



NAVARRE GREEN POWER HUB EES COMMUNITY CONSULTATION PLAN

Version	V4
Released	February 2025
Document Owner	Thibault Peillon

1 . P U R P O S E

This Community Consultation Plan (CCP) identifies the community consultation approach and objectives for the Environment Effects Statement (EES) of Navarre Green Power Hub (NGPH).

This EES CCP is part of an overarching, comprehensive NGPH Community Engagement Plan.

The EES will involve several detailed technical investigations that will be undertaken by qualified specialists. In addition to detailed technical investigations, the Environment Effects Act (1978) requires the proponent to **‘prepare and implement a public consultation plan for informing the public and consulting with stakeholders during the preparation of the EES’**.

To promote active community consultation during the EES process, Neoen proposes a consultation approach that facilitates community information, consultation and/or involvement at each key stage of the process in parallel with the expert review undertaken through the Technical Reference Group (TRG).

Further information on the EES process is available at: [EES Process in Victoria](#)

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Neoen acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land where the project is located, being the Dja Dja Wurrung People represented by the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation, and the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagulk Nations, represented by the Barengi Gadjin Land Council Aboriginal Corporation.

3. CONTENTS

- 1. PURPOSE 2
- 2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY 3
- 3. CONTENTS 4
- 4. INTRODUCTION 5
- 5. PROJECT CONTEXT 6
 - 5.1 PROJECT DESCRIPTION6
 - 5.2 DEVELOPMENT7
 - 5.3 THE REQUIREMENT FOR AN ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS STATEMENT7
 - 5.4 COMMUNITY CONTEXT8
- 6. CONSULTATION APPROACH 10
 - 6.1 VALUES10
 - 6.2 ENGAGEMENT PHASES AND COMMUNICATION CHANNELS10
- 7. ANALYSIS OF STAKEHOLDERS AND RIGHTS-HOLDERS 12
 - 7.1 IDENTIFIED ISSUES15
- 8. CONSULTATION PROGRAM 17
 - 8.1 OVERVIEW OF COMPLETED CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT17
 - 8.1.1 *Community Liaison Officer*.....19
 - 8.1.2 *Cultural Heritage Engagement*19
 - 8.2 CONSULTATION DURING THE EES PROCESS20
 - 8.3 COMPLAINTS AND FEEDBACK MANAGEMENT23
- 9. REPORTING, EVALUATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT 24
 - 9.1 OBJECTIVES OF EVALUATION25
 - 9.2 HOW WILL FEEDBACK BE USED25
- 10. APPENDIX 1: COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE 26

Tables and Figures

- Figure 1 Project map 6
- Figure 2 Area map 7

- Table 1: Key stakeholders 12
- Table 2 Completed consultation 17
- Table 3 Implementation Plan during EES period 20
- Table 4 Evaluation Process - Outcomes and Outputs to be achieved 24
- Table 5 How feedback will be used 25

4. INTRODUCTION

This community consultation plan outlines the Navarre Green Power Hub Project team's approach and objectives for ensuring key stakeholders and communities are involved and consulted throughout the development of the EES.

The Project team seeks to foster genuine, open and ongoing relationships with key stakeholders and the local community. The goal is a “no surprises” dynamic with the local community and a commitment to developing and nurturing long-term relationships between the Project team and various Project stakeholders.

Proposed engagement approaches are diverse and have been tailored to the expectations of stakeholders. Wherever possible, the Project team seeks to deliver engagement in alignment with the ministerial guidelines which suggest:

The consultation plan should clearly document how the proponent will:

- **inform** the public about the proposed project and program of EES studies
- **seek** targeted input from stakeholders during preparation of the EES to:
 - *identify issues of potential concern*
 - *obtain local knowledge on existing conditions*
 - *understand perceptions of potential effects*
 - *gain feedback on measures that might provide reasonable responses to stakeholder concerns (including potential refinement to the proposal)*
- **respond** to stakeholder input.

Proposed engagement approaches are diverse and have been tailored to the expectations of stakeholders (IAP2, 2023), INFORM, CONSULT, INVOLVE, COLLABORATE and EMPOWER. Wherever possible, the Project team seeks to deliver engagement in alignment with the INVOLVE, COLLABORATE and EMPOWER end of the spectrum, to ensure stakeholder feedback, interests and concerns are adequately reflected in the final design and operational approach of the Project.

5. PROJECT CONTEXT

5.1 Project Description

The Navarre Green Power Hub (NGPH) is located in regional Victoria approximately 190 (km) north-west of the Melbourne (CBD) and immediately north of the township of Navarre. NGPH is an environmentally and economically sound wind and storage facility that will improve Victoria’s energy security and provide an economic boost to the region. The project comprises of a wind farm and battery storage facility with an area of approximately 18,404 ha of predominantly private farmland.

The project would involve the following 4 main components:

1. Eastern Layout – 50 turbines
2. Western Layout – 52 turbines
3. Eastern and Western Layout Connection - approximately 2.5 km wide transmission corridor between the two wind farm project areas covering an area of approximately 1,272ha
4. Bulgana Terminal Station Connection - approximately 4 km wide transmission corridor between the Western Layout and the Bulgana Terminal Station covering an area of approximately 6,993 ha.

The project will provide an average of around 300 full time jobs during the two to three years of construction and involve an estimated \$1.8 billion capital investment. It will also involve around 14 ongoing jobs to run the wind farm.

