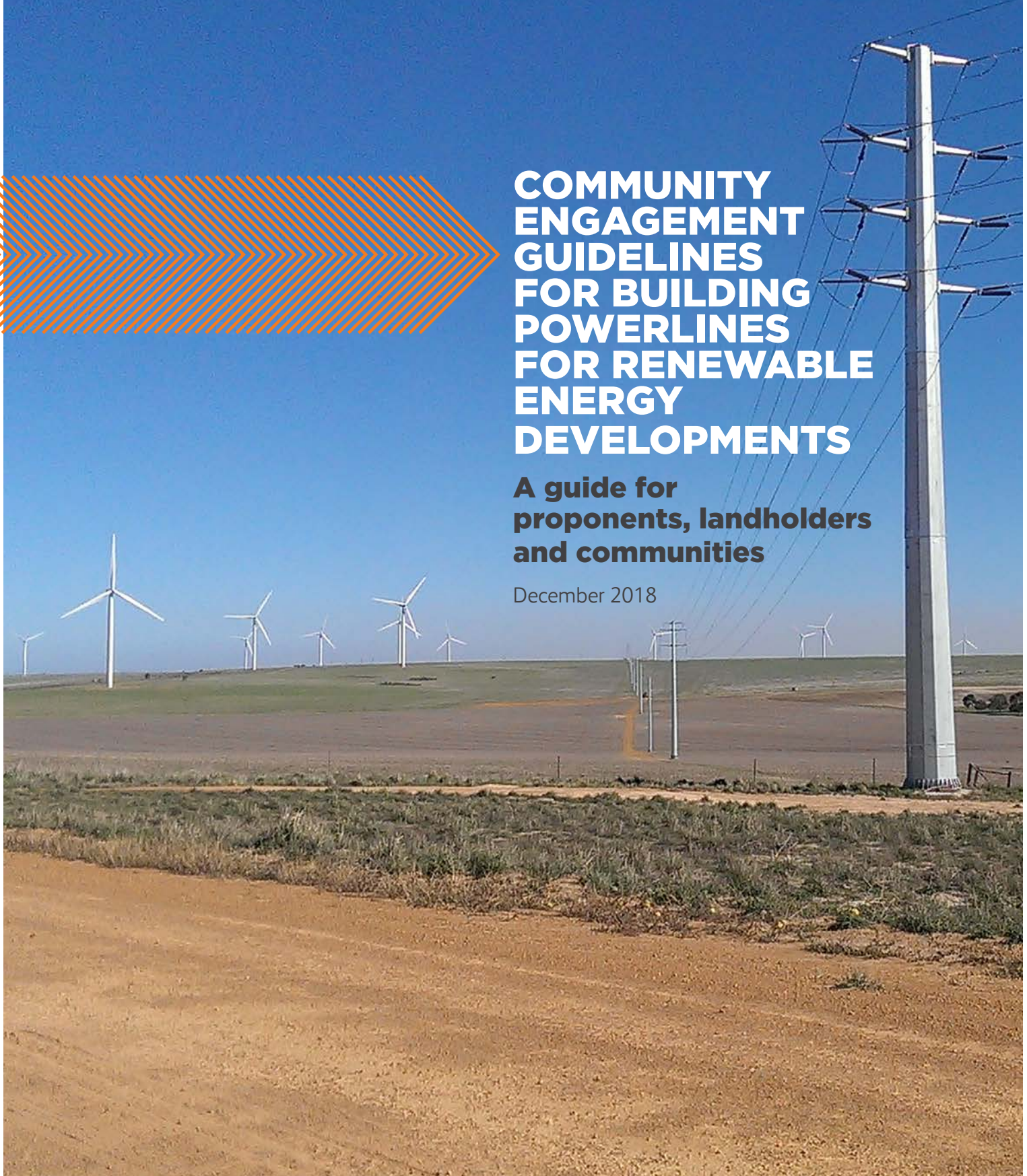




# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GUIDELINES FOR BUILDING POWERLINES FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENTS

**A guide for  
proponents, landholders  
and communities**

December 2018



# BEST PRACTICE CHARTER FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENTS

The Clean Energy Council released a Best Practice Charter for Renewable Energy Developments in July 2018. The charter is a voluntary set of commitments that reflects the industry's commitment to develop projects in a socially responsible way.

Signatories to the charter have pledged to abide by the 10 commitments for their new renewable energy developments and associated transmission infrastructure.

To find out which companies are signatories to the charter, visit [www.cleanenergycouncil.org.au/charter](http://www.cleanenergycouncil.org.au/charter).

## We commit to honouring the Clean Energy Council's Best Practice Charter in our renewable energy developments and associated transmission infrastructure:

- 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.

