



Best Practice Charter Report

August 2025

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FRONT PAGE COVER IMAGE CAPTION:

Flock of sheep peacefully resting during a sunrise, with Starfish Hill Wind Farm (South Australia) turbines in the background.

ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

RATCH Australia Corporation (RAC) is a founding sponsoring member of the Clean Energy Council and signatory to the Best Practice Charter for Renewable Energy Projects

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

The annual report showcases examples of how RAC is meeting its commitments under the Charter to be sensitive to environmental and cultural values, and to make a positive contribution to the regions we operate.



Sahachthorn Putthong
RATCH Australia
Corporation CEO

CEO FOREWARD

At RATCH Australia Corporation, our commitment to the Clean Energy Council's Best Practice Charter isn't just about meeting expectations, it's about leading with purpose and integrity.

Over the past decade, we've had the privilege of working in some of Australia's most remarkable communities, where renewable energy projects have become more than just infrastructure – they've become catalysts for opportunity, innovation, and connection. This report reflects our ongoing commitment to listen deeply, act responsibly, and partner meaningfully with the communities, landowners, and Traditional Owners who share their lands and stories with us.

Our unique position as custodians of both long-standing and newly developed assets gives us invaluable insight into how the energy landscape (and community expectations) have evolved. With every project, we learn more about what it means to deliver energy that is not only sustainable, but genuinely community-centric. Whether it's co-designing benefit sharing funds, partnering with local suppliers and contractors, or supporting school visits, our approach remains grounded in respect, and long-term thinking.

I am proud of the people behind our projects; our employees, our community partners, our local contractors, and the everyday volunteers whose quiet dedication strengthens their region. It's their stories that bring this Charter to life, and show what best practice truly looks like in action.

As we continue to grow our renewable energy portfolio, our commitment remains the same: to develop projects that support local prosperity, protect environmental and cultural values, and help shape a sustainable, inclusive energy future for all Australians.

Introduction

RATCH Australia Corporation (RAC) originates, acquires, develops, constructs, and operates an extensive portfolio of renewable and firming energy assets, providing electricity across Australia for over a decade.

Founded in 2011, RAC currently owns and manages 11 energy generation assets with a combined capacity of 1.6GW comprising both renewable projects and gas-fired stations that provide grid stability. An additional 1.8GW of new renewable energy projects are currently in planning and development.

To date, RAC has invested more than \$1 billion in Australian greenfield renewable developments, including nearly 600MW of new wind and solar capacity since 2017. Notably, this includes the 227MW Collector Wind Farm (NSW), which commenced operations in June 2021.

RAC is a wholly-owned subsidiary of RATCH Group, a Thailand Stock Exchange-listed company with energy generation assets across Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia and Laos. The RATCH Group continues to expand its footprint throughout South-East Asia.

RAC plays a key part in the delivery of the RATCH Group's objective to grow its renewable energy portfolio to 25% by 2030, and its ambition to become carbon neutral by 2050.

THE RAC DIFFERENCE

What are RATCH Australia Corporation's values?

Our Values

Professional

Be entrepreneurial and commit to integrity

Innovation

Boost agility and encourage innovation

Teamwork

Excel at synergy and collaboration, strengthen partnerships

The Best Practice Charter for Renewable Energy Projects commitments are:

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.
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.
3. We will be sensitive to areas of high biodiversity, cultural and landscape value in the design and operation of project.
4. We will minimise the impacts on highly productive agricultural land and explore opportunities to integrate agricultural production.
5. We will consult the community on the potential visual, noise, traffic and other impacts of the project, and on the mitigation options.
6. We will support the local economy by providing local employment and procurement opportunities.
7. We will offer communities the opportunity to share in the benefits of the project, and consult them on the options available, including the relevant governance arrangements.
8. We commit to using the project to support educational and tourism opportunities where appropriate.
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.
10. During the life of the project, we will recycle waste materials where feasible and commit to responsible decommissioning or refurbishment/repowering of the site at the end of the project's life.

First Nations Engagement

Commitment 1



Photo taken from Lincoln Gap Wind Farm site (SA)

RAC acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia, and recognises their continuing connection to lands, waters and communities.

RAC is committed to building respectful, meaningful, and lasting relationships with Traditional Owners across our projects.

As part of the feasibility phase for the proposed [Springlands Wind Farm](#) in Central Queensland, we have commenced early consultation with Traditional Owners to foster collaboration and deepen our understanding of Country and its cultural sensitivities.

This consultation included a tour of the proposed project site. Insights from Traditional Owners will guide project design, environmental and heritage management planning, resourcing, and benefit-sharing strategies. This approach to engagement is standard practice for RAC, even on freehold lease land, such as the Springlands site.

