



Smoky Creek and Guthrie's Gap Solar Power Station

Community Consultation and Engagement Plan

February 2025



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1. Introduction

1.1 The Project

Edify Energy Pty Ltd (Edify) has secured a planning permit for the development, construction and operation of the Smoky Creek Solar Power Station (the **Project**) comprising approximately 600MWac solar photovoltaic generator, integrated with a 600MW battery energy storage system. The Development will be located approximately 40 kilometres north of Biloela, Queensland (the **Site**).

Works are proposed across three freehold properties, on land within the Banana Shire Council Local Government Area (**LGA**). A Planning Application was submitted to the Banana Shire Council in January 2019 and approved by Council in December 2019, referred to as **COM002-18/19** (the **Permit**). Edify's Permit relates to the use and development of the proposal within the Farming Zone including:

- approximately 1,600 hectares of fenced solar arrays on single-axis tilt trackers;
- a battery energy storage system of 600MW capacity and comprising of lithium-ion batteries;
- inverters and integrated transformers; and
- utility installation (substation), connection to the 275kV transmission system that crosses the proposal site.

1.2 The Plan

Edify has undertaken extensive engagement and consultation with the neighbouring landowners, community groups, stakeholders, in addition to broad public engagement for the Project. This Community Consultation and Engagement Plan (the **CCEP**) has been prepared to outline the communication and engagement activities for key stakeholders and the broader community, in particular the Jambin, Biloela and Banana Shire communities. The CCEP aims to ensure a consistent approach is taken to the development, planning and the pre-construction phase. The CCEP will extend into the construction phase of the project, representing Edify's ongoing commitment to proactive engagements with local stakeholders. This CCEP is a living document, which is intended to evolve over the life of the Project and will inevitably vary throughout the stages of the Project. It has been developed with consideration of the recommendations and guidance of IAP2 Australasia (Figure 1). This document will be managed by Edify's project manager, which will evolve as the project matures. In turn, this document will guide community consultation activities during the post-approval (pre-construction), construction and operation phases of the Project.

	INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GOAL	To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problems, alternatives and/or solutions.	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decision.	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public issues and concerns are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.	To place final decision-making in the hands of the public.
PROMISE TO THE PUBLIC	We will keep you informed.	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and issues are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will look to you for direct advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.	We will implement what you decide.
EXAMPLE TOOLS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fact sheets • Websites • Open houses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public comment • Focus groups • Surveys • Public meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshops • Deliberate polling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizen Advisory committees • Consensus building • Participatory Decision-making 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizen juries • Ballots • Delegated Decisions

Figure 1 - IAP2 Engagement Spectrum



1.3 About Edify Energy

Edify is a proudly 100% Australian owned renewable energy and storage company, leading the industry in the deployment and operation of new energy generation, storage and grid infrastructure to support Australia's energy transition.

Delivering more than \$2 billion of investment in Australia, Edify has successfully developed and financed over 1 GW of utility-scale solar farms and battery energy storage systems and, in addition to projects currently in construction, is managing the operations of 6 solar farms and 4 battery energy storage systems that it has developed, financed and constructed. Collectively, its utility-scale solar farms produce enough electricity to power over 281,000 Australian homes and its battery storage systems provide system strength to the grid and are capable of powering 680,000 homes for up to 2 hours.

The Edify business model supports the full lifecycle of renewable energy and storage project development and operation, including greenfield development, project structuring and financing, construction management and a full operational asset management offering.

Edify has a strong pipeline of renewable energy projects, including solar, storage, hybrid and hydrogen projects across the NEM states in various stages of development that the successful candidate will have a key role in developing.

www.edifyenergy.com

1.4 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



2. Community Profile

Understanding the makeup and values of the community is essential to finding effective ways to reach the community as well as appreciating ways that the project may impact the community. This section provides a broad overview of Banana Shire Council LGA and the political profile of the region.

2.1 Local Government Authorities

The Project sits within the Banana Shire Council LGA which cover an area of 28,610 square kilometres and accounts for 1.6 per cent of the land area of Queensland. The principal city within the LGA is Biloela, with Jambin being the most proximate district to the Site. Banana Shire is a major regional service hub – and provides a range of community and business services within and outside the borders of the shire. Strengths within the shire include a strong agricultural base, stable government sector, growing resources sector and service sectors of health and education, retail trade and tourism.

