

IT'S A WRAP: Ag Energy Social Licence Roundtable

20 September 2023, Online

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| Purpose | <p>The Ag + Energy Social Licence Roundtable is coordination and collaboration platform, which identifies strategic issues at the nexus of energy and agriculture and encourages action through collaboration across participants.</p> <p>Together, we identify what's working and areas for continuous improvement, across three key areas: Ag as Energy Hosts, Ag as Energy Generators and Ag as Energy Consumers.</p> |
| Outcomes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drive better landholder and community social licence outcomes through the energy transition • Elevate discussions from the AG Energy Taskforce and other relevant forums to a strategic level • Feed into to relevant processes run through AEMO and other relevant government and market bodies. • Operate as a clearing house of strategic issues rather than seeking to resolve all issues within the roundtable. |
| Chair | <p>Independent Chair – Joy Thomas (formerly National Irrigators Association) and co- convener of the Ag Energy Taskforce.</p> |

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| SESSION 1 – ENERGY + AG AROUND THE GROUNDS | | |
| 1. | <p>Chair Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country</p> <p>Joy Thomas, Chair</p> | <p>Summary of opening remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I open this Roundtable meeting and acknowledge the traditional owners of the country on <u>which we all meet today</u> – the elders past and present and emerging leaders. |



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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Acknowledge the broad range of issues we are all dealing with across the energy transition landscape – these are broadly jurisdictional relating to infrastructure projects region by region, and state by state.• Today's final session will be with Andrew Dyer – the Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner. An important issue – we're aware of the significant amount of media coverage relating to the infrastructure build, and much of it unfortunately is negative.• We need to get community engagement right to secure social licence – easy to say but difficult to achieve. Although, it seems there is now recognition by decision makers that without genuine, meaningful and considered engagement – progress on infrastructure projects will simply be delayed.• How communities and individuals are engaged is critical. That initial engagement is so important -• We will be briefed by representatives from the Australian Energy Market Commission (AEMC) later in the day – regarding the draft rule change (requested by Minister Bowen) relating to Community Engagement in Transmission Building.• The AEMC has noted the importance of having clear and consistent community engagement during planning for major transmission, to assist TNSPs to build and maintain trust with local communities and to build social licence.• And to develop constructive relationships between TNSPs and local communities – to improve the quality of planning undertaken by TNSPs for transmission projects – and to identify any risks to timely delivery. Feedback on draft rule change 28 Sept.• The Ag Energy Taskforce released a Communique following a meeting in August - expressing concern regarding the way some of the current approaches are not properly considering the social and economic impacts on farmers and rural communities. |



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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Taskforce noted the power imbalance between developers and farmers and communities - and made a series of recommendations which will feed into the current Community Engagement Review conducted by the Energy Infrastructure Commissioner. • We have the national Better Practice Social Licence Guideline co-developed by the sectors – which provides good guiding principles. • In my role as a Council member of AEMO’s Advisory Council on Social Licence – I have provided feedback on HOW that initial engagement can be undertaken when entering a community and/or region. WHO to engage – I see it like an environmental scan of the region prior to commencing engagement – to understand the region – WHO to engage – eg local government, local business chambers, Traditional Owners, environmental entities like Catchment Management Authorities – and whole communities and farmers. |
| 2. | Roundtable Session 1: Welcome, purpose + housekeeping Facilitator | Summary of opening remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ag + Energy Social Licence Roundtable is coordination and collaboration platform, which identifies strategic issues at the nexus of energy and agriculture and encourages action through collaboration across participants. • Together, we identify what’s working and areas for continuous improvement, across three key areas: Ag as Energy Hosts, Ag as Energy Generators and Ag as Energy Consumers. |
| 3. | Tackling Energy Affordability, SA Buying Group Outcomes Greg McCarron, Central Irrigators Trust (SA) greg.mccarron@cit.org.au | Summary of presentation (full presentation here) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irrigation operation based on the river Murray with 1500 farms supplied • High energy use in summer and inflexible demand • Previously on 2–3-year power contracts with mainstream generators |