To ensure culturally appropriate communication and engagement, RAC is working with specialist advisers, and working with the Traditional Owners in developing a cultural heritage awareness package for all employees and contractors involved in the project.

Internally, we are also strengthening team capability through the Clean Energy Council's First Nations Engagement training, reinforcing our commitment to best-practice and respectful collaboration.

Community Engagement

Commitment 2 and 5



Photo of Collector Memorial Hall's Bush dance, a successful applicant of the Collector Wind Farm Trust Fund (NSW).

RAC's information systems and communications programs are designed to be agile and transparently analyse trends, with a dedicated consultation register system which monitors and flags concerns and enquiries to ensure they are resolved in a timely manner.

Our enquiry and complaint management handling policy and processes ensure:

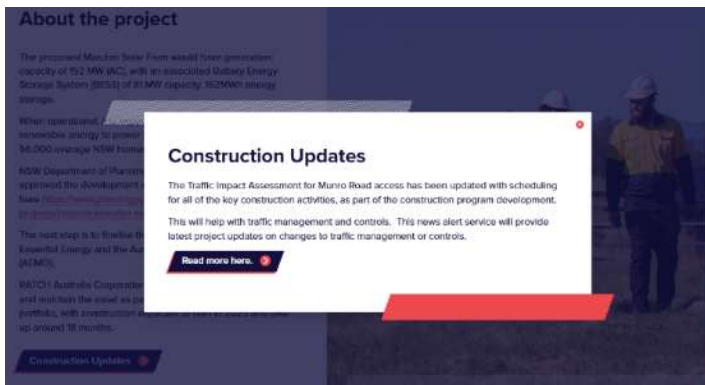
- Closing the loop on all concerns or enquiries raised by the community or stakeholders in a timely manner and keeping people informed of progress if it will take longer.
- Availability of personnel 7 days a week to support community meetings and events.
- Dedicated website information for each development project and operational asset.
- Timely and tailored one-to-one engagement to key community leaders and social media account administrators ahead of community events or communication.
- Confidential and secure handling and storage of sensitive personal information in compliance with state and federal privacy legislation requirements.

RAC is committed to transparent and ongoing communication with the community.

Our community and stakeholder engagement plans are tailored to the special needs of the community, including difficulty of reach (geographic and/or social), demographic information preferences and supply logistic challenges.

Recent examples of our tailored communication include:

- Marulan Solar Farm & BESS construction updates, using QR codes that link to our website for near real-time traffic and construction updates via an “on-click” popup on the website, with the intention of including this in local newspaper, when construction commences;
- Collector Trust financial report infographic, summarising and highlighting the variety of projects that the Trust and s355 Fund have funded between 2021-2025;
- Mount Emerald Wind Farm post about the next round of funding with QR code for our committee members to post on community Facebook pages on RAC’s behalf, to reach wider audiences; and
- The Express Newspaper advertisement, utilising The Express Newspaper’s extensive delivery network in Far North Queensland, to congratulate our 2025 Round 1 successful applicants, and to promote the next round of fund applications.



Mount Emerald Wind Farm
A RATCH AUSTRALIA PROJECT

Congratulations to the successful 2025 Round 1 applicants of the MEWF Community Benefit Fund.

- Rotary Club of Atherton
- Yungaburra State School P&C
- Atherton Rifle Club Inc.
- Malanda Judo Club
- Atherton Men's Shed
- Malanda Bowls Club Inc.
- Atherton-Herberton Historic Railway Inc.
- Mareeba United Football Club
- Malanda State School P&C

RAC
RATCH Australia Corporation

Power made possible.

MEWF Community Benefit Fund 2025 Round 2
APPLICATIONS CLOSE 31 JULY

Please visit ratchaustralia.com.au, or scan the QR code for more details.

www.theexpressnewspaper.com.au

Minimising Environmental Impact

Commitment 3 and 9



Photo of a Native Hoya, also known as the Northern Quoll, spotted in Mount Emerald (QLD).

RAC's development strategy prioritises areas of lesser sensitivity, seeking to locate new development projects in areas where land has previously been disturbed for other uses for example Marulan Solar Farm (NSW) and Springlands Wind Farm (QLD).

Proposed projects progress into development only following an initial site risk analysis, identifying sensitivities and appropriate ways to avoid and mitigate them if possible.

Where there is unavoidable disturbance, a range of management tools are put in place to offset adverse impacts. This can be biodiversity offsets, native species monitoring and management or seed banks similar to activities during the construction and operations of Mount Emerald Wind Farm.

Regulatory and compliance performance reporting and audits are available for operational projects, as required by planning authorities and for transparency, on our website. We also measure and report RAC's "[Green Impact](#)" on the environment of our investments and activities.

