

Best Practice Charter Report

2025

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About Us.

Founded in Australia in 1992, Pacific Blue (formerly Pacific Hydro) is a leader in renewable energy, having generated 100% renewable energy for over 30 years. Today, Pacific Blue owns and operates a high quality and diversified portfolio of wind, solar and hydro renewable energy assets, with a total generation capacity of over 660 MW and a significant development pipeline of over 2.5 GW across Australia.

Pacific Blue also owns and operates two fast growing energy retail brands - Pacific Blue and Tango Energy, with over 180,000 customers across Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland and South Australia. As a generator, Pacific Blue's generation fleet consists of only 100% renewable electricity generation, across wind, hydro, solar. The company also operates a growing fleet of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS).



MORE THAN
660^M_W
of capacity in operation

>180k
RETAIL CUSTOMERS

Electricity & Gas

2,500^M_W
RENEWABLE
development pipeline

Our Commitment

Pacific Blue is committed to engaging and collaborating with the communities where we develop and operate, with a strong track record of delivering lasting, tangible benefits to these communities. We recognise that community support is as critical to project success as technical and financial factors and work hard to build and maintain respectful and collaborative relationships and give back to host communities across all phases of the project lifecycle.

Pacific Blue is proud to demonstrate the company's commitment to the Clean Energy Councils Best Practice Charter for Renewable Energy Projects for the 2025 reporting period.



Clean Energy Council Best Practice Charter.

As a member of the Clean Energy Council, Pacific Blue commits and is a signatory to the Best Practice Charter for Renewable Energy Projects. The 10 commitments of the charter are shown below and are detailed within this report.

01.

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.

03.

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

05.

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

07.

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

09.

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.

02.

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.

04.

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

06.

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

08.

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.

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.

Community Engagement.

01. Engaging Respectfully

We engage respectfully with local communities, including Traditional Owners, to seek their views before submitting a development application or finalising project designs.

Pacific Blue builds strong relationships in the regions where we generate. Community feedback shapes our projects – from early site management and road upgrades to vegetation screening that reflects neighbour input.

As Australia's pioneer of grid-connected wind generation, we know how to engage with care. When introducing new proposals, we emphasise that projects are at the concept stage and invite community feedback to achieve better outcomes.

Our approach is grounded in humility. We're asking permission to enter communities, so we take our Social Licence to Operate seriously. We listen, collaborate, and respond honestly to questions about impacts and rationale. When challenges arise, we face them openly, learn from them, and apologise where needed – strengthening relationships and supporting local voices in shaping their future.

For us, it's not about debating opinions but understanding perspectives – lessons we've carried since our first wind farms and continue to build on today.

Pacific Blue is committed to reconciliation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples by:

- Creating inclusive employment and procurement opportunities
- Strengthening relationships with stakeholders
- Raising cultural awareness
- Celebrating enduring connections to Country

We report through Reconciliation Australia and are preparing our Innovate RAP.



02. Timely Communication

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.

Pacific Blue appreciates the high expectations of the community regarding its Social Licence to Operate. The company has a 24-hour Complaints and Enquiries hotline and aims to respond to complaints within 48-hours.

In situations where a legacy issue remains outstanding between the company and a stakeholder, the company aims to resolve these concerns utilising benchmarked standards outlined in regulatory obligations and industry expectations. While conditions of a development permit may still be maintained, the company recognises that a mutual resolution, in some cases, is the best outcome to strive for. Examples of mutual resolutions include offering extra noise monitoring, changing operations of our assets, the installation of double-glazed windows, among other bespoke options that are designed on a case-by-case basis.



Environment.



03. Sensitivity

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

Pacific Blue ensures that through the development stage of a Project, areas of high biodiversity and of cultural and landscape value are identified early in the development process. Cultural areas are avoided, and Traditional Owners are engaged as a first step within our development process.

If an environmental area cannot be avoided, environmental values are gained and maintained during the life of the asset, sometimes through native vegetation offsets. Pacific Blue currently manages over 120 hectares of native vegetation offset sites inhouse.

