

# Croydon Solar Farm

## Community Engagement Report Back

April 2026



### Key engagement timeline

Since mid-2025, the Croydon Solar Farm team has spent time in Lotus Creek and the Isaac Region to meet with neighbours, landowners and operators, community representatives, locals and other stakeholders in the region. Engagement has been ongoing across both the Project and Social Impact Assessment (SIA) process.

We have been committed to early, ongoing and transparent engagement, and this report back captures what we've heard to date. Here, we highlight the key themes, practical concerns and local priorities that will help inform the next stage of the Croydon Solar Farm.

#### 2025



- Engagement with Barada Barna Aboriginal Corporation (BBAC) (ongoing since May 2025)
- St Lawrence Wetlands Weekend, St Lawrence (27-29 June 2025)
- Meetings and briefings with key government authorities (ongoing since early 2025)
  - Isaac Regional Council
  - Hon Michelle Landry MP (16 November 2026)
  - Glen Kelly MP (24 November 2026)
  - Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Manufacturing and Regional and Rural Development (2 May 2025)
  - SARA Pre-Lodgement Advice meeting with DSDIP, DTMR, DLGWV (8 December 2025)
  - Department Climate Change, Energy, the Environment & Water (DCCEEW) (10 February 2026)
  - Department of Transport & Main Roads (DTMR) (11 March 2026)
- Community drop-in sessions, Lotus Creek (26-27 November 2025)
- Meeting with near neighbours and local community members (ongoing since mid-2025)

#### 2026



- Online Community Survey (25 February – 20 April 2026)
- Community drop-in sessions, Lotus Creek (17 & 19 March 2026)
- Meetings with Isaac Regional Council and Glen Kelly MP, Lotus Creek (19 March 2026)
- Meeting with local community members (16, 17 & 19 March 2026 and ongoing)
- Renewable Energy Supply Forum, Moranbah (18 March 2026)
- Engagement with Barada Barna Aboriginal Corporation (BBAC) (26 March 2026)
- Ongoing communications and engagement activities

# What we heard

## Community insights & key themes

This summary reflects what we've heard through consultation across all channels to date, capturing the views of community members and key stakeholders who have taken part in the engagement program. It is grounded in lived experience and highlights the practical concerns and priorities that matter most locally.



St Lawrence Wetlands Weekend (June 2025)



Community session (November 2025)



Community session (March 2026)

What we've heard so far:

### 1. Roads, bridges and safety

Road conditions and safety have been the most consistently raised issues. Feedback emphasises the already-poor condition of the local road and bridge infrastructure, which heavy vehicle and construction traffic would further deteriorate. Concerns focus on the narrow roads and single-lane bridges in the area, poor visibility and sight lines, unsafe edges, and the unreliability of key bridges during wet weather and flood events. Access constraints, especially where bridges become impassable, are seen as a critical risk for both day-to-day movement and emergency response. There is a clear expectation that project-related impacts are addressed early and transparently, with benefit funds to consider investment into local roads and bridge infrastructure. The community also emphasises that this is a shared responsibility across all levels of government, and that project contributions should complement - not replace broader investment

#### Key points raised:

- Road upgrades (widening, maintenance, safety treatments)
- Bridge capacity, resilience and flood reliability
- Managing heavy vehicle interactions and safety risks for local road users
- Maintaining reliable access during wet weather
- Transparency on how road and infrastructure funding is spent, including by local and state government

### 2. Trust, transparency and meaningful engagement

The local community sentiment reflects a level of caution shaped by experience with other renewable energy projects in the local area. While there is openness to and an interest in engagement, there is also a strong expectation that project commitments are clearly communicated and honored. Ongoing, inclusive engagement is seen as critical to building trust.

#### Key points raised:

- Clear and consistent communication
- Transparency in funding and decision-making
- Demonstrated follow-through on commitments

## Community insights & key themes

### 3. Biosecurity and land management

Biosecurity is a key concern for many local landholders and is viewed as a critical risk to operations, land productivity and value. Concerns focus on how measures are implemented in practice, particularly by contractors unfamiliar with local conditions.

**Key points raised:**

- Risk of contamination, weeds and pests
  - Need for local knowledge in mitigation and management approaches
  - Contractor awareness and accountability
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### 4. Connectivity and services

Limited mobile coverage remains an ongoing challenge across the area. Community members note that this as both a current constraint and a potential opportunity for benefit sharing. There was openness to a range of solutions, with an emphasis on delivering practical and equitable outcomes for the broader community.

**Key points raised:**

- Persistent mobile blackspots across the area
  - Interest in infrastructure (e.g. cell towers) or alternative solutions (e.g. Starlink)
  - Importance of considering cost-effectiveness and coverage
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### 5. Supporting local community groups and initiatives

There is a strong network of local groups and events that play a vital role in community life, including schools, sporting groups and local associations and events. They are often volunteer-led and rely on fundraising and sponsorship. Supporting existing programs is seen as a meaningful way to contribute to the community, particularly if funding models are clear and accessible.

**Key points raised:**

- Importance of groups such as the Pony Club, Campdraft, P&C and ICPA, among others
  - Value of events in strengthening community connection
  - Interest in structured funding approaches (e.g. grants, scholarships, infrastructure support)
  - Opportunity for community involvement in funding decisions
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### 6. Defining the local community

Community members have highlighted that the “local community” extends beyond a single locality, with strong social and functional connections across nearby areas. This has implications for how engagement is undertaken and how community benefits are distributed.

**Key points raised:**

- Community boundaries are fluid and based on lived connections
- Importance of fairness in defining who is included in benefit sharing
- Potential for a core and broader area approach to benefit sharing

## What's next?

We are committed to ongoing, proactive and transparent engagement as the project progresses. Feedback received to date is being actively considered and continues to inform project design, mitigation measures and the development of the Community Benefit Agreement (CBA), which the Project will develop with Isaac Regional Council (IRC).

### Over the coming months, we will:

- Continue engagement with neighbours, landholders, community members and key stakeholders
- Progress and finalise technical studies, and provide information on the findings
- Return to the community to share updates and seek further input on CBA priorities and opportunities
- Work closely with IRC and the local community to progress the CBA.

## Stay tuned

We'll be back in Lotus Creek over the coming months to share updates, outline how feedback has been considered, and continue the conversation, including upcoming engagement on the Community Benefit Agreement.

We value your input. Please reach out to the project team if you have any questions or would like to share your feedback and concerns.



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