



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

As our projects progress, we're continuing to engage, share project updates, and support local events, organisations and initiatives that help communities thrive.

In this edition, you'll find highlights from recent community events and activities across our Queensland projects.

In this issue

A snapshot of what's been happening across our projects and communities, along with the stories behind it.

- Central BESS | Bouldercombe, QLD
- Croydon Solar Farm | Lotus Creek, QLD
- A closer look: One of Queensland's most significant wetlands
- 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

Central BESS

Bouldercombe, QLD
500 MW

Local voices helping shape community benefits

Understanding local priorities has been a key focus for the Central BESS project. Through ongoing engagement, we've sought input to help shape project benefits and ensure they are relevant, practical and locally meaningful.

The Central BESS **Community Reference Group (CRG)** was established in early July as an important next step in that process, bringing together local community members to help shape the project's **Community Benefit Fund**.

We're pleased to welcome three members who live and work in the local area, and bring a diverse range of experience, local knowledge and perspectives to the group.

Councillor Edward Oram from Rockhampton Regional Council will chair the group, with the first meeting expected to be held in the coming months and initial discussions focused on developing the Community Benefit Fund Guidelines. This work will help ensure the Fund is responsive to both short- and longer-term priorities.

Thank you to everyone who expressed an interest in joining the CRG. We look forward to working with members as the Community Benefit Fund takes shape, and providing updates on when applications open.

Get in touch

- Email us - info@thecentralbess.com.au
- Call us - 1800 548 589

Read more

- [Project webpage](#)
- [Project fact sheet - February 2026](#)

Croydon Solar Farm

Lotus Creek, QLD
Solar - 750 MW | BESS - 500 MW

It's been a busy season across the communities surrounding the Project, with several well-loved local events bringing people together across the region. We were pleased to support and attend a number of these gatherings and catch up with residents along the way.

A memorable weekend in St Lawrence

In early July, our team returned to the **St Lawrence Wetlands Weekend** for the second time – one of the region's most anticipated celebrations of local food, culture, creativity and nature.

The event showcased the unique character of the region, with a packed program of live entertainment, workshops, market stalls, cultural experiences and performances by the Ngaro people.

We had the pleasure of speaking with many community members, hearing their stories, answering questions about ACenergy's Croydon Solar Farm and learning more about what makes this part of the Isaac Region so special.

Thank you to everyone who stopped by the ACenergy stall to say hello, and to Isaac Regional Council, local businesses, volunteers, performers and community groups who helped make the event another success.

The weekend was also a reminder of how strongly local identity is shaped by the landscapes, traditions and shared experiences that bring people together.

Photos: Our team at the St Lawrence Wetlands Weekend 2026





Celebrating local connections

That same sense of connection was also evident at several other events across Lotus Creek and Clarke Creek.

The **Lexus Melbourne Cup Tour** made a special stop in the area, with a community luncheon bringing residents together to share in the celebrations. We were pleased to play a small role in supporting the event and to see such a strong local turnout.

ACEnergy is also proud to support the upcoming **Clarke Creek Campdraft** taking place on 21–23 August. Since its establishment in 1974, the event has become a longstanding local tradition, bringing together families, volunteers and competitors from across the region to celebrate horsemanship, rural skills and the pastoral heritage that remains central to the area.

These events are made possible by the dedication of volunteers, community groups, local businesses and residents, and we're grateful for the opportunity to support them.

Get in touch

- Email us - info@croydonsolarfarm.com.au
- Call us - 1800 548 589

Read more

- [Project webpage](#)

A Closer Look: One of Queensland's most significant wetlands

At the St Lawrence Wetlands Weekend, guided birdwatching tours were once again a crowd favourite, giving visitors the chance to slow down, take in the landscape and discover some of the remarkable birdlife found across the wetlands.

The St Lawrence Wetlands are considered one of the most significant wetland systems on the Queensland coast. More than 55 waterbird species have been recorded here, including resident waterbirds, nationally threatened species and migratory shorebirds travelling along the East Asian–Australasian Flyway.

