



2025 Clean Energy Council Best Practice Charter Reporting

About ACE Power

ACE Power are experts across the entire lifecycle of renewable energy projects and are committed to accelerating the transition of Australia's electricity network with clean, reliable energy. Our experienced team is headquartered in Sydney with a local presence in Queensland, Western Australia and South Australia, and has decades of industry expertise in developing, financing and delivering renewable energy projects.

With a strong focus on collaboration with local communities and providing an overall positive impact to the community and environment, ACE Power is developing its pipeline of projects with a technology mix focusing on onshore wind, solar and battery projects situated at strategic locations across Australia. This Clean Energy Council annual Best Practice Charter report is reflective of the stage of development of the ACE Power portfolio of projects which, at the time of writing, are all pre-construction.

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.

To ensure ACE Power's pre-lodgement engagement is tailored, relevant, and culturally appropriate, we begin with a contextual analysis of the local area. This includes understanding community demographics, values, and previous experiences with renewable energy projects. Our approach enables respectful, meaningful participation and empowers communities to shape the project before final design and development application. Recent examples of this approach include:

Yabulu Solar Farm: Following consultation with nearby residents, we revised the site layout prior to submitting the development application, addressing community feedback early in the process.

Pa rooga Wind Farm: To earn a genuine social licence to operate, we are implementing an iterative engagement strategy with multiple rounds of consultation. This ensures community members can clearly see how their feedback will shape the project design and final application.

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.

To ensure ACE Power delivers clear, timely, and purposeful communication, we use a combination of digital and in-person channels. This allows community members to access project information 24/7 via our websites, while also offering personalised support through dedicated phone lines and email addresses. We set clear response time commitments and actively close the feedback loop by informing the community about what we heard, how their feedback influenced project decisions, and when future engagement opportunities will occur.

Examples of our approach include:

- **Talbingo BESS – Supporting formal exhibition:** After publishing a community update via letter and website summarising feedback from the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) phase and changes made as a result, ACE Power supported the Department of Planning, Housing and Industry's formal exhibition by hosting two community information sessions. These sessions allowed local residents to engage directly with technical specialists and feel supported in making informed submissions.
- **Project name change – Western Australia:** A local resident contacted ACE Power with concerns that the proposed project name matched their property name, despite being located several kilometres away. This had led to community confusion about the wind farm's location. In response, ACE Power promptly renamed the project, informed the resident, and updated all publicly available materials to reflect the change.



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

From the outset of site assessment, ACE Power considers biodiversity, cultural heritage, and landscape values before advancing landowner negotiations. Sites are evaluated based on the likely level of on-site impact required for construction and operation. For example, we prioritise solar project locations that are already ecologically disturbed, as such projects are typically incompatible with high-value remnant vegetation.

Biodiversity assessments are undertaken early in the development process. This enables project designs to avoid or minimise ecological impacts from the beginning and ensures the business case fully incorporates the site's environmental characteristics.

Similarly, early and respectful consultation with Indigenous and non-Indigenous stakeholders helps ACE Power understand and preserve important cultural and landscape features. In partnership with these communities and experienced subject-matter experts, we develop project designs and methodologies that are both viable and sensitive to cultural and environmental values.

Examples of this approach include:

- **Forbes and Narrabri Battery Projects – Protecting biodiversity values:** Initial ecological surveys identified key plant community types (PCTs), prompting design adjustments at both sites.
- **Kerang Solar and BESS – Protection of First Nations cultural heritage:** During the development of the Cultural Heritage Management Plan, several culturally significant items were identified. In consultation with Traditional Owners, some items were respectfully reburied on-site in culturally appropriate locations, while others were preserved according to guidance provided by Elders.

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

Co-existence with agricultural operations is a core priority for ACE Power. Our wind farms are specifically designed to allow farming activities to continue across 98–99% of the project site. For solar projects, where possible, agricultural production is maintained through tailored design and land management strategies that include sheep grazing.

Examples of our approach include:

- **Forbes and Narrabri Solar Projects:** Panel layouts incorporate a 30-metre setback from adjacent cropping land to reduce impacts on neighbouring agricultural use.
- **Hillview Energy Hub:** Project designs have deliberately avoided areas mapped as highly productive agricultural land.
- **Host Landowner Agreements:** Our land use agreements include provisions to enable continued sheep grazing within the solar farm arrays, supporting dual land use.



Forbes Community Engagement



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

ACE Power recognises that neighbours and the wider community are often focused on the perceived and potential impacts of renewable energy projects, such as visual changes, noise, and traffic. To address these concerns, we prioritise early, proactive engagement that provides clear, jargon-free information and, where possible, visual tools that help illustrate the true extent of potential change and proposed mitigation measures.

