

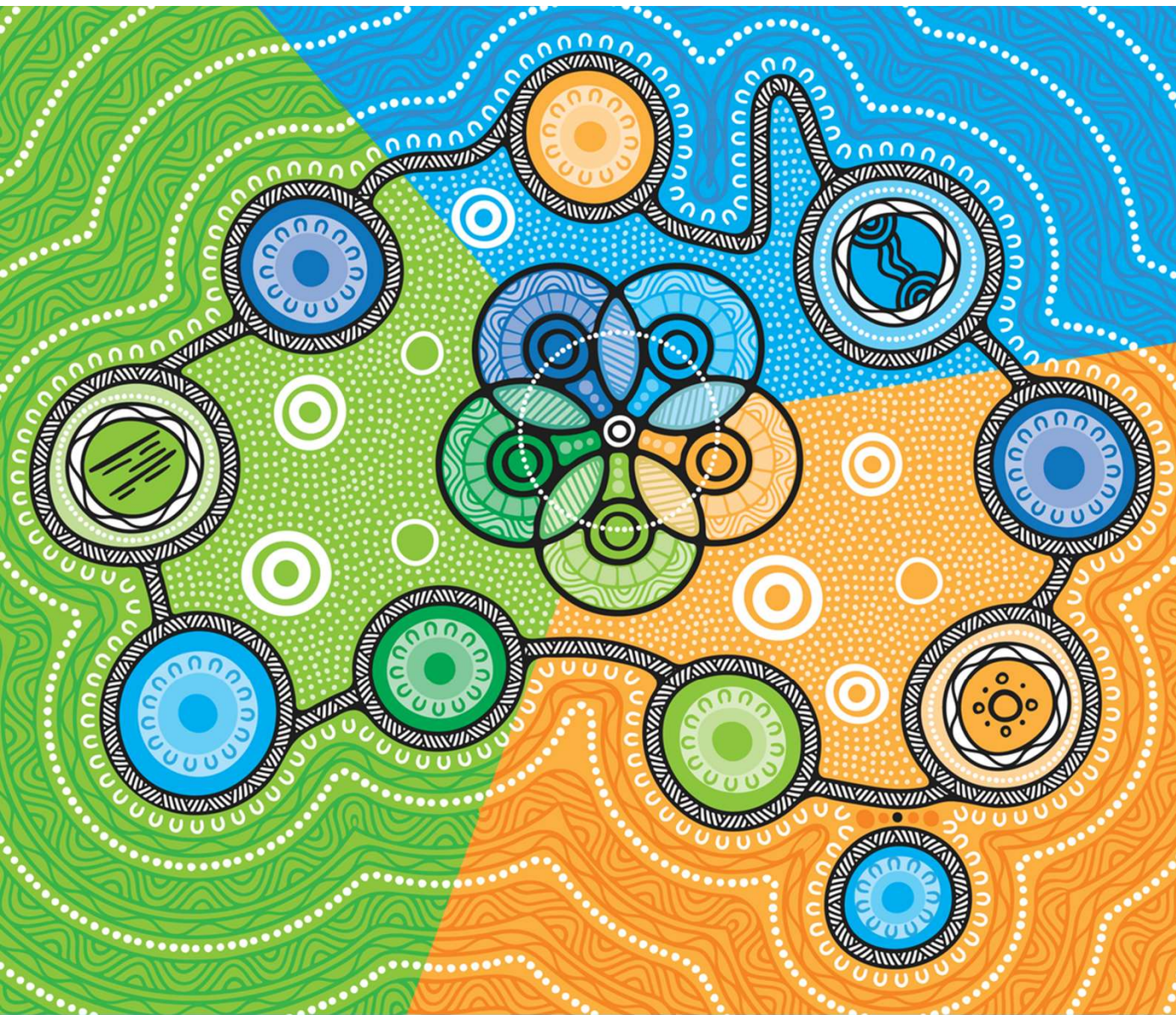


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# Ag + Energy Social Licence Roundtable

10 October 2024





## Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land and pay respect to their Elders, past and present.