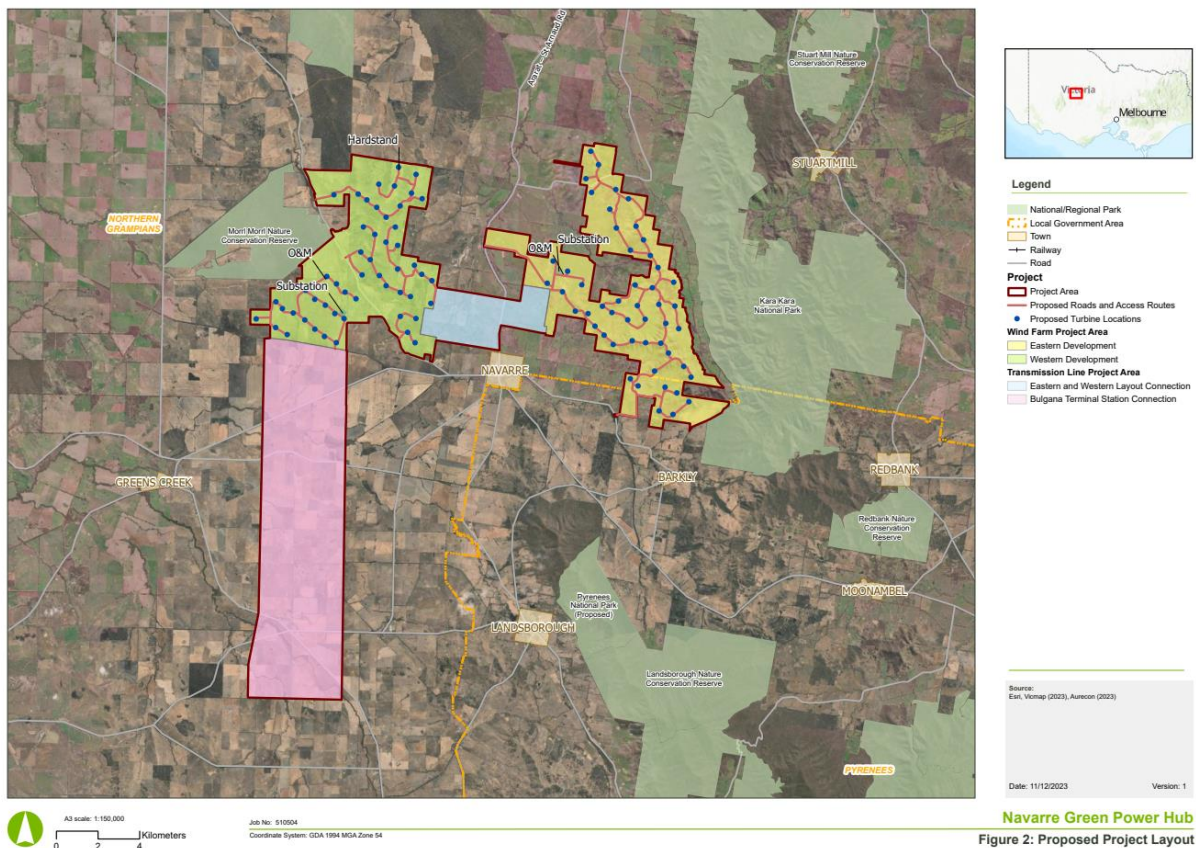


Figure 1 Project map

5.2 Development

The site, first identified in mid-2018, was chosen due to its promising wind resource, proximity to the future Western Renewables Link, and Neoen's established rapport with local councils and communities, a relationship strengthened through Neoen's Bulgana Wind Farm project located just a 30-minute drive from the NGPH site.

Initial discussions with landowners possessing suitable land for a potential wind and battery facility began in 2018, with the first landowner signed up in mid-2020. Site feasibility studies commenced in 2019, as well as the installation of a sodar wind measuring device. Two met masts were installed in 2022, and in August 2023 as well as an additional LiDAR device.

A pre referral lodgement meeting was held with the Victorian Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) in June 2023 and an EES referral for the project was submitted July 2023.

The EPBC referral to the Commonwealth Minister was lodged with DCCEEW in August 2023, and the decision that the project is a controlled action was then published on the EPBC website in November 2023.

