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# **CLEAN ENERGY COUNCIL**

## **Best Practice Charter Reporting 2025**

19 August 2025

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# 1 General

## 1.1 Introduction

Goldwind Australia (Goldwind) continues to strive to meet and exceed its expectations across all of its regulatory and industry commitments, and within this document Goldwind, it demonstrates how it continues to meet its commitments for the Clean Energy Council's (CEC) Best Practice Charter for Renewable Energy Projects (Charter) in 2025.

## 2 Executive Summary

Goldwind is committed to ensure stronger values are built, across all aspects of its work, while supporting the CEC to strengthen Best Practice in the renewable energy industry. Goldwind, represented through its project teams, recognises that transparency and accountability are essential to advance all levels of stakeholder engagement, while together, we strive to improve a shared goal of a successful transformational shift to renewable energy in Australia.

Goldwind is a signatory to this CEC Charter, and it agrees to uphold the ten (10) Charter commitments. We are pleased to submit this report to support our Best Practice standards and obligations for community engagement, environmental management, and economic benefits. We do this by outlining Goldwind's practices and relevant projects, with details of how we develop and deliver with a considered approach, in a responsible and sustainable manner.

### 3 Scorecard

Goldwind uses this document to reflect on its performance against Charter commitments. We continually strive for improvement and the rating used reflects our internal rating.

- Exceeding commitment
- Meeting commitment
- Developing commitment

| Commitment                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Self Rating        |
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| 1. We will engage respectfully with the local community, including Traditional Owners of the land, to seek their views and input before submitting a development application and finalising the design of the project. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Goldwind engages early with community and stakeholders during all stages of its projects, providing open and transparent communications and information. We develop communications collateral early to ensure we genuinely engage and inform stakeholders.</li><li>• We develop public websites for projects, which has contact forms and links to updates – while offering an option for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People to self-identify when communicating with the project via each project website.</li><li>• Goldwind uses varied methods to engage and customises its approach</li></ul> | Meeting commitment |

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|  | <p>to respectfully align with a project's location, community and values.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Across all engagement project teams strive for in-person meetings, when possible, to build relationships and integrity in the community.</li> <li>• Our First Nations engagement always preferences a personalised, and face-to-face communication, when possible, to foster the sharing of meaningful knowledge sharing and respect for Country.</li> <li>• With a full suite of engagement tools, our project teams can ensure feedback from the community is listened to, and respected, including input from 'hard to reach audiences' in regional and rural locations.</li> <li>• First Nations engagement is an essential part of project planning, with initial engagement with local Traditional Owners consistently occurring prior to environmental studies and met mast installations.</li> <li>• Our project teams across all phases of development, foster an inclusive workplace, where First Nations important calendar milestones are recognised and celebrated.</li> <li>• On the Baldon Wind Farm project, it was through early engagement with local Elders and the Local Aboriginal Land Council, that turbine micro-siting occurred, to ensure the project design did not impact areas of cultural sensitivity, specifically burial sites. In-person meetings also identified a property access need, which, through engagement with the landowners, ensured Traditional Owners could regularly access the project site, to care for these recognised cultural heritage, sacred areas.</li> <li>• Early engagement also includes community and First Nations consideration, and consultation with regards to project naming and local training and employment during the lifecycle of the project.</li> <li>• Our project teams collaborate with local Traditional Owners to design and present cultural awareness content, for on-site inductions and toolboxes, relating to respecting Care for Country values.</li> <li>• We deliver community support in the form of sponsorships across</li> </ul> |  |
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|                                                                                                                                                                             | <p>Goldwind projects, including the Baldon Wind Farm, where the project sponsored NAIDOC Week celebrations for local children, while assisting the local Bowls Club by donating a raffle prize to help support its fundraising initiatives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our organisation ensures cultural awareness training is mandatory, including ensuring the development team complete the CEC 'Leading practice: First Nations engagement' course.</li> <li>• For extensive community engagement needs, our strategy includes establishing information hubs in town centres. For example, the Coppabella Wind Farm offers shopfront public access for project in the township of Binalong NSW. Staffed locally, it employs local people to represent the project, and serves as an effective drop-in project hub, assisting to update community.</li> <li>• Visual impact assessments are a key part of project development engagement, and key findings are shared with community, to ensure there is an opportunity for stakeholders to provide feedback. This transparency and engagement has the potential to inform decision-making and has led to turbine placement alterations in the design process across several projects.</li> </ul> |                    |
| <p>2. We will provide timely information and be accessible and responsive in addressing the local community's feedback and concerns throughout the life of the project.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project collateral is regularly available with multiple methods of feedback mechanisms available. Our engagement allows for a wide variety of communication needs, including 1800 calls, email, website links, in-person meetings and public information sessions.</li> <li>• Our Stakeholder Engagement Managers are experienced and qualified to engage in a timely manner, and the Goldwind engagement team all hold the Certificate of Engagement qualification gained through IAP2.</li> <li>• Our projects are supported by an overarching, culturally safe, comprehensive complaints handling policy which is reviewed to ensure continuous improvement and alignment with Australian law. Goldwind's complaints handling procedures aim to ensure fair, timely and an</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Meeting commitment |