RAC's approach is illustrated through activities being undertaken at recent projects:

- **Proposed Springlands development:** RAC has just completed three years of targeted bird and bat monitoring studies. This included an additional year to study the migratory pattern of the vulnerable White-throated Needletail, which presented unique challenges. An innovative tagging method was attempted as part of a GPS tracking study. Unfortunately, tagging was not achieved. Further observational studies are ongoing to better understand the associated environmental factors influencing behaviours of this elusive, rarely sighted bird.
- **Mount Emerald Wind Farm offset land:** Land adjacent to the Mount Emerald Wind Farm was acquired specifically for its high conservation value

and ecological similarity to the areas impacted by the project. This offset land undergoes regular environmental audits to ensure compliance with biodiversity offset requirements and to monitor long-term ecological outcomes.

- **Mount Emerald Wind Farm quoll management:** RAC developed and implemented a Northern Quoll Management Plan prior to construction starting, in conjunction with the Southern Cross University, aimed at preserving the population of this endangered species. Results this year, similar to previous years, show that the population of the species remains stable, relative to the survey data collected pre-construction.
- **Collector Wind Farm biodiversity offset:** During the development it was recognised that successful delivery of the project would result in direct impacts to biodiversity within the site, predominantly from loss and degradation of flora & fauna habitat during construction. To offset these impacts, RAC worked with a local landowner to establish a Biodiversity Stewardship site adjacent to the wind farm, within which an area of approximately 167 hectares of high-quality biodiversity value will be protected in perpetuity.

DID YOU KNOW?

The elusive *Hirundapus caudacutus*, also known as the White-throated Needletail, is rarely sighted in Australia, and spends most of its life in the air (even sleeping while flying!).

They're among the fastest flying birds, flying up to 130km per hour.

The White-throated Needletail feeds on flying insects, such as termites, ants, beetles and flies (Carter, 2024).



Integrating Agriculture

Commitment 4



Photo of sheep grazing alongside the Collector Wind Farm (NSW)

RAC's development strategy prioritises the use of already disturbed or dual use of productive grazing land.

Our approach aims to allow livestock operations to continue throughout project construction and operation, minimising impacts on existing farming operations.

We work with landowners from day one, incorporating their farming activities into our construction and operational plans.

This was demonstrated at [Collector Wind Farm \(NSW\)](#) where existing agricultural activities were maintained throughout construction, through the implementation of agreed farm management plans, and close coordination of programs and activities of the construction contractors and RAC with the landowners. In particular, this included specific activities such as avoiding specific paddocks during lambing or calving season, consultation & agreement on project design revisions, and providing personnel to assist with movement of livestock across public roads during wind turbine deliveries.

This approach is critical at the proposed [Springlands Wind Farm](#) which is located within two established, working cattle stations in Central Queensland. RAC will be working closely with the landowners on developing dual-use activity management plan from the outset of assessment to construction, and ongoing operational management.

RAC is also working with landholders at several NSW sites on an agistment and land management framework to be used in future (solar and battery energy storage systems) developments to facilitate dual use agri-solar, maintaining the productivity of the land.

Local Procurement and Employment

Commitment 6

Preference is given to local suppliers in development, construction and operations; being incorporated into contractor and supplier contract terms as the 'RAC way of doing business' engagement.

The process starts during the early development stages of new projects, as the RAC team engages with potential local suppliers and contractors interested in providing services or goods, recording details in project-specific register that is maintained throughout the development & construction phase; and shared with the construction contractor once that appointment is made to facilitate local procurement.

For the operations stage, both RAC and its contractors seek to employ local residents. This benefits the local economy and RAC. It provides a workforce that is familiar with the local landscape and social context. Selection of operating and maintenance contractors includes consideration of existing regional presence, e.g. SAMCo appointment to Collinsville Solar Farm (QLD) in 2024.

We have also developed an ongoing Expression of Interest register on our website for all local contractors and suppliers, as well as hold information sessions for individual projects.

For Trades and Suppliers

At RAC, we're committed to creating a sustainable energy future while fostering a collaborative and innovative workplace.

The safety and sustainability of our people, community and environment come first and foremost.

This is one of the many reasons we seek to make as much use as possible and favour local skills and expertise whenever we build a new project. It means local businesses and suppliers offering a wide range of services also have the chance to win business and new jobs will be created for local people.

If you're interested in working with our team as a local supplier or contractor, please reach out and register your interest below.

[Register your EOI](#)



Early morning photo of our contractors working at Starfish Hill Wind Farm (SA)

Benefit Sharing and Regional Economic Development

Commitment 7



Photo of the brand-new pool lane ropes at Dimbulah Aquatic Centre, a successful applicant of the MEWF Community Benefit Fund (QLD)

RAC will offer communities, including the Traditional Owners, the opportunity to share in the benefits of projects, and consult them on options available, including relevant governance arrangements.