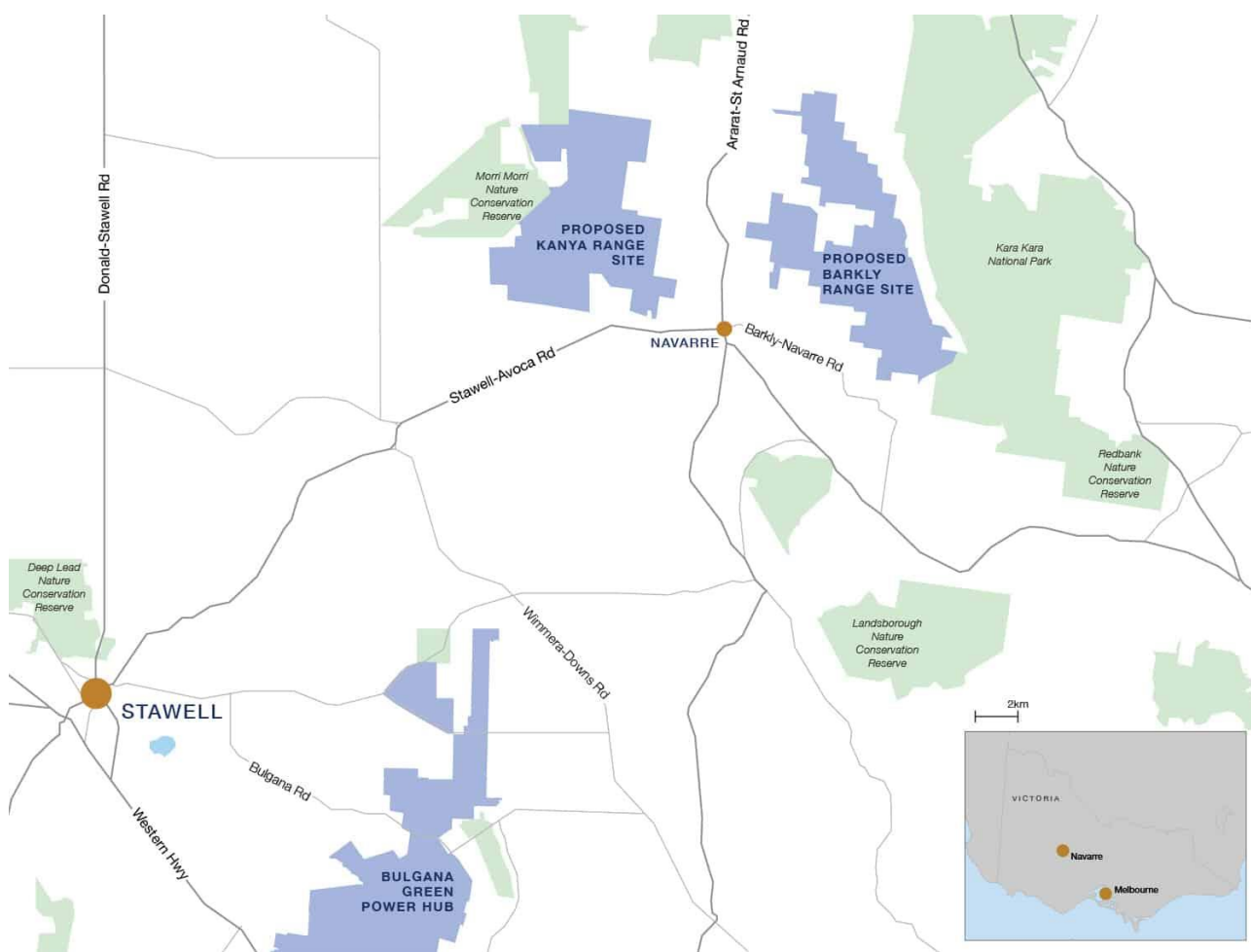


Figure 2 Area map

5.3 The requirement for an Environment Effects Statement

In May 2024, the Victorian Minister for Planning advised that an EES would be required for the project under the Environment Effects Act (1978). The minister's reason for the decision was:

The project has the potential for a range of significant effects that require rigorous assessment. In particular, the project as proposed could have significant effects on:

- Listed threatened species and communities under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 (FFG Act) and Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)
- Other ecological values of the area including habitats, ecological communities, native vegetation and the adjacent National Park and conservations reserves;
- Freshwater environments, including wetlands and creeks; and
- Tangible and intangible Aboriginal cultural heritage values

An EES is an assessment of the potential environmental, economic and social impacts of the proposed project. It is prepared to inform the Minister for Planning's assessment of the level of environmental effects a project may have and is taken into consideration by statutory decision makers when deciding whether to approve a project.

During the EES process there will be formal, state-coordinated opportunities for stakeholders to engage with the process and make submissions about the project's potential environmental effects. The Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) will seek public comment via submission on behalf of the Minister for Planning. The formal EES review process includes:

- Exhibition of the Scoping Requirements for 15 business days for public comment
- Receipt and consideration of written submissions on the Draft Scoping Requirements by DTP before the Scoping Requirements are finalised and issued to the proponent
- Exhibition of the EES documentation for a minimum of 30 business days in order to receive public submissions
- Receipt and consideration of written submission on the EES by the Minister for Planning
- Public inquiry into the EES which may take the form of a formal hearing, a roundtable conference with submitters or a desktop review of written submissions

Further information on the EES process and how you can get involved is available at:

<https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/environmental-assessments/environmental-assessment-guides/ministerial-guidelines-for-assessment-of-environmental-effects/public-review-of-an-ees>

5.4 Community context

The Navarre region encompasses a diverse range of landscapes, including rural areas, towns, and natural attractions. The administrative centre of the Northern Grampians Shire Council is Stawell, which is the largest town in the shire.

The Project Area overlaps with two appointed Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) areas. These include the Dja Dja Wurrung People represented by the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation, and the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagulk Nations, represented by the Barengi Gadjin Land Council Aboriginal Corporation. The Project Area also includes a land component where an appointed RAP does not currently exist. This part of the Project would be evaluated by First Peoples-State Relations (FP-SR), the State government administrative body.

The Project area is predominantly located within the municipal boundaries of the Northern Grampians Shire Council, with a small portion of the project area located within the Pyrenees Shire Council area.

The Northern Grampians *Shire Council Business Growth Program Guidelines Jan 2022* highlights Renewable Energy as a key economic growth opportunity, and its Economic Development Strategy identifies reducing carbon emissions as a key KPI.

The Grampians New Energy Taskforce (GNET) emerged to champion and further the transition towards a carbon-neutral economy within the Grampians. Comprising senior officials from all Grampians local government sectors, regional partnerships, development associations, and other prominent bodies, GNET

operates with support from the Victorian Government's Department of Energy, Environment, and Climate Action (DEECA), which facilitates the group's secretarial responsibilities.

Existing wind farms in the Northern Grampians Shire Council include:

- Bulgana - 194 MW - Neoen
- Ararat - 240 MW - Windlab
- Yawong - 7.2 MW - Epic Energy
- Coonooer Bridge - 19.8 MW - Windlab
- Crowlands - 80 MW - Pacific Blue

Wind farms being planned or developed in the Shire Council include:

- Watta Wella - 360 MW - RES

The Navarre area has so far proven to be broadly positive about the opportunity to host a wind farm. Neoen has entered into land contracts with approximately 20 landholders, many of which live in the local area and participate actively in the community.

Neoen has become a Titanium Sponsor of the Navarre Football Netball Club which is a key community group and which has been happy to partner with the company and display company branding at games and during goal celebrations.

At a 2024 meeting with the Pyrenees Council, the Project team asked about the community's thoughts on wind farms in the area. Council staff revealed that local people were pleased with a previously constructed wind farm that left the roads in better condition than prior to construction. Local people had also communicated concerns about impacts on the Wedge Tailed Eagle which is not listed but which is locally valued. These two observations are useful for informing the development strategy of the Navarre Green Power Hub. For example, the project can be sure to leave the roads in good condition and to take care to communicate risk mitigations for the Wedge Tailed Eagle.

6. CONSULTATION APPROACH

Stakeholder and community engagement are led by the Project team with support from community engagement specialists. We consider it important that trusting relationships are developed between the people on the ground who know the project the best, and the stakeholders that are part of and connected to their region and local community. Our overall approach to consultation for the Navarre Green Power Hub will be open, relaxed, flexible and responsive.