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|                                                                                                                                   | <p>effective resolution of complaints.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Goldwind is proactive in identifying and addressing ‘engagement fatigue’ in the communities we work in. We mitigate and manage this issue by giving timely consideration to planning our activities, to complement the broader scope of events and projects in the local area.</li> <li>We ensuring all feedback provided to our teams is considered. For instance, engagement with stakeholders in early project stages, has enabled us to foresee and mitigate against negative project impacts.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                      |
| 3. We will be sensitive to areas of high biodiversity, cultural and landscape value in the development and operation of projects. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Goldwind is committed to early engagement with local interest groups that specialise in biodiversity, cultural heritage, and the conservation of the environment</li> <li>All Goldwind projects work with environmental management plans in place, to help identify potential risks, explore mitigation measures, and ensure informed decision-making to minimise harm to the environment.</li> <li>Our projects adopt an ‘avoid, minimise and offset’ approach, allowing for conservation measures to protect the habitat of vulnerable species. On the Baldon Wind Farm the project’s Environmental Impact Statement identifies the Plains-wanderer as an endangered bird within the project environment, with early pre-clearing surveys and protocols for Plains-wanderer nesting sites prepared. Moreover, the project has committed significant support to the <i>Trust for Nature</i> research on the Plains-wanderer. The project has also implemented a Southern Bell Frog Adaptive Management Plan, for the same southern NSW area.</li> <li>At the White Rock Solar Farm, we are working on a biodiversity enhancement area aiming to re-establish native vegetation, by reconditioning areas to increase fauna protection and habitat. This environmental work includes our conservation strategies to ensure the local blackish blind snake is protected across all project phases.</li> <li>In Tasmania on the Bashan Wind Farm project, Goldwind has</li> </ul> | Exceeding commitment |

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|                                                                                                                                            | implemented technology which detects bird flight paths, mitigating against collision with birds, using a ground-breaking IdentiFlight system. This has resulted in substantial mitigation of impacts to the protected Tasmanian Wedge Tailed Eagle, and other species. The system is continually advancing its technology to provide an increased level of detection and mitigation.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                    |
| 4. We will minimise the impacts on highly productive agricultural land and explore opportunities to integrate agricultural production.     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Goldwind projects successfully exist alongside agricultural land, and in many cases, have supported this land to flourish. Our project team take the time to understand the needs of our turbine hosts and near neighbours. It is with our continued collaboration with landowners and farming businesses that our projects can ensure we operate the asset 'as a whole'. This means we are dedicated to minimising impacts and collaborating with farmers, not just for our development and construction needs, but also for the wider benefit of agriculture. This includes the preparation and implementation of Farm Management Plans on projects.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Meeting commitment |
| 5. We will consult the community on the potential visual, noise, traffic, and other impacts of the project, and on the mitigation options. | <p>We deliver quality engagement practices, with strategies always tailored to each community, and guided by the IAP2 Public Participation Spectrum. This strategic framework is an industry standard in Australia, well-recognised by organisations and government bodies as the Best Practice to a support consistent and sustainable approach to the engagement we conduct.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We are committed to early stakeholder engagement throughout the project lifecycle, with engagement tools including information sessions, face-to-face meetings, online sessions, communications materials, advertising, and websites.</li> <li>An example is the information sessions held in the NSW townships of Balranald, Moulamein and Hay for the Baldon Wind Farm, hosted by local businesses and advertised through the local newspapers. The information sessions covered topics raised by community such as construction phase, water management, accommodation camps and</li> </ul> | Meeting commitment |