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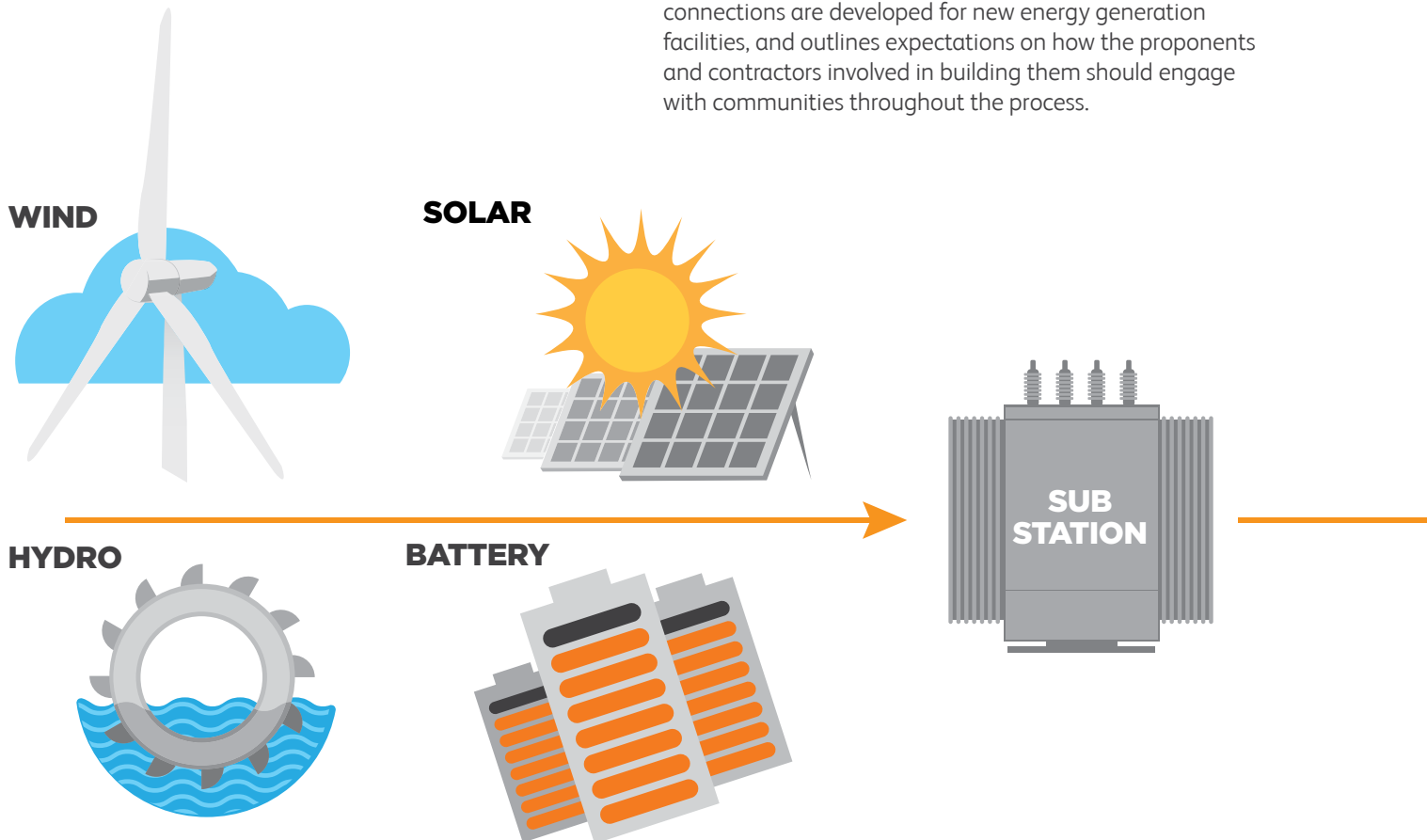
# INTRODUCTION

Australia's electricity generation is becoming cleaner and more distributed. Much of the electricity network that carries electricity to our homes and businesses was built decades ago, when electricity was generated by a few large (mostly coal-fired) power plants in a small number of centralised locations.