Banana Shire is strategically located on the Brisbane & Melbourne freight route via the Burnett and Leichhardt Highways, is connected to the port city of Gladstone via the Dawson Highway and to Brisbane via the Burnett Highway and through regular commercial air services. In accordance with the data from the 2021 Census, the population of Banana Shire comprises;

<i>Population</i>	14,513 people 51.4% male and 48.6% female 5.1% identifying as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander 67.8% of people over the age of 25 years 16.2% of people over the age of 65 years 38 is the median age 45.6% with highest level of school as Year 11 or 12 26% of people hold a non-school qualification 10% have a university qualification
<i>Family Composition</i>	43.1% of households are couples with no children 43.6% of households are couples with children \$856pw is median total personal income \$1,766pw is the median household income \$240pw is median rent
<i>Dwelling Composition</i>	81.6% occupied private dwellings
<i>Accessibility</i>	92.8% of households reported one or more vehicles 76.8% have internet access
<i>Owners vs Renters</i>	33.1% of households fully own their dwelling 27.6% of households own their dwelling via a mortgage or mortgage their home 30% renters
<i>Languages spoken at home</i>	82.9% are identified as English speaking only The other top languages spoken at home are 0.8% Mandarin, 0.4% Tagalog, 0.3% Filipino and 0.2% Nepali and Spanish.



2.2 Project Location

The Project is located off Shorts Road, approximately 40km north of Biloela, Queensland (*Figure 2*). The Project will be constructed on approximately 406.49 hectares of land, with a connection into Powerlink's 275kV overhead transmission line (Calvale to Stanwell) (*Figure 2*).

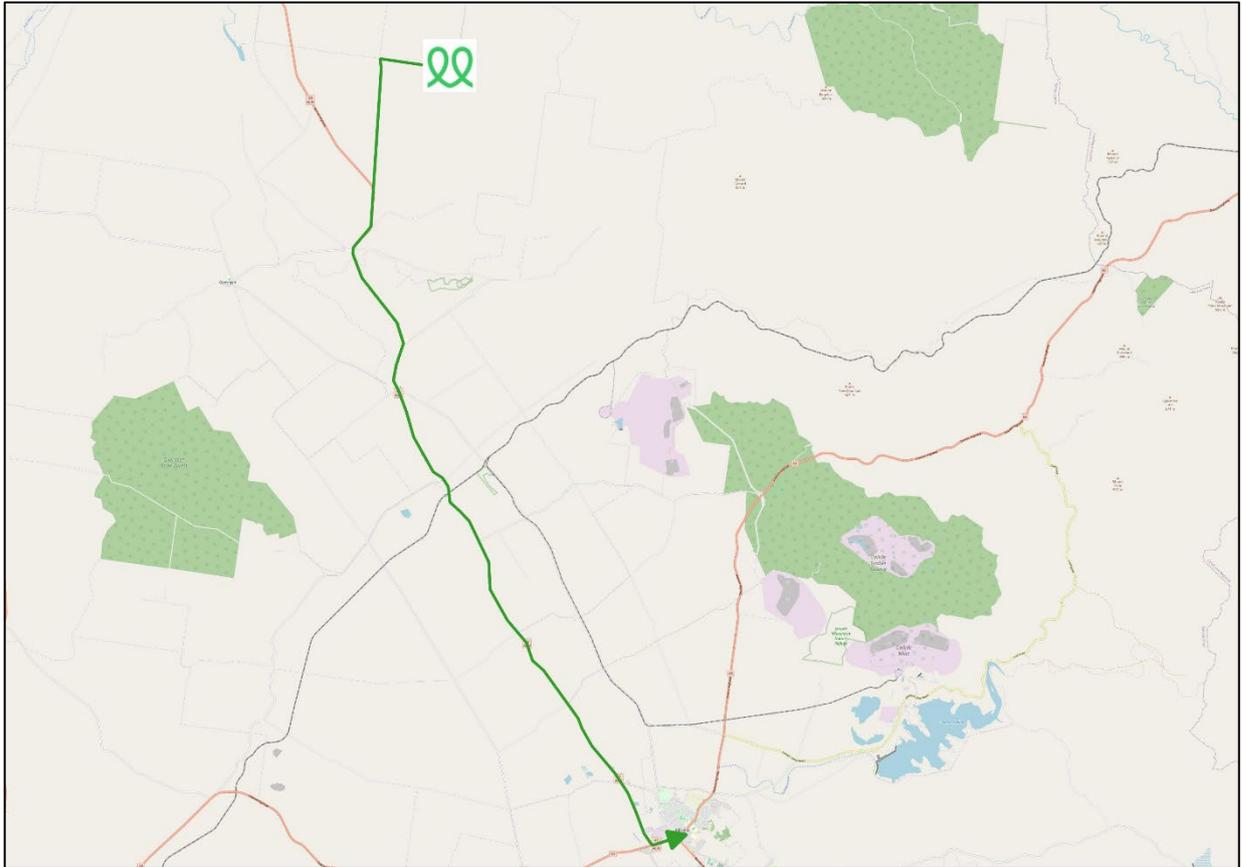


Figure 2 Site layout in relation to Biloela, QLD

2.3 State Electorate

The Project sits within the QLD State electorate of Callide, which encompasses agricultural and mining towns in the Burnett, Callide and Dawson valleys.

