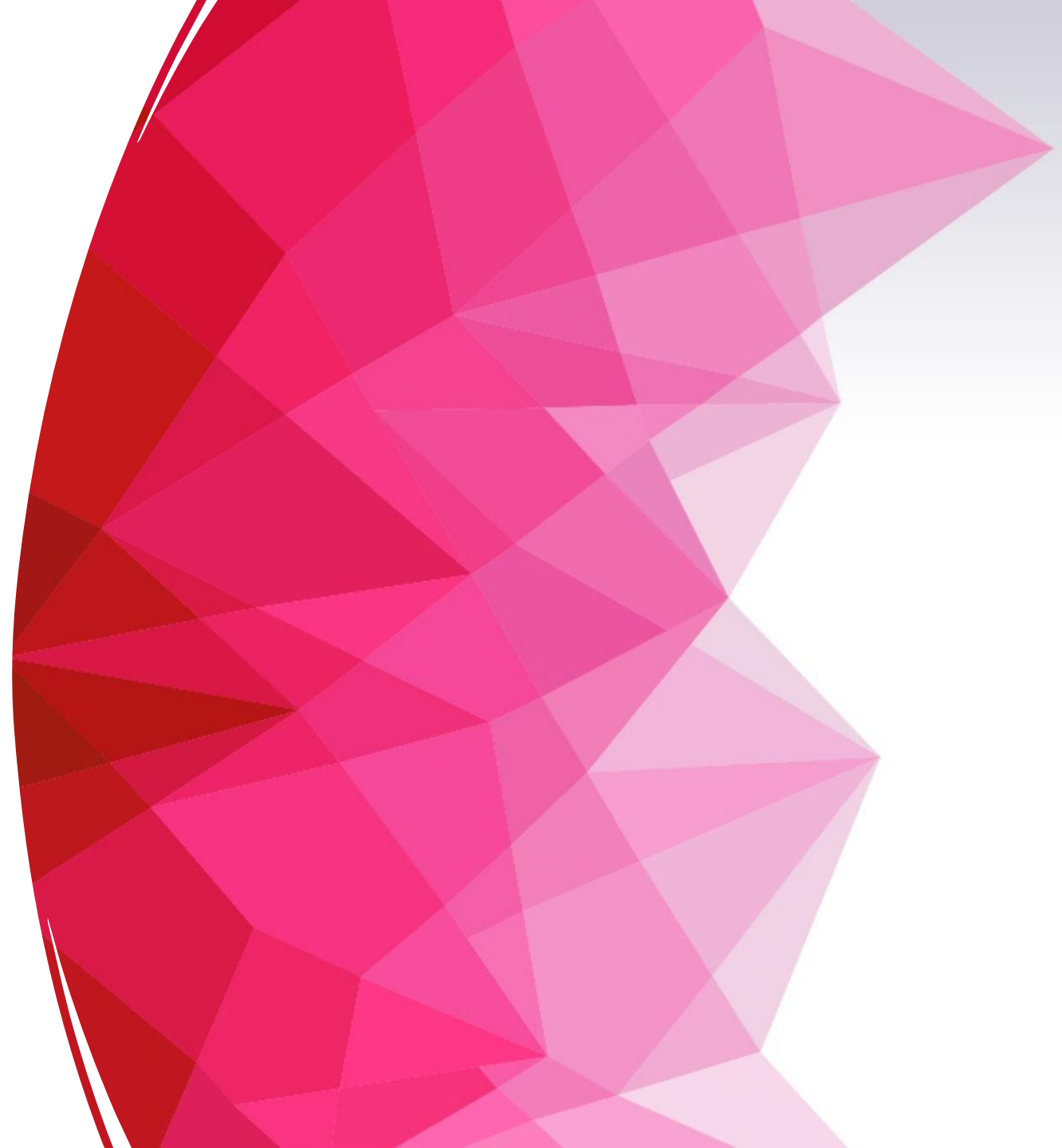


Social licence and community benefit sharing

Empowering community
participation





Examples of risks in the energy transition

Lack of a greater vision created together with the community

No **long term** plan from the Government on energy

Poor understanding about the need for the energy transition

Land use conflict, prime ag land used for solar

Landscape will be 'industrialised' for the sake of sending energy to the city

Division in the community between those who support solar and wind and those opposed.

Fear around impacts – housing, environmental, services, fires from transmission.

Lack of information to address fears, how impacts will be mitigated and around community benefits that are long term and meaningful.

Over consulted and under consulted people.

Confidentiality agreements creating more division.

Opposition to transmission lines, lack of clarity re: undergrounding



Context of the risk

- Communities will wear this product long term – others will fade from the scene.
- Benefit to the wider community is different from benefit to the local community.
- Local knowledge is key to a project's success – it's a priority. Listen.
- Regional and rural people:
 - Have a very strong sense of place, and attachment to their landscape and environment.
 - Endure limited access to internet and mobile phone services.

Recommended reading: Gabrielle Chan 'Rusted Off: Why country Australia is fed up'

<https://www.penguin.com.au/authors/gabrielle-chan>



Community Benefit Sharing

- A highly significant component of Social License that is best introduced at the beginning of the project.
- The piece of the Social Licence jigsaw that completes the picture and minimises risk.
- The ultimate strategy to ensure the project creates lasting benefit and goodwill.



Community Benefit Sharing

Principles

- Based on transparent engagement with the community to seek input and to understand their needs
- Based on reflective listening with a long-term view and lasting solutions.
- Created in a negotiated space where perspectives can be shared, and innovation can occur.
- Bringing people into the decision making - sharing power
- Supporting the community to participate (via paid committee positions)
- Offer co-ownership/co-design opportunities (which can change the dynamics to a community viewing a project as 'theirs' as opposed to it happening *to* them).



Moving Forward

What actions and commitments can we make today?