

# **Kojonup BESS**

**Stakeholder and Community Engagement Plan**

**16 April 2026**



# Kojonup BESS

## Stakeholder and Community Engagement Plan

Revision: 3

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### Document History

Revision	Date	Description	Author	Review	Approved
1	19/12/2024	First draft of SCEP	Amy Billing	Cara Layton	Cara Layton
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# 1. Background

Mint Renewables Pty Ltd (the Proponent) is committed to engaging respectfully with the communities in which they plan and operate their projects, to be sensitive to environmental and cultural values and to make a positive contribution to the regions in which they will operate.

The Proponent aims to be long-term members of the communities they invest in. There is a lot of uncertainty in development, and the Proponent believe in maintaining transparency with stakeholders as they navigate those uncertainties.

The Proponent is proposing to develop a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) located 3 km north west of Kojonup next to the existing Kojonup Substation in the Great Southern region of Western Australia.

The Kojonup BESS is strategically located near the Kojonup Substation, located off Tunney Road, to enhance grid reliability in the Great Southern Region while reducing the need for additional transmission infrastructure. The site offers suitable cleared land and proximity to the Albany Highway, minimising environmental and construction impacts.

The Project is in the **Development phase**, and the Proponent have completed a comprehensive planning and environmental assessment process to ensure the Project’s impacts are minimised and managed during construction and operations. Table 1 below provides a summary of key Project attributes.

**Table 1: Project Summary**

<b>Location</b>	Kojonup
<b>LGA(s)</b>	Shire of Kojonup
<b>Technology</b>	Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)
<b>Indicative Capacity / Size</b>	Up to 800 MWh
<b>Project Phase</b>	Development
<b>Primary Approvals Process(es)</b>	<i>Planning and Development Act 2005 (P&amp;D Act)</i>

## 1.1. Purpose of the Plan

The purpose of this Stakeholder and Community Engagement Plan (the Plan) is to guide stakeholder engagement for the Kojonup BESS. It sets out how the team will:

- establish channels for local conversations and information sharing with Traditional Owners, First Nations Peoples, landholders and communities
- inform key stakeholders, neighbours and community about the proposed Project and opportunities for participation
- encourage participation and seek input at appropriate points in the Project development process, to identify potential issues or areas of concerns, obtain local insight, and gain feedback on measures to address concerns
- use and respond to public input to inform design.

The approach to engagement aligns with the Proponents values, centred around being “Partners for Good”, including:

- integrity in action
- a Mint team to depend on
- we care about what we do and how we do it.

The Plan is intended to be a 'live' document and will be updated where necessary throughout the life cycle of the Project, capturing activities undertaken to date and reviewing their effectiveness in achieving the objectives of the Plan. It will be updated at key milestones to ensure engagement activities are tailored to the Project's needs.

The Proponent is a signatory to the Clean Energy Council's Best Practice Charter for Renewable Energy Developments ([here](#)).

## **1.2. Consultation Undertaken to Date**

Consultation undertaken to date for the proposed Kojonup Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) has included neighbour door knocking, pop-up sessions, community drop-in sessions, meetings with stakeholders, and an online community survey.

The Project's engagement program commenced publicly in September 2025. The Project notified nearby neighbours of the proposal by door knock, issued letters and offered one-on-one meetings. This activity was followed by establishing a dedicated website ([www.kojonupbess.com.au](http://www.kojonupbess.com.au)), and two pop-ups located outside the Kojonup IGA, on Albany Highway. The first edition of the community newsletter was distributed during the pop-up, made available in the Kojonup Library, Australia Post - Kojonup LPO and the Kojonup Community Resource Centre, on the Project website and emailed to e-newsletter subscribers.

In late October 2025, the Project held three community drop-ins on Friday 24 and Saturday 25 October at the Kojonup RSL Hall. The drop-in sessions were advertised and promoted across a broad range of channels. The Project launched a community survey to gather local insights on the environment, heritage, water and bushfire history, traffic, communication, and benefit sharing opportunities. The survey remained open until early 2026. In November, the Project undertook another round of neighbour outreach, offering one-on-one meetings and door knocked adjoining properties.

Feedback received through these activities has informed an understanding of local values, sensitivities, concerns, and expectations relevant to the Project's design, assessment and management.

## 2. Context

### 2.1. Project Location

The Project Area is located approximately 3 km north-west of Kojonup, next to the existing Kojonup Substation. Kojonup is a rural town in Western Australia's Great Southern region, 256 km south-east of Perth and 160 km from Albany. It is located in state electorate of Roe and the Federal Division of O'Connor.

The Project Area is accessible from the north via Collie-Kojonup Road or from the east via Tunney Road. The closest non-associated dwellings are approximately 700 metres from the Project infrastructure.

The Noongar people are the Traditional Owners and inhabitants of Kojonup.

The Project Area is within the Gnaala Karla Booja Indigenous Land Use Area (ILUA), administered by Gnaala Karla Booja Aboriginal Corporation (GKB AC), and the Wagyl Kaip & Southern Noongar ILUA, administered by Wagyl Kaip Southern Aboriginal Corporation (WKSN AC).

The surrounding area is made up of a combination of lifestyle blocks, and agricultural land. The Myrtle Benn Flora & Fauna Sanctuary, a walking trail that is home to many native orchids and wildflowers mainly seen during Spring, is located 1.6 km north west of the Project.