The Project team has adopted a needs-based approach for community and stakeholder engagement, reflecting the different needs and interests of the various stakeholder groups relevant to the project. The engagement approach has been designed in line with the Project's eight phases (figure 1), which will facilitate sustained engagement throughout the lifetime of the project.

6.1 Values

Neoen has a set of values that underpin and guide our work. The image below describes how these values translate into The Project team's external approach to building relationships with communities.



Integrity

We operate with integrity, whatever we do, whenever and wherever we do it. We work with partners who abide by the same rules.



Commitment

We uphold all our commitments, internal and external. We believe in hard work and take pleasure in seeing a good job well done.



Audacity

We believe we can become a world leader in renewable energy. We have the audacity to operate globally, imagining, designing, and implementing competitive, effective energy solutions.



Esprit de corps

We are loyal to each other and form a close-knit team. We are proud of our company, our goals, and our accomplishments.

6.2 Engagement Phases and communication channels

Neoen employs a range of communication channels depending on the phase of the project (development, construction, or operation). As shown in figure 1, Neoen's consultation approach comprises eight engagement phases across a project's lifetime. The NGPH project is currently in the planning and approvals phase.



7. ANALYSIS OF STAKEHOLDERS AND RIGHTS-HOLDERS

Each key stakeholder and right-holder has a different need across each phase of the Navarre Green Power Hub EES lifecycle. To address this nuance, a needs-based approach is described for each of the key stakeholders and rights-holders to this project in Table 1.

Table 1: Key stakeholders

Group	Overview and Key Interests	Consultation needs	Consultation methods
Host Landowners	<p>Residents who are hosting Project assets on their land.</p> <p>Contractual agreements Disruption during construction Traffic management plans Dust suppression measures</p>	<p>Ongoing communication and discussions as project progresses.</p> <p>Contribution to the project's progress, ability to provide local knowledge, advice, and input into design factors</p> <p>Involvement in development of Community Benefit-sharing Scheme</p>	<p>One-on-one meetings Landowner updates & dinners Letterbox drops Invitations and involvement in community events Neoen gets to know these key stakeholders as individuals and understands their preferred method of interaction whether that's phone, email or cup of tea.</p>
Near neighbours	<p>Residents within a 2 km radius of the project site and the landowners along the access road.</p> <p>Visual Amenity, property valuations, construction disruption, Noise, Traffic Management plans, ecological risks</p>	<p>Ongoing communication as project progresses.</p> <p>Ability to provide feedback and receive responses particularly on issues impacting them such as traffic management plans.</p>	<p>One-on-one engagement Invitation to receive an individual photomontage demonstrating project visual impact Determine their preferred method of communication for project updates and provide them via email, phone or letterbox. Invitations to community Information Sessions</p>
Neighbourhood Navarre 3384	<p>The local people living within the Navarre township adjacent to the project.</p> <p>Jobs and investment, property prices, Traffic management plans, Visual amenity</p>	<p>To keep neighbours informed about the project from early in the project planning phase.</p> <p>To provide opportunities to raise issues and receive feedback.</p> <p>Early notice of skills and employment opportunities.</p>	<p>Invitations to Community Information Sessions via newspaper ads and posters at the shop.</p> <p>Email newsletters if people would like to opt in and provide their email address.</p>
Local Government	<p>Northern Grampians Shire Council and the Pyrenees Shire Council</p> <p>Local procurement, jobs and investment, fire levies and council rates, traffic</p>	<p>To ensure a positive and collaborative relationship with that the Project can support the long-term goals of the community.</p>	<p>In person project briefings and electronic updates</p> <p>Invitation to be part of Advisory Committee</p>

	management plan, community benefit fund		
State MP	Jacinta Ermacora Member for: Western Victoria Party: Australian Labor Party Constituent views and access to accurate information	To ensure the local member is kept updated about the project and its progress to enable her to inform her constituents and direct them to the right source of information	Project briefing in person by VIC State Lead Invitation to community events
Federal MP	Dr Anne Webster Member for Mallee Party: The Nationals Constituent views and access to accurate information	To ensure the local member is kept updated about the project and its progress to enable her to inform her constituents and direct them to the right source of information	Project update in person by VIC State Lead Invitation to community events
Traditional Owners	The project area is within two appointed RAP areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Barengi Gadjin Land Council Aboriginal Corporation, representing the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagulk Nations - Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation representing the Dja Dja Wurrung People Neighbouring RAPs like Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation (EMAC) may also have an interest in the project. Traditional Owners are rights-holders rather than stakeholders, as they are recognised as such under several legislations. Key concerns are protection of land and environment, jobs, native title, community benefits.	To ensure local knowledge and views are reflected in the EES Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment, and that traditional owner views are reflected in any avoidance and mitigation measures. To ensure a collaborative relationship on design particularly where land rights exist Working with local Aboriginal groups beyond planning requirements, such as Cultural Heritage Management Plans.	Contact with the two RAPs will be in person, and ongoing communication will be in a format that works for them, to discuss their interests within the Project Area. The results of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage desktop assessment will be presented to the relevant RAP to inform a fieldwork program. The results of the fieldwork assessment will also be communicated to the RAP. Consultation will also be done with neighbouring RAP EMAC, and will notably seek to address their interests, specifically in the non-RAP areas of the project. Workshops will be arranged to facilitate the co-design of benefit sharing and participation plans Invitation to community events
First Peoples State Relations (non-RAP areas)	The Project Area includes a land component where an appointed RAP does not exist. This part of the Project would be evaluated by the First Peoples-State Relations (FP-SR), the State government administrative body.	To provide advice on technical aspects with regards to the existing legislation.	Similar to consultation with the RAPs: presentations (notably within the Technical Reference Group), workshops, in-person meetings. Together with FP-SR, consultation with Traditional Owner groups will enable us to ensure traditional owner