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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closure of the Northern Power Station (SA) and focus on renewables led to significant cost increases (30%/ year) • The question was how to reduce cost? • Five batteries established at sites through JV owned/funded (\$16m investment) – benefits include share on the income on spot market, and assistance with demand management • Decision made to look at joint purchasing group as other options discarded (solar, diesel generation) by joining South Australian Chamber of Mines and Energy (SACOME) • 8 businesses joined forces including ag, mining, retail and industrial • 8 year contract approved through ACCC (2019-2027) • Zen Energy committed to build a solar farm • All operate with individual loads and invoices they have flexibility in the load and the ability to use more or less if needed • Protected them from significant energy costs over the term of the contract • Starting to look at “where to from here?” <p>Summary of key discussion points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question on whether contracted businesses can pull out – obligations on individual members, however facing a situation where partners have additional load and members due to the success of the contract • Discussion on the total load and the context of buying groups. Offered Roundtable members follow up option for detailed discussion. |
| 4. | Research update: Microgrids for Agriculture in New South Wales and Queensland | <p>Summary of presentation (full presentation here)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A number of value drivers for microgrids for farmers: affordability, resilience, time saving, productivity benefits, decarbonisation, independence and local sharing opportunities |



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| | <p>Andrew Chamberlin, Queensland Farmers Federation</p> <p>andrew@qff.org.au</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other low-cost interventions such as energy efficiency considered, solar soak tariffs, offering net metering retail products • Challenges include technical/ regulatory and market • Need to trial opportunities and bring to market more quickly – edge of grid, single enterprise DER, large microgrids, hydrogen/ammonia production, local grid resilience services • Encouraging more support for trials and pilots with the ag sector • Opportunities for networks to benefit from the models • Referred to QFF Renewable Energy Landholder Toolkit • In the process of applying for ARENA funding for various projects • Looking at energy and carbon audits with Acciona support <p>Summary of key discussion points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important to recognise that many farms are intergenerational, so timelines for ROI can be as long as 25 years • “A lot of operations budget on the basis of not having an annual income, rather only having an income every 1 in 5 so ROI is typically within 8yrs to be considered an option” • “I heard a podcast 'Energy Insiders' with CEO of Essential Energy and he said across the country there's probably about 10GW of capacity on the existing distribution network that could host renewables.” • Karin Stark raised the importance of working closely with the ag sector to explore the benefits of solar v. food and fibre production from a land use perspective (space constraints) <p>Opportunities for member follow up:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ag sector keen to work more closely with the distribution networks to explore opportunities to collaborate, particularly in REZ, and maximize shared value |



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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the opportunities to explore edge of grid opportunities using the AER's innovation sandboxing space? |
| 5. | <p>Mapping Social Value for Renewable Energy Development</p> <p>Suki Hopgood – Douglas Department Renewables, Climate and Future Industries Tasmania (ReCFIT)</p> <p>suki.hopgood-douglas@recfit.tas.gov.au</p> | <p>Presentation will be made available here</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Context for Tasmania is that they need significant amount of new generation • Key pillars for ReCFIT – benefits shared to all Tasmanians across community, environment, economics • REZ establishment process – Minister announced North West region would undergo further investigations and over the course of 2023 this has occurred to look at hosting opportunities • Stakeholder Reference groups have been set up: councils, peak bodies and communities • Mapping Important Places initiative allows community to engage in planning and design phase of the REZ – based on premise they have local relevant knowledge that can be shared through mapping tools and allows remote and marginal communities to represent themselves spatially • 702 interactions with the maps in July alone: coastal regions identified as having significant cultural values including First Nations and natural values • Discussion on ag value of the land also • Undertaking a spatial analysis based on quantitative data in addition to the community input on social data (360 data layers) • Draft REZ will be placed on public consultation at the end of the year, and the mapping tool will be used again for candidate areas <p>Summary of key discussion points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interesting learnings from Tasmania and the question posed was whether the Mapping Tools could be used in other locations? NB that the Energy Charter #BetterTogether Biodiversity + Renewable |



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| | | <p>initiative is mapping biodiversity areas in Qld in collaboration with environmental and conservation groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qld REZ zone consultation still open • Noted that mapping is being used extensively in by AusNet and Transmission Co Victoria for VIC transmission corridor constraint assessment, however not for the REZ more broadly • Question on the availability of wind power in NW Tasmania? Majority of the state has significant wind resources and is considered in the spatial analysis. Wind resources are not driving the values set but will be considered for at scale co-location opportunities • <i>Broad agreement that local people have relevant and up to date information, and the approach to mapping should be encouraged for REZ</i> • Ag values and prime agricultural land have been a huge point of discussion in the Roundtable – confirmed that this is part of the evidence set to inform the decision making. There is a technical working group across agencies, including agriculture • Discussion about the value of using in-region forums and existing consultation processes to ensure engagement. Review and reflection on how to harness the views of the community would be helpful for the future. <p>Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action for Chair + the Energy Charter: Agreed to have update from Tasmania at future Roundtable. |
| 6. | <p>Energy Charter Landholder + Community Social Licence Initiatives update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landholder Engagement Training | <p>Summary of discussion</p> <p>#BetterTogether Biodiversity + Renewables</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Energy Charter #BetterTogether Biodiversity + Renewable initiative is mapping biodiversity areas in Qld in collaboration with environmental and conservation groups |