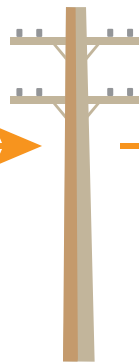
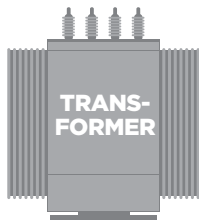
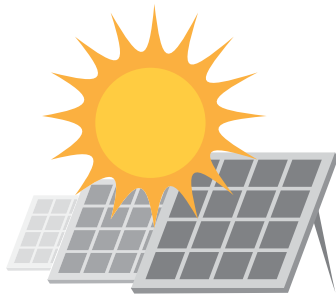
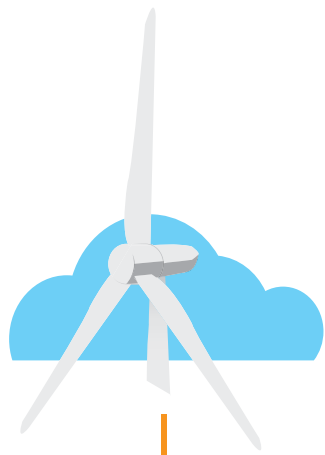
The renewable energy generation under construction across Australia will generally be built in areas of good resources (such as wind, solar irradiation and water reserves). New powerlines (also known as 'dedicated connection assets') will need to be built to connect the energy generation facility into the electricity network. These powerlines will vary in length, depending on the location of the connection point.

It is recognised that like the generation facilities they support, these new powerlines can alter the landscape and may impact on flora, fauna and heritage values. It is therefore important that those leading their development (proponents) undertake careful planning, design and stakeholder engagement to build and maintain the social licence to operate throughout the life of the project.

This Clean Energy Council guide describes how network connections are developed for new energy generation facilities, and outlines expectations on how the proponents and contractors involved in building them should engage with communities throughout the process.



## BRINGING ELECTRICITY TO YOUR DOOR



**HIGH VOLTAGE  
POWERLINES**

**STREET SIZE  
ELECTRICITY LINES**

## **WHO SHOULD READ THIS GUIDE?**

This guide has been prepared for renewable energy proponents and their contractors involved in planning a powerline for a renewable energy development.

Its primary purpose is to support good community engagement practices. It is not a technical guide to building network connections and is not a substitute for proponents seeking specific advice as to their specific project.

It is also designed as a useful resource for landholders, communities and local governments with a new powerline being planned in their area to support a renewable energy development.



# STAGE 1

## PRELIMINARY PLANNING OF THE CONNECTION CORRIDOR

### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT CHECKLIST

#### ASSESSING ROUTE OPTIONS

- ✓ Engage with the relevant powerline service provider, local council/s and authorities
- ✓ Engage with landowners and traditional custodians
- ✓ Engage with other neighbouring renewable energy proponents

#### COMMUNICATING THE PROPOSED ROUTE

- ✓ Engage with landowners, key stakeholders and neighbours
- ✓ Communicate plans to the broader community

### IDENTIFYING THE NETWORK CONNECTION POINT

The first step in planning any new powerline from a new energy generation facility is for the proponent to identify possible connection points on the existing electricity network.

Connections into the electricity network typically occur at substations, which reduce the high voltage electricity to a lower voltage suitable for supply to households and businesses. Proponents will generally seek to connect to existing substations, but in some instances may need to construct a new substation to connect into an existing transmission powerline.

The proponent should consult the relevant electricity powerline service provider throughout the course of the connection process. For more information about the connection process, visit the Australian Energy Market Operator's website at [aemo.com.au](http://aemo.com.au).

### OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROJECTS TO SHARE POWERLINES

The Clean Energy Council supports and encourages the efficient development of electricity transmission infrastructure where feasible. As part of considering possible powerline routes, proponents should explore the opportunity of sharing easements, sharing existing powerlines or building new powerlines or other connection infrastructure (e.g. substations) with other proposed developments in their area.

It is acknowledged that shared network infrastructure is not always possible, such as if the capacity constraints at a given connection point excludes more than one development or where projects have substantial differences in terms of technical requirements and the timing to secure their approvals and finance.

Where these risks can be managed, shared network connections have the potential to ensure network reliability and security, deliver substantial cost savings and reduce the environmental and community impacts of building additional powerline infrastructure.

## **MAPPING ROUTE OPTIONS**

Once the proponent has identified their preferred connection point (or connection options) in consultation with the powerline network operator and planner, work begins to plan the best connection corridor. Proponents will often explore several different connection options and seek to narrow down their selection by weighing up a broad range of selection criteria.

The first step in this process is a desktop study. Proponents begin by analysing whether the shortest, most direct route to the connection point is practicable. This assessment involves identifying places that must be avoided, such as areas that:

- have planning controls that prohibit powerlines (e.g. national parks)
- have insufficient clearances (e.g. forest plantations, existing infrastructure)
- exclude construction (e.g. watercourses, difficult terrain)
- must be protected (e.g. native vegetation, areas of significant cultural heritage value).