As of the 2024 State election, the Callide seat is currently held by Bryson Head MP (Liberal National Party) and holds the position of Assistant Minister for Regional Development, Resources and Critical Minerals, as of November 2024.



2.4 Federal Electorate

The federal electorate of Flynn covers an area of 132,824sq km in the central region of Queensland. Geographically, Flynn extends westward from the port city of Gladstone, covering regions such as Gayndah, Mount Morgan, Monto, Biloela, Moura, Blackwater, and Emerald. The division includes the entirety of the Banana Shire Council, Central Highlands Regional Council, Gladstone Regional Council, North Burnett Regional Council, and Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire Council. It also encompasses parts of the Bundaberg Regional Council, Rockhampton Regional Council, and South Burnett Regional Council.

As of the 2022 federal election, the Division of Flynn is represented by Colin Boyce (Liberal National Party). Prior to his election to the House of Representatives, Boyce served as the member for Callide in the Queensland Legislative Assembly from 2017 to 2022.

3. Key Stakeholders

3.1 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 <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	Impact to residents, business, and traffic in the vicinity of the project	Ensure Councillors and Elected Representatives are informed and across project planning and delivery



Stakeholder Group	Stakeholder	Key issues/interest	Method of engagement
	<p>Mayor, Banana Shire Council Neville Ferrier</p> <p>Division 4 Cr Colin Semple (Deputy Mayor)</p> <p>Director, Council Services Banana Shire Council Chris Welch</p>	<p>Short and long-term impacts on surrounding properties and businesses</p> <p>Impacts to Council assets – roads or land</p> <p>Environmental impacts</p> <p>Jobs and local content</p> <p>Implications to the community and any backlash if not addressed sufficiently</p> <p>Alignment with Banana Shire Community Plan 2017-2027</p> <p>Community Benefit Funds</p>	<p>Ensure adequate information is provided if a briefing is requested</p> <p>Regular meetings with Council inform, engage and address any project issues or upcoming construction activities</p> <p>Share project information – emails, letters FAQs, information sheets</p> <p>Provide methods to contact project team</p>
<p>Residents and landholders</p> <p><i>Moderate to High Interest</i></p>	<p>Property owner</p> <p>Gaangalu Nation People</p> <p>Adjacent landowners</p> <p>Biloela community</p> <p>Smoky Creek community</p> <p>Jambin community</p>	<p>Any impacts on land values</p> <p>Environmental impacts</p> <p>Impact to agricultural lands in the region</p> <p>Any early works that may be required</p> <p>Construction or traffic impacts</p> <p>Short- and long-term impacts on property</p> <p>Electricity prices</p> <p>Agrisolar</p> <p>Areas of cultural significance</p> <p>Findings of any artifacts of cultural significance</p>	<p>Meet with directly affected property owners</p> <p>Share project information – emails, letters, FAQs, information sheets</p> <p>Community information sessions</p> <p>Provide methods to contact project team to ask project questions</p> <p>Build professional rapport and ensure ongoing meetings and communications on project developments and activities</p> <p>Operational tools – VMS signage and general traffic alerts</p>



Stakeholder Group	Stakeholder	Key issues/interest	Method of engagement
		Community support/sponsorship	
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
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 (RFSQ) 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



Stakeholder Group	Stakeholder	Key issues/interest	Method of engagement
			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 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

3.2 Near Neighbours

Regarding local residents and landowners, Edify is engaged with all neighbours within 2km of the Project Area, with a focus on the three (3) neighbours that reside within 1km of the Project Area. Edify maintains an engagement register that records all interactions (in-person and via email or phone).

For a chronological summary of consultation activities with near neighbours and local stakeholders, please see Appendix C.



3.3 Council Representatives

The consent authority responsible for considering the Planning Permit is Banana Shire Council and the Council will continue to play a critical stakeholder role, which Edify's project manager and delivery team continue to engage with on a regular basis (Figure 3). In the upcoming post-approval (pre-construction) phase of the project, Edify will be collaborating further with Council during the preparation of the project's Workforce Accommodation Strategy and Local Participation Plan. Further, Council must also be consulted during the preparation of the Traffic Management Plan and Construction Environment Management Plan.