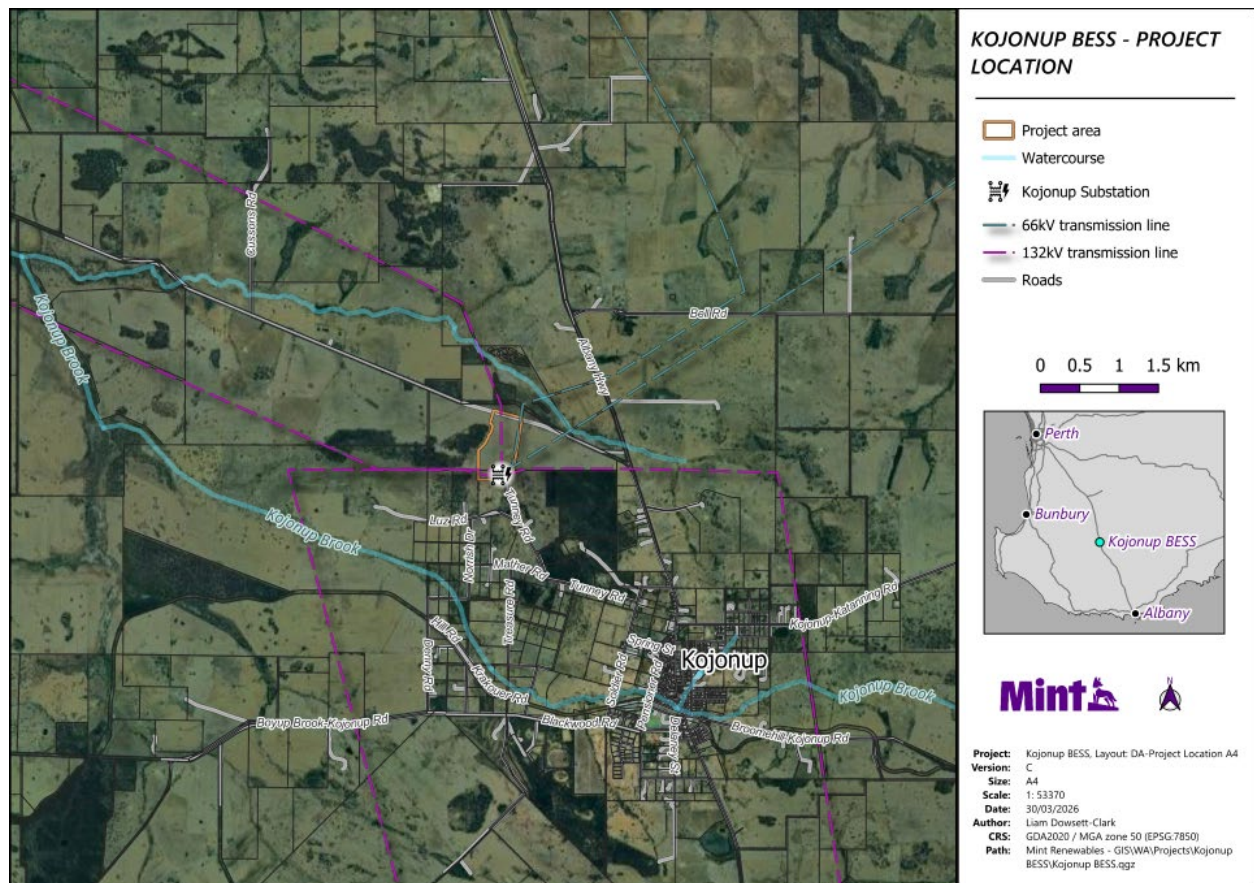


Figure 1: Project Location

## 2.2. Community Profile

Kojonup is a rural town in Western Australia's Great Southern region. The name "Kojonup" is derived from the Noongar word "Kodja," meaning stone axe, reflecting the area's Indigenous heritage. The Noongar people are the traditional owners and inhabitants of Kojonup.

The town's European history dates back to 1837 when surveyor Alfred Hillman, guided by local Aboriginal people, identified the freshwater spring that made Kojonup a vital stopover for travellers. By 1845, a military barracks was established as an outpost for the British Military; this building still stands today as part of the Kojonup Historical Society Pioneer Museum.

According to the 2021 Census, the Shire of Kojonup has a population of approximately 1,901 residents, with a median age of 45 years. The community is predominantly Australian-born, with 87.7% born in Australia, and a significant portion identifying with English and Australian ancestry. Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people comprise about 5.2% of the population, reflecting the area's rich Aboriginal heritage. The local economy is largely driven by agriculture, particularly wool and grain production. Kojonup is located in state electorate of Roe and the Federal Division of O'Connor.

An analysis of the Shire of Kojonup's Strategic Community Plan (July 2023–June 2033) highlights key aspirations for the region: reversing population decline, sustaining essential services (education, health, retail, accommodation, and road maintenance) and strengthening economic development. The plan also emphasises cultural vitality through improved streetscapes, community events, arts, and heritage initiatives.

Telecommunications black spots, critical for bushfire communications, remain a priority for advocacy. The Shire has a strong volunteering culture, with 81% of residents giving time in some capacity. Separately, the region hosts more than 40 sporting and community clubs. Limited accommodation may constrain future project construction and should be factored into project planning. Together, these elements reflect deep community pride in local spirit, culture, and place.

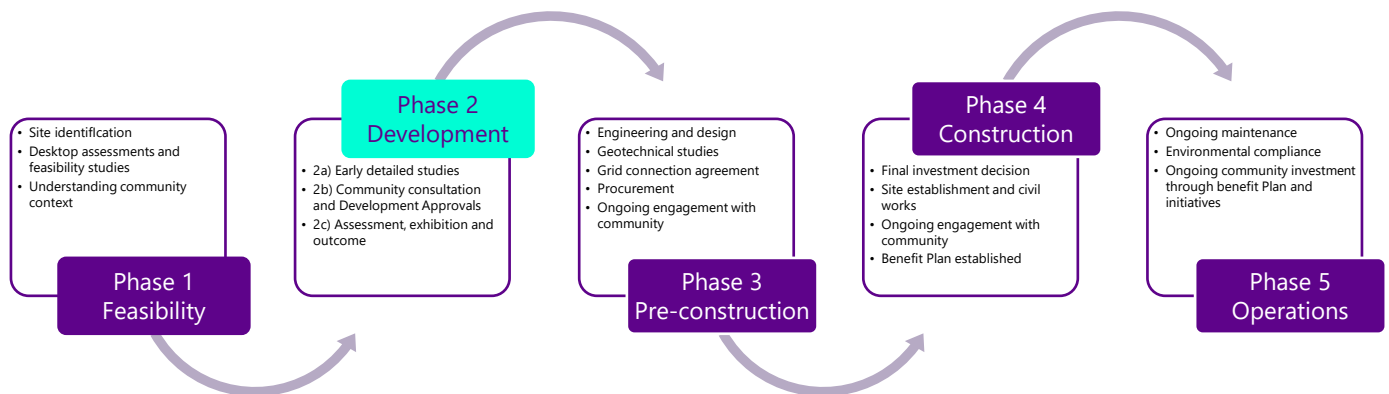
### 3. Communication and Engagement Framework