04. Minimising Impact

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

Across the business' wind fleet, most of the land is still used for primary agricultural production, including sheep and cattle grazing, along with cropping. At the Haughton Solar Farm, Pacific Blue is participating in an AgriSolar trial with the University of Queensland. With around 100 sheep onsite, these sheep help reduce vegetation management costs on site by approx. \$500k annually.

05. Consultation

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

Community engagement continues throughout all stages of Pacific Blue's projects. Engagement occurs initially when projects undertake feasibility assessments so that community members are considered and consulted with on the Project from the beginning, aiming to avoid surprise and building closer relationships, aiming to collaborate by bringing the community closer and being transparent about our plans. We give our communities a voice at the table, and we recognise that Social Licence goes beyond ticking a box.

Our active delivery project, Clements Gap Battery project, has collaborated with neighbours to identify and agree on a bespoke noise and visual mitigation through native vegetation. Listening to our community, the project has employed local knowledge to execute a screening plan that places the needs of our neighbours first and encouraged joint ownership of the rollout of the plan, aiming to give our neighbours control of outcomes that affect them most. Pacific Blue has also leveraged its relationships with the local Port Pirie Regional Council to partner on local road upgrades, making a significant contribution toward the works to ensure local residents' ambitions for the region were realised through the construction of the project, and delivering shared benefits – both through more a more reliable road condition for the project's deliveries, but also a lasting outcome for project's neighbours, who have been advocating for better road conditions in the region for some time.

Community Benefits.

06. Supporting Local Economy

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

Pacific Blue recognises the growing social expectations for procuring local content when constructing and maintaining its energy generation infrastructure.

As part of the proposed Stage 2 expansion the of Houghton Solar Farm and BESS Project, the company is preparing an Australian Industry Participation Plan. Further to the submission of this plan, Pacific Blue has also committed to partnering with the local Bindal Traditional Owners on a First Nations Procurement and Workforce Activation Agreement to help provide opportunities to First Nations businesses and people.

Through local council and industry engagement, Pacific Blue has heard ideas about how the company can best support local expertise, including through promoting some of the Queensland Government's 'Free TAFE' courses to help enable local expertise for a career in the energy in the energy transformation.

Pacific Blue has worked closely with its subcontractors on the delivery of the Clements Gap Battery Project to engage with Regional Development Australia, local high schools, TAFE SA in Port Pirie, and the Traditional Owner group Nukunu Wapma Thura Corporation to provide work experience opportunities for vocational education students and people identifying as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander who are seeking a career in the energy transformation.



07. Education & Tourism

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

Alongside our Social Investment Program, Pacific Blue supports educational and tourism opportunities, with recent support including but not limited to:

- 2023 and 2025 Sweet Days Hot Nights Festival (Ayr, QLD)
- 2023, 2024, 2025 – Crystal Brooks Athletics Carnival (SA)
- 2024 Project Platypus (Vic)
- 2025 Houghton Sustainable Community fund recipients
- 2024 Great South West Community Fund recipients
 - Belfast Aquatics – Staying Afloat program, helping young people learn how to swim
 - Moyne West “Let’s Talk” program expansion, aiming to bring awareness surrounding suicide prevention and mental health, while encouraging community members to discuss issues openly and reduce stigma.
 - The Great South West Walk Inc, procurement of new equipment to assist the maintenance of the track

08 ■ Benefit Sharing

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.

Pacific Blue internally manages a Social Investment Program across the generation and development fleet that provides around \$500k annually to the communities where we host large-scale generation projects.

Local community leaders are the voice of the regions where our generation assets are based, as part of the Social Investment Program.

Celebrating 20-years of operation as an Australian renewable energy first, the Program set the benchmark for fostering local community agency and decision-making. Since its inception in 2005, the Program has contributed more than \$6m to over 1000 local, community-led projects across the country.

Through its governance framework, independent assessment of applications outside of the company ensures that funding priorities are grounded in bespoke local needs. This enables outcomes that directly meet the community's needs. Based on feedback, we have received from our communities, some funds across the fleet are run biannually, allowing for larger contributions to be made towards bigger, community-shaping projects.

