



# PROJECT.e

Renewable Infrastructure Specialists



## **Intro:**

- Who is PROJECT.e?

## **Section 2: Community Engagement and Stakeholder Management**

- Who makes up a community, and who are stakeholders?
- What is Community Engagement and why is it important?
- How do we engage communities?
- What benefits can a wind farm bring to my community?

## **Section 3: Granite Hills Wind Farm – Community Engagement**

- The Community Engagement plan
- Where we're at
- How the community and neighbours can have input into the planning of the wind farm
- Areas of key public viewpoints and areas of historic or cultural value

PROJECT.e is a team of industry leading professionals who work together to deliver renewable energy projects from prospecting through to operations. We are dedicated to innovating renewable energy project design and committed to industry leading community engagement.

The team members of PROJECT.e are all highly experienced with over 20 renewable energy and construction projects throughout Australia and internationally.

### **Recent Awards**

- 2014 Tasmanian Engineering Excellence Award (Highly Commended) for Musselroe Wind Farm
- 2013 Clean Energy Council Industry Award (Winner) for Community Engagement, Musselroe Wind Farm

## Why are we here?

Akuo Energy is a French company which develops and operates renewable power plants that go beyond simply producing renewable power and create additional social benefits for the inhabitants of the areas in which they live. They have developed projects all over the world and there are considerable synergies between their ethos and PROJECT.e's.

Akuo Energy has asked PROJECT.e to create a community engagement plan for the project and advise on best-practice engagement which meets or exceeds the NSW planning guidelines.

The goal is to create a meaningful two-way dialogue with community members and stakeholders surrounding the Granite Hills Wind Farm for the entire life of the project.





## Project.e- Who makes up “The Community”?

For renewable energy development, ‘the community’ refers to all the people who live within and identify with the area surrounding the proposed site. How wide this geographic area extends will depend on local people’s identification with significant settlements and towns as well as relative population densities

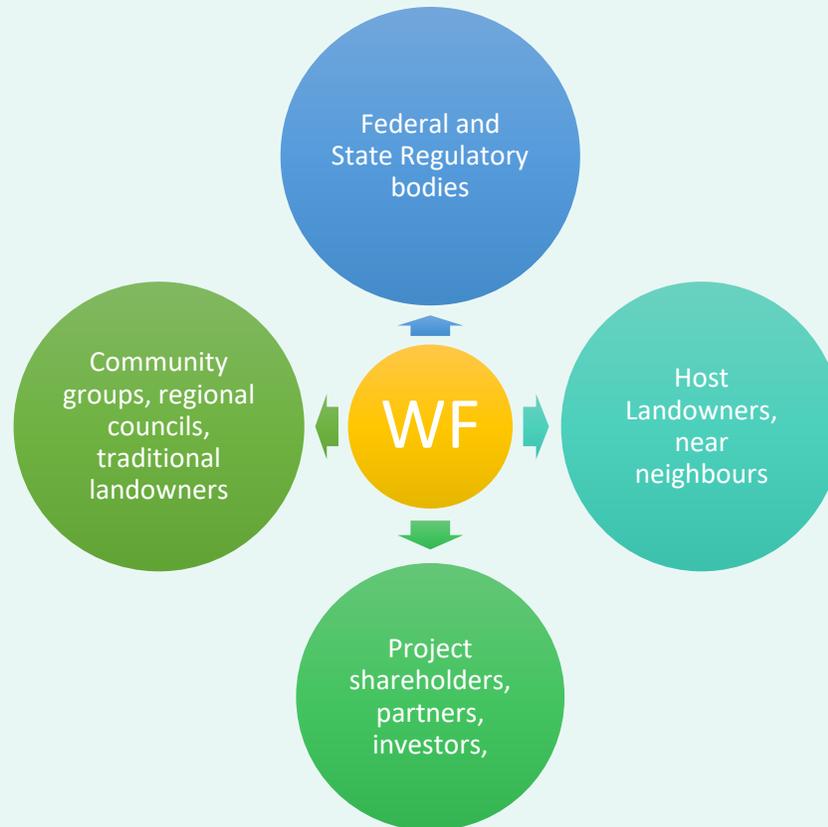
The Granite Hills Wind Farm site is located within two regional councils, the Snowy Monaro Regional Council, and the Bega Valley Shire Council. There are two nearby towns, Nimmitabel in the SMRC and Bemboka in the BVSC.

