

Stakeholder Engagement Plan




Moreton Hill Wind Farm Project

9 November 2023



Final

Revision Control

Revision	Date	Issue	Author	Reviewed	Approved	Signature
001	09/11/23	Final/Issued	Ian Courtney	Kath Elliott	Alastair Smith	

Document Review

Document to be reviewed and updated every six (6) months or as required by the project team.

Confidentiality

This document contains proprietary and confidential information, which is provided on a commercial in confidence basis. It may not be reproduced or provided in any manner to any third party without the consent of Squadron Energy Pty Ltd.

© Copyright Squadron Energy 2023. This work and the information contained in it are the copyright of Squadron Energy Pty Ltd. No part of this document may be reprinted or reproduced without the consent of Squadron Energy Pty Ltd.

Disclaimer

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this information, the publisher accepts no responsibility for any discrepancies and omissions that may be contained herein.

Contents

1	Overview	1
1.1	Introduction.....	1
1.2	About Squadron Energy.....	1
1.3	Purpose of this plan.....	1
1.4	Key terminology.....	2
1.5	Our approach to stakeholder engagement.....	2
1.6	Our values.....	2
1.7	Government and industry guidelines.....	3
1.8	Industry best practice.....	3
	1.8.1 Clean Energy Council.....	3
	1.8.2 International Association of Public Participation.....	3
1.9	Stakeholder Engagement objectives.....	5
2	The Project	5
2.1	Project Context.....	5
	2.1.1 Planning process.....	5
	2.1.2 Indicative project timeline.....	6
2.2	Locality.....	6
2.3	Project site map.....	7
2.4	Community overview.....	8
3	Stakeholder identification and analysis	9
3.1	Stakeholder identification process.....	9
3.2	Stakeholder overview.....	9
3.3	Stakeholder Mapping.....	11
3.4	First Nations engagement.....	11
3.5	Stakeholder analysis and engagement level.....	12
3.6	Stakeholder engagement activities.....	13
4	Engagement tools and approach	14
4.1	Engagement objectives.....	14
4.2	Key messages.....	14
4.3	Indicative schedule for engagement.....	15
4.4	Engagement methods.....	16
4.5	Overview of engagement tools used by SQE.....	16
4.6	Interacting with landholders, hosts and neighbours.....	17
4.7	Enquiries and complaints.....	17
4.8	Data management and consultation manager.....	17
4.9	Frequency of contact.....	17
4.10	Evaluation of Community & Stakeholder Engagement performance.....	17
5	Potential issues and opportunities	18
5.1	Overview of impacts, issues and opportunities.....	18
6	Community Benefit sharing	18
6.1	Neighbour Benefit Sharing.....	18
	6.1.1 Objectives.....	18
	6.1.2 Method.....	18
6.2	Community Sponsorship Program.....	18
6.3	Community Fund.....	19
6.4	Council Rates.....	19

6.5	Landowner Rental Payments	19
7	Review	19

1 Overview

Squadron Energy (SQE) is committed to genuine, proactive and meaningful engagement with the community, developing long-term relationships and maintaining open lines of communication.

1.1 Introduction

Squadron Energy is developing the proposed Moreton Hill Wind Farm (Project) to be located approximately 4 kilometres east of Skipton and approximately 4 kilometres west of Linton Victoria. This Community Engagement Plan details Squadron Energy's proposed approach to community engagement throughout the development phase of the project. This Plan has been prepared in advance of the proposed lodgement date of the planning application to allow adequate time for engagement with the community surrounding the Project.

1.2 About Squadron Energy

Squadron Energy is Australia's leading renewable energy company that develops, operates and owns renewable energy assets in Australia. SQE develop and own utility-scale renewable energy facilities incorporating wind, solar and storage technologies, oversee project delivery and commissioning, and provide long-term operational asset management services. Our unique approach to own and manage each project from inception through to full operation ensures genuine engagement with all stakeholders at every stage of the development.

There are six key stages in the development, construction and operation of wind farm developments including:

1. Site selection
2. Feasibility
3. Project Planning and Approval
4. Construction
5. Commissioning and operation
6. Decommissioning

Community engagement activities are tailored for each project stage and are ongoing for the life Project.

1.3 Purpose of this plan

This Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) has been developed for the Moreton Hill Wind Farm. It outlines SQE's approach to community and stakeholder engagement throughout the development phase of the project. When the project progresses into the construction phase, this plan will be reviewed and updated to guide the ongoing stakeholder engagement requirements for the project.