Local Fire Authority CFA	FPSR is also the regulator of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006		interests and views are reflected in areas of the project where there is no RAP.
	Local volunteers representing the Country Fire Authority Fire risks and minimisation efforts	To work together to ensure project design and activities abide by safety and regulatory requirements	Provide indicative design plans and updates on the project to prepare for any local fire and emergency safety requirements.
Catchment Management Authorities	CMAAs including Wimmera and North Central, Grampians Wimmera Mallee and Central Highlands Water Interested in potential impacts on their assets, rural water use and water delivery. Need to understand any impacts the project could have on flood patterns etc.	To ensure CMAAs are informed as project design progresses, and any feedback is taken into account.	Provide EES chapters and reports for comment including Surface Water, Groundwater, and Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems.
Schools	Local Schools – Navarre primary school Education and field trip opportunities	To use the opportunity of a local renewable project to dovetail relevant and practical educational content into the syllabus	Opportunity for site visits for local schools Provide Learning Hub resources
TAFEs and Universities	Local TAFE – Maryborough and Ararat Education and jobs	To ensure organisations are updated on education and vocational opportunities associated with the project.	Information and project updates provided and invitation to future networking engagement
Business groups/ industry stakeholders	Local chambers of commerce, committees etc Jobs and business opportunities	To ensure Neoen is creating awareness of local renewable energy projects and the jobs and business opportunities that flow from a major construction project to local businesses	One-on-one engagement to provide project briefings and updates Early notice of job opportunities
Project opponents	People in the local area voicing opposition on social media or in other formats Key concerns are many and well documented in such groups online	To ensure accessible and accurate information is available online, and to have a best practice complaints system in place.	Responsibly address concerns with information. Complaints process implemented and transparent.
Advocacy groups	Sustainability groups Community energy groups Environment groups Interested in achieving sustainability goals for the region	Discussion on community energy and zero emissions targets Potential for partnerships	Update / presentation on project Invitations to community events

Community organisations	Football Netball Club Opportunities for sponsorship General community concerns as the club represents the general community	To disseminate understanding of the project and project opportunities through the club To participate in / benefit from Community Benefit-sharing Scheme	Update/presentation on project Invitations to community events
Community/environment groups	Several relevant groups are listed in the Northern Grampians Shire community directory. These include Australian Plant Society Grampians group, Perennial Pasture Systems, St Arnaud and District Orchid Society, and Stawell Orchid Society. Seek to identify those issues that are of concern around flora and fauna, and native vegetation impacts	To be accessible help to address concerns pro-actively, to have a best practice complains system in place	Face-to-face meetings with project manager invite to community drop-in sessions

7.1 Identified issues

This section contains a preliminary list of stakeholder issues, known at the time of preparing this EES Consultation Plan. The list will be maintained by the Project Team and will be supplemented with any new issues identified throughout the course of EES preparation.

Conversations with the broader community have revealed a level of concern with issues consistently raised during development of wind farms including;

- Visual amenity
- Noise
- Property values
- Environmental risks
- Construction disruption including traffic management and dust

Transmission lines

More specific to this project is some local anxiety about the construction of above ground transmission lines, particularly the line linking the project to the Bulgana Terminal Station. This concern appears to be related to the generalised pushback in western Victoria to the Western Renewables Link and the VNI West lines.

Community members have told Neoen’s Community Liaison Officer that they are worried about several companies building separate transmission lines in the same area, and wish that these projects could be better coordinated, to reduce total visual impact.

Responding to concerns about the design and appearance of transmission lines, Neoen has produced a fact sheet which is on the project website and has also been shared in person with landholders along the route and in the local community.

Economic benefits

Neoen's Community Liaison Officer held an open discussion forum in person in July 2024 and key issues raised were around 'haves and have nots', ie that involved landholders will receive payment and neighbours will not.

Community outreach

Also during open discussion forums, some people suggested that the Project team has not done enough to date to contact non-involved community members, which will be a focus in coming months.

8. CONSULTATION PROGRAM

Neoen understands that the success of NGPH is dependent on the development of genuine, open and ongoing relationships with key stakeholders and members of the local community. It recognises the importance of ensuring a ‘no surprises’ dynamic with the local community and is committed to developing and nurturing long term relationships between its team and the various project stakeholders.

These objectives will be achieved by:

- 1 Fostering a transparent and open approach to the development of NGPH during the EES process and ensuring ‘no surprises’ for the local community
- 2 Keeping the community and stakeholders informed about NGPH and the EES process through the provision of accurate, timely and factual project information
- 3 Identifying and addressing community and stakeholder concerns and maintaining transparency in the project design, implementation and ongoing operations
- 4 Involving stakeholders and community in key decisions
- 5 Identifying opportunities for local business involvement and local employment in the construction and operations of NGPH
- 6 Identifying opportunities for Indigenous participation and employment in the construction and operations of NGPH, and where appropriate, co-developing and implementing an Indigenous Participation Plan
- 7 Co-designing, developing and delivering a community benefit sharing scheme in collaboration with the community, and in partnership with local stakeholders, where possible
- 8 Developing long term relationships and partnerships with community and stakeholders

8.1 Overview of completed consultation and engagement

Neoen community consultation activities already undertaken include:

- Landholder meetings, separately and as a group
- Sponsorship of the Navarre Football Netball Club
- Employment of a community liaison officer
- Direct engagement with Traditional Owners

Further details are below.