The region is the traditional home of aboriginal peoples, multi-generational farmers and business owners, as well as those who have recently moved to the area. All of these groups and individuals have different concerns, needs and desires within the community.

# Who are Stakeholders?

For renewable energy development, a 'stakeholder' is a person or group who is either impacted by or has impact on the planning, development and operations of a wind farm.

This is a list of some of the stakeholders a wind farm typically engages with.





Community engagement is the process through which a developer interacts with a community to inform the decision-making processes of a wind farm project.

Engagement must enable the input of community to identify local values and inform the decisions and activities of project

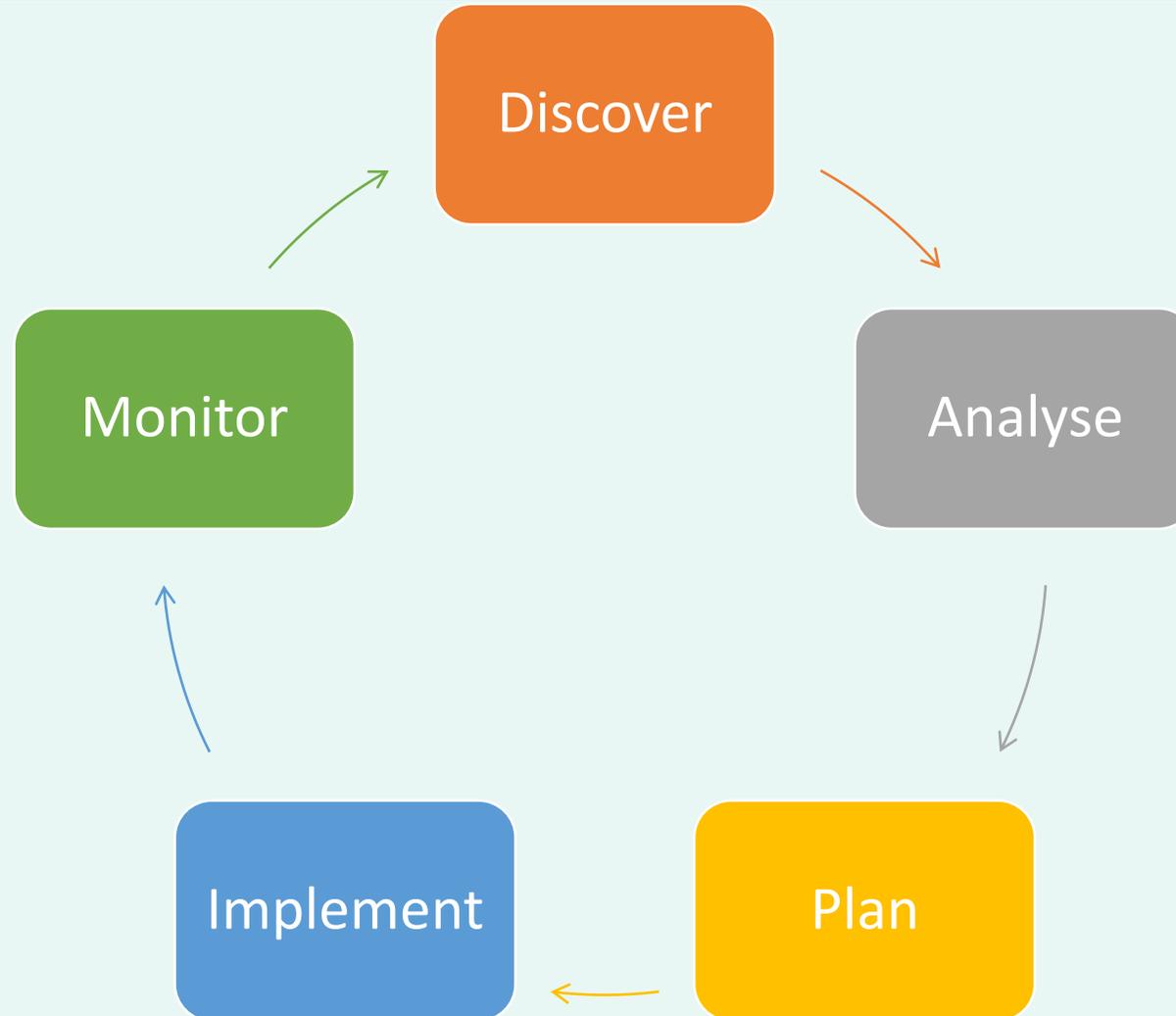


Communities and individuals can play a valuable role in project decision making processes by raising questions, sharing and requesting information, and interacting with wind developers in a constructive fashion throughout the project development.

This ensures a better understanding of the project stages, its potential impacts and contributions to the community.

Constructive engagement also results in decreased levels of misinformation about the project and wind energy in general.

# Pe- Project.e- How do we engage communities?



A wind farm will bring a range of benefits to local businesses, local employment, education, and other community projects.

During the construction phase, an average 100MW wind farm development hires approximately 96 construction workers, with each worker spending approximately \$25,000 in the local area in shops, restaurants, hotels and other services – a total of up to \$2.4 million. (Clean Energy Council)

Local individuals and business are used where possible to facilitate site construction and operations

Schools and towns also benefit through grants, infrastructure upgrades and educational programs throughout the life of the project.

Strong community engagement helps developers and communities to define the community needs and values and allows communities to benefit more fully from projects.



# Project.e- Section 3: Granite Hills Wind Farm

## The Community Engagement plan

A community engagement plan outlines how the developer intends to engage with the community and what methods/measures are used for engagement throughout the project life cycle.