1.4 Key terminology

Table 1 Key terms

Term	Description
AEMO	Australian Energy Market Operator
CEC	Clean Energy Council
CCMA	Corangamite Catchment Management Authority
CFA	Country Fire Authority
DTP	Department of Transport and Planning
DELWP	Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action
EES	Environmental Effects Statement
EPA	Environment Protection Authority
IAP2	International Association of Public Participation
LGA	Local Government Area
REZ	Renewable Energy Zone
SEP	Stakeholder Engagement Plan
SIA	Social Impact Assessment
SQE	Squadron Energy
WTG	Wind Turbine Generators

1.5 Our approach to stakeholder engagement

Stakeholder engagement is carried out by the SQE Project team, with input from SQE's Stakeholder Engagement Manager. We consider it important that trusting relationships are developed between the people on the ground who are involved in the Project on a day-to-day basis, and the stakeholders that are part of, and connected to, their local community and region.

We begin with robust stakeholder mapping and analysis to understand the needs of the community and begin to build relationships from project inception.

Our overall approach to consultation for Moreton Hill Wind Farm is proactive and genuine. We aim to build trust in the community by being transparent, flexible and responsive.

1.6 Our values

SQE's values underpin and guide our work.

Table 2: Squadron Energy Values

Value	Description
Humility	Be vulnerable, take risks to trust others.
Family	Support each other, always be kind.
Safety	Look out for your mates and yourself.

Value	Description
Courage and Determination	NEGU – we never ever give up.
Frugality	Think of ways we can do things better, faster, cheaper, safer.
Stretch Targets	Always be uncomfortable with your level of challenge.
Empowerment	Go to your leader for advice, not permission.
Generating Ideas	Always be on the lookout for breakthroughs.
Enthusiasm	Be the most positive person in the room.
Integrity	Do what you say you are going to do.

1.7 Government and industry guidelines

This plan has been prepared in accordance with:

- the Clean Energy Council's (CEC) Best Practice Charter for Renewable Energy Development and Community Engagement Guidelines for the Australian Wind Industry (CEC, 2018)
- CEC A guide to benefit sharing options for renewable energy projects" (2019)
- IAP2 Spectrum of Engagement (2004)
- DELWP Community Engagement and Benefit Sharing in Renewable Energy Development (2021)
- Commonwealth of Australia Annual Report of the National Wind Farm Commissioner (2020)

1.8 Industry best practice

1.8.1 Clean Energy Council

The Clean Energy Council has prepared Community Engagement Guidelines (CEC, 2018) which outline four principles which underpin best practice community engagement. In addition to incorporating our company values in our engagement with the community, SQE is committed to these best practice principles.

Table 3 Clean Energy Council Community Engagement Guidelines

Principle	Description
Openness	Openness means sharing relevant information about the decisions and activities of the developer in a way that is clear, accurate, timely and honest
Inclusiveness	Inclusiveness means identifying and interacting with all project stakeholders to ensure their perspectives are understood and taken into consideration
Responsiveness	Listening and responding to community concerns and needs. 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.
Accountability	Being accountable involves the ongoing process of monitoring, evaluating, and disclosing information about the activities, and positive and negative impacts of the project at every stage

Source: Clean Energy Council, *Community Engagement Guidelines for the Australian Wind Industry* (June, 2018)

1.8.2 International Association of Public Participation

Our approach to engagement is also informed by the Public Participation Spectrum developed by the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2). The IAP2 Spectrum outlines levels of engagement to

suit varying degrees of impacts in the community. Where impacts are likely to be minimal, the spectrum suggests engagement activities that ‘inform’ and ‘consult’. SQE strives to engage with landholders at the collaborate and empower end of the spectrum, by incorporating stakeholder feedback into the final design layout of the project, including the number and location of wind turbine generators.

IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation



IAP2’s Spectrum of Public Participation was designed to assist with the selection of the level of participation that defines the public’s role in any public participation process. The Spectrum is used internationally, and it is found in public participation plans around the world.

INCREASING IMPACT ON THE DECISION					
	INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GOAL	To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.	To place final decision making in the hands of the public.
PROMISE TO THE PUBLIC	We will keep you informed.	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will look to you for advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.	We will implement what you decide.

© IAP2 International Federation 2018. All rights reserved. 20181112_v1

Figure 1 IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation

The SQE team use the IAP2 Spectrum to guide the design and implementation of engagement activity. This is done alongside the initial stakeholder analysis and mapping exercise at the beginning of the project.