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|                                                                                                          | <p>local housing issues, supporting local business and community benefits. The project distributed fact sheets that addressed common questions on noise, traffic and potential visual impacts. We also displayed maps to ensure community members understood the location and design of the project in relation to local roads and towns, and the use of screening (with the potential of procurement from local plant nurseries) to minimise potential visual impacts.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                             |
| <p>6. We will support the local economy by providing local employment and procurement opportunities.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goldwind's procurement and commercial team continually seek feedback from the engagement team to identify opportunities within a project's supply chain, for the benefit of the community and local businesses.</li> <li>• We focus on local sourcing for contractors, consultants and service providers through our Local Business Participation Programs and utilise the Industry Capability Network (ICN) and valued social procurement networks such as Social Traders. Kinaway, Supply Nation to support this commitment.</li> <li>• Understanding the communities we work in is key to this and we collaborate closely with community groups including First Nations groups to understand their capability to potentially work on the project during various parts of the project lifecycle.</li> <li>• Our projects require highly skilled turbine technicians, electrical engineers, SCADA programmers and other specialists. We also need delivery and truck drivers, fencing contractors, horticulturalists, plumbers, builders, environmental advisors, arborists, riggers, earthmoving contractors, civil engineers, safety specialists and many others. We recruit, train and employ staff locally wherever we can.</li> <li>• Roads are often upgraded, and our projects support legacy improvement of local amenities, such as a recycling plant in the Central Highlands of Tasmania, which is a local employer.</li> <li>• Our scholarship requirements are regularly reviewed and updated to</li> </ul> | <p>Exceeding commitment</p> |

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|                                                                                                                                                                              | <p>reflect the needs of the community. For example, our guidelines for the Moorabool Wind Farm have recently been updated to reflect the community need for more qualified people in the health and education sectors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our projects are committed to ensuring that our operational service staff are 100% local people, ensuring that local jobs are generated from the communities we work in.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                    |
| 7. We will offer communities the opportunity to share in the benefits of the project, and consult them on the options available, including relevant governance arrangements. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goldwind has introduced electricity benefit sharing schemes across all our projects to address near neighbour concerns and inequity.</li> <li>• Our community benefit funds are executed by community representatives and continue to provide significant funds to our communities; to date projects we have initiated have funded over \$2M of community grant funds across Australia.</li> <li>• We are constantly looking for better ways to share the benefits with the community and see potential opportunity to pool funds with other proponents where appropriate in the future.</li> <li>• Our most recent community benefit fund schemes are designed to ensure specific funding is dedicated for local First Nations groups.</li> </ul> | Meeting commitment |
| 8. We commit to using the project to support educational and tourism opportunities where appropriate.                                                                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our wind farms regularly host visits from schools, universities, and local interest groups.</li> <li>• During the development stage of the Clarke Creek Wind Farm, Goldwind actively engaged with schools on First Nations cultural heritage knowledge sharing through the development of an artefacts display.</li> <li>• We partner with key educational organisations such as universities on grid development initiatives, TAFE on upskilling local communities, and partner with like-minded organisations on initiatives such as the Tasmanian Girls in Power career event, and the TAFE NSW Job Expo which has been attended by the Baldon Wind Farm team, to present career information to local regional students.</li> </ul>             | Meeting commitment |

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|                                                                                                                                                                                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Goldwind Australia is also highly supportive of industry activities with universities, with engagement and participation across a range of events, for example with Monash University and the University of Melbourne.</li> <li>Our projects all contain a focus on educational funding by way of scholarships. Our scholarship requirements have evolved to reflect the needs of the local community.</li> <li>We hold regular open days at our wind farms that encourage tourism and help educate attendees, while our early planning includes strong engagement with the tourist information centres, tourism officers and economic development managers across local councils.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                    |
| 9. We will demonstrate responsible land stewardship over the life of the project and welcome opportunities to enhance the ecological, cultural, and/or agricultural value of the land. | <b>IdentiFlight</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Goldwind implemented IdentiFlight technology in Tasmania, initially, and as an 'Australian First' at the Cattle Hill Wind Farm. As a bird protection system which is continually advanced, IdentiFlight uses precision optical sensors and AI to detect endangered Tasmanian Wedge-tailed and White Bellied Eagles. It mitigates against bird and turbine blade collision by automatically shutting down specific wind turbines temporarily once flight paths are detected. This system is now implemented at Goldwind's Bashan Wind Farm, also in Tasmania.</li> <li>During commissioning and trial operations stages, our project teams have ensured positive outcomes when integrating this mitigation system with a project's balance of plant and turbine control system. This work has achieved significant performance gains for both eagle detection and plant generation.</li> <li>Having pioneered the use of this system for the protection to analyse the flight paths of endangered eagles in Tasmania, we have continued to optimise the system to reduce lost power generation time associated with eagle curtailments.</li> </ul> | Meeting commitment |
| 10. During the life of the project, we will recycle                                                                                                                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Goldwind is a signatory member to the Australian Packaging Covenant</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Developing         |