For our proposed [Springlands Wind Farm \(QLD\)](#), RAC is working alongside the Traditional Owners on benefit sharing strategies to ensure it furthers their aspirations.

At [Collector Wind Farm \(NSW\)](#), two benefit funds (the Community Trust Fund and the Upper Lachlan Shire Council's s355 Community Enhancement Fund) were co-designed with locals during pre-construction consultation. These funds aim to support resilience, well-being, arts, culture, and education, with location-specific guidelines shaped by community input. RAC went beyond state planning requirements by supporting both the Collector Community Trust and the Upper Lachlan Shire Council's s355 Community Enhancement Fund. The two funds are strategically aligned, achieved through coordination meetings.

Since 2021, RAC has distributed around \$1.5 million to groups within a 10km radius of the wind farm. The s355 Committee awarded its largest grant, \$224,205.52, to the Community Trust, which is managed by local residents' representatives. This collaborative funding model is consistent with current NSW DPHI guidelines for community benefits.

At [Marulan Solar Farm \(NSW\)](#), RAC is working with the local council on strategies to help combat the housing shortage crisis through a proposed Voluntary Planning Agreement. The strategy is currently in development, but demonstrates how RAC tailors benefit sharing in the area that we work in, to ensure it meets the community's needs and aspirations.

Educational and Tourism Opportunities

Commitment 8



Photo of Toora Wind Farm team (VIC), welcoming the Students in Renewable Energy (SiRE) group.

RAC is committed to supporting educational and tourism opportunities through the operating charters of existing and future community funds and through facilitating site visits for interested parties.

- In March 2025, our [Toora Wind Farm \(VIC\)](#) team had the pleasure of welcoming the Students in Renewal Energy (SiRE) group, a student-led initiative from the University of Melbourne, during their site visit to our public viewing area in Toora. This provided the students with insights into wind farm operations and training requirements for future career pathways.
- Providing logistical support to the Mount Emerald Crime Stoppers Hike (QLD), to raise funds for the group, outside of the community fund.
- Supporting local employees with training opportunities, including our local operational and maintenance contractors, SAMCo, who used the [Collinsville Solar Farm \(QLD\)](#) site afterhours to assist with their staff's training for other solar farms.

DID YOU KNOW?

Toora Wind Farm is located within the South Gippsland Shire, which welcomes around **1.2 million visitors** annually.

Toora Wind Farm's signage in the public viewing area had recently undergone a refresh to provide visitors information on how wind turbines work, and general information about the wind farm.



Recycling, Refurbishment and Repowering

Commitment 10



Aerial photo of Collinsville Solar Farm (QLD)

RAC's starting point is to ensure compliance with local environmental and waste management legislative or regulatory requirements at all stages of the project lifecycle.

This approach is implemented for each RAC operational or construction site through a site-specific environmental and waste (including recycling) management plan, subject to both internal and external review and assessment, and regular revision.

To illustrate this approach, the construction phase of the [Collector Wind Farm \(NSW\)](#) required a specific waste management plan that focused on the waste hierarchy of: (i) avoidance in the first instance; (ii) recycling where possible, and (iii) waste disposal as a last resort. Successful implementation of this plan was demonstrated by the contractor reporting all waste management records monthly, showing over 800,000 m³ of recycled waste (packaging, paper etc) and over 170,000 kg of recycled steel. The workforce also recycled bottles and cans through the NSW 'return & earn' scheme both to reduce waste and raise money for the local Collector school.

RAC has an ongoing review program to assess the future of its older projects which includes exploring opportunities for refurbishment, and/or repowering through the use of new technologies or replacement equipment.

Replacement of equipment can include repurposing and recovering materials from other decommissioned wind farms around the world to ensure resources are recycled rather than discarded – minimising environmental impact as an industry, and supporting our commitment to sustainability.

This is the preferred solution for such projects, but the work also includes the development of tailored decommissioning plans to rehabilitate land at the end of use. This approach has been demonstrated by the construction and

operation of [Collinsville Solar Farm \(QLD\)](#) in 2017, in the grounds of the Collinsville thermal coal power station following its closure in 2016; repurposing the existing connection points for future use, and exploring the demolition of the structure as part of a potential development for the remaining site.

Similarly, for all RAC's newer operating and development projects, all landowner agreements include commitments for decommissioning projects at end-of-life, with decommissioning plans prepared and costed as part of the planning process and regularly updated to reflect changing circumstances. These commitments include obligations to set aside funding to cover the costs of implementing decommissioning plans and rehabilitation post-operations.

References

Carter, L. (2024, 07 25). *Birds: White-throated needletail*. Retrieved from Australian Museum: <https://australian.museum/learn/animals/birds/white-throated-needletail/>



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