SQE understands that community interest is likely to evolve and change over the duration of the project. An example of how the team may apply the IAP2 spectrum is outlined in **Error! Reference source not found.:**

Table 4 IAP2 Spectrum by project stage

Project Stage	Stakeholder type	IAP2 Spectrum	Notes
Feasibility	Landholders	Inform, consult, collaborate, empower	Project is at early stage, but landholders have the power to shape the project based on land use, property ownership status etc.
Construction	Broader community	Inform	Project has received approvals; the project team must keep the community informed about what they can expect.
Project planning & approval	Neighbours	Inform, consult, collaborate, empower	Project is moving forward, with a preliminary design able to be shared with landholders. Neighbours feedback is considered when refining the overall design of the project.

Project Stage	Stakeholder type	IAP2 Spectrum	Notes
Project planning & approval	Government	Inform, consult	Project requires approval from several government departments and agencies. SQE maintains regular engagement with government representatives, providing opportunities for input and guidance as reports and submissions are being created.

1.9 Stakeholder Engagement objectives

The objectives of stakeholder engagement are to:

- Keep the community informed about the Project, its likely impacts, and likely benefits, through the provision of accurate and timely information.
- Provide multiple opportunities and mechanisms for meaningful engagement with a broad range of stakeholders.
- Understand the potential social impact of the Project to inform and implement mitigation measures.
- Ensure that the team developing the Project fully understands the local context, including any local impacts that it may have or opportunities that it could provide.
- Integrate feedback received into the Project planning and design as far as possible.
- Build and maintain SQEs social licence within the community.

2 The Project

2.1 Project Context

The proposed Moreton Hill Wind Farm in southwest Victoria, 35 kilometres southwest of Ballarat. The project site is on land bounded by Glenelg Highway in the north Wheatleys Road in the south, Mount Bute Road in the west and Knights and Rowes Lane in the east. The site envelope is dissected by the Corangamite and Golden Plains LGA boundaries.

The wind farm will consist of up to 62 turbines with a total capacity of around 420 megawatts. It will connect into the electrical network via a 220 kV underground powerline connecting at the Berrybank terminal station some 9 kilometres south of the wind farm. The project location and turbine layout are shown in Section 2.3 below.

The proposed turbines will be up to 250 metres in height to the tip of the blades, and together will produce enough renewable energy to power 260,000 homes and abate nearly 350,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide annually.

2.1.1 Planning process

The Project has been designed considering parameters that would trigger an Environmental Effects Statement (EES) to minimise impact on the local environment. An EES referral will be lodged in late 2023 with the Minister of Planning.

If no EES is required, the planning application for the Project will be lodged with DTP in 2024. DTP will assess the planning application against the provisions of the Corangamite and Golden Plains Planning Schemes. Subject to further assessment of the wind farm and powerline line route the Project may also be subject to an EPBC referral which will be assessed by the Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Energy.

At the appropriate time, all the planning application documents will be available for public viewing at the Corangamite and Golden Plains Shire Council Offices and will be accessible via a dedicated website.

2.1.2 Indicative project timeline

H1 2021 – H4 2023	Feasibility Assessments
H4 2023	Community consultation commences
H2 2021 – H4 2023	Specialised technical and environmental assessments complete
H2 2024	Planning application lodged with DTP
H2 – H3 2024	Planning application assessed by DTP
H1 2025	If approved, Planning Permit issued by Minister of Planning
H2 2026	Commencement of construction
H2 2026– H2 2028	Construction
H2 2028 – H1 2029	Energisation and Commencement of Operation

2.2 Locality

The proposed Moreton Hill Wind Farm in southwest Victoria, 35 kilometres southwest of Ballarat. The project site is on land bounded by Glenelg Highway in the north Wheatleys Road in the south, Mount Bute Road in the west and Knights and Rowes Lane in the east. The site envelope is dissected by the Corangamite and Golden Plains LGA boundaries.

A third of the proposed wind turbines are located in the Corangamite Shire on land to the west of Lismore - Pittong Road, Moreton Hill Road, Rankin Road and Gillespies Road. While the remaining wind turbines and underground powerline route are located in the Golden Plains Shire on land on both sides of the Lismore - Pittong Road, east of Moreton Hill Road, Rankin Road, Gillespies Road and Willowvale Road.

The development area has been largely cleared of native vegetation and is currently primarily used for cropping and sheep grazing. The site covers an area of approximately 6,200 hectares and is used predominantly as freehold agricultural land.

The wind farm plans to connect to the electricity grid on the 220 kV line connecting at Berrybank Substation on the existing Ballarat Terang 220kV line.