#### 3.1. Objectives

The objectives of the engagement strategy for the Project are to:

- build strong connections with the community, including host landowners, neighbours, Traditional Owners and the wider community
- set clear expectations for the community to build trust in the process and acceptance or understanding of the Project
- provide opportunities for the community and stakeholders to ask questions, provide feedback and ideas and participate in decision-making
- provide timely responses and feedback to the community’s concerns and use this feedback to positively influence the development of the Project where possible
- build a deeper understanding within the community of the potential benefits and impacts of the Project and how these will be managed
- ensure that there are opportunities to share the benefits of the Project with the host landowners and neighbours, Traditional Owners, and the local and regional community
- uphold the Proponents commitment to the Clean Energy Council Best Practice Charter.

Figure 2 below outlines key engagement activities through the development phases of the Project.



**Figure 2: Project Development Phases**

#### 3.2. Relevant Legislation and Best Practices

This Plan has been developed with awareness and consideration of the following legislation requirements and best practice guidance:

- IAP2 Core Values and Public Participation Spectrum
- Clean Energy Council – Best Practice Charter for Renewable Energy Developments

- Clean Energy Council – Best Practice Guidelines for Implementation of Wind Energy Projects in Australia, 2018
- Clean Energy Council – A Guide to Benefit Sharing Options for Renewable Energy Projects, 2019
- Clean Energy Council and KPMG – Leading Practice Principles: First Nations and Renewable Energy Projects, 2024
- Department of Environment Land Water and Planning – Community Engagement and Benefit Sharing in Renewable Energy Development, A Guide for Renewable Energy Developers, VIC 2021
- Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure – Undertaking Engagement Guidelines for State Significant Projects, NSW, 2024
- Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) – The First Nations Clean Energy Strategy 2024-2030, 2024
- Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage – Guide to Best Practice Planning Engagement in Western Australia.
- Department of Energy and Economic Diversification – Community Benefits Guideline for Large-scale Renewable Energy Projects, WA, 2026

Consideration of new or updated guidelines or specific jurisdictional or project-based engagement requirements will be part of this Plan review process.

### 3.3. IAP2 Spectrum

The International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) defines public participation as the involvement of those affected by a decision in the decision-making process. IAP2's core values of public participation include promoting sustainable decisions by recognising the interests of all decision-makers, actively facilitating the involvement of those potentially affected by or interested in a decision, providing participants the information they need to participate in a meaningful way, and communicating to participants how their input affected the decision. (Source: IAP2 Federation)

The IAP2 Spectrum is a best practice and internationally recognised tool for planning public participation. It includes different levels of public participation, ranging from:

**Inform** – to provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions

**Consult** – to obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions

**Involve** – to work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered

**Collaborate** – to partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution

**Empower** – to place final decision making in the hands of the public

### 3.4. Communications and Consultation Approach

The Proponent strives to be active and caring neighbours, dedicated stewards of the environment, and create meaningful, lasting benefits for the broader community. The Proponent is committed to positive engagement practices and ongoing engagement throughout all stages of a project's life – from site selection through to decommissioning.

The Proponent is committed to engaging respectfully with the communities in which they plan and operate their projects, to be sensitive to environmental and cultural values and to make a positive contribution to the regions in which they will operate.

The Proponent aims to be long-term members of the communities they invest in. There is a lot of uncertainty in development, and the Proponent believe in maintaining transparency with stakeholders as they navigate those uncertainties.

Project planning will involve complex decisions that require consideration of a broad range of issues. The Proponent will seek to build genuine, trust-based relationships with communities and stakeholders to enable constructive discussion and exploration of these complexities and achieve mutual understanding and beneficial outcomes.

### 3.5. Guiding Principles

The Proponents communication and engagement approach is guided by the principles listed in Table 2 below.

**Table 2: Guiding Principles of Engagement**

Principle	What this means for the current phase
<b>Be transparent, responsive and accountable</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure there is a dedicated Proponent representative for the community throughout the Project.</li> <li>• Respond to issues, no matter how large or small.</li> <li>• Be respectful and honest in all interactions.</li> <li>• Behave in accordance with the Proponents values.</li> <li>• Take ownership of issues that arise, particularly those that could have an impact on communities or stakeholders.</li> <li>• Explain how and why decisions are being made and how input is used to inform decisions.</li> <li>• Establish respectful relationships with community and First Nations Peoples, through identification of rights-holders, obtaining Free, Prior and Informed Consent, and building capacity for local communities.</li> <li>• Deliver on commitments made to the community – effective record-keeping and documentation will help achieve this.</li> </ul>
<b>Spend time talking with people</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be available to communities and stakeholders to have conversations and share project information and updates.</li> <li>• Ensure ongoing and regular communication, particularly when development activities slow down.</li> <li>• Listen with an open mind.</li> <li>• Be open and honest about considerations, impacts and opportunities.</li> <li>• Provide access to senior team members and technical specialists.</li> </ul>
<b>Reduce the 'don't knows'</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be first to inform key stakeholders and the community about the Project, its context, risks and benefits, and other relevant information.</li> </ul>

Principle	What this means for the current phase
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain formal environmental approvals and assessment process in plain language.</li> <li>• Share information about environmental assessments, what has been found, what it means and how information will be used to inform project designs and planning.</li> <li>• Share information that allows people with an interest to provide informed feedback.</li> </ul>
<b>Provide effective channels for feedback and input</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use a range of communication methods to reach different audiences through their preferred channels.</li> <li>• Periodic targeted feedback to the community on key achievements and deliverables.</li> <li>• Seek feedback on the Proponents communication and consultation approach and make any necessary adjustments in response to feedback.</li> <li>• Communicate in plain English and accessible formats.</li> <li>• Use established local networks and groups to keep people informed.</li> <li>• Be flexible about how and when the Proponent accepts feedback so that timely input can shape the Project to achieve beneficial outcomes.</li> </ul>
<b>Partner with the community</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Look for opportunities to involve the community, e.g. employ locals where possible, engage with the community on project planning, use local accommodation, and buy food and beverages locally.</li> <li>• Ensure sponsorships or financial investments in the community are in the long-term interest of that community and have community support.</li> <li>• Facilitate knowledge sharing where possible, e.g. land management and caring for the Country between stakeholders, project proponents and First Nations peoples.</li> </ul>

### 3.6. How Feedback will be Used

Community and stakeholder feedback will inform various aspects of the Project development (including relevant environmental assessments and approvals), construction, operations and how the Proponent engage and share the benefits. How feedback will be used is outlined in Table 3 below.