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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluating Transmission Undergrounding <p>Sabiene Heindl, Energy Charter</p> | <p>Landholder Engagement Training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> These transmission development projects, as well as the maintenance of existing infrastructure, can impact the agricultural operations, and lives and livelihoods of landholders and their communities. Together, we have a responsibility to recognise and minimise these impacts and work towards shared value outcomes for everyone. The purpose of the Landholder Engagement Training is support to Transmission Land Agents – those responsible for working directly with impacted landholders – to you do their job well, while keeping themselves and the landholders they're working with physically and emotionally safe. Over the two-day training course, you'll have the opportunity to share insights with your peers, hear from a range and subject matter experts and landholders with a focus on four key areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who – Understanding landholders (focus on agricultural operations) Why – Building and maintaining social licence What – The role of a Land Agent and opportunities for Better Practice How – Communication, empathy and psychological safety The training has been co-developed with participating businesses, with learning outcomes developed by the Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner. It builds on the successful training hosted by TasNetworks in June 2023. <p>Evaluating Transmission Undergrounding</p> <p>The Evaluating Transmission Undergrounding initiative aims to improve the experience of landholders and communities impacted by the development of new transmission infrastructure by collaborating with community representatives and stakeholders to:</p> |



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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Validate community concerns, considerations and expectations for how the viability of underground compared to overhead transmission designs should be evaluated by transmission businesses • Co-develop a shared knowledge and evidence-base, including Better Practice approaches to assessing and evaluating social costs and mitigating impacts • Identify and address public information and evidence gaps, sources of (dis)information and practice (in)consistencies. <p>Together, we will collect and consider a wide variety of perspectives and evidence to bring greater transparency to how the viability of underground compared to overhead transmission designs are evaluated. This includes considering the insights gathered through the NSW inquiry into the feasibility of undergrounding transmission infrastructure.</p> <p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roundtable members to contact Amy Abraham to join the Community Outcomes Group guiding this collaboration. • Social research has commenced and the Energy Charter is collecting Expressions of Interest to participate. All Roundtable participants encouraged to share the opportunity. Fact sheet and registration details here. |
| SESSION 2: STRATEGIC ISSUES + ACTION WORKSHOP | | |
| 8. | Recap on “Where to from here” Roundtable + Actions Facilitator | <p>Summary of opening remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to previous It's a Wrap from the June Dubbo Roundtable (partnering with the National Ag + Renewables Conference) • Summarised key themes: |



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| | | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Solar, wind and storage 2. Compensation and impact management 3. Shared benefits, value creation and jobs 4. Engagement, advocacy and information sharing 5. Pricing and affordability 6. Government Legislation, Engagement and Policy (all levels) 7. Coordination, collaboration and leadership 8. Bioenergy/fuel and circular economy 9. Biodiversity, natural systems and cooling the climate 10. Electric transport <p>Summary of key discussion points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of the examples given earlier today in QLD was Acciona helping farmers with energy audits and efficiency. <i>What are others doing? Is there an opportunity to do more?</i> Reference to Ag Victoria having funded energy audits, but not sufficient for the demand. QFF also provided Energy Savers to famers funded by the Qld Govt (180 audits). 140 farms tapped into the funding for implementing the recommendations on farm. QFF offering 35 audits for large farms (Type 2 and 3 in regional areas). • Suggestion that mapping should include SWER/energy poverty areas – it was noted that South Coast Food and Fibre has started a campaign 'Energy Equality Regional Alliance' about SWER and changing AER rules around upgrades on distribution networks. <p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acciona asked to speak at future roundtable on energy audit work in Qld with QFF • The homework is to review the ideas and contact Amy/Joy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Do you have examples of where something is working well? |