The proponent should also consider any other powerline developments that may be planned to support neighbouring renewable energy projects, with a view to minimising the duplication of lines where possible.

A desktop study will be followed by site surveys of the possible routes to confirm any environmental and land constraints.

## **STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT**

Once a preferred connection corridor has been selected, it is critical that the proponent commence early consultation with the relevant stakeholders to gain a better understanding of land access constraints and approval requirements.

Where powerlines are proposed across private property, the proponent will approach private landowners within the corridor to establish their interest in hosting powerlines. Where powerlines are proposed within or across road reserves, the proponent will consult with the relevant road authorities (state government and/or local council/s).

Concurrently, the proponent should commence a program of targeted stakeholder engagement, including, where relevant, the local council/s, electricity service provider, representatives of the traditional owners/custodians and authorities responsible for planning, environment, Crown land, roads, railways, water and catchment management and fire.

## **DEFINING THE PROPOSED POWERLINE ALIGNMENT**

The process of engagement with landowners and other stakeholders will assist the proponent to refine the preferred proposed powerline alignment corridor.

Where a private landowner agrees to host a powerline, an agreement (commonly called an 'option agreement') is negotiated between the proponent and the landowner. This commits the landowner to hosting the powerline should the project proceed and includes details about the amount of compensation they would receive.

The option agreement enables the proponent to commence detailed environmental and heritage studies and the detailed design. See page 8 for more information about landowner agreements for powerlines.



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

As a general rule, community and stakeholder engagement should take place as early as possible. When the location of the proposed powerline corridor has been identified, proponents should notify neighbours and local communities along the proposed route and inform them of key design aspects of the proposed powerline (expected and maximum size, placement and appearance of the poles, and vegetation clearance required within the alignment corridor). This provides an opportunity for the community to ask questions, request information and provide feedback over a reasonable timeframe.

It is important that the local community and other stakeholders receive regular updates throughout the project lifecycle to avoid creating uncertainty and anxiety by prolonged periods of silence. Similarly, if at any stage the project is suspended or abandoned, the community and other stakeholders should be notified.

Depending on the site conditions and local land use and development controls, planning, environmental and other approvals may or may not be required. The Clean Energy Council promotes best practice community engagement, and therefore advocates for the engagement process outlined above to be undertaken regardless of the planning and environmental approvals required.

Communication methods should be tailored to the needs and expectations of the local community, but will often include newsletters, door-knocks and letterbox drops to surrounding properties and townships, notices in the local newspaper and presentations to local councils and relevant community groups. Outreach using social media may also be relevant in some circumstances, keeping in mind the internet connectivity present in the region.

Communication materials should promote the opportunity for community members to provide feedback on the proposed powerline corridor directly to the proponent and/or through formal processes such as written submissions to planning applications. See Appendix 2 for a communications checklist.

At the end of the engagement process, the powerline corridor is determined, taking into account a wide range of technical, safety, social, environmental and economic factors.

It should be noted that the precise location of the powerlines – a process known as ‘micro-siting’ – may need to be continuously refined up until the construction phase. It is important that appropriate consultation with relevant stakeholders continues throughout the micro-siting process.

## BUILDING POWERLINES WITHIN THE ROAD RESERVE

Powerlines, like other forms of service infrastructure such as telecommunications and gas, are commonly located within road reserves. However, due to a lack of disturbance from farming, road reserves will often contain higher ecological and heritage values. In such instances, proponents should consider mapping an alternative route with fewer ecological or heritage values to minimise disturbance.

Where powerlines are proposed for siting within the road reserve, powerlines must comply with the relevant road safety guidelines and standards, as well as the relevant planning and environmental regulation, which vary in each jurisdiction (Commonwealth assessment and approval may also be required). See the next section, Planning and Environmental Approvals, for more information.

In some jurisdictions, power, water, gas and telecommunication utilities have the ability to construct service infrastructure in road reserves without entering into a Crown land licence. Nevertheless, approval from the relevant road authority (which may be a state or territory agency or the local council) is likely to be required to ensure the use of the road and road safety is not impacted. Regardless of formal requirements, the Clean Energy Council regards it as best practice for proponents to consult with all relevant authorities and to ensure that neighbouring landowners and the local community is fully informed of proposed powerlines.



## **SIGNING AN OPTION AGREEMENT TO HOST A POWERLINE**

Should a landowner be willing to host a powerline corridor on their property, the proponent will work with them to negotiate an 'option' agreement. This agreement, which is a contract, details and records a negotiated arrangement between the proponent and the landowner for the hosting of the powerline within a defined corridor, should the project proceed. See Appendix 4 for a checklist of items that should usually be covered with an option agreement.