2.4 Community overview

The project is situated within the Corangamite and Golden Plains Shires and several kilometres from the southern boundary of the Pyrenees Shire.

The community surrounding the proposed wind farm is familiar with wind farms as there are three constructed projects in the region and several others planned. They are Stockyard Hill and Chepstowe to the north and Berrybank and Golden Plains (Approved – construction commenced 2023) some 10 kilometres to the south. The approved Darlington Wind Farm is 44 kilometres to the west.

Corangamite Shire is located approximately 2 hours from Melbourne in the Barwon Southwest region of Victoria. The Corangamite Shire extends from the Great Ocean Road, with famous natural scenery including the iconic 12 Apostles and Lock Ard Gorge to the north of the Shire at Skipton. It encompasses an array of landscapes, native wildlife and views from Mt Leura, Mt Noorat and Mt Elephant.

Corangamite is home to strong and friendly communities, and an array of historic townships. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2021 census the population of Corangamite is 16,115 people mainly centred in the townships of Camperdown, Cobden, Terang and Timboon. (2021 Census)

Golden Plains Shire is situated between two of Victoria's largest regional cities, Geelong and Ballarat, with a population of almost 24,879 (ABS 2021) people mostly located near to these large population centres and across 56 rural smaller communities.

Golden Plains Shire is one of the fastest growing regions in Victoria. Renowned for its award-winning food and wine, iconic music festivals, goldfield heritage and friendly communities. In agriculture, the region has a strong tradition in wool and grain production and is a leading producer of prime lambs.

The nearest townships to the project are Skipton 4 kilometres to the west, and Linton 4 kilometres to the east. The population of Skipton is 609 people comprising of 143 families and the population of Linton is 635 people comprising of 182 families. (2021 Census)

The nearest town centres in the Pyrenees Shire are Snake Valley and Carngham 12 kilometres and 15 kilometres to the northwest.

Several sporting club facilities are located within 10 kilometres of the site, namely the Skipton Football/Netball Club, the Skipton Golf Club, the Linton Cricket Club, The Linton Football/Netball Club and the Linton District Bowls Club. Various other local community groups exist in both townships.

The following table provides a breakdown of dwellings located within five distance zones of any proposed wind turbine location. Dwellings are separated between those belonging to participating landowners and neighbouring properties.

Table 5: Nearby Dwellings to Wind Farm

Distance from nearest wind turbine	Host Dwellings	Neighbour Dwellings
0 to 2 kilometres	19	20
2 to 3 kilometres	0	20
3 to 4 kilometres	2	43
4 to 5 kilometres	0	32

Subject to completion of consultation and assessments

It is proposed that the **underground** transmission Line from the project southern boundary will run along the Willowvale Road Reserve connecting to the existing 220 kV line near the Berrybank Substation.

3 Stakeholder identification and analysis

3.1 Stakeholder identification process

At the beginning of the project, a thorough desktop search of relevant stakeholders was completed by the project team. This included:

- Relevant political representatives at all three levels of government
- Businesses and the type of industry in the area
- Census data
- First Nations groups in the area and the broader region
- Local print media
- Other local publications such as community newsletters
- Local radio and television media
- Facebook, including searching for pages/groups relevant to the project
- Twitter/Instagram for any local chatter about the project
- Consultation Manager – showing if Squadron Energy has engaged with any members of the community previously
- Council list of community groups
- Government offices present in the area
- Sensitive receivers such as places of worship, educational facilities, aged care homes or facilities used by people with a disability
- Emergency services nearest to the project
- Mention of renewable energy/the locality on Hansard (State and Federal parliament)
- Any significant historical or recurring events in the area

The project team have made many trips to the area to understand the local area and ‘ground-truth’ information found during the desktop research phase. The project team continue to visit the area regularly as the project progresses.

3.2 Stakeholder overview

The key stakeholder groups identified for the Moreton Hill Wind Farm include:

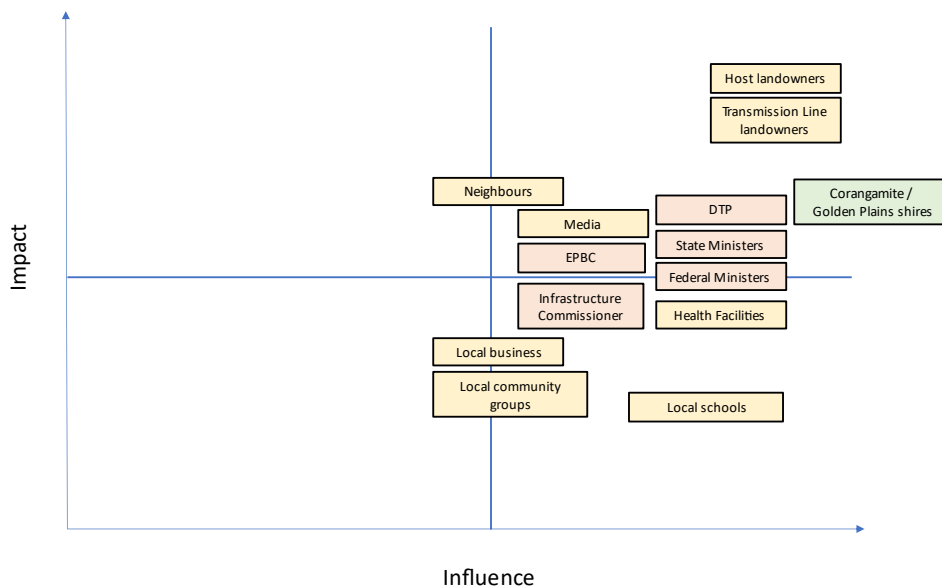
- Host landholders
- Neighbouring landholders
- Community within the social locality
- Victorian and Commonwealth government elected representative and agencies
- Local Councils
- Community interest groups and community services
- Industry
- CFA
- Emergency services
- Local business

Table 6: Identified stakeholders

Stakeholder Group	Stakeholders
Host Landholders	Landholders with the potential to host WTGs and/or Project infrastructure
Neighbouring Landholders	Neighbouring dwellings within 6 km of the potential turbine locations
Communities within the Social Locality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local community: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Skipton - Linton - Bradvale
Government – State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Transport and Planning DTP (VIC) • Crown Lands • Corangamite Catchment Management Authority • AAV • Ausnet • AEMO • VicRoads • Environment Protection Authority (EPA) • Country Fire Authority (CFA)
Government - Federal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Airservices Australia • Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) • Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) • Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment (DAWE) • Department of Defence • Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO)
Local Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corangamite Shire • Golden Plains Shire • Pyrenees Shire
Government - Elected Representatives (refer National Stakeholder Engagement Plan)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal Member for Wannon – Dan Tehan • Federal Member for Environment and Water – The Hon Tanya Plibersek MP • Federal Minister for Climate Change and Energy – The Hon Chris Bowen MP • Victorian Member for Planning – Minister Sonya Kilkeny • Minister for Climate Action and Energy and Resources – The Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP • Minister for Regional Development – Minister Harriet Shing
Community Interest Groups and Community Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skipton and Linton Men's Sheds • Skipton Probus • Skipton Cricket Club • Skipton Football and Netball Club • Skipton Tennis Club • Skipton Golf Club • Skipton Lions Club • Skipton District Historical Society • Linton & District Bowling Club • Linton Cricket Club • Linton District Men's Shed • Linton District Progress Association

Stakeholder Group	Stakeholders
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carngham Linton Football Netball Club • Skipton Progress Association • Berrybank and District Community Group • Mannibadar Hall
Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skipton Primary School, • Linton Primary School
First Nations organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation
Industry and Local Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beaufort and Skipton Health Service • SUVO Mining • Eldridge Quarry
Other Stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local media: Skipton Community Newsletter, Ballarat Courier, Golden Plains Times, Camperdown Chronicle, Pyrenees Advocate, Linton News

3.3 Stakeholder Mapping



3.4 First Nations engagement

Squadron Energy will engage with First Nations stakeholders in accordance with the relevant guidelines including:

- The Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 (Victoria)
- The Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018 (Victoria)
- Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010 (Victoria)
- Charter of Human Rights & Responsibilities Act 2006 (Victoria)

- Native Title Act 1993 (Commonwealth)
- Guide to preparing a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (First Peoples-State Relations 2021)
- Guidance on Engaging Traditional Owners (First Peoples-State Relations n.d.)

Squadron Energy is mindful that best practice engagement with First Nations stakeholders requires cultural knowledge and understanding. As part of our approach to best practice engagement with First Nations Stakeholders, Squadron Energy:

- Carries out detailed stakeholder mapping to understand all representative groups in the region.
- Seeks to build relationships with First Nations Stakeholders prior to any formal engagement and consultation process.
- Is informed about cultural practices and protocols which may impact engagement methods and timelines.

Squadron Energy takes a place-based approach to engagement, understanding that different communities and regions have diverse cultural practices, histories and stories. We work to collaborate with First Nations Stakeholders to identify opportunities and challenges that can be worked through during project planning and development.