**Table 3: How Feedback will be Used**

Project Stage	How feedback will be used
<b>Feasibility</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inform indicative design.</li> <li>• Considered in location of infrastructure.</li> <li>• Enhances the Proponents understanding of the local community.</li> </ul>
<b>Development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhances the Proponents understanding of the local environment, potential issues and opportunities.</li> </ul>

<b>Pre-construction</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Considered in preparing environmental assessments, approval applications, and developing management and mitigation measures.</li> <li>• Informs communication and consultation approach.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Considered in developing management plans.</li> <li>• Considered in construction methodology, timing and impact mitigation.</li> <li>• Informs key themes and options for aligned, proportionate and sustainable Benefit Sharing Plan.</li> </ul>
<b>Construction</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Informs communication and consultation approach.</li> <li>• Continuous improvement (including construction, ongoing communications and Benefit Sharing Plan).</li> </ul>
<b>Operations (including Benefit Sharing Plan)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing maintenance and environmental compliance.</li> <li>• Involves and, where appropriate, empowers the community in the operation of the Benefit Sharing Plan.</li> </ul>

The Proponent will be clear about which aspects of the Project can be shaped by community feedback, when and why it seeks input, and how it will be used.

When it is impossible to incorporate community or stakeholder preferences, the reasons will be clearly explained, and the rationale and decision-making process will be shared.

## 4. Traditional Owners and First Nations Peoples

The Noongar people are the Traditional Owners (TOs) of the land on which the Project is located. The Project Area lies within the Gnaala Karla Booja Indigenous Land Use Area (ILUA), administered by Gnaala Karla Booja Aboriginal Corporation (GKB AC), as well as the Wagyl Kaip & Southern Noongar ILUA, administered by Wagyl Kaip Southern Noongar Aboriginal Corporation (WKSAN AC).

As part of the development phase of the Project, the Proponent will prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Due Diligence Assessment (ACHDDA) that will identify key cultural heritage matters and risks, the nature of the activity and the likelihood of causing harm to Aboriginal cultural heritage.

The Proponent looks forward to understanding the ways in which the Project might benefit or support goals of the local Noongar community and are committed to developing the Project in a way that supports the identification and preservation of any cultural artefacts, and is sensitive to any cultural significance of the site.

As the clean energy transition continues it is imperative that the industry, including the Proponent, build meaningful, and mutually beneficial relationships with TOs and First Nations peoples of the lands on which renewable energy and storage projects will be developed. TOs and First Nations peoples play a central role in and should benefit from Australia's renewable energy transition. Equally, it is essential the transition to renewable energy occurs fairly.

As stated in the Proponents Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) Policy (November 2025), the Proponent is committed to balancing business growth and performance with the protection and enhancement of the environment, as well as promoting the well-being of our people and communities. Of relevance to engagement with TOs and First Nations Peoples, the Proponent is committed to:

- ensure they engage meaningfully with TOs and First Nations Peoples to develop long-term relationships
- foster strong relationships with stakeholders to ensure respect for diverse views, the environment, and lasting community benefits
- collaborate with communities to provide economic, social, and employment benefits, including local procurement, training, and community development programs.

The Proponent takes a partnership approach to engaging with TOs and will seek involvement on a range of topics beyond Cultural Heritage, such as native title, project design, construction and procurement.

The Proponent has developed a First Nations Engagement Strategy (2024) that outlines their approach to engagement with TOs and First Nations Peoples, including those on which the Proponents projects are proposed. The First Nations Engagement Strategy has been prepared in consideration of the Leading Practice Principles: First Nations and Renewable Energy Projects (2024) developed by the Clean Energy Council (CEC) in collaboration with the First Nations Clean Energy Network. The Guide outlines industry expectations and is the most current and trusted resource produced by the peak industry body.

### Key Principles of the First Nations Engagement Strategy

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Engage respectfully                                   | 5. Be a good neighbour                   |
| 2. Prioritise clear, accessible and accurate information | 6. Ensure economic benefits are shared   |
| 3. Ensure cultural heritage is preserved and protected   | 7. Provide social benefits for community |
| 4. Protect Country and environment                       | 8. Embed land stewardship                |
|  | 9. Ensure cultural competency            |
|  | 10. Implement, monitor and report back   |

The Proponents strategy includes project and corporate based actions. For each project, at minimum, the Proponent will:

- conduct an Aboriginal and Cultural Heritage Desktop Assessment
- develop a First Nations Benefit Sharing Plan within the broader project Benefit Sharing Plan.

The Proponent acknowledges that no two projects are the same, and the level of engagement and benefit sharing will vary from project to project.

## 5. Stakeholders

The following broad types of stakeholders may have an interest in the Project:

- Federal and State Government Ministers and Members of Parliament
- Government agencies
- Regulators
- Local government
- First Nations peoples
- Host landholders
- Neighbours
- Community members
- Emergency services
- Environmental, recreational and community groups
- Local business
- Utility/Infrastructure services
- Industry and corporate representatives
- Education providers
- Local supply chain
- Contractors and suppliers
- Hard to reach and vulnerable members of the community
- Media outlets.

### 5.1. Hard to Reach and Vulnerable Groups

The Proponent will work with local government and other service providers to identify relevant individuals, groups and those who support them. The best approach for engagement will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

## 6. Key Messages

Key messages provide clear and consistent information about the Project, environmental approval processes and opportunities for public involvement. This plan will be refined as needed to incorporate updated messages as the Project progresses. Table 4 below outlines company key messages.