It may take years before the design of a large-scale project is completed and receives all the necessary planning and environmental approvals and financing in order to proceed. It is important that proponents regularly provide project updates to relevant landowners.

Only once these approvals are in place will the option agreement be exercised and converted to a legally binding agreement and/or the alignment corridor included in the land title.

In some cases, after years of ground work, projects may not proceed and the option will never be exercised. In the meantime however, the landowner may have received 'consideration' (payment) as compensation for the granting of the option.

It is recommended that landowners who are considering entering into an option agreement for a powerline seek independent legal advice. It is good practice that any reasonable costs in obtaining legal advice are covered by the proponent.





# STAGE 2

## KEY PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL APPROVALS

### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT CHECKLIST

#### ASSESSING ROUTE OPTIONS

- ✓ Proponents will need to seek relevant planning and/or environmental approvals for their state, territory or local government. These differ in each jurisdiction.
- ✓ Federal Government environmental approvals may also be required

Each state and territory in Australia has different requirements for powerline planning and environmental approvals. (See the relevant acts listed in Appendix 3.) Proponents should consult with the responsible authorities and other key agencies as early as possible to identify application requirements and processes.

In addition, where construction (or operation) of a powerline may impact upon Matters of National Environmental Significance, including nationally listed flora species, threatened species and/or biodiversity hotspots, referral to (and approval by) the Commonwealth under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 may be necessary.

The level of information required to support planning and environmental approvals will vary between jurisdictions and will reflect the attributes of the proposed powerline corridor. Typically, the following information would be required:

- the proposed corridor
- details of land tenure
- an indicative design (not full engineering design) of the powerline (diameter, height, distance of the wires from the ground, type of pole)
- environmental, landscape and cultural heritage assessments of the proposed powerline corridor
- associated drawings, maps and simulations.

Where the project intersects Crown land, in-principle agreement will also be required from the relevant managers of the Crown land within that jurisdiction. This is also typically the case where the project intersects with unmade road reserves, which are common in many rural areas.

If the powerline is granted approval, the responsible authority may attach conditions that the proponent must address prior to the commencement of development and/or to comply with during construction and operation of the project. Such conditions may require the provision of more detailed information or assessments, or require the development to be constructed in a particular way (e.g. in accordance with approved Environmental Management Plan/s).

It is important to accurately estimate the impacts to native vegetation and ecological and heritage values associated with the design and the development of the powerline. Accuracy with this information will ensure that impacts can be adequately assessed and will help avoid issues arising from non-compliance.

### MINIMISING THE IMPACTS TO NATIVE VEGETATION

The responsible authority will usually require that, as far as practicable, proponents avoid and minimise impacts to native vegetation. Typically, a project's detailed Construction Environmental Management Plan will require the implementation of measures to protect native vegetation identified for retention so that it is not impacted during construction.

Where native vegetation loss cannot be avoided, a proponent may be required, as a condition of approval, to secure an offset area that protects biodiversity in perpetuity to compensate for biodiversity losses arising from native vegetation removal.

Depending on the jurisdiction, the process for securing an offset may include the proponent purchasing a native vegetation credit from a third party or directly establishing an offset site on or near to the project site.



# STAGE 3

## PRE-CONSTRUCTION

### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT CHECKLIST

#### FINALISE CONSENTS AND AGREEMENTS

- ✓ Update and seek any final consents from the relevant local council/s and authorities
- ✓ Notify landowners that approvals have been received and sign final agreements

#### COMMUNICATE CONSTRUCTION TIMETABLE

- ✓ Notify landowners and neighbours of construction plans, impacts and planned remediation measures
- ✓ Update local residents and businesses on construction plans and impacts

Once any necessary planning and environmental approvals have been obtained, the proponent can finalise the detailed powerline design and obtain the final consents and approvals for that route.

Approvals may require additional and/or secondary consents (demonstrating that the proponent has addressed the conditions and other requirements of the approval), such as provision of final design drawings, endorsed environmental management plans, endorsed traffic management plans and native vegetation offsets.

The proponent will also notify landowners where formal agreements for an alignment corridor will be finalised.

In final preparation for the start of construction, the proponent (or its subcontractors) will usually need to undertake further surveying, geotechnical assessments and other field-based activities along the powerline corridor.

At this stage, the proponent should also ensure their community engagement efforts have successfully notified local residents and businesses, as well as the broader range of interested stakeholders (e.g. local councils, state government, roads authorities, other infrastructure owners) of the likely construction schedule for the powerline.

This communication is an important means of advising local community members of any likely potential construction impacts and temporary disruptions which may affect them, such as road closures for construction. It also provides an opportunity for community members to contact the proponent about any concerns they believe need to be considered and addressed prior to or during construction.