Why wetlands matter

Wetlands provide birds with water, food, shelter and places to rest, breed and nest. Their shallow water, reeds, mudflats, grasslands and surrounding vegetation support a diverse range of species. They also provide wider environmental benefits, helping improve water quality, absorb pollutants and reduce flood impacts. Some birds live in the area year-round, while others arrive seasonally or stop to refuel during much longer journeys.

Birds you might spot

1  MAGPIE GOOSE <i>Anseranas semipalmata</i> Where to look: Open wetlands and shallow water areas What to notice: Look for large black and white geese, often in flocks. Did you know? Large flocks may gather in the early wet season to feed and rest.	2  BLACK SWAN <i>Cygnus atratus</i> Where to look: Lakes, lagoons and deeper wetlands What to notice: Look for elegant black swans, often seen in pairs or small family groups. Did you know? Black Swans are strong fliers and can travel long distances.
3  ROYAL SPOONBILL <i>Platalea regia</i> Where to look: Shallow wetlands, tidal areas and the edges of lagoons What to notice: Watch for the spoon-shaped bill sweeping from side to side in the water. Did you know? Spoonbills sweep their bills from side to side to detect and catch small aquatic animals.	4  BLACK-NECKED STORK <i>Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus</i> Where to look: Large wetlands, floodplains and shallow lakes What to notice: Look for a tall wading bird with a glossy dark head and neck. Did you know? They are among Australia's tallest birds, often seen wading slowly while feeding.

Helping protect wetlands

Visitors can help care for wetland environments by staying on designated paths, keeping noise to a minimum, giving wildlife plenty of space and taking all rubbish home.

Healthy wetlands support thriving bird populations and provide special places for communities and visitors to enjoy for generations to come.

How environmental surveys inform project design

The birdlife found across the St Lawrence Wetlands is one example of why understanding the local environment is an integral part of project planning.

While project planning draws on extensive technical assessments, what happens in the field is just as important. Before a project design takes shape, environmental specialists spend time building a detailed understanding of the land, waterways, vegetation and wildlife that may be present. **Environmental surveys help paint a clearer picture of a project area and inform decisions about how a project is designed and managed.**

The process begins well before anyone steps onto site. Ecologists review existing information such as government databases, environmental mapping, previous studies and records of native and threatened species. This early research helps identify what specialists should look for once in the field.

During field surveys, specialists assess:

- Native plants and vegetation communities
- Waterways, wetlands and other habitat areas
- Birds, mammals, reptiles, frogs and insects
- Animal tracks, calls, nests, or hollows
- Weeds and pest species
- Areas that provide important feeding, shelter or breeding habitat.

Photos: Environmental specialists conducting a field survey. Stock image (credit: Ron Lach / Pexels)



The information collected helps identify environmentally sensitive areas and supports decisions about the location of project infrastructure, access tracks and environmental buffers. As a project develops, the design is often adjusted to avoid or reduce impacts. This may include placing infrastructure in areas with no identified environmental impacts, setting aside protected areas around sensitive features, changing layouts to avoid waterways and wetlands, and putting measures in place during construction to reduce erosion and prevent sediment from entering waterways.

Environmental surveys are also complemented by local knowledge. Insights from landholders, Traditional Owners and community members can help build a more complete understanding of a project area, including wildlife movements, seasonal conditions, waterways and changes across the landscape. This local knowledge plays an important role in supporting informed decision-making.

Every landscape has a story

From the birds found across the St Lawrence wetlands to the field studies undertaken during project planning, each landscape has its own story.

Taking the time to listen, observe and learn helps us better understand the places where we work – and supports more informed decisions throughout the life of a project.

At ACenergy, we believe in growing sustainably. We carefully develop our projects to safeguard vital ecosystems, ensuring local wetlands and their diverse flora and fauna remain undisturbed and thriving.

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're 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

You can also read previous editions of **ACenergy Connections** on the ACenergy News & Updates page.

ACenergy website