This early engagement also helps to identify any additional investigations or studies needed to address community concerns and inform project design.

Examples include:

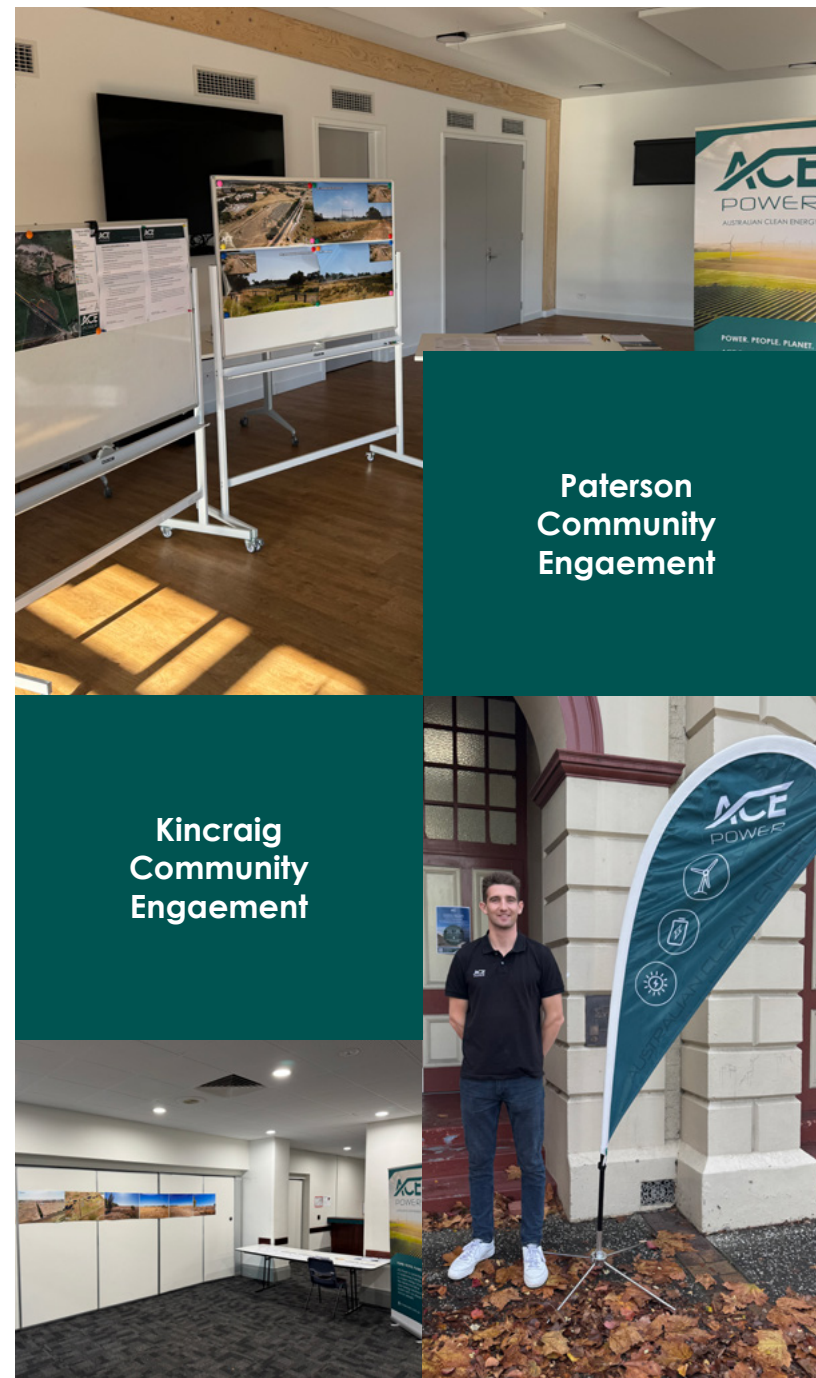
- **Paterson & Kinraig BESS – Visualisation tools:** High-quality rendered images were produced and shared on the project websites to give the community a realistic view of what the battery energy storage systems would look like once completed.
- **Hillview Energy Hub – Localised visual modelling:** Digital renders were developed from key viewpoints within the surrounding landscape, helping residents understand the project's potential visual impact from specific areas in the region.

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

Supporting the local economy through employment and procurement is central to ACE Power's commitment to building social licence. We actively work with communities and stakeholders during project development to identify opportunities for local residents and businesses. This approach has enabled us to engage local environmental consultants, civil contractors, and cultural heritage practitioners across several projects.