Through the company's 20-years of experience, a recurring theme is just how far smaller, community-run, non-for-profits and development associations can make their funding stretch. Unlike larger not-for-profit organisations, these local organisations often arose out of a real love and passion for their community and individual identity. For two decades, we are humbled to have been welcomed by these groups as relatively new members of these regional communities

09 ■ Responsible Land Stewardship

Pacific Blue demonstrates responsible land stewardship throughout the life of each project, from development to operation and eventual decommissioning. We recognise that the land hosting our projects holds important ecological, cultural and agricultural value, and we aim to enhance these values wherever possible.

During project development, areas of high biodiversity or cultural significance are identified early and avoided where feasible. Traditional Owners are engaged as a first step to ensure cultural heritage is protected. Where environmental impacts cannot be fully avoided, Pacific Blue maintains and offsets environmental values, managing more than 120 hectares of native vegetation offset sites in-house.

We also promote sustainable land use through initiatives such as AgriSolar at Houghton Solar Farm in North Queensland, where around 100 Dorper sheep graze beneath the panels. This reduces vegetation management costs by approximately \$500,000 per year, lowers diesel use and supports regenerative farming.

In Victoria, Pacific Blue has supported Project Platypus, a community-led organisation improving biodiversity in the upper Wimmera region. With our funding, the group has expanded its habitat protection work, using eDNA testing and camera monitoring to identify key biodiversity areas and guide future conservation planning.

Pacific Blue is committed to enhancing the environmental, cultural and agricultural value of the land and supporting resilient local ecosystems for the communities where we operate.



Decommissioning.

10. Sustainable Decommissioning

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.

As the owner of Australia's first grid-scale commercial wind farm, Pacific Blue recognises the significance of responsibly managing the end of life of our Codrington Wind Farm. After more than 25 years of operation, Codrington will be the first wind farm in Australia to undergo full decommissioning. Our commitment is to set a benchmark for the industry by ensuring a transparent, environmentally responsible, and socially respectful process that reflects our values and responsibilities to landholders, regulators, and the local community.

Decommissioning will involve dismantling the 14 turbines using cranes, in reverse order of their original installation. This approach ensures that the process is carefully controlled and meets the highest safety and environmental standards. Permit conditions require the site to be fully decommissioned and rehabilitated within 12 months of ceasing generation, returning the land to a condition suitable for agricultural use.

While Pacific Blue is not pursuing a repowering option at Codrington, the company has considered the ambition of a circular economy at Codrington. Originally intended to have a 20 to 24 year life span, Pacific Blue has secured 3-Extension of Life approvals, allowing for Codrington's infrastructure to be monitored, maintained, and still producing clean electricity into the National Electricity Market.

Other conclusions from the company's analysis of the option of repowering was the site's grid connection, which feeds into the local distribution network, which is now more than 25 years old. Modern wind farm developments require a large number of turbines in order for a competitive procurement of wind turbine technology from suppliers, with enough space between each turbine to ensure that they do not reduce the efficiency of a neighbouring turbine's generation.

The two private landholdings at Codrington, and one public landholding, do not have enough space to host a large number of modern turbines that have adequate spacing between each turbine to ensure maximum electricity generation efficiency, that would commercially allow for a new wind farm to be built at the Codrington site.

Instead, we are using Codrington as an opportunity to trial innovative decommissioning approaches that can inform the broader wind energy sector.

Pacific Blue has stated its ambition for none of the turbine blades from Codrington to be buried. Around 90% of a turbine's mass can already be processed through established recycling pathways, and we aim to use these wherever possible.

To address more complex components, Pacific Blue has funded a pilot project in regional Victoria to test novel separation methods for different turbine materials. We are also exploring proven approaches in Europe, including signing an MoU with a cement kiln operator to assess how turbine components could be responsibly incorporated into the kiln's existing fuel mix of municipal waste.

In addition, Pacific Blue has supported pioneering research at UNSW that is developing a process to convert fibreglass into biodegradable silicone, offering a long-term sustainable solution for blade recycling. While Codrington has 14 turbines to decommission, the real challenge will come when Australia's larger wind projects reach the end of their operational lives. By trialling and testing different approaches now, Pacific Blue is setting the Australian renewables industry's standard for responsible decommissioning, and we intend to demonstrate a case of what the broader Australian community can expect once wind farms reach the end of their technical lives.





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