Table 2 Completed consultation

Activity	Date	Details
Landholder and neighbour discussions	2020 to on-going	<p>Initial approach with host landholders and neighbouring landholders involved door knocking and phone calls, leading to in person meetings.</p> <p>Discussions in some cases mature to land option signing</p> <p>Where options are signed discussions have reached a level of detail to provide comfort to involved landholders including spatial exclusion zones and seasonal exclusion times.</p> <p>Landholders have also gathered as a group and have provided Neoen details to friends and neighbours as the wind farm area expanded.</p>

Initial Engagement with Council	2020	First briefing with North Grampians Council
Community Liaison Officer onboarded	Q1 2021	Meetings with neighbours and potential stakeholders involved with the transmission line route. Members brought on board as local community representatives to continue discussions while Covid was occurring.
Landowner Dinner	2022	A dinner was held for all our host landowners that had signed up, creating a sense of community among the involved parties and allowing them to build trust with each other and with Neoen. A friendly and trusting relationship is a foundation for honest feedback.
Community information drop-in session #1	May 2022 in Navarre	1st Community meeting held at Navarre Football club with approx. 40 attendees Day was advertised widely to surrounding neighbours and stakeholders. Website established for the project. The purpose of these drop-in sessions was to introduce the Project to the community and to seek input and feedback on the Project and the existing environment, to assist with detailed design and environmental and planning assessments.
Community information drop-in session #2	May 2023 in Navarre and Paradise	2nd Community Information Day, 2 sessions approx. 40 attendees Held at Navarre Football Netball club house, and Paradise town hall. Project maps were presented and Neoen staff were there to speak to attendees, listen to concerns and provide information.
Transmission line engagement	July 2023	Transmission line route discussions initiated in one on one meetings with landholders along the easement
Feedback forms	December 2023	Sent out a feedback form for landowners to fill out, received responses. This was sent out as an email and received 7 responses. People were positive about their interactions with the Neoen PM and Community liaison officer. Suggested improvements included more regular news updates, particularly on timelines. 6 respondents said the project is a positive thing for the community.
Presentation to local community groups	June 2023	Met community groups at the Northern Grampians Shire Council, during Bulgana Wind Farm's annual community benefit program launch. Several local groups turned up seeking information about how to apply for Neoen's Bulgana wind farm grants. Neoen took the opportunity to provide a presentation and update about Navarre.
Onsite tour with Barengi Gadjin Land Council	November 2023	Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation site tour

		<p>Two representatives of the RAP attended the tour. They were taken around the whole site and given the opportunity to identify areas of interest from a cultural heritage perspective.</p> <p>A 2-day welcome to country ceremony was held.</p>
Engagement with regulators and other agencies	Throughout 2023	<p>Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (Commonwealth)</p> <p>Department of Transport and Planning (Victoria)</p> <p>Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action Grampians Region (Victoria)</p> <p>Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (Victoria)</p> <p>Wimmera Catchment Management Authority</p> <p>North Central Catchment Management Authority</p>
Activation of additional methods of communication	Ongoing	<p>Including website, project email account, newsletters, media releases and advertisements in local media.</p> <p>www.navarregreenpowerhub.com.au</p>
Navarre Football Netball club sponsorship	Early 2024	Neoen becomes Titanium Sponsor of the Navarre football club
Pyrenees Council meeting	July 2024	Briefing meeting with officers of the Pyrenees Council
Landholder lunch	July 2024	All landholders invited to lunch to provide project updates including that the Minister had made a decision on the EES referral.
Drop-in sessions on Mondays	July 2024	Community Liaison Officer advertised in a Navarre newsletter that she will be present one Monday per month to discuss the project with anyone who would like to. The first session was held on Monday 29 July, with around 15 local people engaging in discussions.

8.1.1 Community Liaison Officer

Naomi Swift was appointed as a community liaison officer at the end of February 2023 to help with communications with local landholders and to develop lists of possible project service providers. Naomi Swift lives in Western Victoria and has worked in renewable energy projects for over 20 years, which gives the community easy access to a knowledgeable and experienced person across the project lifecycle.

8.1.2 Cultural Heritage Engagement

Consultation with members of the Barengi Gadjin Land Council initially occurred in 2020, with additional consultation undertaken in July 2023. Consultation with members of the Dja Dja Wurrung was also undertaken in July 2023 as part of the NGPH referral process.

8.2 Consultation during the EES process

The following Implementation plan outlines the proposed program of activities (listed in Table 3) during the EES process. Timeframes provided are indicative only.

Table 3 Implementation Plan during EES period

	Study program and scoping requirements 2024	Prepare the EES 2025 - 2026	EES public exhibition and formal submission period mid 2026	Assessment and decision making Late 2026
Proposed Engagement activities				
One-on-one briefings with neighbours	Regular briefings held in the neighbourhood zone. Issue email updates to neighbours as EES milestones occur	Regular briefings held in the neighbourhood zone Issue email updates to neighbours as EES milestones occur	Briefings held in neighbourhood zone annually Issue email updates to neighbours as EES milestones occur	Respond to neighbour inquiries Issue email updates to neighbours as EES milestones
Community information sessions	Hold a community information session (Navarre and Paradise) to present study program, outline and explain EES process	Hold at least two community information session annually . These will include independent experts when appropriate (i.e.: noise, visual) Feedback generated will inform preparation of the EES	Hold a community information session (Navarre and Paradise) to present EES and inform the community on the formal submission process. Feedback generated will inform preparation of the EES	N/A
One-on-one meetings with key community groups	Meet with community groups to provide a project update: (i.e. Northern Grampians Shire Council)	Meet annually with community groups to provide a project update Feedback generated will help inform the EES	Meet annually with community groups to provide a project update	Project website maintained and updated quarterly.
Meetings with representatives of the Traditional Owners	Preliminary consultation with appointed RAPs (BGLC and DJAARA) as well as with the State Government administrative body	Meet quarterly with appointed RAPs and FP-SR as part of: regular project updates; specific consultation on	Meet with appointed RAPs and FP-SR as part of regular project updates and consultation for the CHMP.	Provide project updates to appointed RAPs, neighboring RAPs, and FP-SR.

