

## **Appendix D    Smoky Creek Solar Power Station – Community Engagement Summary**

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## Smoky Creek SPS - Community Engagement Summary

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### Project Timeframes and Key Milestones

Timeframe	Key Milestone
Secured land	2018
Preliminary investigations to determine site viability	Q1 2018
Initial consultation with neighbours and local community	Q2 2018
Development application submitted to Council	Q2 2019
Meetings and updates provided to neighbours and local community groups	H1 2019
Development application granted by Council (with conditions)	Q4 2019
Edify commences pre-construction approvals, including additional community engagements	Q1 2021
Edify's ongoing pre-construction community and local supplier engagements	Q3 2022 - ongoing

### Stakeholder Engagement

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#### Communication aims and objectives

The key objectives of the communication and engagement for this project are to:

- Provide regular information targeted to key stakeholder groups
- Develop awareness of the project and project progress amongst the local community and stakeholders
- Develop communication strategy to debunk false beliefs about solar farms
- Develop communication strategy to communicate benefits of solar farm, and co-use (AgriSolar), to the community.
- Engage early with directly affected property/landholders
- Understand the interests and needs of community members and stakeholders
- To pre-empt issues and concerns with early targeted communication and sustained engagement
- To involve concerned stakeholders to brainstorm and implement solutions to perceived issues and risks
- Provide clear direction to stakeholders on the level of engagement, when and why
- Ensure community and stakeholder feedback is continuously fed into communication and engagement



- To be transparent in all that we do
- To encourage participation from communities and other stakeholders
- To listen to feedback, investigate suggestions and report back
- To engage in a manner that is collaborative, innovative, adaptive and sustainable
- To increase stakeholder understanding of the project and its objectives
- To ensure that community and stakeholder enquiries about the project are managed and resolved effectively
- To ensure that all information released is accurate and consistent with the project strategy and objectives
- To ensure that project information is distributed in an effective and timely manner, and
- To ensure that property owners are appropriately communicated with at required times.

## Communication Approach

The communication and consultation approach will be guided by the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) spectrum for public participation.

The level of public participation required for this phase of the project (pre-construction) will be at the 'Involve level on the IAP2 spectrum. This is based on the level of public impact from the project and the scope for community input to the project.

By engaging the community and stakeholders at the 'Involve' level, Edify Energy continues to work with stakeholders and the community to obtain feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions at appropriate stages of project development. Edify has and will continue to provide feedback on how the input was considered



Figure 1 - IAP2 Public Participation Spectrum



in the decision-making process. At the same time, discussions and meetings with stakeholders will continue to take place to proactively address emergent issues. A range of consultation and communication tools have been used to inform and receive input from stakeholders and the community throughout the project's planning, which may change as the project progresses into construction and execution phases.

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## Communication Tools

By key project stages:

### Feasibility – Planning and Approvals

- Meetings with key stakeholder groups
- Letters and emails for adjacent residents and businesses
- One-on-one meetings with affected property owners adjacent to the site
- Public information sessions at times that are accessible to the community and businesses to provide opportunities to identify and discuss potential concerns of the project at critical milestones
- Use of a mix of traditional and new media, including print and digital (social media)
- Dedicated project webpage and shorted website link for use on materials
- Accessible and timely project information, maps, images and project updates available on the Edify Energy website
- Electronic contact mechanisms including email and a project contact phone number/community line to encourage and manage stakeholder feedback
- Traffic alerts and VMS signage during survey and geotechnical works (if required).
- Register and respond to all enquiries and complaints in a timely manner, following the flowchart logic for

### Construction - Operations

- A range of engagement methods will be prepared in consultation with the EPC and O&M contractor.
- Edify will consider opening a temporary local office in Biloela, with project staff to formulate a local supplier engagement register and encourage Expressions of Interest from local stakeholders.
- Feedback from further engagement with the community and local suppliers will be considered to refine initiatives, such as:
  - Formal traineeships & apprenticeships programs (negotiated percentage targets for EPC & OM Labour Hours to be completed by Trainees and Apprentices)
  - Local Businesses and Community Organisations Supply Contracts (negotiated percentage targets for EPC & OM Supply Contracts to be awarded to Local Businesses and Community Organisations)
  - Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander (Indigenous) Jobseekers (negotiated percentage targets for EPC & OM Labour Hours to be completed by Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander peoples)
  - Local Employment (negotiated percentage targets for EPC & OM Full Time Employment (FTE) labour Hours to be completed by local community members.
  - Community Benefits Scheme (formalising sponsorship programs that support local initiatives and community groups)