Squadron Energy works with First Nations stakeholders to:

- Apply relevant protocols for Aboriginal knowledge.
- Acknowledge and assess both tangible and intangible forms of cultural heritage.
- Ensure free, prior, and informed consent.
- Engage traditional owners or custodians who can speak for Country.
- Allow Aboriginal decision-making processes to function effectively.
- Avoid conflict between engagement activities and cultural practices.
- Engage in places, at times, and in ways that encourage participation; and
- Ensure that engagement is undertaken by people with appropriate skills and experience.

3.5 Stakeholder analysis and engagement level

To address the different needs of the community and key stakeholders, a stakeholder analysis was carried out to determine the level of engagement required for the Project. Table 9 outlines the level of participation and how this applies to the Project stakeholder groups.

Table 9: Level of participation and purpose

Level of Participation	Purpose	Stakeholder Group
Collaborating in decision-making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-design, or collaborating in the design of project elements • Identifying and predicting social impacts • Collaborating in the development of monitoring, mitigation and management measures and actions • Involving marginalised groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host landholders • Neighbours
Consulting to collect information and insights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying and predicting social impacts • Collecting data, evidence, and insights • Demonstrating early engagement • Confirming data, assumptions, and findings • Involving marginalised groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local community • State and Commonwealth government agencies • Local Councils • Community interest groups and community services

Sharing information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifying affected and interested people, groups, organisations, and communities Helping people to understand the proposal Addressing questions, concerns, and complaints Demonstrating early engagement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Industry Emergency services Local business Regional community Government-elected representatives
----------------------------	---	--

3.6 Stakeholder engagement activities

The table below outlines the key stakeholder engagement activity completed to date. Note this provides a snapshot only, with full details recorded in the SQE engagement database for the Project, Consultation Manager.

Stakeholder engagement is ongoing during the development of the wind farm. The table below does not reflect the fact that the MHWF team engage with the community, regularly and as often as required through face-to-face meetings, phone calls and emails, throughout the course of the Project.

Table 6: Stakeholder engagement activities

Date	Engagement Activities
Month Year	Brief description of engagement activity including engagement tool and stakeholder group
10/2023	Letter drop and meet with all neighbours within 4 kilometres
10/2023	Post newsletter and to all landowners within 10 kilometres
10/2023	Brief Corangamite and Golden Plains councils
10/2023	Distribute newsletters through local community
10/2023	Live website
10/2023	Attempt to meet with all landowners within 4 kilometres

4 Engagement tools and approach

4.1 Engagement objectives

Squadron Energy's stakeholder engagement objectives are:

- Keep the community informed about the Project, its likely impacts, and likely benefits, through the provision of accurate and timely information
- Provide multiple opportunities for meaningful engagement with all stakeholders.
- Ensure that the team developing the Project fully understands the local context, including the project's potential impacts and/or opportunities.
- Integrate feedback received into the Project planning and design as far as possible.
- Build and maintain positive, trust-based relationships with the local community.
- Establish, build, and maintain a Squadron Energy's social licence to operate.

Community engagement activities are ongoing for the life of the Project and will be tailored according to each of the key stages.

4.2 Key messages

General project messages

- The Moreton Hill Wind Farm Wind Farm is a proposed wind energy project consisting of up to 62 turbines located approximately 35 kilometres west of Ballarat in Victoria's central highlands.
- The Moreton Hill Wind Farm is expected to deliver a range of economic benefits to the local community including the creation of ongoing jobs, rates to the local government, rent to participating landowners and benefits to the local community through the neighbour sharing scheme and community funding.
- Based on long-term average forecast, the Moreton Hill Wind Farm is expected to produce a yearly output equivalent to powering more than 260,000 average homes¹.

Development activities

- We will undertake a range of environmental, engineering and planning assessments to ensure that the proposed wind farm complies with Federal and State Government approval conditions.
- Before construction commences a range of assessments need to be completed, including flora and fauna surveys, further wind and background noise monitoring, topographical and technical surveys.
- These studies are essential for us to understand any potential impacts that the wind farm may have and putting in place management plans to minimise those impacts.

Community engagement

- We value the contribution from the community to the development of the Moreton Hill Wind Farm. Community engagement will continue throughout the life cycle of the project.
- We will continue to provide regular updates and project information via project newsletters, website, as well as ongoing visits to residents living in the area.
- A community sponsorship program will be set up for the Moreton Hill Wind Farm, which will help initiatives that benefit the community and make a lasting contribution to the area.