We recognise and value the continuing rich culture and the contribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

This artwork was created by Jordan Lovegrove. It tells the story of energy, how it connects all of Australia and the Energy Charter's commitment to create a better energy future for all Australians.



## Agenda

1. **Welcome** – Joy Thomas, Independent Chair
2. **Community Benefits Scheme CWOREZ** – Alexandra Hall, EnergyCo
3. **Energy Charter Update** – Sabiene Heindl, Heather Wagland, Martine Holberton, Energy Charter
4. **Industry Collaborators: Around the grounds** – led by Sabiene
5. **#BT Social Licence update** – Heather
6. **Other business and thanks** - Joy







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## Community benefits scheme for Central West Orana REZ

Alex Hall, EnergyCo

EnergyCo

The Energy Corporation of NSW (EnergyCo) is part of the **Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW)**



# Community and Employment Benefit Program

# The NSW energy transition



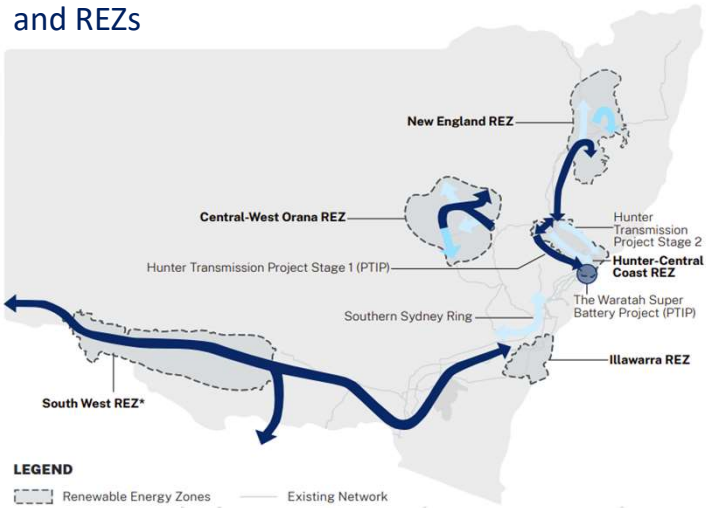
The **Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap (the Roadmap)** is a legislated plan to deliver 12 GW of generation and 2GW of long duration storage by 2030.

The Roadmap is enabled by the **Electricity Infrastructure Investment Act 2020 (EII Act)** and focuses on transforming NSW’s energy infrastructure through delivery of new transmission infrastructure, renewable energy generation, long duration storage, and firming.

The **EII Act** establishes a number of entities to deliver the NSW energy transition. **The Energy Corporation of NSW (EnergyCo)**, a statutory authority, has been appointed as the Infrastructure Planner responsible for leading the delivery of the REZs in NSW.



Reference map of NSW network infrastructure and REZs



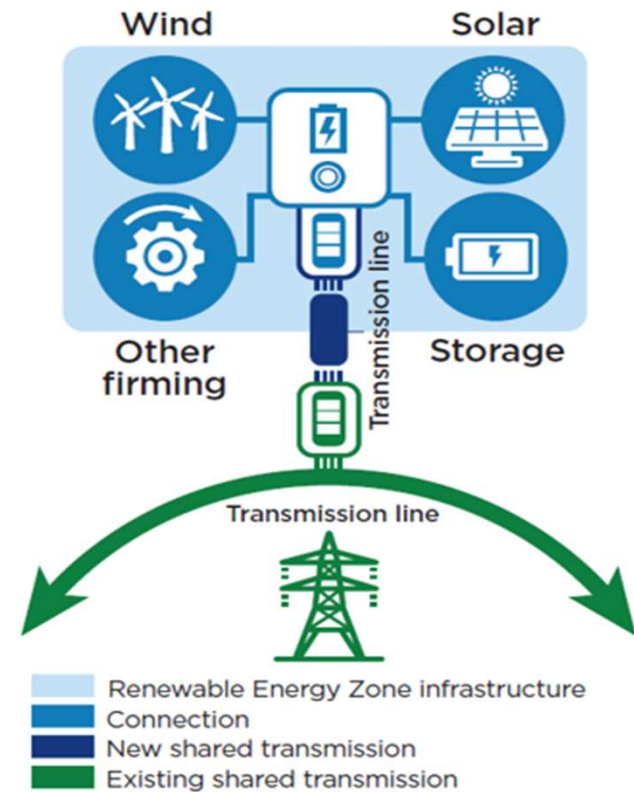
	Deliver Now for secure and affordable energy	Secure Now for resilience against early coal closures	Plan for the Future to enable strong future electrification
Total REZ network capacity added	14 GW	3.6 GW	6.4 GW
Central-West Orana	4.5 GW	2.3 GW	3.5 GW
New England	6 GW	0.8 GW	1.5 GW
South West*	2.5 GW	-	-
Hunter-Central Coast	1 GW	0.5 GW	1.5 GW