Notifications should occur through the appropriate communications channels relevant to the specific community. These may include face-to-face communication with landowners, letterbox drops for surrounding homes and businesses, newsletters, media releases and advertisements in the local news outlets for the broader community, in conjunction with presentations for local government, elected officials and community groups.

These communications should provide the contact details for suitably experienced or qualified personnel. The proponent should develop a robust complaint handling process and provide a brief outline of this process in the communication material. The workforce in the field should be appropriately equipped to answer questions and engage with community members as required.

### WHAT INFORMATION COMMUNITIES SHOULD EXPECT ABOUT THE POWERLINE

In the pre-construction phase, communities should expect to be notified by the proponent about the following project details:

- expected location, timing, and duration of works
- expected and maximum size, location and appearance of the poles, lines and, where relevant, new or expanded substation
- likely traffic impacts or changes to access
- estimated completion date
- contact details for enquiries, feedback or complaints.





# STAGE 4

## CONSTRUCTION

### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT CHECKLIST

#### KEEP AFFECTED STAKEHOLDERS UP TO DATE

- Ensure that relevant landowners and surrounding residents and businesses have been informed of planned works and expected timing
- Notify the broader community that may be impacted by the works
- Ensure that your complaints telephone number and email is readily available
- Notify stakeholders if there are any proposed delays or changes to the timing of works
- Notify stakeholders once works have been completed

Early stages of construction and site preparation works may generally include road upgrades, the establishment of construction compounds for workers' amenities and storage of construction machinery, the fencing of no-go zones (such as areas of native vegetation and cultural heritage identified for retention), the recovery of any cultural artefacts, clearing of vegetation identified for removal and the 'pegging' of pole locations.

Following site preparation, powerline components will be delivered to the marked locations along the route. Crews will then commence work along the line, digging and establishing foundations, erecting the poles and finally 'stringing' the powerlines. The erection of each pole can require between half a day and one week's work, depending on the site's ground conditions, the pole specifications and foundation requirements.

Powerlines and the associated easements must be designed and built in accordance with any approvals and to meet all relevant standards. This includes standards in relation to the powerline itself, fire safety, road safety and other relevant standards and regulations. Independent engineering certifications, regulatory review and sign-off are obtained as required. In addition, specific vegetation clearance rules and ongoing management measures are likely to be required within powerline alignment corridors.

Once the works are completed, proponents are responsible for reinstating any areas that are disturbed by the construction as soon as possible.

Throughout construction, proponents should undertake regular communication to keep local landowners, communities and stakeholders informed of planned construction activities and possible impacts. Again, a brief outline of the complaints handling process should be included in communication materials.

Key stakeholders should also be notified of the completion of works, and the contact details of the proponent and asset manager should be made available.

# STAGE 5

## OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT CHECKLIST

#### KEEP AFFECTED COMMUNITY MEMBERS UP TO DATE

- ✓ Ensure that landholders and surrounding residents/businesses have contact details for powerline enquiries and complaints

Responsibility for the operation and ongoing maintenance of the powerline rests with the powerline owner, which could be the owner of the renewable energy generation plant or another entity such as an electricity transmission or distribution network operator. Renewable energy generation owners will usually outsource the operation and maintenance of the powerline.

The powerline owner is responsible for the safety of the powerline, which involves conducting regular visual inspections of the powerline, undertaking repairs and maintaining tree clearance.

### GOT A QUERY OR COMPLAINT?

Queries and complaints regarding renewable energy developments and associated powerline infrastructure should be directed to the project proponent in the first instance. The contact details of the project proponent (including telephone number and email address) should be readily available via the project website and through other project information materials.

Should a community member remain dissatisfied, they may contact the National Wind Farm Commissioner, who handles complaints for the wind, large-scale solar and large-scale storage sectors. Information about making a complaint to the Commissioner is available at [nwfc.gov.au/making-a-complaint](http://nwfc.gov.au/making-a-complaint)

# STAGE 6

## DECOMMISSIONING

If the powerline is no longer in operation and/or is not required, the powerline owner may be required to decommission the line.

The local community should be notified of the planned decommissioning of the powerline and any impacts to expect.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT  
GUIDELINES FOR BUILDING  
POWERLINES FOR RENEWABLE  
ENERGY DEVELOPMENTS**

**APPENDICES**



# APPENDIX 1

## FOUNDATION PRINCIPLES FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Clean Energy Council has four foundation principles for community engagement which should shape the way each major renewable energy project is developed:

1. Openness
2. Inclusiveness
3. Responsiveness
4. Accountability

These four principles represent a commitment by the industry to play a role as a valued and trustworthy corporate citizen and good neighbour wherever and whenever they operate. They complement the Best Practice Charter for Renewable Energy Developments.