¹ Based on a capacity factor of 40%, an average household consumption of 5.708 mWh per annum and a long-term average forecast

Environment

- Squadron Energy is committed to minimising any potential impacts that our project may have on the environment.
- As part of our commitment to the environment, we are carrying out a range of studies to inform the development of appropriate management plans, so that we can minimise and properly manage any potential environmental issues associated with the Moreton Hill Wind Farm.

Employment and economic benefits

- Moreton Hill Wind Farm will generate employment opportunities both directly related to the construction and operation of the project, and indirectly through increased demand for goods and services.
- We will be providing information on employment and business opportunities arising from the Moreton Hill Wind Farm project to local suppliers.

4.3 Indicative schedule for engagement

Table 10 outlines the types of engagement tools to be used over the course of the project development phase. This table should be updated once the project receives consent and moves into the next phase.

Table 10 indicative engagement schedule

Action	When	Activity	Tools
Project Launch	October 2023	Project launch	Project information provided via media release
Local Government	October 2023	Engagement with Corangamite and Golden Plains Shires. Proposed biannual presentations or meeting with council representatives	Project description and information
Wind Farm Commissioner	October 2023	Update Wind Farm and Renewable Infrastructure commissioner	Project description and information
Community Newsletter	October 2023	Mail out to all dwellings to 4 kilometres Newsletter 1 – on going activity	Update and details of house-to-house visits
Face to face meetings	October 2023	Round 1: Meet with neighbours to the project with 4 kilometres – ongoing activity	Project information and updates
Website	October 2023	Launch Website	Project description and information
Briefings	October 2023	Briefings to Key Stakeholder Organisations	Provide information
Launch Sponsorship Program	October 2023	Invite Proposals for sponsorship	Website, Local Newspapers / Shopfront
Open days	As required	Provided as required	Expert consultants and Project information
Formal Notice of Planning Application	2024	Formal notice provided by DTP Planning	Registered Mail
Establish CRG	2025	Establish Community Reference Group	Media Invite/advertising

Action	When	Activity	Tools
ONGOING			
Bi-annual community newsletters		Hard copy and on-line community newsletters	Project updates
Face to face meetings		With neighbours and community members	Project updates
Community Sponsorship		Deliver annual Sponsorship Program	Request for proposals
Community presentations		Present to local community groups as required	Project information and updates
Council		Bi-annual presentations or meeting with council representatives	Project information and updates
Social media		Provide information	Project information and updates
Email and community info line		Being contactable	Ensure project teams is responsive emails and community info line

4.4 Engagement methods

IAP2 Australasia's Community Engagement model outlines that the methods used for engagement will vary based on the sector, purpose of the engagement and expectation of stakeholders. It is important to select the right method of engagement to successfully design, deliver and evaluate genuine stakeholder engagement, noting that more than one method is likely to be required.

4.5 Overview of engagement tools used by SQE

SQE use the following tools to engage with stakeholders throughout all stages of the project lifecycle:

- Letters, newsletters and factsheets
- Face-to-face meetings
- Phone calls
- Emails, including email blasts and targeted emails
- Project newsletters
- Landowner letters
- Advertising in local newspapers
- Community information sessions
- Surveys
- Project email address, website and phone number
- Attend fairs and festivals
- Social media posts
- Information kits
- Virtual engagement platform
- Tours of operational SQE wind farms/solar farms

- Community Reference Group meetings (CRG)

4.6 Interacting with landholders, hosts and neighbours

Squadron Energy seeks to be as transparent and open as possible when discussing opportunities to host infrastructure, including wind turbines as well as compensation for neighbouring residences. In the first instance, Squadron Energy provides prospective hosts and neighbours with comprehensive information and maintains ongoing transparent communications about the process of being an involved host or neighbour.

4.7 Enquiries and complaints

During the project development phases of the project, stakeholders and members of the community have the opportunity to contact Squadron Energy via the specific project email address and community information line.

The project team will endeavour to respond to and resolve all complaints and enquiries as soon as possible. Squadron Energy uses Consultation Manager to track complaints, enquiries and action items.

Key stakeholders such as hosts, and First Nations representatives will be provided with direct contact information and will be consulted on their preferred method of communication.

4.8 Data management and consultation manager

Consultation Manager is used to record all interactions with stakeholders. Consultation Manager helps to keep track of relationships with landowners, hosts, neighbours and other key stakeholders. By doing this we can keep accurate records and provide opportunities to analyse and continually improve our consultation and engagement practices.