**Table 4: The Company Key Messages**

Topic	Message
<b>Who Are We</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mint Renewables was established in late 2022 in response to the enormous challenges and opportunities of Australia’s energy transition.</li> <li>Two of the most successful long-term investors in the Australian renewable energy sector, Infratil and CSC, have brought together a team of deeply experienced renewables players to create a project developer based in Melbourne, with a fresh approach and a national focus.</li> <li>We bring a fresh approach to transforming the future of energy by developing, constructing and operating large-scale renewable energy and storage projects.</li> </ul>
<b>Our Mission</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At Mint Renewables, our mission is to develop, build and operate renewable energy and storage projects and generate clean energy for our partners.</li> </ul>
<b>Local Partners</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We form long-term partnerships with the communities in which we develop and operate.</li> <li>We strive to be active and caring neighbours, dedicated stewards of the environment, and create meaningful, lasting benefits for the broader community.</li> <li>We know that engagement with key stakeholders, landholders, neighbours, First Nations peoples, communities, and local authorities, is important to the success of our projects.</li> <li>We believe in open, honest, and authentic engagement. We work hard to develop strong relationships to ensure we become valued members of the communities in which we invest and operate.</li> <li>Our projects will bring inherent economic and social benefits to our communities, through direct payments to landowners and neighbours who are participating in the Project, local procurement and employment, and a boost in spending within the local and regional area.</li> </ul>
<b>About the Project</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mint is proposing to develop the Kojonup Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) located 3 km north west of Kojonup next to the existing Kojonup Substation off Tunney Road in the Great Southern region of Western Australia.</li> <li>Battery Energy Storage Systems, or BESS are safe technology that stores energy in rechargeable batteries for use when it is needed most. It acts like a large-scale version of the batteries in our phones, or laptops, but it’s designed for large-scale grid energy storage.</li> <li>BESS provide the ability to store energy, so that excess energy produced during periods of low demand or high output (e.g., from variable sources such as wind or</li> </ul>

Topic	Message
	<p>solar) can be stored for use during periods when there might otherwise be a shortfall in supply.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Kojonup BESS could have an indicative capacity of up to 800 megawatt hour (MWh) (e.g. 100 MW 8 hour system) and an indicative permanent footprint of approximately 4 hectares. The final size and layout of the Project will depend on the environmental considerations, grid requirements, the selected BESS model, and feedback from stakeholders.</li> </ul>
Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mint has been fortunate to partner with a local landholder, and we are currently proposing to develop a BESS on their land, located 3 km north west of Kojonup, next to the existing Kojonup Substation.</li> <li>Development of a BESS undergoes a comprehensive planning and environmental assessment process to ensure the Project's impacts are minimised and managed during construction and operations. This process also involves engaging with the community to understand local concerns and incorporate them into the development of the Project.</li> <li>We will continue to engage with the Shire, landowners, neighbours, First Nations peoples and surrounding communities as early as possible, keeping people informed and involved.</li> </ul>
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We know that for our projects to be successful, we must work closely with our stakeholders, including landholders, project neighbours, First Nations peoples and the broader community.</li> <li>Feedback is an essential part of project development.</li> <li>We know that locals have important insights and knowledge about the land they live on, and we plan to listen to and learn from local voices.</li> <li>Feedback will help us understand the local context, inform the Project's design and construction, guide how we communicate, and help identify meaningful ways to share benefits with the community.</li> </ul>
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We know that our Project will bring inherent economic and social benefits to the Kojonup community, through a boost to the local economy, local businesses and jobs during construction and operations.</li> <li>In addition to creating opportunities for local workers, the Project will bring benefits to other industries, including accommodation providers, cafés, and restaurants. Mint is committed to employing local people, sourcing locally wherever possible, and engaging local service providers.</li> <li>We will also develop other ways to share benefits of the Project, informed by engagement with stakeholders throughout the development phases of the Project.</li> <li>As an initial benefit sharing commitment, we are committed to contributing a minimum of \$150 per megawatt per year in community benefits from the commencement of operations.</li> </ul>

Topic	Message
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is intended as a starting point only and represents the minimum commitment. The final approach to benefits will be shaped by feedback from the community and a clear understanding of local priorities, project constraints, and potential impacts.</li> </ul>
Jobs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mint is committed to employing local people and buying local wherever possible.</li> <li>During the operation of the BESS, employment is generally limited to inspection and maintenance activities by the BESS operator.</li> <li>A Goods and Services Register has been set up for the project. The Goods and Services Register is an opportunity for businesses and interested people to register their interest in supplying goods and services for the Project.</li> <li>For a project of this size, it could include around 110 direct construction jobs.</li> </ul>

## 7. Communications and Engagement Tools

Table 5 outlines the engagement tools available to the Project. The Proponent will select appropriate tools for use at different phases, depending on the stakeholders, communication and engagement purposes of the Project.

**Table 5: Communications & Engagement Tools**

Tool	Description	Engagement Level
<b>Stakeholder Meetings, Briefings, Workshops and Site Tours</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Briefings provide information about the Project and updates at key milestones.</li> <li>Meetings and workshops will be held to address and seek input on specific matters from individuals, groups and organisations with local or specialist knowledge.</li> <li>Briefings, meetings and workshops may be held in person or via video conference.</li> <li>Meeting agendas will be developed, and feedback will be captured and included in an engagement register and Stakeholder Management System.</li> </ul>	Inform, consult, involve
<b>Media</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local media will be utilised proactively at key times/milestones throughout the Project to provide Project information and updates.</li> </ul>	Inform
<b>Website – Project Webpage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The dedicated Project webpage provides a central location for information about the Project</li> </ul>	Inform
<b>Personalised Letters</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Letters to stakeholders, agencies, MPs and government (as identified).</li> </ul>	Inform
<b>Printed and Electronic Newsletters</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Newsletters provide project updates and information about how to get involved.</li> <li>Print newsletters will be sent to residents across the Project area (where requested), available and displayed in local shops, libraries and other public spaces where possible.</li> <li>Regular e-newsletters will be distributed to subscribers.</li> </ul>	Inform
<b>Advertisements and Local Media</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ads in local papers to notify of drop-in information sessions through the public notice period or other key notifications.</li> <li>Ads on local radio stations to notify of drop-in information sessions and provide Project updates as required.</li> <li>Advertisements, news coverage and interviews in local newspapers, radio and TV channels and on digital news and social media channels will be used to reach a broad audience across the region.</li> </ul>	Inform