Figure 3 - Edify sponsoring and supporting Banana Shire Council's Biloea100 Centennial

Edify met with Council throughout 2024, including a briefing on 5 December 2024, to provide project updates and identify potential cumulative impacts that may occur during similar times to the project's pre-construction and construction phase.



3.3.1 Banana Shire Council

Council Offices		
Biloela	Moura	Taroom
Shire Chambers 62 Valentine Plains Road, Biloela, QLD Australia 4715	Administration Office 34 Gillespie Street, Moura, QLD Australia 4718	Administration Office Yaldwyn Street, Taroom, QLD Australia 4420

Councillor	Ward	Telephone	Email
Nev Ferrier (Mayor)	Whole of Shire	0448 011 814	mayor@banana.qld.gov.au
Adam Burling	Division 1	0407 153 452	adam.burling@banana.qld.gov.au
Ashley Jensen	Division 2	0418 772 357	ashley.jensen@banana.qld.gov.au
Phillip Casey	Division 3	0499 043 719	phillip.casey@banana.qld.gov.au
Kerrith Bailey	Division 4	0461 286 506	kerrith.bailey@banana.qld.gov.au
Brooke Leo	Division 5	0438 110 325	brooke.leo@banana.qld.gov.au
Terri Boyce (Deputy Mayor)	Division 6	0427 283 202	terri.boyce@banana.qld.gov.au

Council Official	Responsibility	Telephone	Email
Tom Upton	Chief Executive Officer	Confidential, contact Edify PM	Tom.Upton@banana.qld.gov.au
Venkat Peteti	Director Corporate & Community Services	Confidential, contact Edify PM	
Chris Welch	Director Council Services	07 4992 9500	chris.welch@banana.qld.gov.au
Paul Meredith	Director Infrastructure Services	Confidential, contact Edify PM	

3.4 Emergency Services

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (**QFES**) were consulted during 2019 while Edify was drafting the Bushfire Management Plan, which is one of the various technical studies included in the Planning Application.

QFES and the Emergency Authorities will continue to be engaged with during further development of the Emergency Management Plans and the project's detailed design, which will occur achieved prior to construction commencing.

Current QLD bushfires warnings and incidents can be viewed [here](#).



Service	Address	Telephone	Email
SES Biloela	97 Callide Street, Biloela QLD 4715	0447 149 949	SESNR.Admin@qfes.qld.gov.au
Closest Police Station Biloela Police Station	60/62 Grevillea St, Biloela QLD 4715	07 4932 3900 000	TBC
QLD Fire and Rescue Biloela Station	190 Callide Street, Biloela QLD 4715	07 4899 2210	TBC
Closest Fire Station QLD Fire and Rescue Mount Murchison Rural	NA	0447 149 949	TBC

3.5 Traditional Owner Group

The local indigenous community is represented by the Gaangalu Nation People (**GNP**), who are the Registered Aboriginal Party (**RAP**) and traditional custodians of the land associated with the project. The GNP lands cover areas across central Queensland, encompassing areas around Mount Morgan, Comet, and Biloela. This territory includes parts of the Callide Dawson Valley, a region rich in cultural significance and historical sites. As such, Edify will conduct broad engagement with the following RAP and government agency parties throughout the region, continuing the engagement activities previously undertaken when Edify entered a Cultural Heritage Management Plan with GNP in 2021.

Contact	Responsibility	Telephone	Email
Lynette Blucher	Elder	0427 528 829	Lyn.gangulu@gmail.com

4. Engagement Protocols and Procedures

Community engagement with stakeholders will continue to be undertaken using five methods as follows:

1. continued direct contact with neighbours;
2. the establishment of an online portal;
3. regular meetings to be scheduled at various Project milestones;
4. newsletters to coincide with meetings; and
5. open days with the public and school groups once operations have commenced.

As a general principal, all outward communications will include a description of how to access the latest information on the project so stakeholders can maintain an up-to-date understanding of progress and activities.



4.1 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.

4.2 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 engagement spectrum (Figure 1 - IAP2 Engagement 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 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 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



4.3 Communications Management

4.3.1 Project Infoline, website and email

A project website has been established ahead of any construction activities with a direct link to the Edify Energy homepage. See link: <https://edifyenergy.com/project/smoky-creek-guthries-gap/>.

The website contains project-specific contact details including a dedicated project hotline with contact name project email address.