4.9 Frequency of contact

Squadron Energy keeps in regular contact with key stakeholders and the wider community. We provide bi-annual newsletters (more frequently during periods of high activity on the project) as well as regular phone calls and emails to hosts and neighbours.

The project website www.moretonhillwindfarm.com.au is also reviewed and updated regularly. The frequency of engagement with stakeholders will vary depending on the project stage, but our aim is to engage with stakeholders frequently, so they feel they are kept up to date with progress.

4.10 Evaluation of Community & Stakeholder Engagement performance

The project team, along with Squadron Energy's Stakeholder Engagement Manager regularly reviews the project's community and stakeholder engagement performance. This helps the project team to improve the quality of communications and consultation as the project progresses, but also for other Squadron Energy projects who may be at earlier stages of the development process. The team use Consultation Manager to analyse community and stakeholder engagement performance. This review will feed into the annual Monitoring and Evaluation Plan.

5 Potential issues and opportunities

5.1 Overview of impacts, issues and opportunities

Major infrastructure projects like Moreton Hill Wind Farm can impact people in many ways, both positive and negative.

The aim of this section is to provide an overview of the potential social issues that may arise as a result of the Project. It is based on the preliminary knowledge of the Project and the social locality, along with learnings from comparative projects to predict potential impacts.

Specifically, this section addresses:

- What project activities could induce social impacts for which people; and
- Any other activities that may combine to produce cumulative impacts.

6 Community Benefit sharing

Squadron Energy is committed to being a positive contributor to the communities where we operate. We share the benefits of our projects by supporting communities over the long term. We do this through a range of opportunities such as community benefit funds, neighbour agreements, neighbour benefit schemes, voluntary planning agreements, community sponsorships and grant initiatives.

We recognise that each community is different and through partnerships with councils and local groups, and consultation with the community, we aim to tailor benefits at each project and make a positive lasting contribution to each region.

6.1 Neighbour Benefit Sharing

6.1.1 Objectives

The key aim with neighbouring landowners is to create new agreements which will provide a mechanism to include neighbours as project participants and empower their positive participation in the project.

6.1.2 Method

The neighbouring dwellings within 4 kilometres of a wind turbine will be offered a voluntary neighbour agreement.

These agreements will be offered during the development phase with payments commencing on when construction commences.

Broader community

Neighbours outside 4 kilometres of the project will benefit from the Community Sponsorships, Community Fund, Education Sponsorships, and the significant boost rates received by their local shires from the wind farm.

6.2 Community Sponsorship Program

The Moreton Hill Wind Farm will implement a community sponsorship program which provides funds or in-kind support to community organisations and events in the local project area.

During the development phase of the project Squadron Energy will provide local sponsorship and consider projects that have one or more of the following:

- Skills, education and training
- Community safety, health and well being
- Sustainable population growth
- Natural resource stewardship
- Community events and activities that promote and enhance community connection.

6.3 Community Fund

On construction commencing support the prosperity of the local community and encourage sustainable development in the area around both the wind farm and the powerline, a contribution will be made each year to a local Community Investment Program.

6.4 Council Rates

Under the Victorian Electricity Act 2014 the Moreton Hill Wind Farm must make payments in lieu of rates to the relevant local Council responsible for the site. The methodology for determining payments, as set out in the Electricity Industry Act, combines a fixed charge with a variable charge based on the capacity of the power station in megawatts.

6.5 Landowner Rental Payments

The landowners who host the Moreton Hill Wind Farm will receive rental payment for the use of their land for the wind turbines, powerline route, hardstands, access tracks and electrical infrastructure. Payments will continue until the site is fully remediated at the end of the working life of the turbines.

7 Review

The plan will be assessed and review on an annual basis to ensure it continues to meet the goals and objectives of the project and continues to be aligned with stakeholder and community expectations.

Further evaluation processes will be developed as the community becomes more involved in the project, such as using the Community Reference Group as an ongoing feedback mechanism.

Community and stakeholder engagement best-practice is constantly evolving, and SQE commits to meeting the standards set by Federal and state governments, the Clean Energy Council and the International Association for Public Participation.

Squadron Energy is Australia's leading renewable energy company. Proudly Australian owned, our mission is to be a driving force in Australia's transition to a clean energy future by providing green power to our customers.

We develop, operate and own renewable energy assets in Australia, with 1.1 gigawatts (GW) of renewable energy in operation and a development pipeline of 20GW.

With proven experience and expertise across the project lifecycle, we work with local communities and our customers to lead the transition to Australia's clean energy future.

Squadron Energy acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia. We pay our respects to Elders past, present, and emerging.