	(FP-SR), to start building a relationship, and an understanding of the values placed upon components of the project area by the Traditional Owners (including surface and groundwater, and the Wedge-Tailed-Eagle).	Aboriginal Cultural Heritage report in the EES; TRG discussions; CHMP meetings and fieldwork. Consult neighboring RAP (EMAC) on a yearly basis at minimum.		Prepare roll-out of the CHMP with evaluators.
Council briefings	Meet with Mayor and CEO to provide update of project	Meet with Mayor and CEO to provide update of project on a quarterly basis	Meet with Mayor and CEO to provide update of project on a quarterly basis	Provide email updates to council
Community Advisory Panel	Develop a Community Advisory Committee and appoint an independent chair.	Meet with the CAC on a quarterly basis Feedback generated will help inform the EES	Meet with the CAC on a quarterly basis	Meet with the CAC on a quarterly basis
Events	Landholder gatherings	Hold a landowner dinner with host landowners Attend community event and present project materials	Attend community events and present project materials	Attend community events and present project materials
Proposed communication activities				
Project website	Project website implemented with transparent logging of key documents such as planning permit application	Project website implemented with transparent logging of key documents such as planning permit application	Project website maintained and updated regularly	Project website maintained and updated regularly
Media releases and local print/media ads	Notification of community information sessions	Notification of community information sessions and project milestones	Regular media releases and local ads for community information session and key project milestones Media release notifying the community of public exhibition period	Media releases for key events and project achievements such as Community Benefit Fund announcements.

Factsheets	Fact sheets and relevant FAQs for website to proactively address potential issues	Fact sheets and website FAQs to proactively address potential issues	Fact sheets and website FAQs developed proactively and distributed at community information sessions and public spaces such as council offices and library	Update fact sheets
Project bulletins	Neighbourhood database to be established for neighbourhood area or agreement with local post office to send out to the neighbourhood area. Public news subscription available on the website	Develop quarterly project bulletins – digital and hard copy	Develop quarterly project bulletins – digital and hard copy	Develop quarterly project bulletins – digital and hard copy
Feedback survey	Feedback survey to be available at all community consultation activities and online Feedback survey measures levels of support for the project and identifies key issues and opportunities Information gathered from the surveys will be addressed in communications materials such as media releases and project bulletins	Feedback survey to be available at all community consultation activities and online Feedback survey measures levels of support for the project and identifies key issues and opportunities Information gathered from the surveys will be addressed in communications materials such as media releases and project bulletins	Feedback survey to be available at all community consultation activities and online Feedback survey measures levels of support for the project and identifies key issues and opportunities Information gathered from the surveys will be addressed in communications materials such as media releases and project bulletins	Feedback survey to be available at all community consultation activities and online Feedback survey measures levels of support for the project and identifies key issues and opportunities Information gathered from the surveys will be addressed in communications materials such as media releases and project bulletins

8.3 Complaints and feedback management

A complaints and feedback register will be established during the development of the EES. Contact details for lodging complaints and feedback are available on the project website, including both an email and a toll free number.

The process for managing complaints and feedback involves several key steps including receiving, registering, investigation, responding to and addressing complaints and feedback, and eventually, closure.

The Project team will aim to respond to complaints and feedback in a timely and effective manner to ensure the values, priorities and issues of affected stakeholders are acknowledged and addressed (different processes may be required for different types of complaints).

Prior to construction, this complaints and feedback process will be formalised in accordance with government requirements. A complaint investigation and response plan will be developed and published.

9. REPORTING, EVALUATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

This plan will be monitored and updated to reflect the themes and issues emerging from engagement.

Neoen is committed to continually improving the approach to and identifying opportunities for the community to shape plans and initiatives. Where possible, monitoring and evaluation activities will be designed to complement other engagement activities.

Evaluation is not a stand-alone or isolated process rather; evaluation is an integral and on-going component of every communication and engagement activity or process. Consequently, evaluation at the beginning of the consultation planning process is as important as it is during and following implementation. Evaluation is a vital element for forward planning and can provide a strategic basis for decisions about issues, including the allocation of resources.

The evaluation process consists of two components (as seen in Table 13):

1. Outcomes – increased satisfaction, awareness, or attitudinal change
2. Outputs – measuring and monitoring what is actually produced, released or implemented

Table 4 Evaluation Process - Outcomes and Outputs to be achieved

Evaluation	What will be achieved?
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General community awareness and understanding of the project. • Long term broad local social acceptance of the Wind Farm farm • Widespread understanding among project team, employees, residents, stakeholders and broader community of Neoen’s commitment to engaging with the community • General satisfaction among stakeholders that they have been given the opportunity to express their views and that they have been heard • Expectations and issues managed effectively through communications and meaningful engagement • Strong local relationships and trust
Outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Risk Matrix • Data collected from Feedback Survey throughout the Project • Regular departmental meetings and reporting • Progress meetings with applicant and government • Issue timely and relevant media releases, project bulletins, email broadcasts, direct mail letters and FAQs • Update website with timely and relevant information (ensure email enquiries are logged and responded to) • Schedule for Community Information Days, Open Day, Site Tours, Neighbouring Landholder Forums and other face-to-face engagement events and briefings • Schedule regular briefings with key stakeholders i.e. Council. • Introduce, manage and maximise benefits from ‘stakeholder issues database’ • Ensure Stakeholder Database is regularly updated, so that relevant stakeholders receive project updates • Complaints register • Community-developer partnerships

- Benefits sharing model tailored to the local context
- Local advocates for renewable energy

9.1 Objectives of evaluation

The objectives of monitoring and evaluating the delivery of the activities outlined in this Consultation Plan are to:

- identify opportunities to improve the approach;
- ensure key stakeholders including the community, partners, and contractors have a clear understanding of the progress and performance of key initiatives;
- identify opportunities for the community to shape future plans and initiatives;
- ensure a current understanding of community concerns and to track any complaints;
- report back to key stakeholders about the performance of NGPH and associated programs

9.2 How will feedback be used

Community feedback will be collected, recorded and considered as part of the development and refinement of the project design. Information gathered will be used by the Project team to take actions to minimise any public concerns.