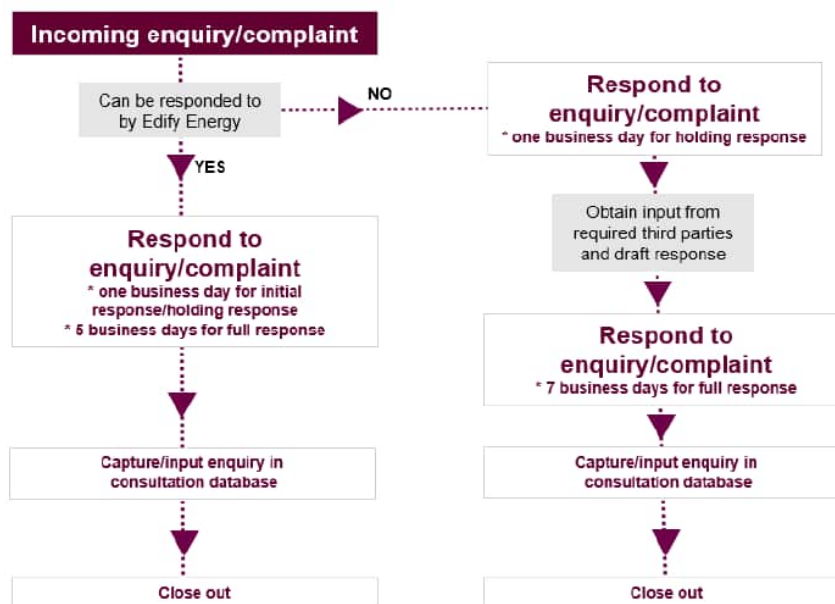
## Recording Feedback Mechanism

All communication materials will have contact details for the project included on them. This will be in the form of phone number, email address and website<sup>1</sup>.

For any enquiries, complaints or feedback received by the project, the following information will be captured and recorded as defined by the process flowchart below:

- Stakeholder name
- Date of interaction
- Stakeholder contact details
- Stakeholder role and organisation (if applicable)
- Type of engagement (in-person, email, phone etc)
- Interest in project
- Detail of stakeholder enquiry
- Project response (including team member name)
- Date of response

## Enquiry and Complaints Flowchart



<sup>1</sup> See Smoky Creek Solar Power Station's Webpage; <https://edifyenergy.com/project/smoky-creek/>



## Stakeholders

### Stakeholder identification and targeted activities

The table below identifies stakeholders that have an interest in the ongoing project development and delivery. These stakeholders may either be impacted by the project or may influence or become advocates for the project.

Stakeholder Group	Stakeholder	Key issues/interest	Method of engagement
Federal government representatives as at 1 Aug 2022  <i>Moderate to High Interest</i>	Federal Member for Flynn Colin Boyce MP (previously Ken O'Dowd)	Impact to residents, businesses, local community  Changes to local amenity Environmental impact  Community backlash to project  Renewables targets	Ensure relevant government representatives are informed and across project planning and delivery.  Provide briefing if requested
State government  <i>High Interest</i>	State Member for Callide Bryson Head (previously Colin Boyce)	Impact to residents, businesses, local community  Renewables target	Ensure relevant government representatives are informed and across project planning and delivery.  Proactively provide briefing, as newly elected official
Local government  <i>High Interest</i>	CEO, Banana Shire Council Tom Upton  Mayor, Banana Shire Council Neville Ferrier  Director, Council Services Banana Shire Council Chris Welch  Division 4 Cr Colin Semple (Deputy Mayor)	Impact to residents, business, and traffic in the vicinity of the project  Short- and long-term impacts on surrounding properties and businesses  Impacts to Council assets – roads or land  Environmental impacts  Jobs and local content  Implications to the community and any backlash if not addressed sufficiently  Alignment with Banana Shire Community Plan 2017-2027  Community Benefit Funds	Ensure Councillors and Elected Representatives are informed and across project planning and delivery  Ensure adequate information is provided if a briefing is requested  Regular meetings with Council inform, engage and address any project issues or upcoming construction activities  Share project information – emails, letters FAQs, information sheets  Provide methods to contact project team