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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What are the strategic issues that need to be lifted up through the Roundtable? ○ Ideas for collaboration e.g. through the Energy Charter? ○ Commitments to action – what are you already doing? |
| 9. | <p>Social Licence + Community Benefit Sharing – Empowering Community Participation</p> <p>Rosemary Hadaway, Mudgee District Environment Group (MDEG) + Karin Stark, Farm Renewables Consulting</p> | <p>See presentation here</p> <p>Summary of key discussion points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Miro board. This is an unfiltered record of comments as received. <p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As part of Karin Stark’s review of the Better Practice Social Licence Guideline, consultation through the Roundtable about how commitments are being met • Roundtable requested that the Energy Charter explore an initiative on Community Benefit Scheme sharing and lighthouse examples, leveraging the research work from RE Alliance. |
| 10. | <p>Ag Energy Taskforce Strategic Issues for Action for discussion</p> <p>Dale Holliss, Chair Ag Energy Taskforce (BRIG) and Joy Thomas, Chair</p> | <p>See Communique here</p> <p>Summary of key discussion points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledged it was the 9th birthday of the Ag Energy Taskforce this month and explained the background and context of energy affordability for the ag sector • Commitment to decarbonise the economy, including in ag • At the recent meeting, discussion about community engagement and land use issues – as a result a communique released stating <p><i>“The upcoming 2023 Community Engagement Review led by the Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner, Andrew Dyer, is an opportunity for Taskforce members to reinforce the need for stronger commitments to:</i></p> |



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| | | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Address the existing power imbalances between renewable and infrastructure developers and farmers and rural communities. 2. Understand social and economic factors for farmers and in regional communities. 3. Minimise impacts in the placement of transmission towers. 4. Respond to the impacts to third parties not financially benefiting. 5. The impacts on property values: these are significant as equity ratios for landowners are important in their financial capabilities. 6. Safe operation of machinery around renewable energy infrastructure, including insurance implications 7. Consideration and communication on undergrounding transmission infrastructure 8. Genuine community benefit sharing 9. Clear pathways and mechanisms to address complaints.” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Referred to AEIC 2022 Annual Report having a number of constructive recommendations • Reinforced the important water + energy nexus for the economics and productivity of ag |
| SESSION 3: LANDHOLDER + COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SPOTLIGHT | | |
| 12. | AEMC update + Q&A new draft requirements for community engagement [aemc.gov.au] on major transmission projects | <p>See slide deck here. Submissions due 28 September 2023.</p> <p>Summary of key discussion points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lisa Gervasoni raised the issue that the Rule Change is a good step in the right direction but needs good guidance to make sure that everyone is on the same page. E.g. farmers need information on |



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| | <p>Alisa Toomey and Viashin Govender, AEMC</p> | <p>operation of machinery. Companies may think it is information about their project. Will there be supporting information?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question from Ian Goldsworthy asked whether it was also applicable to Priority Transmission Infrastructure Project (PTIP) projects that are not under the RIT-T process? E.g. REZ related projects that may or may not have an allocated transmission providers as yet due to contestability process • It was confirmed that the Rule Change would not apply to projects pulled out to NEVA orders only RIT-Ts • The importance of understanding the community which the business goes into: who and what? • Move from inform and consult to collaboration and what works best for the community or particular stakeholders (IAP2 Spectrum) |
| 13. | <p>AEIC Consultation on Community Engagement Review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About the AEIC and Review • What we've heard – test and validate • Views from the Roundtable <p>Andrew Dyer, Australian Energy Infrastructure</p> | <p>See presentation here.</p> <p>Summary of key discussion points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 October deadline for submissions • Is there a focus on all jurisdictions or only NSW? Confirmed nationally • Confirmed building on the Annual report 2022 – change that is occurring is that most renewable generators were built on existing grid. Now transmission being build in parallel and creating “traffic jam” for communities • Need for engagement through the Farmers’ Federations, particularly in Qld • Suggestion to engage with Energy Transition Working Group (NSW Farmers) • Timeliness of consultation: should we be engaging prior to EIS, when ISP is released – effectively 5-10 years prior to construction of transmission |