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# Renewable Energy Zones

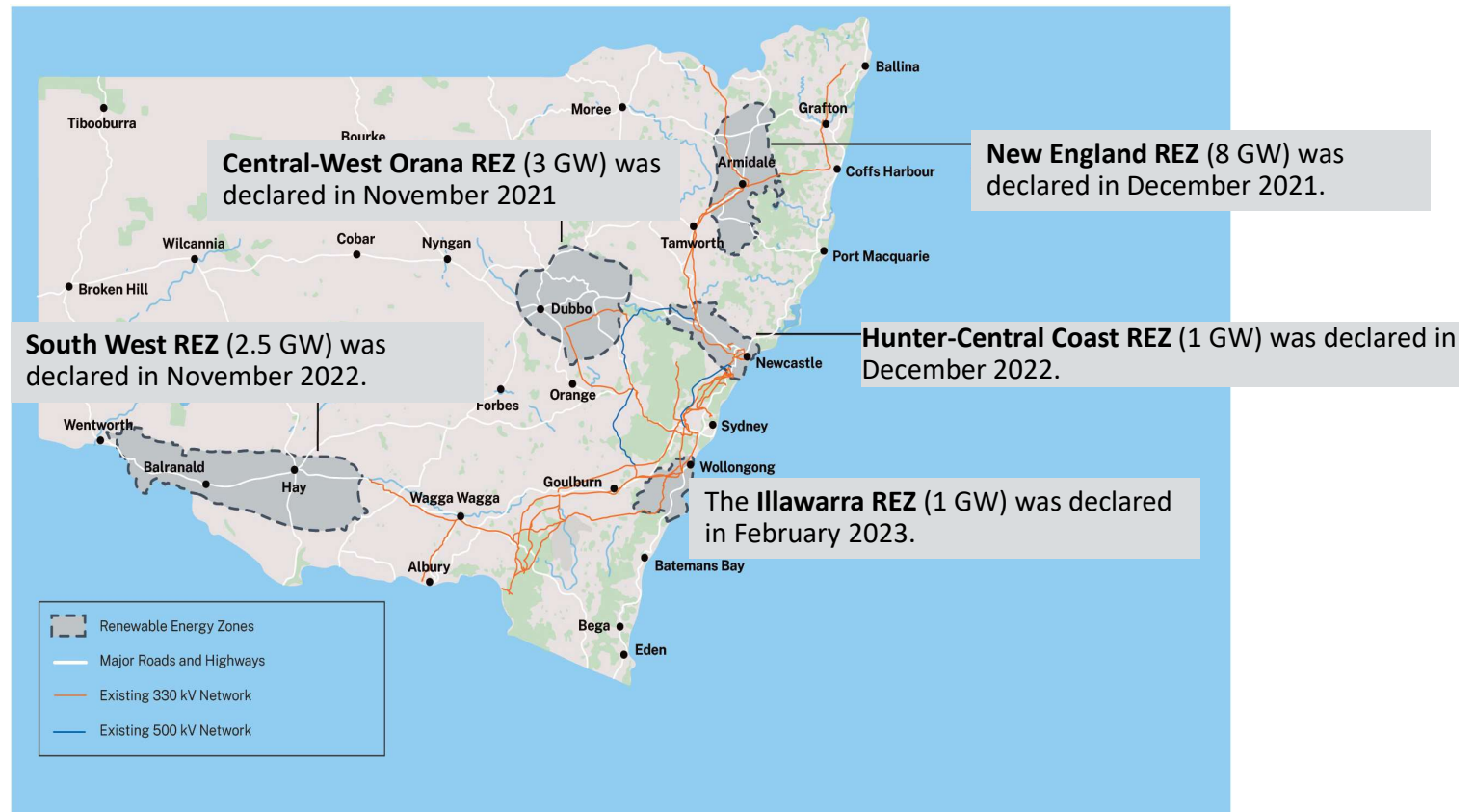
**REZs are modern day power stations**, delivering generation, storage, network and system strength in a coordinated and scale-efficient way. Each NSW REZ will be different but they all involve:

- **Strategic planning and design**, including to minimise land-use conflicts and consumer costs
- **Additional network capacity** for generation and storage projects to connect, and an **access scheme** to manage congestion
- Coordinated **community engagement and benefit-sharing**, including through generator access scheme fees
- Coordinated delivery of **enabling infrastructure** like roads and port facilities.



# NSW Renewable Energy Zones

Five Renewable Energy Zones to bring online at least 12 GW by 2030





# Community and Employment Benefit Program



## Overview

The *Electricity Infrastructure Investment Act 2020* (the EII Act) requires components of REZ access fees to be used for a “community purpose” and an “employment purpose” (ss 26[2] and [4]) and gives EnergyCo, as the infrastructure planner in a REZ with a declared access scheme, a function to administer, manage and make payments of money held for these purposes (cl 42D of the *Electricity Infrastructure Investment Regulation 2021*).

The **Community and Employment Benefit Program** (the Program) provides the framework for how EnergyCo administers access fees for community and employment purposes across REZs within a declared access scheme.

The Program will:



Invest hundreds of millions into regional communities



Share the benefits of the REZ with impacted communities



Be informed by local community priorities



Leave communities better off than they were before

# Previous engagement in Central-West Orana

EnergyCo has been actively engaging communities and stakeholders in the region since early 2022 to inform the development of the Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone:

- 4400 unique stakeholder interactions;
- 675 registered subscribers to our email distribution list;
- 24 community information sessions;
- 37 pop-up displays at local towns and events;
- 330 landowner and community meetings;
- 120 council meetings;
- Eight Community Reference Group meetings;
- Completion of two community feedback reports; and
- Monthly meetings with First Nations Working Group.



# Recent engagement in Central-West Orana

## Community consultation

A total of \$128.4 million is allocated to the CWO REZ through the Program over the next four years.

EnergyCo hosted an [online webinar and Q&A session](#) on 5 February 2024 to provide an update on the Program, outline priority initiatives and to answer questions from community members.

EnergyCo also held six facilitated stakeholder workshops from 6-9 February 2024 and eight community drop-in sessions 26 February to 1 March 2024, with an online survey also available from 5 February to 10 March 2024.

The previously identified initiatives remain key priorities for the CWO REZ community. Community members also consistently flagged the need for application writing support and that funding should be made available and prioritised for communities most impacted by the REZ.

### Key priorities identified in consultation

	Housing and accommodation
	Roads and transport (condition, capacity and traffic)
	Training, employment and business opportunities
	Environmental programs, water and sewer infrastructure, and utilities
	Social infrastructure and services
	Telecommunications (internet and mobile phone reception)



# Community and Employment Benefit Program



## Program launch and next steps

The Program was announced by the Minister for Energy on 15 July 2024 will be delivered in the CWO REZ with an initial round of grant streams totalling **\$70.5 million**.