4.3.2 Project contact database

A contact database has been used as the main reporting and monitoring tool for project communications. The outcomes of any contacts will be used to update ongoing stakeholder management information within this plan, to:

- record community and stakeholder contacts and interaction;
- record the issue and distribution of letterbox drops, project updates and notifications;
- act as a management tool for recording complaints, enquiries, issues and responses; and
- provide monthly reports on stakeholder and community contact and issues management.

4.4 Distributing Information About the Project

Information will be distributed via face-to-face meetings, phone calls or electronically from a project specific email address. Various communication tools will be utilised, such as:

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 (above)
- 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

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)

4.5 Encouraging Community and Stakeholder Feedback

Edify manages community incidents with a structured and transparent approach, which is essential for maintaining good relationships with the local community. Edify's Project Manager also ensures compliance with regulatory requirements, aiming to minimise potential disruptions to the project.

Community and stakeholder feedback has been encouraged and the feedback email address and information line will be made freely available at any public interaction.

Where feedback is received and the contact details of the person leaving feedback are known, confirmation and, where appropriate, a response to that feedback should be made within 14 days.

4.6 Taking, Recording and Responding to Community Feedback, Enquiries or Complaints

All complaints received will be investigated and responded to within three business days, where practical. At a minimum, confirmation of receipt of any complaint should be made within 48 hours and a response provided within 10 days. For any complainant who provides their details, a written response to the complaint will be provided within 14 days. A record of complaints will be made and reported on at an aggregate level. A template Complaints Register is provided in Appendix B.

The following provides a detailed explanation of how community incidents will be captured, investigated, and reported for the Project:

Capturing Incidents

- **Establish a Reporting Mechanism:** Set up multiple channels for the community to report incidents, such as a dedicated hotline <Ph: 02 8790 4000> , email address hello@edifyenergy.com, which are both available online via the project website <https://edifyenergy.com/project/smoky-creek-guthries-gap/>. These are easily accessible and well-publicised to encourage community members to use them.
- **Incident Logging System:** Edify's Project Manager will implement an incident logging system to record details of each reported incident. Once recorded, the Project Manager will follow the 'Enquiry and



Complaints Flowchart' provided below (Figure 4). The log will include the date, time, location, nature of the incident, and contact information of the person reporting it. This logging system is saved via Edify's internal sharepoint system and managed by the Project Manager to ensure accuracy and security of data.

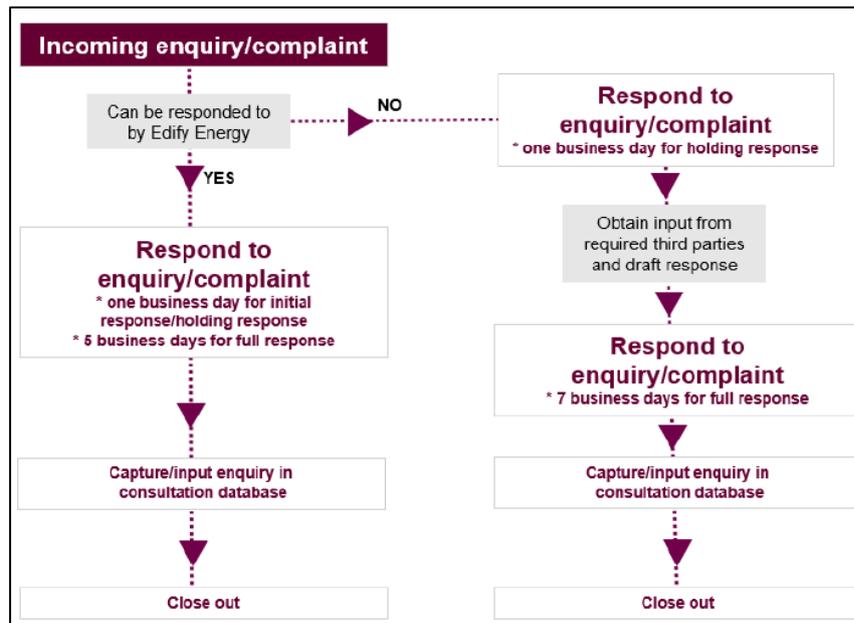


Figure 4 - Enquiry and Complaints Flowchart

- **Community Liaison Officer:** During the construction phase, Edify will appoint a community liaison officer responsible for managing communications with the local community. This officer will assist Edify's Project Manager and act as the primary point of contact for receiving incident reports and ensuring that they are logged and followed up.