Table 5 How feedback will be used

Project phase	How feedback will inform the project
Study program and scoping requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • community, stakeholder and neighbourhood feedback gathered to determine the most appropriate powerline route and turbine layout • consultation on investigations to be undertaken i.e. sightings of birds and wildlife
Preparation of EES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • engagement with the community including environmental impacts and improving visual amenity • ways to minimise construction and traffic impact • community benefit sharing ideas and options
EES public exhibition and formal submission period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public submissions through the formal exhibition of the EES • Submissions to the independent inquiry if appointed by the Minister
Assessment and decision making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minister for Planning's assessment and consideration

10. APPENDIX 1: COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Background

The Navarre Green Power Hub (NGPH) Project team will create a Community Advisory Committee for the project to help facilitate stronger community interaction and involvement.

Purpose

The purpose of the NGPH Community Advisory Committee (CAC) is to enhance communication both within the community and between the community and the NGPH Project Team in order to develop a better understanding of community concerns, encourage collaboration and deliver a project that is the best it can be for all sectors of the community.

The NGPH CAC will provide an additional two-way communication channel between the Project team and the community, enabling the sharing of information and ideas. The committee will also provide a respectful forum for discussion, debate and consideration of various aspects of the project and create a space for ideas on how the community can become more involved, and how the project contributes to the community.

The Project Team will be very clear with the CAC about the negotiable aspects of the Project design at the beginning of the process. The CAC will have the ability to influence the process and project outcomes within a specific remit.

Objectives

The objectives of the NGPH CAC are to:

- provide a transparent, representative and accessible forum to address issues of community interest related to the project
- capture community feedback and suggestions to assist with decision-making for the project
- increase understanding about the project within the community
- ensure effective responses from the project team to arising issues and concerns
- provide advice on benefit sharing projects recommended by the community

Specifically, the CAC will:

- act as a conduit for issues affecting the wider community
- represent community views regarding local issues, impacts and benefits
- receive briefings on the progress of the project
- provide information about the project to other community members
- oversee the community engagement process in relation to Neoen's values of integrity, commitment, audacity and esprit de corps.

Membership

Appointment to committee

Neoen Australia will undertake an expression of interest (EOI) process calling for interested community members to participate in the CAC.

An independent chair will select and appoint community members who have a demonstrated connection to the community. The chair will select and appoint community members with a diverse range of views, demographics and backgrounds. Members will be considered who:

- have a clear interest in or connection to the project
- bring a broad range of backgrounds and interests in the community, local government, environment, business, tourism, cultural heritage, transport and emergency services
- can represent different elements of the community, such as gender, abilities, age, ethnicity and cultural background.

Appointment period

Committee members will be selected every two years and appointed for a 24-month period.

Resignation of committee member

A committee member may resign from the committee by advising the independent chair in writing.

Accountability

The appropriate Neoen Australia representative (e.g. local project manager) will be responsible for reporting on the activities of the committee to the Neoen Australia Project Team, including circulating notes and minutes prepared by the independent chair.

Operations

Committee members will be required to undertake approximately one day of reading time and be available for up to four two-hour meetings per year.

- To achieve a quorum, at least three community members are required to be in attendance
- Committee members will not publicly comment on behalf of the committee. Neither will members seek to advocate on the needs of any individual or organisation
- Committee members must treat information with sensitivity and are required to adhere to the Confidentiality and Disclosure agreement
- Committee members should keep abreast and informed of current developments, issues and concerns in the local community
- Committee members must prepare for and actively participate in meetings
- Committee members must declare in advance any potential conflict of interest and exit the room during the deliberation of any issue in which they have an interest. Conflicts will be recorded in the minutes
- Committee members must act in a courteous manner, respecting others' views and opinions

Selection process

A comprehensive selection process will be undertaken to ensure a wide cross-section of the community is represented on the CAC.

Advertisements calling for nominations will be placed in the local newspapers circulated in the project area, as well as on the NGPH website. People wishing to become CAC members will be required to complete an application form, outlining information about themselves, demonstrating any previous community involvement and stipulating why they are interested in being a part of the CAC.

CAC member requirements

- Agree to work within the CAC's Terms of Reference and Code of Conduct
- Arrive on time and stay for the duration of the meeting

- Commit to attend all meetings or provide advance notice of non-attendance
- Respect the rights of other members to express their views
- Respect the confidentiality of items of business which the committee may determine as confidential in nature
- Abide by the CAC media and public speaking protocol

The CAC chair may terminate the membership of CAC members who do not abide by the Terms of Reference and Code of Conduct.

Code of Conduct

The Code of Conduct will be developed and agreed by CAC members at its first meeting.

Media protocol

Individual members are free to speak to the media about the project, but as individual community members, not as a spokesperson or on behalf of the CAC or NGPH.

Secretariat

The independent chair will be responsible for taking notes and meeting minutes. A company representative will be present at all meetings in an administrative capacity only and will not hold a voting position on the CAC.

The independent chair is responsible for organising, facilitating and hosting the CAC meetings. In their capacity as secretariat, minutes will be taken by the independent chair and will be distributed to members within 14 days of the meeting. Minutes will then be endorsed by the CAC at the following meeting.

If NGPH does not agree with a recommendation put forward by the CAC, a written explanation will be provided addressed to the CAC chair.

This Terms of Reference will be reviewed by the chair on an annual basis.

For more information, contact Navarre Green Power Hub Project Manager.

Community Advisory Committee – Application Form

Please provide your name and contact details below:

First name

Surname

Contact number

Email

Residential address

Why are you interested in becoming a member of the Navarre Green Power Hub Community Advisory Committee?

Please outline your connections to the Navarre Green Power Hub project and the surrounding local community, and any particular interests you would bring to the Community Advisory Committee:

Describe any past or current experience you have on committees or working groups:

How would you gather ideas from - and disseminate project information to – the local community surrounding the project?*

Please indicate how you represent the diversity of the community, as described in the Terms of Reference:

Do you have any existing or potential conflicts of interest* to declare?

Yes

No

If yes, please specify:

**A situation that has the potential to undermine the impartiality of a person because of the possibility of a clash between the person's self-interest and professional interest or public interest.*

Please nominate two referees for the independent chair to contact:

1)		
	Name	Phone
2)		
	Name	Phone