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| waste materials where feasible and commit to responsible decommissioning or refurbishment/repowering of the site at the end of the project's life. | <p>Organisation (APCO), a not-for-profit organisation leading the development of a circular economy for packaging in Australia. Members agree to working with Government and Industry to achieve sustainable packaging through material reduction, design, targeted recycling rates, reduced waste to landfill, alternative materials and circular economy activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• As a signatory, we submit an annual action plan that sets out what we propose to do to contribute to the Covenant's aim and meets the obligations published by APCO, and an annual report that outlines performance against all the action plan commitments.</li><li>• Goldwind has commenced collaborative discussions with research leads at two universities with the intention to provide industry assistance for research into recycling of wind turbine blades. Goldwind has introduced the emerging waste management challenge from an industry perspective and provided blade material and composition details.</li><li>• Goldwind has also engaged with an innovative recycling technology company, PVC Separation (PVCS). PVC Separation is a proprietary and patented process for separating laminated polymer and other materials that are currently considered difficult or impossible to separate. PVCS uses a chemical process to produce clean separated materials ready for recycling. The technology is currently at a test scale and progress depends on CSIRO feedback.</li><li>• Goldwind selects waste management contractors for new projects with consideration of sustainability goals and the environmental initiatives and outcomes that the contractor can provide.</li><li>• Shipping containers are donated to interested local community members such as Fire Brigade, Air Ambulance, Mackay Softball team, horse shelters, and wildlife vet shelters.</li><li>• Goldwind has also upcycled corporate office equipment, for a donation</li></ul> | commitment |
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|  | <p>to community groups in the areas we work in, this activity contributes to recycling efforts and supports a circular economy ethos,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Goldwind has prepared a BESS Sustainable decommissioning plan for one of our development projects. This includes partnerships with major recyclers for BESS in addition to the collection of domestic, office and power tool type batteries to support the local Men’s Shed annual battery recycling initiative, which uses the money raised to repopulate the local rivers with fish fingerlings.</li></ul> |  |
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## 4 Case studies

Goldwind will highlight some specific case studies in the following section of the report.

### 4.1 Community impacts and mitigation options

#### 4.1.1 Bradys Lake Fire Lookout Tower, Tasmania

Goldwind contributed \$77,000 for the installation of cutting-edge artificial intelligence (AI) fire detection technology at Bradys Fire Tower, via the Bashan Wind Farm project. The Tasmania Fire Service, Sustainable Timber Tasmania and Indicium Dynamics were instrumental and important partners in the installation.

The vast, forested landscapes of Tasmania's Central Highlands pose unique challenges for bushfire detection. By enabling early detection, this AI-powered technology will help protect the natural environment and safeguard local communities.

The solution is part of the Forest Foresight initiative, aimed at implementing a technology-driven approach to prevention, prediction, detection and response to fire risks in forestry areas. The solution uses cameras and AI to provide information to the Tasmania Fire Service for early fire detection services for surrounding land managers and communities.

This initiative demonstrates Goldwind's ongoing commitment to delivering safer, more sustainable outcomes in the regions where we operate.



*Bradys Lake Fire Lookout Tower*

## 4.2 Responsible land stewardship

### Protection of Ptunarra Brown Butterfly



The Ptunarra Brown Butterfly is endemic to Tasmania, living only within Highland Poa tussock grasslands above 400 metres. This grassland habitat is critical to the Brown Butterfly lifecycle as young caterpillars feed exclusively on Poa leaves, however very little Highland Poa remains today, having been lost through conversion to pasture or plantation. Over-grazing, over-burning and predation by the introduced European wasp have led to this becoming endangered.

During development of the Bashan Wind Farm project, Goldwind carried out flora, and vegetation community surveys as part of the turbine micro-siting process, tasking consulting ecologists VDC with finding any areas of Highland Poa which could be protected as part of a nature positive initiative. Goldwind is aware of the importance of this habitat from having developed the adjoining Cattle Hill Wind Farm, and the intertwined ecological relationships which underpin biodiversity outcomes:

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Following surveys, of a 14.5ha parcel of land, Highland Poa was identified as suitable Brown Butterfly habitat and has been resurveyed to map the extent of which could be protected. Goldwind obtained permission from the landowner to protect this area as part of the wind farm, even though it falls outside of the project disturbance footprint, meaning no offset is technically required. In this way, Goldwind is ensuring the small amount of Brown Butterfly habitat remaining in Tasmania can be protected and enhanced in perpetuity, as part of a Bashan Wind Farm legacy.

The Brown Butterfly conservation initiative is one of many 'nature positive' initiatives being embedded into the project, which aims to establish a benchmark for Best Practice in ecological sustainability and achieving biodiversity outcomes for Tasmanian wind farms.