several large-scale projects across the country.</p> <p>Edify's commitment to renewable innovation has been the catalyst for creating new Australian energy infrastructure solutions and disruption to old industry models.</p> <p>Edify is a key player in shifting Australia's landscape from being heavily reliant on traditional energy sources, with projects that produce enough electricity to power over 280,000 Australian homes or nearly three per cent of all homes in the country.</p> <p>Edify has a comprehensive engagement commitment that ensures that it is Edify that engages its stakeholders from start to finish. Edify is invested and involved across the entire project life cycle.</p> <p>Our engagement commitment is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will communicate decisions that will affect stakeholders as early as possible, in the clearest possible fashion, and through channels they can access. • We will listen to feedback and be clear with stakeholders where they can influence outcomes / co-create / participate in the decision-making process, or where they are being advised / informed. • We will incorporate stakeholder feedback wherever possible and follow through where there has been a commitment made.

General Edify and Project topics	Key messages
About the Project	<p>Edify is planning to develop the Brewongle Solar Farm (BSF), a 90 MW renewable energy project with an associated battery energy storage system in Bathurst, NSW.</p> <p>The BSF is proposed to have an anticipated combined capacity across both solar and battery of 90MW and 90MW/360MWhr respectively.</p> <p>The Project site on the involved landholder property 'Euarra' was selected based on the proximity to the overhead transmission line which is an integral component of any electricity generator, to ensure energy produced is exported into the NSW transmission network with the least amount of electrical losses.</p> <p>The project's site access point will be established via Tarana Road, via O'Connell Road.</p> <p>The BSF project is expected to create local employment opportunities, including approximately 250 full-time equivalent jobs during peak construction and about five permanent jobs during its 30+ years of operation.</p> <p>Construction of the Brewongle Solar Farm is anticipated to commence in Q4, 2026/2027.</p>
About Project benefits	<p>Edify's Brewongle Solar Farm project benefits include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local employment boost • Sustainable jobs • Community investment • Enhanced energy supply • Grid reliability <p>The BSF project will create approximately 250 full-time equivalent jobs during the peak construction period, injecting economic vitality into the local community.</p> <p>The employment opportunities created through the BSF project will benefit the Brewongle economy, without putting unnecessary strain on rental and accommodation options, with Edify providing a bus-in-bus-out service.</p> <p>Over the project's 30+ years of operation, it will provide approximately five permanent jobs, ensuring long-term employment opportunities for the local workforce.</p> <p>Edify's commitment extends beyond energy generation to include direct local investment through a Community Benefit Fund, further enriching the region's development.</p> <p>The solar asset integrated into the Brewongle Solar Farm will significantly contribute to increased electricity generation capacity, bolstering the area's energy resources.</p>

General Edify and Project topics	Key messages
	<p>With the battery energy storage system, the project will offer increased dispatchable electricity, firming capabilities, and enhanced system strength services, ensuring a reliable and stable energy grid.</p> <p>Edify is dedicated to collaborating with the Bathurst Regional Council, negotiating a Voluntary Planning Contribution that will benefit the community and the region as a whole.</p>
About solar power	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solar energy is a renewable source of energy that can be converted into electricity using a range of ever-improving techniques. • Solar photovoltaic (PV) panels are currently the most widespread type of solar PV technology, however, other types of solar PV are being developed that can be integrated into buildings, such as flexible PV and even PV paint. • That's why companies like Edify are investing in solar energy, an inexhaustible energy source that sustainably meets our emerging energy needs. • Solar panels harness sunlight to produce energy, relying on the light rather than the heat. It is common for panels to become less effective in extreme heat. <p>Pros</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It's a renewable and available resource. • It's easy to install. • Very low noise occurs during energy production. • Low maintenance. <p>Cons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy can only be produced during daylight hours – that's why we're investing in storage solutions.

General Edify and Project topics	Key messages
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The amount of sunlight available depends on location, time of day, time of year, and weather conditions. • Needs lots of space.

Stakeholder Group	Key messages
Host landholders	<p>FOR ALL STAKEHOLDER GROUPS:</p> <p>Always refer to Edify's engagement commitment to communicate early and listen, respond and, where possible, act, on feedback received.</p> <p>Thank you for supporting Australia's clean energy transition.</p> <p>We acknowledge the diversification of your business model and will ensure our communications with your neighbours are respectful and timely, so that this does not define your relationships.</p> <p>Your ongoing knowledge and advice will be invaluable as the project progresses.</p> <p>We want your involvement in the establishment and delivery of the community benefit-sharing scheme</p>
Near neighbours (4kms)	<p>We want to provide you with early, and regular communication about the project and hear your feedback on the issues that matter to you, as a neighbour directly interested in the project.</p> <p>We will ensure you are able to share in the project's benefits.</p> <p>We look forward to providing further details on the shared community benefit fund and hearing your ideas on where the community can best utilise this investment</p>
Brewongle community	<p>We hear your concerns, and we will work with the community to address each of these as the project evolves, ensuring we communicate with you early, with transparency, and with a solutions-based mindset.</p> <p>Rest assured, we have a strong track record in honestly engaging with the communities in which our projects are based to understand the local nuances and ensure members have a say in the direct and indirect benefits.</p> <p>We recognise the fact the BSF Project's success lies mostly in ensuring the community is well-informed and not surprised about the project's progress.</p>