The Granite Hills Community Engagement plan is presented here today in draft form. Members of the CCC are invited to view the document which will become publically available once it is approved by the minister.

The document is “live” that is it will continue to be tested and revised throughout the project lifecycle.

The project lifecycle is: 1. site selection 2. feasibility 3. project planning 4. approval and pre construction planning 5. construction 6. commissioning and operations 7. decommissioning



## Project.e- Section 3: Granite Hills Wind Farm

Granite Hills Wind Farm is currently in the planning stage.

1. Site Selection - Research into the social context of a community, identification of stakeholders and first consultations with key members of the community such as councils and host landowners.
2. Feasibility - Formal presentation to the community and extension of communication channels to inform and gather input for the project.
3. Project Planning - Regular communications with stakeholders and pro-actively seek opinions about the project and community values.

As a part of the planning process, Granite Hills Wind farm seeks community input into the planning of the wind farm.

**It is the results of the environmental and heritage studies and input from the community which determine the final design of the wind farm.**

We have met and will continue to collaborate with community organisations and regional councils to prioritise needs of the towns and areas to maximise benefits from the wind farm.

We have already sought feedback from residents who are neighbouring the wind farm and will continue to consult with them throughout the process. Those residents have already impacted the design of the project.

We are now seeking input from the CCC and the wider community on the following.

The following are questions we would like the CCC to consider.

1. Are there public viewpoints which may be impacted by the wind farm?
  - a) Where are they?
  - b) If there is more than one, please assign them a rank.
  
2. Are there areas of social/cultural and or historical significance which may be impacted by the wind farm?

The answers to these questions will help us in our planning to minimise any visual or noise impact to locally important sites or viewpoints.



# Project.e-Coming Events and Communications

- Project newsletter by end of October & ongoing quarterly mailouts.
- Public meeting beginning of November – Date TBC
- Set up of dedicated phone number for enquiries.
- CCC to provide ranked, key public viewpoint list by next CCC.



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THANK YOU

