



Welcome to the first edition of ACEnergy Connections, our community newsletter.

As an Australian renewable energy developer specialising in solar and battery energy storage systems, we work alongside communities to plan projects that power a cleaner energy future. A key part of our approach is working with local people to identify opportunities to influence and improve project design, and to maximise benefit sharing so the positives of our projects flow on locally. This newsletter is one of the ways we stay connected and keep the conversation going.

In this edition, we look back at the highlights of 2025, bring you the latest from our current projects, and share upcoming opportunities to get involved and have your say. We'll be bringing you community news a few times a year – aiming for early in the year, mid-year, and again towards the end of the year.

### **In this issue:**

A snapshot of ACEnergy's key milestones, community activities, and what's ahead as we gear up for a busy year of planning and construction across multiple sites.

- Croydon Solar Farm | Lotus Creek, QLD
- Central BESS | Bouldercombe, QLD
- Little River BESS | Little River, VIC
- News from around the country
- Get in touch

### **Acknowledgement of Country**

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the lands on which our projects are planned, developed, and operated. We recognise their enduring connection to Country, and honour the wisdom, culture, and custodianship that have sustained these lands for tens of thousands of years.

We are committed to working in partnership with First Nations peoples to ensure our projects respect and reflect the deep cultural significance of the land. We strive to listen, learn, and collaborate in ways that support sustainable futures for all communities.

## Project stories

### Croydon Solar Farm

Lotus Creek, QLD

Solar - 750 MW | BESS - 500 MW

The Croydon Solar Farm is a proposed landmark renewable energy project in Lotus Creek, in Queensland's Isaac Region. Once operational, it will generate and store reliable, affordable, clean power for homes, farms and businesses across the region.

Since early 2025, ACEnergy has been progressing technical and environmental studies to inform project design, identify and mitigate potential impacts, and meet regulatory requirements. This has included engaging specialist consultants to undertake a **Social Impact Assessment (SIA)** to help us develop a strong understanding of the local context, and how the project can respond to local priorities and opportunities.

We are grateful for our ongoing collaboration with Isaac Regional Council, our project neighbours, and local and regional stakeholders. We're also proud to partner with the **Barada Barna Aboriginal Corporation (BBAC)** to ensure the project respects the land and its cultural heritage.

#### A look back at 2025

ACEnergy was thrilled to sponsor the one-of-a-kind **St Lawrence Wetlands Weekend** in June 2025, set against the stunning backdrop of pristine wetlands alive with birdlife. We loved meeting so many of you, enjoying local food, and sharing a dance or two. We can't wait to see you there again this year.

We were also proud to support events in and around Lotus Creek. In November, ACEnergy sponsored the Best Dressed award at the **Clarke Creek Pony Club's** Melbourne Cup Luncheon, and in December we helped bring together locals from Lotus Creek, Clarke Creek, May Downs and surrounds for a festive community Christmas gathering at the **Lotus Creek Homestead**.

Thank you to everyone who has engaged with us so far. Your input is helping shape a project that is considerate of the environment and the community.

*Photos: Our team at the St Lawrence Wetlands Weekend with Costa and a furry friend, and with a community representative at a project drop-in session at the Lotus Creek Homestead.*



#### What's on for 2026

We have a busy year ahead, with opportunities to connect across the region. We kicked things off with **community drop-in sessions in Lotus Creek** in March, and met with local trades and businesses at Isaac Regional Council's **Renewable Energy Supply Chain Forum** in Moranbah.

Soon, you'll see us at the St Lawrence Wetlands Weekend from 3-5 July. We're proud to continue supporting this much-loved event, as well as the St Lawrence Recreation Club, and value the chance to be part of such a strong local and regional community.

Benefit sharing remains a central focus for the Croydon Solar Farm. We're working with Isaac Regional Council to develop a Community Benefit Agreement (CBA) under Queensland's new planning pathway, outlining how funds will be invested locally. We invite anyone who lives, works or visits the area to share ideas to help shape meaningful, long-term benefits.

We're also continuing our engagement with the Barada Barna Aboriginal Corporation (BBAC), including discussions around partnership opportunities and a Cultural Heritage Agreement, to ensure Traditional Owners' knowledge and perspectives are not just respected, but form part of the project.

Thank you to everyone who has taken part in engagement to date. A summary of what we've heard so far is captured in the ***Community Engagement Report Back***, and we look forward to continuing the conversation through upcoming forums and activities. We shape our program around your preferences and welcome ideas on how we can engage more effectively - please get in touch if you have any feedback for us.