Investigating Incidents

- **Initial Assessment:** Upon receiving an incident report, the community liaison officer, or a designated team member will conduct an initial assessment to determine the severity and nature of the incident. This involves gathering preliminary information from the reporting individual and assessing any immediate risks or safety concerns.
- **Assign Investigation Team:** Based on the initial assessment, an investigation team will be assigned. This team may include safety officers, environmental specialists and/or Edify's project manager, depending on the nature of the incident.
- **Conducting the Investigation:** The investigation team will follow a systematic approach to understand the cause and impact of the incident. This may involve site visits, interviews with involved parties, reviewing CCTV footage (if available, which will be established at particular locations within the development area), and consulting with relevant experts. Key steps include:
 - **Fact-Finding:** Collect all relevant information, including witness statements, photographic evidence, and any physical evidence on-site.



- **Root Cause Analysis:** Use techniques such as the “5 Whys” or fishbone diagrams to identify the root causes of the incident.
- **Documentation:** Prepare a detailed report outlining the findings of the investigation, including identified causes, impacts, and any breaches of safety protocols or environmental standards.

Reporting Incidents

- **Internal Reporting:** Once the investigation is complete, the findings will be documented in an internal report. This report should be shared with key stakeholders within Edify and the Head EPC Contractor, including senior management, the health and safety team, and the project management team.
- **Regulatory Reporting:** Depending on the nature of the incident, it may be required to report to regulatory authorities. Ensure compliance with local regulations by timely reporting of incidents, particularly if they involve safety breaches, environmental impacts, or legal non-compliance.
- **Community Communication:** Transparently communicate the outcomes of the incident investigation to the affected community members. This can be done through public meetings, newsletters, or direct communication with those who reported the incident. The communication should include:
 - A summary of the incident and its impact.
 - Steps taken to investigate and address the issue.
 - Measures implemented to prevent future incidents.

Follow-Up Actions

- **Implement Corrective Actions:** Based on the investigation findings, implement corrective actions to address the root causes of the incident. This may involve changes to operational procedures, additional training for staff, or physical modifications to the site.
- **Monitor and Review:** Establish a monitoring system to ensure the effectiveness of corrective actions. Regular reviews and audits should be conducted to identify any recurring issues and ensure ongoing compliance with safety and environmental standards.
- **Feedback Loop:** Create a feedback loop with the community to gather input on the resolution of incidents and any ongoing concerns. This feedback can help improve incident management processes and build trust with the community.



5. Activities Undertaken

5.1 Consultation Throughout Planning and Development Approval (2019- 2025)

See Appendix C for a Consultation log, noting that this is a live document.

5.1.1 Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

Edify has contacted and met with members of the GNP for the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (**ACHA**) and Cultural Heritage Investigation Management Agreement (**CHMA**).

Key dates and outcomes include:

- CHIMA dated 29 August 2020, with consultation from Oct 2019

5.1.2 Government

Edify has established and sustained regular communication channels with representatives from both the Banana Shire Council and the Department of Infrastructure, Local Government, and Planning since 2018. These ongoing discussions have encompassed various subjects, including the utilization of Edify's financial contributions to benefit the community. Furthermore, dialogue has explored avenues for continued collaboration between Edify and the Council to support the community throughout the construction and operational phases.

In addition, Edify has actively engaged with state and federal government agencies to facilitate comprehensive assessments and ensure satisfactory referrals are undertaken and submitted (EPBC Approval reference: 2021/9030).

5.1.3 Powerlink

Edify has maintained consistent engagement with the transmission network service provider, Powerlink, throughout 2022-2025. Such engagement includes various teleconference meetings and numerous emails to clarify inverter model selection, power system model information, Generator Performance Standard package details and general technical details required to complete the project's Connection Application.

Following Edify's lodgement of the Connection Application in 2023, multiple technical queries have been raised by Powerlink and responded to, with Edify's power system and engineering team continuing necessary engagements with Powerlink throughout 2025.

5.2 Proposed future Community and Stakeholder Consultation

5.2.1 Post DA Approval / Pre-construction Engagement.

Through the Project's development, Edify proposes to undertake numerous community and stakeholder activities. This may include:

**Public Meetings:**

- Host town hall-style meetings at accessible venues within the community (see Section 9).
- Provide presentations outlining the project details, goals, and potential impacts.
- Allocate time for Q&A sessions to address concerns and gather feedback.

Stakeholder Workshops:

- Conduct focused workshops with key stakeholders, including local businesses, community groups, and government representatives.
- Facilitate discussions on specific aspects of the project to gather targeted input.
- Collaboratively explore potential opportunities and challenges.