Tool	Description	Engagement Level
Social Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of social media platforms if appropriate and catered to local context.</li> <li>• Mint's LinkedIn may be used to communicate key project milestones to a corporate / industry audience.</li> </ul>	Inform
Information Materials (flyers, fact sheets)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A suite of project information materials to be available on the Project website and in hard copy at events and information sessions.</li> <li>• Hard copy information packs sent via post upon request and to those nominated to receive updates by mail.</li> <li>• Materials will be updated regularly as the Project development and environmental assessments progress.</li> </ul>	Inform
Posters and Signage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Posters and signs in local communities, such as community notice boards, will be used to share information with a local audience and raise awareness of the Project, site investigations and opportunities to participate.</li> </ul>	Inform
Maps and Visuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maps and other visual aids such as diagrams, renders, photographs and illustrations will be used to show the Project location, components, appearance and processes.</li> <li>• Interactive maps and online renders may be considered to support consultation if appropriate for the community and audience.</li> </ul>	Inform, consult
Video	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Videos will be used to communicate information in an engaging and accessible way for a broad audience and shared with the media, posted on social media (LinkedIn), the Project website and used in presentations to stakeholder and community groups.</li> </ul>	Inform
Community Drop-in Sessions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drop-in information sessions held over a day or multiple days to allow for attendance by interested community members and stakeholders.</li> <li>• Sessions to be advertised across several mediums to provide strong awareness of these opportunities for engagement.</li> </ul>	Inform, consult, involve
Community Group Presentations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentations will be given to community groups interested in the Project to share information and promote opportunities to get involved.</li> <li>• Community presentations may be held in person or via video conference.</li> <li>• Opportunities for feedback and input will be considered and included where practical to do so.</li> </ul>	Inform, consult

Tool	Description	Engagement Level
<b>Local Festivals, Events and Information Displays</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Project's participation in local events will provide an opportunity for informal engagement and information sharing to raise awareness of the Project and opportunities to participate.</li> </ul>	Inform, consult
<b>Community Surveys and Feedback Forms</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Surveys and forms will be used to collect data and feedback at information sessions and community meetings/briefings.</li> </ul>	Consult
<b>School Engagement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engagement with local schools will be undertaken where possible to involve young people in discussions about the Project and energy future. School engagements may be undertaken online or in person.</li> </ul>	Inform
<b>Goods and Services Register</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Details of interested parties to be provided to contractors engaged (or selected as preferred). Available via the Project website.</li> </ul>	Inform
<b>Telephone, Email and Online</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community enquiries are received via email and 1800 HI MINT (1800 446 468).</li> </ul>	Inform, consult
<b>Q&amp;A Enquiries</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All enquiries are recorded in Mint's Stakeholder Management System.</li> </ul>	Inform

## 8. Benefit Sharing

The Project will have inherent benefits through a boost to the local and regional economy and local businesses and jobs during construction and operations. The Proponent will also look to develop other ways to share the Project's benefits, informed by engagement with stakeholders throughout the Project's development phases.

An analysis of the Shire of Kojonup's Strategic Community Plan (July 2023–June 2033) highlights key aspirations for the region: reversing population decline, sustaining essential services (education, health, retail, accommodation, and road maintenance) and strengthening economic development. The plan also emphasises cultural vitality through improved streetscapes, community events, arts, and heritage initiatives.

Telecommunications black spots, critical for bushfire communications, remain a priority for advocacy. The Shire has a strong volunteering culture, with 81% of residents giving time in some capacity. Separately, the region hosts more than 40 sporting and community clubs. Limited accommodation may constrain future construction phases and should be factored into project planning. Together, these elements reflect deep community pride in local spirit, culture, and place.

To build on these insights, the Proponent aim to validate these themes and priorities through direct engagement with the community and stakeholders. This process will allow the Proponent to align the benefit sharing approach with the unique challenges and opportunities identified, while also addressing any additional concerns or priorities that emerge during our engagement.

As an initial benefit sharing commitment, the Proponent has committed to contributing a minimum of \$150 per megawatt per year in community benefits from the commencement of operations. This is intended as a starting point only and represents the minimum commitment. The final approach to benefits will be shaped by feedback from the community and a clear understanding of local priorities, Project constraints, and potential impacts.

In developing its approach, the Proponent intends to align with the recently released *Community Benefits Guideline for Large-scale Renewable Energy Projects in the South West Interconnected System*, issued by the Department of Energy and Economic Diversification. The Guideline provides a best-practice framework to support fair, transparent and locally led community benefit arrangements and will guide the development of benefit sharing principles, governance arrangements and engagement processes for the Project.

Under the Guideline, the Western Australian Government has set recommended community benefit contribution levels for large-scale renewable energy projects. The Proponents minimum commitment of \$150 per megawatt per year is above the recommended minimum contribution level applicable under the Guideline for BESS projects, demonstrating their commitment to meaningful and proportionate benefit sharing with the host community.

Consistent with the Guideline, the Proponent will:

- engage with the local community, local government and relevant Traditional Owners to help identify local priorities for benefit sharing
- develop a Benefit Sharing Plan prior to construction, setting out how community benefits will be directed, governed and reported on
- ensure benefit arrangements are transparent, equitable and proportionate to the scale and impacts of the Project
- focus on benefits that deliver enduring social, economic and community outcomes for the region.

The Benefit Sharing Plan will be implemented during construction and operations. During the development phase, the Proponent will also consider ad hoc sponsorship of local initiatives and events, where appropriate.

Specifically, the Proponent plans to utilise benefit sharing to:

- ensure that the immediate community directly benefits from the presence of the Project in their community, including sharing benefits with local TOs and First Nations peoples
- contribute to broader public benefits and economic development that address the needs of the region
- build on strategic opportunities to drive local innovation
- create a legacy beyond the immediate benefits of the Project.