Stakeholder Group	Key messages
	<p>We understand we need to build trust and a solid foundation with the community and like any relationship, this takes time and lots of nurturing.</p> <p>We understand not everyone communicates the same and that's why we are engaging across a variety of methods.</p> <p>Alongside ongoing BAU engagement, consultation is also focused on opportunities to involve key stakeholder groups in local participation planning, social benefit fund refinement, and project delivery.</p> <p>Re alternative site locations:</p> <p>Edify understands alternative sites have been proposed within other sections of the chosen landholder's property (located 2,900m south of Transgrid's 132kV network). After considering this and other sites that offer viable capacity, it was concluded that the proposed site remains the most suitable (200m south of the overhead line and setback 200m to avoid Saltwater Creek).</p>
Council	<p>Thank you for your engagement to date. We appreciate you being open to discussing the benefits and opportunities of hosting renewable projects in your local government area, and also the important role you can play as conduit for community concerns. Edify looks forward to working with your executive and councillors to support your leadership and commitment to climate change targets, as stated in the Our Region Our Future plan, adopted by council in 2022.</p> <p>We will be exploring ways we can invest in projects that matter to the community of Brewongle and surrounds.</p> <p>Council plays an important role when it comes to informing the viability of ideas put forward for future investment into community projects and legacy infrastructure that may be identified through the community benefit-sharing fund</p>
State MP	<p>One of Edify's key objectives is to give confidence to regulators, governments, decision-makers, and other stakeholder representatives by demonstrating our engagement approach.</p> <p>We acknowledge the important role you play as a conduit for community concerns and, we would like to directly engage you early and often on the BSF project and planning progress. As we have shared directly with them:</p> <p><i>Rest assured, we have a strong track record in honestly engaging with the communities in which our projects are based to understand the local nuances, and ensure members have a say in the direct and indirect benefits.</i></p>

Stakeholder Group	Key messages
	<p><i>We recognise the fact the BSF Project's success lies mostly in ensuring the community is well-informed and not surprised about the project's progress.</i></p> <p><i>We understand we need to build trust and a solid foundation with the community and like any relationship, this takes time and lots of nurturing.</i></p>
Federal MP	<p>One of Edify's key objectives is to give confidence to regulators, governments, decision-makers, and other stakeholder representatives by demonstrating our engagement approach.</p> <p>Edify has shared its commitment with the community:</p> <p><i>Rest assured, we have a strong track record in honestly engaging with the communities in which our projects are based to understand the local nuances and ensure members have a say in the direct and indirect benefits.</i></p> <p><i>We recognise the fact the BSF Project's success lies mostly in ensuring the community is well-informed and not surprised about the project's progress.</i></p>
Local community groups	<p>We will keep you up to date as the project progresses.</p> <p>We are here to support you through our Community Benefit Fund.</p> <p>If there are community organisations with ideas on how we can partner with you, please contact us to discuss.</p>
Rural Fire Service	<p>We will keep you up to date as the project progresses.</p> <p>We want to work with you to ensure our project activities abide by safety and regulatory requirements.</p>
Schools, TAFEs, and Universities	<p>We want to partner with you on education and vocational opportunities associated with the project.</p> <p>We want to work with you to support youth retention in the community – support the growth that's already happening in this area.</p> <p>We want to work with you to build a skilled workforce in the area.</p>