*Photos: March 2026 in Moranbah and Lotus Creek: IRC's Renewable Energy Supply Chain Forum, and locals at a community session at the Lotus Creek Homestead.*



### Get in touch

- Email us - [info@croydonsolarfarm.com.au](mailto:info@croydonsolarfarm.com.au)
- Call us - 1800 548 589

### Read more

- [Project webpage](#)
- [Project fact sheet - March 2026](#)
- [Community Benefit Agreement Fact sheet and timeline - March 2026](#)

## The Central BESS

Bouldercombe, QLD | 500 MW

Community engagement and local benefit remain our focus as the Central BESS project continues to take shape. The approved project near Bouldercombe includes a **\$3.6 million Benefit Sharing Program**. In recent months, we've been working with local champions and key stakeholders to shape funding streams that are meaningful, targeted, and locally driven.

We remain committed to working closely with the community to understand and respond to key concerns. We're also consulting the Queensland Fire Department to ensure the Fire Safety Study and Emergency Management Plan align with current standards and best practice. Their feedback is helping inform our final approach.

### Join the Community Reference Group (CRG)

We're inviting community-minded Bouldercombe locals to join the CRG and help shape our Community Benefit Fund to ensure it supports initiatives that matter most to the community. As a CRG member, you'll help develop the Fund Guidelines to deliver meaningful, lasting impact. We aim to establish the CRG by mid-2026, with funding available from the start of construction.

We've worked closely with **Rockhampton Regional Council** and community representatives to develop the CRG Terms of Reference and selection process. Applications are now open and close on **Monday, 29 June 2026**. We also value Rockhampton Regional Council's involvement, with Councillor Edward Oram stepping into the role of Chair to oversee the process.

More information, including the CRG Terms of Reference and EOI form, is available on the project webpage. We encourage interested members of the Bouldercombe community to submit an Expression of Interest.

### Staying connected with our closest neighbours

We recognise that the project will sit near an established community. To support households within 1km of the project site, we've introduced a Neighbour Benefit Program, which will commence once construction gets underway.

Over recent months, we've been catching up with eligible neighbours to walk through how the program works and ensure everyone feels informed and supported. We'll continue to check in regularly, so residents have clear, timely information as we move towards construction.

A big thank you to everyone who has been in touch with us, and to those who joined us for a chat at the neighbour BBQ in February – it’s always great to connect in person. We look forward to staying in close contact and working alongside our neighbours in the months ahead.

### Backing local initiatives

We were delighted to support Bouldercombe State School’s **Music Bingo Trivia Night** and **Easter Fun Day** hosted by the Bouldercombe Progress Association in March 2026. ACENergy is also proud to come on board as a Platinum Sponsor of the upcoming **Bouldy School Country Fair in August 2026, celebrating an incredible 145 years of Bouldercombe State School** - a remarkable milestone for the school and the community it serves.

We value every opportunity to support events that bring people together, celebrate local history, and strengthen community wellbeing. It's a privilege to play even a small part in the activities that matter most to the communities we work alongside.

Photos: Bouldercombe youngsters enjoying Easter Fun Day.



### Get in touch

- Email us - [info@thecentralbess.com.au](mailto:info@thecentralbess.com.au)
- Call us - 1800 548 589

### Read more

- [Project webpage](#)
- [Project fact sheet - February 2026](#)
- [Central BESS Benefit Sharing Program - February 2026](#)

## Little River BESS

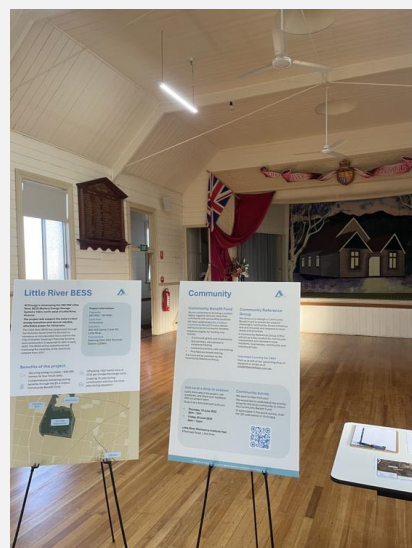
Little River, VIC | 350 MW

The Little River BESS is an approved battery energy storage project near Little River, Victoria, designed to support a more reliable and resilient electricity system for the state.

Approved in 2025, it continues to advance with a strong focus on local jobs, local industry participation, and meaningful benefits for the local community and First Nations stakeholders. The project is now moving towards financial close, with construction scheduled to begin in late 2026. This milestone will also mark the launch of the project’s Community Benefit Fund, an initiative being shaped with the input of our local Community Reference Group (CRG).

We’ll continue working closely with the Little River community as the project moves forward into early works and then full construction. More updates to come as we get ready to break ground.

Photos: Community drop-in sessions at the beautiful Little River Mechanics’ Institute and Library in mid-2025.