#	Name	Funding available	Min funding	Max funding	Grant type	Closing date	Description
1	<b>Local Community Fund (LCF)</b> Round 1 of 2	\$15,000,000	\$50,000	\$1,000,000	Competitive	8 October 2024 <b>CLOSED</b>	Funds projects that improve community amenity, increase community connection and boost resilience and innovation
2	<b>Local Community Small Grants (LCSG)</b>	\$500,000	\$2,000	\$49,999.99	Non-competitive	14 July 2025	Funds small-scale activities, events, initiatives or projects that deliver benefits to the local community in the geographic area that forms the Central-West Orana REZ
2	<b>First Nations Fund (FNF)</b>	\$10,000,000	\$20,000	\$1,000,000	Non-competitive	14 July 2026	<b>Stream One</b> aims to support Local Aboriginal Land Councils to build community capacity. <b>Stream Two</b> aims to support Aboriginal organisations to drive local initiatives through future planning, project and program delivery.
3	<b>Legacy Infrastructure Fund (LIF)</b>	\$45,000,000	N/A	N/A	Non-competitive	13 September 2024 <b>CLOSED</b>	Open to Dubbo Regional Council, Mid-Western Regional Council, Upper Hunter Shire Council and Warrumbungle Shire Council. Will fund infrastructure projects that support regional economic development, improve liveability and improved community amenity

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## Energy Charter Update

Sabiene Heindl  
Heather Wagland

## Energy Charter Updates

1. National Landholder Engagement Training, Wagga Wagga NSW
  2. Evaluating Transmission Undergrounding
  3. Social Licence Better Practice Guide: Priority Actions
  4. Queensland Renewable Energy Code and Better Practice
  5. Commonwealth Developer Rating Scheme – Lived Experience Panel
  6. Developer Statement of Commitment
  7. Wimmera Southern Mallee Collaboration Framework
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**Industry Collaborators:  
Around the grounds**

**Led by Sabiene**

# Parilla Premium Potatoes

Demand Management Scheme



Empowering South Australia



# The Customer

- Parilla Premium Potatoes - industrial farming operation in the SA Murraylands region, near Pinnaroo and Lameroo
- 1.8MVA load request – significant for this region





# The Problem

- 130km of sub-transmission line, one of the longest in our Network
- Significant constraints along the line with many limits already reached – upgrade only possible in 5+ years!
- Risk of voltage collapse and loss of all customers along the line



## The Solution

- 1MVA diesel generating system – Already owned by PPP
- Demand Management Scheme installed
  - SCADA system (supervisory control and data acquisition)
  - Contractual agreement between SA Power Networks and PPP





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# #BT Social Licence Guide – Priority actions

Heather Wagland





# #BT Social Licence Better Practice Guideline + Accountability

Aim: Improve co-existence experience between transmission and agriculture



2022



May 2023



Nov 2023



May 2024



Next steps

## #BT Collaboration

- #BT COG + Industry Collaborators guide development of scope and outputs
- KMPG undertake social research and draft guideline



## Better Practice Social Licence Guideline Released

- Priority Actions + Better Practice Opportunities



## 6-month Accountability Check Point

- Industry Collaborator Progress Update
- Community Outcomes Group Feedback

## 12-month Independent Review

- Independent, public-facing report of progress against Priority Actions + Opportunities



Commitment to continuous improvement & accountability





## Accountability for next 12 months

### Objectives:

- ✓ Review Priority Actions and Better Practice Opportunities for attention in next 12 months
- ✓ Create a supplementary list for committed action and accountability
- ✓ Accountability report

Not a rewrite of the Energy Charter's *Better Practice Social Licence Guideline*

### In doing so, together we will:

- Consider 12-month independent review feedback from Nine Creeks Consulting
- Consult with #BT Community Outcomes Group
- Agree on actions for priority focus for next 12 months



# Independent review summary

Category	As reported	As assessed
<b>CHAPTER 1: LANDHOLDER RELATIONSHIPS AND SERVICES</b>		
<b>1.1 Community involvement in route planning</b>		
<b>PRIORITY ACTIONS</b>		
Participation fees	2.6	2.2
Consideration and Communication Around Undergrounding	2.8	2.4
Upgrades and Maintenance Activities in Construction and Operations	2.6	2.2
Addressing Power Imbalances Between Transmission Businesses and Landholders	3.0	2.6
<b>BETTER PRACTICE OPPORTUNITIES</b>		
Consideration of public amenity of easements	2.6	2.2
<b>1.2 Engagement and Communication</b>		
<b>PRIORITY ACTIONS</b>		
A designated person, 24/7 contact number and facilitated engagement	3.0	2.8
Regional engagement teams	2.6	2.2
<b>BETTER PRACTICE OPPORTUNITIES</b>		
Community engagement training for land agents and complaints officers	3.0	2.8
Better understanding social factors	2.6	2.6
<b>1.3 Tower placement and screening</b>		
<b>PRIORITY ACTIONS</b>		
Placement of towers to minimise impacts	2.8	2.5
<b>BETTER PRACTICE OPPORTUNITIES</b>		
Landscaping and screening options to reduce impacts	2.0	2.0