Stakeholder Group	Stakeholder	Key issues/interest	Method of engagement
Residents and landholders  <i>Moderate to High Interest</i>	Property owner  Gaangalu Nation People  Adjacent landowners  Biloela community  Smoky Creek community  Jambin community	Any impacts on land values  Environmental impacts  Impact to agricultural lands in the region  Any early works that may be required  Construction or traffic impacts  Short- and long-term impacts on property  Access to renewable energy  Electricity prices  Agrisolar  Areas of cultural significance  Findings of any artifacts of cultural significance  Community support/sponsorship	Meet with directly affected property owners  Share project information – emails, letters, FAQs, information sheets  Community information sessions  Provide methods to contact project team to ask project questions  Build professional rapport and ensure ongoing meetings and communications on project developments and activities  Operational tools – VMS signage and general traffic alerts
Freight  <i>Low interest</i>	Road Users  Heavy Haulage Trucks  General road users - cars	Road safety in the vicinity of the project  Impacts to land surrounding rail lines  Access arrangements or detours required  Impacted travel times	Ensure information is available on website and via relevant platforms  Operational tools – VMS signage and general traffic alerts  Provide methods to contact project team to ask project questions
Business and industry  <i>High Interest</i>	Jambin Pub/Motel  Capricornia Chamber of Commerce  Biloela Enterprise  Agricultural industry	Impacts to business operations during work activities  Employment opportunities  Construction activities in general  Agrisolar	Share project information – emails, letters FAQs, information sheets  Invitation to community information sessions  Provide methods to contact project team to ask project questions  Provide briefing if requested



Stakeholder Group	Stakeholder	Key issues/interest	Method of engagement
Utilities/services <i>Medium Interest</i>	CS Energy Sunwater Powerlink QLD	Impacts to business operations during work activities Construction activities in general	Share project information – emails, letters FAQs, information sheets Provide methods to contact project team to ask project questions  Provide briefing if requested
Emergency Services <i>Low Interest</i>	Rural Fire Service QLD Ambulance	Project accessibility  Road access  Heavy haulage routes  Fire risk from project	Provide briefing if requested  Provide opportunities to comment and ask project related questions
Interest groups <i>High Interest</i>	Healthy Soils Inc Callide Valley (Landcare)	Impacts to land surrounding work activities	Share project information: emails, letters FAQs, information sheets  Provide briefing if requested  Invitation to community information sessions  Provide methods to contact project team to ask project questions
Local media <i>Medium Interest</i>	Central Telegraph CQ Extra Gladstone Observer Rockhampton Morning Bulletin ABC Capricornia Rebel FM Breeze FM (Rockhampton based TV) Win News Central Queensland 7News Central Queensland	Project interest stories / controversial project views  Key project milestones  Commencement of project  Local content and benefits  Project completion  Jobs and local content	Provide a media kit and provide media briefing  Include speaking notes, approved statements  Provide methods to contact project team to ask project questions





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## Evaluation

To ensure the ongoing effectiveness of the community and stakeholder engagement, activities will be monitored and evaluated against the communication objectives and desired project outcomes:

**Participation:** Did stakeholders and the community have an opportunity to participate? Was participation offered in an adequate and timely way?

**Transparency:** Was the information available and clear to all parties? Were participants told what was negotiable and non-negotiable?

**Integrity:** Was the consultation process fair, trustworthy and respectful to all parties?

**Accountability:** Was the process accountable, genuine and equitable?

**Cost-effectiveness:** Was the consultation activity the most effective option representing value for money?

**Certainty:** Has the community been told what the consultation process is, how their input will be used and what the next steps are?