## Introducing the Little River BESS Community Reference Group (CRG)

To support the development and delivery of a locally focused Community Benefit Fund, we established the Little River BESS Community Reference Group (CRG) in mid-2025. Seven dedicated community members who live and work in the region have come together to help shape how the Fund works and how it can best support local priorities.

The CRG represents a broad mix of local voices, including members from environmental and conservation organisations, farming and landcare groups, community volunteers, local emergency services, education, heritage groups, and community service providers. This diversity ensures the project is guided by deep local knowledge and a wide range of perspectives.

**We're grateful to our CRG members, whose involvement is vital to our benefit sharing program.**

The group held its first meeting at the **Little River Mechanics' Institute & Library** in October 2025. Since then, we have been refining the Community Benefit Fund Guidelines to ensure the Fund is well-designed, community-centred, and able to support both immediate needs and long-term benefits.

We'll keep you updated on the Fund, including when it will open and how to get involved, as the project progresses.

### Walking Country and exploring opportunity together

In October last year, we met on Country with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation (WTOAC) Elder Uncle Norm to discuss how this project can meaningfully support opportunities for the Wadawurrung People. It was an open and generous conversation, grounded in respect, where we explored ways to strengthen procurement pathways for Aboriginal-owned businesses, create local employment opportunities, and build long-term skills development initiatives.

Uncle Norm shared cultural insights and priorities, helping us better understand how the project can align with community aspirations. We left the meeting with a clear sense of shared purpose. This engagement marks an important step in shaping a project that delivers lasting benefits; not just through infrastructure **but Culturally, Caring for Country and financially by way of genuine collaboration with the Wadawurrung Traditional Owner Aboriginal Corporation.**

*Photo: Walking Country with Uncle Norm, ACEnergy and Societal Outcome Solutions (SOS) in late 2025.*



### Get in touch

- Email us - [info@littleriverbess.com.au](mailto:info@littleriverbess.com.au)
- Call us - 1800 577 442

### Read more

- [Project webpage](#)

## More news from around the country

### Terang Distribution BESS

Terang, VIC | 5 MW

ACEnergy was proud to sponsor the upgrade of the Silk Room's Community Hub Kitchen at the Terang Harness Racing Club last year. Harness racing in Terang dates back to 1895, with the club formally established in 1912 - making it one of Victoria's oldest. We're proud to support this valued community asset and its ongoing role in Terang and the wider Warrnambool region.

### Yanco BESS

Yanco, NSW | 250 MW

ACEnergy has committed to \$3 million in community contributions, working with Leeton Shire Council to deliver local benefits over the lifecycle of the approved Yanco BESS project. The Voluntary Planning Agreement includes funding to enhance Yanco's main street and McCaughey Park, alongside support for local arts, culture and events such as the Yanco Powerhouse Museum, the Roxy Theatre, and the Australian Art Deco Festival. These investments are designed to improve local amenity, celebrate Yanco's character, and support community life now and into the future. We look forward to delivering these benefits once construction begins

## Gara BESS

Armidale, NSW | 400 MW

In Armidale, we've signed a Voluntary Planning Agreement with Armidale Regional Council for the proposed Gara BESS, setting the framework for long-lasting community benefits once the project moves into construction. The agreement is designed to deliver intergenerational value by investing project contributions and directing returns to community-endorsed projects across the region. Community benefits would begin from the start of construction and include both upfront funding for local priorities and ongoing annual contributions to support community infrastructure and services over the life of the project

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## Joel Joel BESS

Joel Joel, VIC | 250 MW

The Joel Joel BESS continues to progress steadily, with key milestones achieved along the way. The project received planning approval in mid-2024, followed by its successful award under the Australian Government's Capacity Investment Scheme (CIS) in September 2025.

We continue to working closely with Northern Grampians Shire Council to shape the project's Community Benefit Fund. In the coming months, we'll be reaching out locally to recruit a Community Reference Group, ensuring community voices help guide how the Fund supports locally-led priorities.

ACEnergy's membership of the Wimmera Southern Mallee Renewable Energy Collaboration also plays an important role in our approach. Through the Collaboration, we're working alongside representatives and stakeholders to share learnings and promote more transparent, responsible and community-focused renewable energy development across the region.

### Tiny Takeaways



In 2024, around 136,000 Australians volunteered their time to support rural and bushfire service, with a further 52,000 contributing as volunteer support staff.

Source: Statista, 2026

### Get in touch

We'd love to hear from you. Whether you have a question, feedback, or just want to learn more about our projects, we are here to help.

Our engagement team works closely with our engineers and project managers to make sure your feedback is heard. You can contact us through the project-specific channels, or email us anytime at [community@acenergy.com.au](mailto:community@acenergy.com.au).

[ACEnergy website](#)