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| | Commissioner and Catherine Dawson, Office of the AEIC | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We need the multiple planning frameworks and processes to align. Effective frameworks that support a robust land use planning approach is one of the most important factors that will ultimately underpin success or lack there of• Agreed with the 'Walk the Route' Andrew mentioned in another meeting, where CEOs of transmission companies walk then transmission routes with the farmer and in doing so, show respect, understand the landscape and gain a much deeper knowledge• Raised the Tasmanian mapping project as an innovative way to engage with communities around highlighting community values• Question on dispute resolution – Andrew responded that the NSW Inquiry recommendation on Transmission Ombudsman was sensible• In Qld it is estimated that biosecurity risks are going to increase fourfold in the regions, largely due to the significant increase in development activity underway and ahead. Energy proponents are required to adhere to regional and farm biosecurity plans, but should they also contribute financially or more directly to actually helping to build biosecurity strength, given they are contributing to the increased risk? This is a question being raised in many regional areas in Qld• There needs to be a training course / ticket on biosecurity – and apply to sub-contractors also• Sub-contractors: land access consultants also need to work to the same community engagement guidelines as energy proponents• Had there been a link between community benefit sharing and engagement? In Dubbo and Wellington the large Indigenous Community created a terrific opportunity for skill development• Different levels of maturity across parts of the supply chain also. We need to ensure consistency between developers and transmission and sub-contractors etc for the benefit of communities and landholders. Their expectations are alignment• Consistency is a big issue - there are at least four different government entities involved in NSW Renewable Energy with no consistent practices |



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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Culture is critical, as is accountability and transparency on the commitments made and the outcomes achieved• Disappointing that Victoria has an access code for new transmission but no regulation of existing – accountability important• Key gap - leadership in the regional space to drive and enable coordinated approach. Something like La Trobe Valley Authority could work |



Attendees

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| Recorded attendance via MS Teams | Jann Crase, Clean Co. Queensland | Paul Veivers, Stanwell |
| Joy Thomas, Roundtable Chair / Co-convener Ag Energy Taskforce | David Grant, AusNet | Andrew Chamberlin, Queensland Farmers Federation (Speaker) |
| Amy Abraham, The Energy Charter (Facilitator) | Leanne Halsey, AusGrid | Suzanne Westgate, Transgrid |
| Sabiene Heindl, The Energy Charter (Speaker) | Gerard Reilly, Powerlink | Megan Hill, Dairy Australia |
| Steven Ford, Pioneer Valley Water | Rhiannon Heath, NSW Farmers | Sharon McIntosh, Queensland Farmers Federation |
| Alycia Martin, ElectraNet | Sara Collins, Energy Queensland | Jennifer Brown, Cotton Australia |
| Chris Gillitt, Canegrowers | Greg McCarron, Central Irrigators Trust (Speaker) | Emily Raguse, Stanwell |
| Michelle Holmes, Iberdrola | Hopgood-Douglas, Suki (Speaker) | Adam Foster, TasNetworks |
| Ian Goldsworthy, Transgrid | Samuel Laffer, Queensland Farmers Federation | Simona Trimarchi, Clean Co. Queensland |
| Mark Apthorpe, Dept. Primary Industry and Environment (NSW) | Karin Stark, Farm Renewables (Speaker) | Verity Watson, ENA |
| Meg Ryan, Stanwell | Emily Keating, AEMO | Dale Holliss, BRIG / Chair Ag Energy Taskforce (Speaker) |
| Michael Willis, AusNet | Rosemary Hadaway, Mudgee District Environment Group (Speaker) | Jack San, AusNet |
| Rebecca Carter, South Australian Power Networks | Mark Lindsay, Marinus Link | Jo Sheppard, Queensland Farmers Federation |
| Anna Hooper, Australian Grapes and Wine | Martine Holberton, Tilt Renewables | Viashin Govender, AEMC (Speaker) |
| Mike Head, Res Group | Jordan Tasker, ACCC | Dana Boxall, Powerlink |
| Anne-Louise Capel, Tilt Renewables | Eleanor Barnes, Cubico Invest | Charlotte Wundersitz, Nation Farmers Federation |
| Andrew Dyer, Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner (AEIC) (Speaker) | Lisa Gervasoni, Victoria Farmers Federation | Leigh Barker, Australian Energy Infrastructure Commission |
| Darren Chesterfield, Res Group | Catherine Dawson, Australian Energy Infrastructure Commission | Chris Golding, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water |
| Scott Haynes, ElectraNet | Kate Kotarska, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water | Kiara Bowles, Powerlink |
| Rebecca Powlett, Res Group | Herbert Wong, Deloitte | Narelle Titman, Powerlink |
| Alisa Toomey, AEMC (Speaker) | | |