A range of evaluation methods may be used which could include:

- Monitoring, analysis and reporting of stakeholder contacts/enquiries, including complaints from the stakeholder engagement database
- Feedback forms provided at information sessions
- Informal discussions with participants following consultation activities
- Value judgments on how community feedback has been considered
- Website and social media analytics
- Along with considering individual comments from the above methods, effectiveness of the consultation process can be measured by considering:
  - The number of participants over the duration of the project and/or in comparison to similar projects
  - Whether participation increased over the period of the project
  - The level of dialogue
  - The tone of feedback and media coverage
  - Whether the project was refined through participation.



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# Community Engagement Summary Report

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## Introduction

This document is a summary of consultation activities and the timeline that was undertaken as part of the Smoky Creek Solar Power Station project between early 2018 and August 2022.

The overall aim of consultation for the project was to engage with key stakeholders, including neighbouring landowners and residents to better understand and appreciate the range of views and experiences in relation to the project concept and subsequent Development Approval.

The feedback and ideas highlighted by stakeholders and the concerns and suggestions for improvement for the project will assist in project execution and the pre-construction planning activities to be undertaken in the near future.

Date	Milestone/Event	Comment
05/04/2018	Option to Lease executed with Landholder #1	
16/05/2018	Caveat Title with Edify & Landholder #1	
July 2018	Edify first contact with previous landowner of nearest neighbour property (north of project land)	
Mid-July 2018	Pre-lodgement meeting with BSC	
Aug 2018	Edify met with previous landowner of nearest neighbour property (north of project land) to introduce the project proposal, as an adjacent landowner	
Aug 2018	Workshop/Presentation to BSC	Fact Sheet, August 2018
Oct 2018	Option to Lease executed with Landholder #2	
Oct 2018	Caveat Title with Edify & Landholder #2	
Jan 2019	COM002 – 18/19 – MCU DA Application submitted to Banana Shire Council	
Feb 2019	Option to Lease executed with Landholder #3	
Feb 2019	Caveat Title with Edify & Landholder #3	
Feb 2019	News article in The Morning Bulletin	Proposed Project introduction to broader local community, proactively notifying prior to submission of DA



Date	Milestone/Event	Comment
Jun 2019	COM002 – 18/19 – MCU DA Application submitted to Banana Shire Council	Confirming with Planning Manager at Council
Jun 2019	<i>Public Notification of a Development Application</i> letter issued to all adjoining landowners	
13/06/2019	Council response to Edify's response to Information Request – requesting further Agricultural Land Assessment	Edify commissioned further assessment – Land Condition Assessment, dated 27/09/2019
7-28 June 2019	Public Notification period – statutory 15 BD period. Public Notification signs located in multiple fences/gates, road intersections  Public Notification included in local newspaper/s	
23/10/2019	Application Number: COM002-18/19 was approved in full subject to conditions at Banana Shire Council's Ordinary Meeting (OM004518)	
29/10/2019	Decision Notice issued by Council	Development Approval
11/12/2019	Negotiated Decision request was approved by Council at Council's Ordinary Meeting (OM004568)	
17/12/2019	Negotiated Decision Notice issued by Council	Approval (with amendments to some conditions)
15/09/2020	Amended Negotiated Decision Notice issued by Council	Minor error corrected
10/10/2020	Edify met with neighbours of project land. Discussed neighbour concerns and suggestions to move to another site  Edify met with Banana Shire Council (BSC) to provide an update on the project	
Sept-Oct 2020	Correspondence between project neighbours and Edify – emails and letters exchanged	
Nov 2020	Correspondence and meeting with BSC – discussion on preliminary footprint options and commencing Landscape and Visual Assessment (LVIA)	
10/11/2020	Meeting with BSC to discuss landscape conditions	