The manner in which each of these principles is applied will vary during the project lifecycle. However, proponents should be mindful of each principle at all project stages as they represent the foundation for effective community engagement processes and activities.

### OPENNESS

Openness means sharing relevant information about the decisions and activities of the proponent with communities in a way that is:

- clear, so any person can understand it
- accurate and consistent
- comparable and complete
- timely, so it is available when requested and can be used to make decisions
- honest, so information is available to avoid misleading assumptions.

It is important to note that the principle of openness does not affect the right of a proponent to maintain confidential and private information that might otherwise negatively impact its interests.

### INCLUSIVENESS

Inclusiveness means identifying and interacting with all project stakeholders to ensure their perspectives are understood and taken into consideration. It also means providing appropriate channels and opportunities for communities to participate in the decision-making processes, as relevant to each phase of the project development.

All the relevant persons and groups who are potentially affected by the project (not only the most visible ones or those who engage) should have the opportunity to communicate their opinions, expectations, needs and concerns to proponents.



## **RESPONSIVENESS**

Responsiveness means listening and responding to community concerns and needs as relevant to the project. This principle means that every individual has the right to ask reasonable questions and expect a response from the proponent.

Responsiveness means providing mechanisms to collect questions about a project and to provide answers in an open and timely manner, informing individuals about the status of their queries; for example, by either one-on-one interactions or public meetings.

Responses are factual, reflect independent information and involve third parties where relevant. Where a proponent does not have an answer, an explanation to that effect or effort to obtain the relevant information is appropriate.

## **ACCOUNTABILITY**

Being accountable involves the ongoing process of monitoring, evaluating and disclosing information about the project over its lifecycle.

Accountability means establishing systems to track and communicate decisions, policies, activities and performance over time in a balanced, comparable, reliable, accurate and clear manner.

This principle also includes the proactive approach of proponents to prevent possible risks and mitigate potential negative impacts as a consequence of decisions made and activities implemented.

# APPENDIX 2

## COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CHECKLIST

A variety of communications methods should be used over the life of the project in order to engage and share information with the local community and other stakeholders. The proponent's communications program should be tailored to the needs and expectations of the local community. This communications and community engagement checklist is provided as a suggested guide only.

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**COMMUNICATION TOOL**

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**STAKEHOLDER IDENTIFICATION AND MAPPING**

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**FACE-TO-FACE MEETINGS**

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**LETTERS TO LOCAL RESIDENTS AND STAKEHOLDERS**

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**PRESENTATIONS**

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**NEWSLETTERS**

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**ADVERTISEMENTS**

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**INFORMATION CENTRE**

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**TELEPHONE LINE**

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**PROJECT WEBSITE**

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**COMPLAINTS HANDLING PROCESSES**

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**SOCIAL MEDIA**

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	Planning the corridor	Approvals	Pre-construction	Construction	Operations and maintenance	De-commissioning
	X	X	X	X		X
	X	X	X	X		X
	X	X	X	X	X	X
	X	X	X	X		X
	X	X	X	X		X
	X	X	X	X		X
		X	X	X		
	X	X	X	X	X	X
	X	X	X	X		
		X	X	X	X	X
	X	X	X	X	X	X

# APPENDIX 3

## RELEVANT ACTS IN EACH JURISDICTION

A LIST OF RELEVANT ACTS IN EACH JURISDICTION IS PROVIDED BELOW. IT IS GENERAL GUIDANCE ONLY AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

### MULTIPLE JURISDICTIONS

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Commonwealth)