Online Surveys:

- Develop an online survey to reach a broader audience and gather feedback from those unable to attend in-person events.
- Include questions regarding community priorities, concerns, and suggestions for project implementation.

Information Sessions:

- Organise information sessions at local community centres, libraries, or other public spaces.
- Display project materials, maps, and visual aids to provide accessible information to interested individuals.
- Offer opportunities for one-on-one discussions with project representatives.

Stakeholder Interviews:

- Conduct individual or small group interviews with key stakeholders, including local leaders, business owners, and community advocates.
- Use interviews to gain deeper insights into specific stakeholder perspectives and concerns.

Social Media Engagement:

- Utilize social media platforms to disseminate project updates, event invitations, and relevant information.
- Encourage community members to share their thoughts, questions, and feedback online.

These sessions will provide Edify's potential future project partners to:

- Provide opportunities for ongoing engagement and communication throughout the project lifecycle.



- Establish mechanisms for stakeholders to remain informed and involved in decision-making processes.
- Commit to transparency and accountability by addressing feedback and concerns in a timely manner.

By implementing this Plan, Edify aims to ensure the Project reflects the needs, priorities, and aspirations of the local community and stakeholders, ultimately fostering greater support for its successful implementation.

5.2.2 Engagement Leading into Construction.

Edify proposes to work with the EPC contractor to develop a consultation programme leading up to construction and during construction of the project.

This will be similar to the points noted in Section 5.2.1 but would expand on previous consultation undertaken and how community concerns have been addressed and key issues typically raised by communities during construction projects, including:

- Community Safety;
- Traffic congestion and traffic routes;
- Any proposed noise impacts;
- Visual Impacts; and
- Outline of environmental management.

6. Financial Close and NTP Activities

The following activities are contemplated to occur at or around the time of financial close.

6.1 Financial Close Media Release

A media statement will be released with key project partners to announce the financial close of the Project.

Edify Energy publishes all relevant press releases and links to partner media on its website (www.edifyenergy.com). Edify Energy shall also notify associated media and communications channels including but not limited to RenewEconomy, the Clean Energy Council, the local paper(s), and collaborate with project partners who are perhaps better connected in respect of the broader press.

Edify Energy notified the Council, local MP, the QLD Renewable Energy Advocate and related entities and take advantage of their own media and communications initiatives.

As always, Edify Energy personnel will seek to maximise coverage leveraging their own networks on LinkedIn, X, Instagram and Facebook.

6.2 Community Update, Supplier Forum and Job Notices

A formal presentation communicating key facts and project timelines would be more suitable than a drop-in session, and the event should be combined with a supplier forum, to attract and inform local businesses that



may wish to participate in the services and various delivery aspects of the construction and operation of the project.

It is somewhat standard practice to hold a “supplier forum” in the local community with a view to maximising local content of project delivery. It would be most efficient to hold a single community update forum and supplier forum as a combined event.

Edify Energy’s own “database” of interested individuals and suppliers should be included on the invite list.

The event should be held jointly by Edify Energy and EPC Contractor, and the latter should be primarily responsible for fielding employment and supplier enquiries. EPC Contractor should have in place prior to the forum, an appropriate online portal/body-hire agency which can be advertised as the means to registering an interest. Council may also have the capability to advertise vacancies and tenders on its own website on behalf of the Project.

7. Ongoing Commitments

The following are contemplated throughout construction to commercial operation of the Project.

7.1 Monitoring and Updating the Plan

The plan will be monitored on an ongoing basis by the Edify project execution team and will be updated as required to ensure the document provides an accurate reflection of community consultation activities and outcomes as the project progresses. Once the pre-construction phase commences, Edify’s project execution team will report regularly throughout construction to Edify’s internal management, the project’s equity partner and lenders.

Other regular reporting will be undertaken as required by our conditions of consent and any other relevant approvals. Refer to section 6.3 for details of our communication to community regarding key project milestones.

7.2 PR and Media

7.2.1 Project Website

Irrespective of any media and PR requirements, it is good practice to maintain a project website (<https://edifyenergy.com/project/smoky-creek-guthries-gap/>) which, throughout construction, will contain the following and be kept up-to-date:

- project plans;
- planning permit conditions
- key milestones;
- how suppliers and local members can participate in the project;
- a complaints register (Appendix B); and



- how complaints about the development can be made;

7.2.2 Media

Otherwise from a PR perspective, the website should ideally be kept up to date with:

- key media announcements and press releases (e.g., financial close, commencement of construction, energisation/commissioning, COD, etc.);
- regular images and/or time-lapse photography through construction; and
- notices of community events, sponsorships etc.