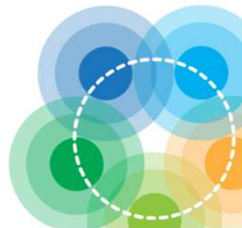
Category	As reported	As assessed
<b>1.4 Access</b>		
<b>PRIORITY ACTIONS</b>		
Provide clear schedules, detailing requirements for access	3.0	2.8
Easy and timely access to records of access on request	2.6	1.4
Clear steps and contacts for complaints	2.8	2.8
<b>BETTER PRACTICE OPPORTUNITIES</b>		
Management plan reviews	2.0	2.0
Financial support for landholder mitigation activities	2.6	2.5
<b>1.5 Compensation</b>		
<b>PRIORITY ACTIONS</b>		
Transparent, plain English information regarding compensation	3.0	3.0
Annualised compensation	2.5	2.0
Easy and timely access for professional costs	2.8	2.8
<b>1.6 Safety education</b>		
<b>PRIORITY ACTIONS</b>		
Proactive, tailored education programs on safety	2.4	2.0
<b>BETTER PRACTICE OPPORTUNITIES</b>		
Collaborate with emergency service agencies	2.8	2.6
<b>CHAPTER 2: MANAGEMENT OF ON-FARM ACTIVITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE</b>		
<b>2.1 Biosecurity</b>		
<b>PRIORITY ACTIONS</b>		
Strong, tailored biosecurity management plans	2.4	1.8
<b>BETTER PRACTICE OPPORTUNITIES</b>		
Proactive biosecurity audits	2.4	2.4

Category	As reported	As assessed
<b>2.2 Use of materials and management practices</b>		
<b>PRIORITY ACTIONS</b>		
Engage with landholders on soil requirements	2.2	2.2
Protect soil from compaction, erosion, or other damage	2.4	2.0
<b>2.3 Farm infrastructure</b>		
<b>BETTER PRACTICE OPPORTUNITIES</b>		
Engage with landholders regarding use of scrap materials and equipment	1.8	1.6
Provide labour and equipment in-kind	1.6	1.6
<b>CHAPTER 3: COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS AND SERVICES</b>		
<b>3.1 Mental health services</b>		
<b>BETTER PRACTICE OPPORTUNITIES</b>		
Reduce barriers to accessing counselling and mental health support	2.8	3.0
<b>3.2 Community benefit sharing</b>		
<b>PRIORITY ACTIONS</b>		
Develop community benefit sharing programs	2.6	2.6
<b>BETTER PRACTICE OPPORTUNITIES</b>		
Prioritise access to affordable, reliable energy for hosts	2.0	1.8
Prioritise impact-aware community benefit sharing	2.6	2.2
<b>3.3 Community infrastructure</b>		
<b>BETTER PRACTICE OPPORTUNITIES</b>		
Consultation on community infrastructure needs	2.4	2.0
Assistance in negotiating power purchasing agreements	1.6	1.2
Increase regional coordination and collaboration	2.6	2.6
<b>3.4 Community economic development</b>		
<b>PRIORITY ACTIONS</b>		
Preference procurement from local suppliers	2.6	2.6
Social and environmental criteria in procurement decision-making	2.8	2.4
<b>BETTER PRACTICE OPPORTUNITIES</b>		
Agreements with local businesses for local goods and services	2.0	1.8





## Next steps





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Other business

Joy Thomas



**Thank you for your engagement  
and participation!**

Contact:

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