Date	Milestone/Event	Comment
Feb 2021	Commenced engagement with neighbours to request dates that would suit for a site visit by landscape/visual consultant and availability to provide input to the LVIA	
01/03/2021	Project site visit with Federal Member for Capricornia, Michelle Landry MP; Federal Member for Flynn, Ken O'Dowd MP; Senator for Qld, Matt Canavan; State Member for Callide, Colin Boyce MP; Mayor of Banana Shire, Nev Ferrier; neighbouring landowners; Edify representatives	
03/03/2021	Correspondence with neighbours in response to questions following MPs visit	
09/03/2021	Correspondence from Federal Member for Capricornia, Michelle Landry MP with thanks for site visit and advising no further interest in the project (out of electorate)	
Mar 2021	Continued engagement with neighbours to request and confirm availability to be involved in LVIA. Consultation with Council on LVIA  Ongoing consultation and provision of response to queries with neighbours	
31/03/2021	Correspondence with WIN News journalist in response to media enquiry	Response to media inquiry providing project information
01/04/2021	Correspondence with project neighbours, Senator Canavan, Councillors and Mayor re: LVIA consultant selection process and support for local employment opportunities. Confirmed consultant visit to adjoining property houses on 16 April to record viewpoints for LVIA	
21/04/2021	Request for Edify to consider donation to help replace Jambin Post Office	Edify provided \$20,000 to Jambin Community Hall Committee to contribute towards replacing Jambin Post Office
19/05/2021	Follow up correspondence from WIN News journalist seeking updated comment on project information prior to running story	
21/05/2021	Correspondence with neighbours, Councillors, WIN journalist re: sheep grazing on the project land and providing video of sheep at Edify's	



Date	Milestone/Event	Comment
	Gannawarra Solar Farm and Battery project in Victoria	
26/05/2021	Contact from the Office of the Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner in connection with the proposed development	
22/06/2021	Meeting with BSC	
02/07/2021	Meeting with BSC to discuss LVIA Report and provide general project update	
15/07/2021	Formal responses from Edify to the Office of the Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner in connection with the proposed development	
26/07/2021	Correspondence with adjoining property owner neighbours to offer a meeting to discuss the LVIA findings and recommendations	
17/08/2021	Edify and visual consultant attended BSC Workshop to deliver presentation to Councillors on the LVIA findings and recommendations	
19/08/2021	Meeting with project neighbours to discuss and review LVIA findings and recommendations	
24/08/2021	Further correspondence from the Office of the Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner	
26/08/2021	EPBC Referral submitted to Department of Agriculture Water and the Environment	
01/09/2021	Meeting with Manager in Department of Energy and Public Works	
03/09/2021	Correspondence from neighbours providing further feedback on the draft LVIA report	
10/09/2021	Response to neighbour feedback and questions on the draft LVIA report	
Sep 2021	Commenced engagement with Gaangalu Nation People (GNP) to commence CHMP and survey	
27/09/2021	Media enquiry of project details from <i>The Morning Bulletin</i>	



Date	Milestone/Event	Comment
11/10/2021	Response to media enquiry from <i>The Morning Bulletin</i>	
12/10/2021	Coordinating Committee Meeting with GNP to discuss project	
03/11/2021	Formal submission of the LVIA to Council for consideration	
18/11/2021	ABC Capricornia media enquiry to request interview in relation to the project	
08/12/2021	Meeting with BSC to discuss project briefing with Council Economic Development officer	
21/12/2021	Correspondence from BSC re: LVIA report feedback and queries	
06/01/2022	Media enquiry from journalist with <i>The Australian</i> to discuss development	
20/01/2022	Meeting with BSC to discuss feedback on LVIA and next steps	
02/02/2022	Response to BSC on feedback and queries on LVIA report submission	
08/02/2022	Meeting with BSC to discuss feedback and finalising LVIA	
09/02/2022	Response from BSC on Edify responses to LVIA feedback and queries	
01/03/2022	Correspondence from BSC on LVIA peer review summary and recommendations	
01/04/2022	Meeting with BSC and Council Consultant to discuss recommendations to finalise LVIA	
05/04/2022	Meeting with BSC to discuss Project and economic opportunities for Shire and region	
03/06/2022	Resubmission of finalised LVIA to Council	
06/06/2022	Meeting with CS Energy – brief discussion on project progress	
22/07/2021	Council response for approval of resubmitted LVIA	Approval of LVIA



Date	Milestone/Event	Comment
Jul-Aug 2022	Engagement with BSC on Edify involvement in Renewable Energy Industry Supply Chain Industry Event	
06/08/2022	Edify in attendance to discuss Project at Renewable Energy Industry Supply Chain Industry Event in Biloela	