### 8.1.1. Other Programs

Potential other benefit sharing opportunities that will be explored include (but are not limited to):

- scholarships with local educational institutes targeted at local students and STEM or environmental courses
- educational site visits during operations for school groups with an interest in electrical engineering or renewables
- school or university visits by Project staff to talk about the Project and careers within the renewables industry.

## 8.2. Sponsorship

The Proponent will also consider ad hoc sponsorship of local initiatives and events, particularly during the ‘Development’ phase of the Project. Sponsorships will be considered on a case-by-case basis in line with the Proponents Benefit Sharing and Sponsorships Procedure, including consideration of the sponsorship opportunity’s ability to support the needs of the community and promote the visibility of the Proponent and the Project.

## 8.3. Employment, Goods and Services

The Proponent is committed to employing local people and buying local wherever possible. Goods and Services Registers are set up for each of Proponents projects.

The purpose of the register is to provide an avenue for interested parties to register their interest in providing goods and services to the Project. While the Proponent will not undertake much of the procurement and hiring, the Goods and Services Register will be provided to the Proponents delivery partners and contractors (and their sub-contractors).

Additionally, the Proponent will work with these partners to develop a local content and employment strategy. This will include exploring opportunities to target TO and First Nation peoples’ participation in the Project, such as engaging with First Nations businesses and directly employing TOs and First Nations peoples. Where they have opted in, interested parties are added to the newsletter subscription so they can be kept up to date with the Project’s progress.

## 8.4. Jobs

For a project of this size, it could include around 110 direct construction jobs.

The Kojonup BESS Project will provide benefits through a boost to the local and regional economy, local businesses, and jobs during construction. Typical jobs created during construction include:

Electrical	Civil and mechanical	Substation
Electricians Trade Assistants	Civil Labourers Concreters Dump Truck Operators Excavator Operators Foremen / Supervisors Forklift & Telehandler Operators	Administration Staff Equipment Maintenance Technicians Crane Operators

Electrical	Civil and mechanical	Substation
	General Labourers Grader Operators Loader Operators Mechanical Fitters Roller Operators Trade Assistants Truck Drivers / Operators	

In addition to creating opportunities for local workers, the Project will bring benefits to other industries, including accommodation providers, cafés, and restaurants. The Proponent is committed to employing local people, sourcing locally wherever possible, and engaging local service providers.

## 9. Complaints and Enquiries Management Procedure

### 9.1. Guiding Principles

#### **Acknowledge**

The Proponent acknowledge receipt within two business days of receiving an enquiry or complaint.

#### **Record**

The Proponent record the personal details of the enquirer/complainant and the details of the enquiry or complaint and assign a reference number. Personal information will be recorded in accordance the Proponents Privacy Policy.

#### **Review**

The Proponent undertake an initial review of the enquiry or complaint, determine who is best placed to help respond and determine what additional information or documentation may be required to complete an investigation. The Proponent may need to contact the enquirer or complainant to clarify details or request further information.

#### **Resolve and communicate**

Within 7 business days of receiving an enquiry or complaint, the Proponent will endeavour to investigate it objectively and impartially and close or resolve it. If the Proponent is not able to close or resolve the enquiry or complaint within 7 business days, they will provide an update to the enquirer or complainant and provide regular updates on the status of the outstanding enquiry or complaint.

#### **Take action**

Where appropriate, the Proponent amend their business practices, procedures, or policies.

### 9.2. Complaints

A good complaint handling process can address potential issues before they escalate, help the Proponent to understand its stakeholders, provide insights and better resolutions for complainants, enhance the organisation's reputation and strengthen trust.

Complaints not handled correctly can incur significant cost through reputational damage or fines, loss of trust and missed opportunities to improve the way that the Proponent conducts its business.

A high-quality complaint management process is expected by all stakeholders, including regulatory bodies, investors, customers and the communities in which the Proponent operates.

All complaints will be managed in accordance with the Proponents Complaints Handling Procedure, available on the Mint Renewables website ([www.mintrenewables.com/esg](http://www.mintrenewables.com/esg)).

This procedure outlines how the Proponent will receive and handle complaints and has been prepared in accordance with Australian Standard 10002:2022 – Guidelines for complaint management in organizations (AS 10002:2022).

All enquiries and complaints will be recorded in the Proponents Stakeholder Relationship Management System.

Additionally, a project-specific Complaints Management Plan will be prepared prior to construction, in line with the Proponents Complaints Handling Procedure and to capture any project specific obligations or commitments.

### 9.3. Media Engagement

The Proponent is a growing company operating in an increasingly complex stakeholder, media and social media environment.

The media are key stakeholders and a critical channel for the organisation. They frame the Proponents work for the public and across all key stakeholder groups. The media helps shape perceptions that can help achieve the Proponents strategic objectives.

The Proponent is proud of their story and want to empower their people to work effectively with the media to tell that story.

All media engagement for the Project will be in accordance with the Proponents Media Policy. The Proponents Media Engagement Procedure provides additional guidance on the approach and process to traditional media engagement.

The policy and procedure apply to all contractors and employees performing activities for the Proponent.

### 9.4. Privacy

The Proponent is committed to protecting the privacy of all individuals by applicable privacy and data protection laws. The Proponents Privacy Policy (available on the Mint Renewables website: [www.mintrenewables.com/esg](http://www.mintrenewables.com/esg)) sets out their policy on collecting, holding, using and disclosing, or otherwise handling personal information.

All data collected from stakeholders (e.g. through engagement activities, Goods and Services Register, complaints etc.) will be collected, handled, stored/secured and shared in accordance with this policy.

## 10. Indicative Engagement Program

Planned communication and consultation activities are shown in Table 6 below. This Plan will be reviewed regularly and updated as needed. Action Plans for each phase of the Project will be developed closer to the time and attached to this Plan as an appendix. The dates shown in Table 6 below are indicative and subject to change based on progression of border development activities of the Project.