Stakeholder Group	Key messages
Business groups / industry stakeholders	<p>We want to work with you to understand possible ways you can participate in the development of the project.</p> <p>We will be encouraging flow-on financial benefits for local businesses</p>
First Nations stakeholders	<p>We are committed to engaging with First Nations People on our projects.</p> <p>We understand the importance of early and ongoing engagement with First Nations People.</p> <p>We acknowledge and respect Traditional Owner's understanding of Country.</p> <p>We'll be exploring options for collaborating with Traditional Owners on the delivery of mutually beneficial initiatives (i.e. employment for indigenous work crews).</p>
Project opponents	<p><i>* These messages are based on current assumed concerns. They will require further work dependent on each individual opponent/ group, their questions' their tone etc.</i></p> <p>A reminder: FOR ALL STAKEHOLDER GROUPS: Always refer to Edify's engagement commitment to communicate early and listen, respond, and, where possible, act, on feedback received.</p> <p>We share your commitment to environmental preservation. Let's work together to address concerns and find sustainable solutions for solar farm development that minimise ecological impacts.</p> <p>Your input is invaluable. We're dedicated to meaningful engagement and open dialogue to address your concerns and ensure our project benefits the entire community.</p> <p>We value our heritage. Let's collaborate to identify and protect cultural and historical sites while still promoting sustainable energy solutions.</p> <p>Our commitment is to work closely with you to design solar farms that are visually harmonious with the surroundings. Let's explore landscaping, screening, and aesthetic design options to minimise any visual impact and maintain the scenic character of this community.</p>
Community organisations	As per community group messaging provided above.

Stakeholder Group	Key messages
	<i>*Further work will be required to respond to each group based on their questions; their tone; their current knowledge and interest in the project etc</i>
The Roads & Traffic Authority (RTA)	<p>We will keep you up to date as the project progresses.</p> <p>We want to work with you to ensure our project activities abide by safety and regulatory requirements.</p>

Governance

The following processes and protocols will be used for the proactive management of information sharing throughout the life of the Project.

Table 7 - Governance

Project requirement	Responsibility
Written communications protocol	All material for public distribution will be approved by Edify before distribution.
Emails, community enquiries, and complaint letters	<p>Written responses will be approved by the Project team before distribution.</p> <p>Enquiries, along with responses, will be recorded in the stakeholder and issues database with the appropriate thematic 'tags' identified.</p> <p>Stakeholder details are to be managed according to the requirements of the Privacy Act 1988.</p>
Phone or in-person enquiries	The details of calls or enquiries will be recorded in the stakeholder and issues database.
Media and political enquiries	<p>Media enquiries will be referred to Edify as soon as practicable.</p> <p>Enquiries from political representatives and their offices will be referred to Edify as soon as practicable.</p>

Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring

Engagement and communication processes will be monitored and reviewed to:

- Ensure the techniques being used are effective
- Identify new stakeholders
- Respond to any new issues
- Ensure staff/ subcontractors are complying with community protocols.

This will be achieved by:

- Reviewing enquiries and complaints data to identify unresolved or recurring issues and emerging trends
- Informal discussions with stakeholders and the community
- Informal discussions with members of the Project team
- Media monitoring.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Clean Energy Council's Best Practice Charter for Renewable Energy Developments

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

Appendix 2: Edify Stakeholder Feedback Framework (suggested)

In line with the Australian/New Zealand Standard Guidelines for complaint management and recommendations from the Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner (AEIC), Edify Energy will establish a transparent process for managing complaints and concerns raised by community members. The process involves the following key steps:

Contact Details for Complaints:

Project Website: <https://edifyenergy.com/>

Telephone Number (toll-free): 1800 XXX XXX

Email: hello@edifyenergy.com

Mail: Level 1, 34-35 South Steyne, Manly NSW 2095

- These contact details will be prominently displayed on the project's public website, community consultations, and relevant project documentation.

Step 1: Receive and register a complaint

- Contact can be made verbally or in written form through various channels.
- Inquiries or concerns are responded to directly and recorded in the stakeholder register.
- For complaints, standardised information is collected, including the complainant's details, a unique reference number, turbine or monitoring mast reference (if applicable), and details of the complaint.
- Information is recorded in the Complaints Register.

Step 2: Acknowledging complaints

- Non-urgent complaints are acknowledged within three business days; urgent complaints receive a response within 24 hours.
- Acknowledgment includes a summary of the complaint, a reference number, an opportunity for clarification, the proposed investigation approach, and an estimated response timeframe.

Step 3: Investigating complaints

- The Project Manager ensures thorough investigation, delegating as necessary.
- Records of the investigation, including site visits, consultations, and evidence collection, are maintained.

Step 4: Responding to stakeholder/complainant

- The results of the investigation are clearly explained to the complainant, including findings and proposed resolution.
- The complainant determines the satisfaction with the resolution.

Step 5: Closing the complaint

- If resolved satisfactorily, the Project Manager closes the complaint and issues formal correspondence to the complainant.
- If not satisfied, the complainant has a right to review by the Project Manager or can contact the Australian Energy Infrastructure.

Step 6: Recording and registering the complaint

- Upon closing, the Complaints Register is updated with details of the investigation, proposed resolution, acceptance, implementation, and reasons for closure.

Escalation of complaint

If the complaint cannot be resolved by the Edify Energy Project Team, options for external review include:

- Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner
- Energy and Water Ombudsman Queensland
- Australian Energy Regulator