National Electricity Rules

National Electricity Law

### AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

Environment Protection Act 1997

Fisheries Act 2000

Heritage Act 2004

Land Titles Act 1925

National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974

Nature Conservation Act 2014

Road Transport Act 1999

### NEW SOUTH WALES

Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016

Coastal Protection Act 1979

Contaminated Land Management 1997

Crown Lands Act 1989

Electricity Supply Act 1995

Electricity Supply (Safety and Network Management) Regulation 2014

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

Fisheries Management Act 1994

Forestry Act 2012

Heritage Act 1977

National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974

Native Title (New South Wales) Act 1994

Protection of the Environment Operation Act 1997

Roads Act 1993

Water Management Act 2000

### NORTHERN TERRITORY

Aboriginal Land Act 2013

Bushfires Management Act 2016

Fisheries Act 2018

Heritage Act 2016

Land Title Act 2017

National Electricity Act 2017

National Environment Protection Council (Northern Territory) Act 2004

Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority Act 2017

Water Act 2016

### QUEENSLAND

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003

Electricity Act 1994

Electrical Safety Act 2002

Environmental Protection Act 1994

Fisheries Act 1994

Land Act 1994

Land Title Act 1994

Nature Conservation Act 1992

Nature Conservation Regulation 2006

Native Title (Queensland) Act 1994

Planning Act 2016

Queensland Heritage Act 1992

State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971

Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage Act 2003

Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995

Transport Infrastructure Act 1994

Vegetation Management Act 1999

Water Act 2000



## **SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988  
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Coast Protection Act 1972  
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Crown Land Management Act 2009  
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Development Act 1993  
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Electricity Act 1996  
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Environment Protection Act 1993  
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Heavy Vehicle (National Law) South Australia Act 2013  
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Heritage Places Act 1993  
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Highways Act 1926  
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Local Government Act 1999  
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National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972  
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Native Title (South Australia) Act 1994  
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Native Vegetation Act 1991  
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Native Vegetation Regulations 2017  
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Natural Resources Management Act 2004  
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River Murray Act 2003  
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Road Traffic Act 1961  
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Road Traffic (Miscellaneous) Regulations 2014  
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## **TASMANIA**

Aboriginal Lands Act 1995  
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Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975  
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Electricity Act 1999  
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Energy Co-ordination and Planning Act 1995  
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Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994  
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Land Titles Act 1980  
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Nature Conservation Act 2002  
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Threatened Species Protection Amendment Act 2018  
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## **VICTORIA**

Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006  
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Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978  
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Electricity Industry Act 2000  
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Electricity Safety Act 1998  
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Electricity Safety (Installations) Regulations 2009  
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Environment Protection Act 2017  
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Environment Effects Act 1978  
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Essential Services Act 1958  
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Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988  
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Heritage Act 2017  
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Planning and Environment Act 1987  
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Road Management Act 2004  
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Water Act 1989  
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Victoria Planning Provisions  
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## **WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972  
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Conservation and Land Management Act 1984  
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Country Area Water Supply Act 1947  
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Electricity Industries Act 2004  
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Electricity (Network Safety) Regulations 2015  
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Energy Act 1945  
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Environmental Protection Act 1986  
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Heritage of Western Australia Act 1990  
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Main Roads Act 1930  
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Planning and Development Act 2005  
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Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914  
.....  
Wildlife Conservation Act 1950  
.....

# APPENDIX 4

## OPTION AGREEMENTS

Should a landowner be willing to host a powerline corridor on their property, the proponent will work with them to negotiate an 'option' agreement. This agreement, which is a contract, details and records a negotiated arrangement between the proponent and the landowner for the hosting of the powerline within a defined corridor, should the project proceed.

The agreement should be fair and reasonable and set out in plain English.

The option agreement should usually cover matters such as:

- consideration to be paid to the landowner for grant of the option (payment of some kind)
- indicative location of the powerline corridor
- how the landowner can continue to use land within the proposed alignment corridor area
- rights and responsibilities of the parties
- any biosecurity and farm management principles to be performed or adjusted by the proponent
- access arrangements for preliminary investigations, project works and ongoing operations and maintenance
- vegetation clearance requirements within the powerline corridor
- indicative powerline specifications and an outline of the process in the event that there are material changes to the layout or specifications of the transmission line
- novation (the substitution of a new contract party in place of an existing party, for instance, when the landowner transfers the property to a successor in the title)
- expiry-length of the option term (such that the landowner is not required to grant the alignment corridor if the proponent does not proceed with the project within the specified time)
- landowner compensation associated with the alignment corridor
- decommissioning responsibilities
- considerations if the project is cancelled or materially delayed
- assurance provisions in the event that the wind farm developer defaults.

# APPENDIX 5

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GUIDELINES

There are a number of guidelines available on best practice approaches to community engagement and project development in the renewable energy industry. These guidelines include the following:

### INDUSTRY GUIDES

**Best Practice Charter for Renewable Energy Developments** (Clean Energy Council 2018)

**Community Engagement Guidelines for the Australian Wind Industry** (Clean Energy Council 2013)

**Best Practice Guidelines for Implementation of Wind Energy Projects in Australia** (Clean Energy Council 2013)

### GOVERNMENT GUIDES

New South Wales

**Large-scale Solar Energy Guideline**, 2018

Queensland

**Queensland Solar Farm Guidelines**, 2018

South Australia

**Guide to Commercial Scale Solar Development in South Australia**, 2014

Victoria

**Community Engagement and Benefit Sharing in Renewable Energy Development**, 2017

National

**Annual Reports of the National Wind Farm Commissioner**





[cleanenergycouncil.org.au](http://cleanenergycouncil.org.au)