7.3 Ongoing PR and Media

The following represents potential milestones for ongoing PR and media throughout Project construction:

Milestone	Funding Agreement Milestone	Edify Energy website & social media	Other stakeholder websites	General media release	Local press	Site event	Landlord/ neighbour updates
Financial Close	Notice to Proceed	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
EPC mobilisation	NTP (shortly after)	✓	✓		TBC		✓
Ground-breaking	NTP (shortly after)	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
First battery delivery	Delivery of Major Equipment	✓			TBC	TBC	
School visits	N/A	✓			✓	✓	
Final battery delivery	Delivery of Major Equipment				TBC	TBC	
Transformer delivery	Delivery of Major Equipment				✓		✓
Commence commissioning	Completion and Connection of the Project	✓		✓	✓	✓	



Milestone	Funding Agreement Milestone	Edify Energy website & social media	Other stakeholder websites	General media release	Local press	Site event	Landlord/ neighbour updates
First generation	Completion and Connection of the Project	✓		✓	✓		
Full output	Completion and Connection of the Project	✓		✓	✓		
Commercial operation	Commercial Operations Commenced	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

7.4 Council Meetings

It would be prudent to keep Council aware of key milestones, particularly where they relate to approvals and certification requirements, such as access road works/inspections, management plan sign-off (e.g. TMR), over-size deliveries, issuance of construction and occupation certificates to TMR, etc, so that Council is informed and expedient in its approvals. This can be achieved via ad-hoc email/telephone communication with Chris Welch, Director of Services (Banana Shire Council).



8. Media Providers

Project partners and other stakeholders will likely have their preferred providers of media services, however Floodlight (formerly NewEra) Media is particularly well versed in providing media content for renewables projects, specialising in photography, time-lapse, video production and aerial imagery. Existing clients include AGL, Neoen and Tesla.



<https://floodlightmedia.com.au/>

9. Local Venues

The following local venues would be suitable for hosting events and forums in the local community:

Venue	Address	Telephone	Email	Capacity	Licenced	Catering
Biloela Bowls Club	51 Gladstone Rd, Biloela QLD 4715	07 4992 1689	NA	~100	Yes	Yes



Appendix A – Complaints Register (Template)



Appendix B - Consultation Log

Summary

This document is a summary of consultation activities and the timeline that was undertaken as part of the Smoky Creek and Guthrie's Gap Solar Power Station project between early 2019 and 2025.

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	
Feb 2021	Commenced engagement with neighbours to request dates that would suit for a site visit by	



Date	Milestone/Event	Comment
	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	
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 Gannawarra Solar Farm and Battery project in Victoria	



Date	Milestone/Event	Comment
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>	
11/10/2021	Response to media enquiry from <i>The Morning Bulletin</i>	
12/10/2021	Coordinating Committee Meeting with GNP to discuss project	



Date	Milestone/Event	Comment
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
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	



Date	Milestone/Event	Comment
25/01/2023	Edify attended Anzac Day celebrations in Jambin, to open the Jambin Post Office which Edify provided funding support to establish.	
07/08/2023	Edify attended Council's 'Worker Accommodation Working Group 5 th Meeting'	
14/03/2024	Edify attended Council's 'Worker Accommodation Working Group 6 th Meeting'	
28/08/2024	Edify met with Callide Valley Men's Shed President and Treasurer to discuss potential Community Benefit Funding initiatives and potential in-kind contributions (such as electrical cable wastage for recycled copper revenue)	Men's Shed located in Biloela, with 64 active members
28/08/24	Edify met with Goovigen Progress Association President, John Peacock to discuss potential Community Benefit Funding initiatives and to provide project updates to the local community group	Goovigen is the most proximate township to Smoky Creek SPS
20/09/2024	Edify met with Gaangalu Nation People (GNP) in Rockhampton to provide updates on the pre-construction timeframes and community initiatives.	Aboriginal Cultural & Heritage
05/10/2024	Edify sponsored and attended Biloela100 Gala Dinner, part of Biloela's centennial celebrations	Community Benefit Scheme
06/10/2024	Edify sponsored and attended Biloela100 Family Fun Day, part of Biloela's centennial celebrations	Community Benefit Scheme
04/12/2024	Edify met with GNP in Rockhampton, to provide updates on the pre-construction timeframes and community initiatives	Aboriginal Cultural & Heritage
06/12/2024	Edify presented to Banana Shire Council's Planning Manager, to provide summary of activities in 2024 and lookahead for 2025	