**Table 6: Indicative Engagement Program**

Phase	Communication and consultation	
	Purpose	Activities
<b>Phase 1 Feasibility</b> <b>2024</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Build relationships with host landholder</li> <li>Stakeholder mapping and engagement strategy development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Host landholder engagement</li> <li>Early engagement with regulators/agencies</li> </ul>
<b>Phase 2 Development</b> <b>Phase 2a</b> <b>Early detailed studies</b> <b>Early - late 2025</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Build awareness and understanding of the Project, and the next steps</li> <li>Share information about specialist studies being undertaken</li> <li>Build awareness about the development and approvals process</li> <li>Explain how to get involved in consultation and encourage participation</li> <li>Gather information and local knowledge to inform site investigations and Project development</li> <li>Identify consultation and communication preferences</li> <li>Communicate procurement opportunities and promote the Goods and Service Register</li> <li>Assure the community that this is a 'first step' in the process</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish a dedicated project page on the Mint website</li> <li>Newsletter (print and e-newsletter)</li> <li>Stakeholder letters</li> <li>Host landholder engagement</li> <li>Outreach to near neighbours</li> <li>Commence engagement with TOs</li> <li>Preliminary information materials and maps</li> <li>Broad engagement with regulators/agencies</li> <li>Media statements and local media outreach</li> </ul>
<b>Phase 2b</b> <b>Approvals and Community Consultation</b> <b>Late 2025 – early 2026</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide information about the approvals process and encourage participation</li> <li>Explain how feedback influences the Project</li> <li>Obtain feedback on specific matters to inform the Project (design refinement, mitigation, how we engage, benefit sharing)</li> <li>Involve communities and stakeholders in discussions to understand issues, identifying suitable mitigations thoroughly</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As above, plus:</li> <li>Outreach to community</li> <li>Advertisements (print)</li> <li>Signage / posters on community noticeboards and other identified public spaces</li> <li>Community drop-in sessions</li> <li>Stakeholder meetings/workshops</li> <li>Community surveys and feedback forms</li> </ul>

Phase	Communication and consultation	
	Purpose	Activities
<b>Phase 2c</b> <b>Assessment, Exhibition and Outcome</b> <b>Early 2026 - TBC</b> <b>WE ARE HERE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify and implement improvements to the consultation approach</li> <li>Share consultation report and/or explain how feedback has shaped the Project and informed mitigation / DA</li> <li>Communicate the public exhibition/notice period for the development application and explain how to make a submission</li> <li>Share the outcome of the development application.</li> <li>Communicate Project next steps</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Newsletter (print and e-newsletter)</li> <li>Stakeholder letters</li> <li>Formal public notice (as directed by the regulator)</li> <li>Outreach to host landholders, near neighbours and community</li> <li>Media release and local media outreach</li> <li>Advertisements (print)</li> </ul>
<b>Phase 3</b> <b>Pre-construction</b> <b>TBC</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with local communities and stakeholders to identify and mitigate local impacts</li> <li>Work with impacted landholders and neighbours to ensure impacts are minimised where possible</li> <li>Communicate procurement opportunities and promote the Goods and Service Register</li> <li>Share and explain the final project design and how community input has been incorporated</li> <li>Outline the impacts expected during construction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As above, plus:</li> <li>Neighbour engagement (as required)</li> <li>Contractor days</li> <li>Community drop-in session (as required)</li> <li>Schools' engagement</li> </ul>
<b>Phase 4</b> <b>Construction</b> <b>TBC</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with local communities and stakeholders to identify and mitigate local impacts</li> <li>Work with host landholders and neighbours to ensure impacts are minimised where possible</li> <li>Provide regular project updates</li> <li>Communicate Benefit Sharing Plan updates</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Newsletter (print and e-newsletter)</li> <li>Construction updates</li> <li>Stakeholder letters</li> <li>Host landholder engagement</li> <li>Neighbour engagement</li> <li>School engagement</li> <li>Benefit sharing program/s commence (as required)</li> </ul>
<b>Phase 5</b> <b>Operation</b> <b>TBC</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide relevant updates on the Project during the operational phase</li> <li>Communicate benefit sharing program updates</li> <li>Provide notification of any maintenance or planned works</li> <li>Work with host landholders and neighbours to ensure ongoing compliance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Host landholder and neighbour engagement (as required)</li> <li>Newsletter (print and e-newsletter)</li> <li>Works notifications (as required)</li> <li>Social media</li> <li>School engagement</li> <li>Benefit sharing program/s commence (as required)</li> </ul>

## 11. Recording, Monitoring and Evaluation

### 11.1. Consultation Report

Reports outlining consultation and engagement undertaken, feedback received, and how the Proponent has responded to feedback will be produced on an ad hoc basis to support various processes (e.g., approval applications tenders, etc.).

### 11.2. Evaluation & Reporting

Evaluation and reporting are key steps in all communication and engagement activities. The effectiveness of communications and engagement will be monitored and revised or adapted as necessary to ensure engagement objectives are met. The Plan will be reviewed and revised as the Project progresses.

To ensure effective communication and engagement, the Project:

- has developed a comprehensive engagement strategy (this Plan), building on existing project stakeholder relationships and community project understanding
- will review engagement objectives through each phase to ensure they are being met.

Communication and engagement measures will be measured by:

- participation in engagement activities, including information sessions
- comments and feedback received through the engagement, website, emails and phone enquiries
- participation in and content of public submissions during specific planning approval processes
- comments received about the engagement process or design including content frequency and accessibility of information
- website and newsletter statistics relating to reach, engagement and sentiment.

Feedback will be recorded, collected, and considered as part of the Project's development. Data will be collected and stored in line with the Proponents Privacy Policy.

A summary of participation, feedback received and how feedback has been considered will be made available via newsletter, or on the Project website.

### 11.3. Review Schedule

The Plan is a 'live' document and will be updated where necessary throughout the life cycle of the Project, capturing activities undertaken to date and reviewing their effectiveness in achieving the objectives of the Plan, as described above.

The Plan will be reviewed (and updated, where required) prior to commencing a new phase, or at the minimum frequency during the following phases:

- **During Development and Pre-construction (Pre-FID):** every 12 months
- **During Construction:** every 12 months
- **During Operations:** 12 months from the commencement of operations, and every two years thereafter.