Examples include:

- **Yabulu Solar and BESS Projects – Employment and Contracting Working Group:** A dedicated working group has been established to facilitate, where possible, direct employment, apprenticeships, and subcontracting opportunities for local Traditional Owners.
- **Pa rooga Wind Farm – First Nations Training and Employment:** Early engagement with the Yirendali people resulted in ACE Power finalising a benefits agreement that provides educational pathways, training programs, and procurement opportunities for First Nations individuals and businesses.



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.

ACE Power believes renewable energy projects should deliver both clean electricity and lasting community prosperity. Through a transparent, collaborative, and responsive approach, we aim to ensure our projects leave a positive legacy that endures beyond their operational life.

Our **Community Benefit Sharing Framework** guides the delivery of shared value through a variety of mechanisms:

- **Community Benefit Fund (CBF):** Annual funding to support local initiatives in areas such as education, health, culture, environment, energy affordability, and economic development. Projects must demonstrate strong community support and alignment with our values.
- **Neighbour Benefit Program:** Financial or in-kind support for residents living near project infrastructure, recognising their unique proximity to the development.
- **First Nations Partnerships:** Co-designed programs with Traditional Owners focused on cultural heritage, health, education, and economic empowerment.
- **Local Procurement and Employment:** Prioritising local businesses and workers, including training and upskilling programs to build long-term regional capacity.
- **In-kind Contributions:** Provision of expertise, equipment, or services to support community-led initiatives.

Recent examples of this approach include:

- **Raglan BESS – First Nations Benefit Co-design:** Following engagement with Traditional Owners in June 2025, ACE Power committed to co-designing a community benefit agreement that supports self-determination and delivers culturally meaningful outcomes.
- **Kerang Solar and Battery – Targeted Community Support:** Community consultation identified social isolation as a local concern. In response, and supported by socio-economic analysis, ACE Power will fund three Kerang Neighbourhood Centre programs that recently lost funding: Chatty Café (fortnightly), Soup and Sandwiches, and the Men's Shed BBQ Breakfast (weekly).



Hillview
Community
Engagement

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

ACE Power is committed to identifying and supporting educational, training, and tourism opportunities through engagement with our host communities. Where appropriate, our projects are used as platforms to promote understanding of renewable energy and sustainability.

For example, we offer tailored educational sessions to share knowledge about renewable technologies. These engagements empower students with insights into clean energy, encouraging them to become informed future citizens and potential innovators.

Recent examples of this approach include:

Pa rooga wind farm – ACE Power is collaborating with local school teachers in the Prairie and Hughenden townships to provide tailored engagement for students to increase their general knowledge of renewable energy, and to raise awareness of career pathways in the renewable energy field.

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.

ACE Power commissions ecological studies early in the project development process to inform site selection and design. Wherever possible, projects are designed to avoid or minimise the impact on vegetation and to protect biodiversity.

Cultural heritage management is also embedded in our development approach. Cultural heritage management measures are established for each project through agreement with local Traditional Owner groups. Projects are often sited on privately owned land that may not have been previously surveyed, providing valuable opportunities for the identification of cultural artefacts.

In addition to formal processes, ACE Power regularly meets with Traditional Owner organisations to visit project sites and provide feedback on proposals. Recent engagement has included on-country discussions regarding the Kerang Solar & BESS, Yabulu Solar, Yabulu BESS, and Burdekin BESS projects.

ACE Power also works closely with landowners during early negotiations to understand existing land uses and incorporate them into project planning.

Recent examples of this approach include:

- **Yabulu BESS - Pest Management Plan:** Removal and prevention of weeds and non-native species. This is an objective ACE Power strives for across its projects.
- **Nebo BESS – Cattle Corridor:** A site boundary corridor was agreed to ensure minimal disruption to existing cattle farming operations on the host property.



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.

ACE Power is committed to responsible waste management and the sustainable decommissioning or refurbishment of project sites at the end of their operational life. Throughout construction, operation, and decommissioning, all waste-related activities will comply with relevant state guidelines and follow the established waste minimisation hierarchy: avoid, reduce, reuse, recycle, and dispose.

As part of the regulatory approvals process, ACE Power typically prepares management plans that address waste management, decommissioning and rehabilitation. These documents outline our structured approach to minimising environmental impact and restoring land post-operations.

Our procurement processes also favour suppliers who demonstrate circularity in their own practices, fostering a broader ecosystem of sustainability.

Our long-term commitment is also reflected in agreements with host landowners, which include provisions for the potential refurbishment or repowering of project infrastructure. ACE Power has also committed to comprehensive decommissioning obligations, including a structured fund accumulation during operations to ensure decommissioning costs are fully covered.

These approaches are enhanced by our relationship with the Net Zero Institute, where we are actively investigating and collaborating on real-world, project-specific initiatives.



**Narrabri
Community
Engagement**