# Community at heart

## How we engage

We are locally based and committed to inclusive, genuine community engagement on all aspects of the project.

There are many ways for the community to get involved in WiRES and help us deliver long-lasting benefits for the region.

# Our commitment to community engagement

## How we will engage and consult

- Ensure your feedback is heard and explain how it has been considered.
- Provide accurate and timely information – sharing updates as soon as possible and speaking directly to those impacted.
- Provide regular access to our team by holding drop-in sessions in hosting communities and allowing opportunities for face-to-face meetings.
- Ensure communities are informed and have the opportunity to provide feedback via a number of methods, including public exhibitions and online engagement.
- Providing genuine opportunities to engage and being clear on what is negotiable and non-negotiable.
- Promote all engagement and consultation activities in local media and on our project website.
- Provide the community with accessible, inclusive and comprehensive information about the project, via a dedicated project website and printed material.

## How we will listen and respond

- Be available during business hours via a community relations hotline, on 1300 096 258, and respond to any missed calls within 48 hours where possible.
- Be present in the community, employing a regionally based team with an office at 104 Scott Street, Warracknabeal.
- Travel our proposed route and aim to speak directly with every impacted and neighbouring landholder to understand concerns and consider their feedback when developing our plans.
- Continually monitor and review how we are listening and responding.

## Local team

We will take a hands-on approach to get to know the communities we are operating in and ensure everyone has access to our regionally based team throughout the journey.

Wimmera Renewable Energy Solution (WiRES) is energising change, unlocking the Wimmera's wind resources to secure up to 2 GW of renewable energy by 2030

**wiresco.com.au**
**1300 096 258**

# Involving the community

We know successful projects are built on strong consultation and it is critical to involve the local community as we develop WiRES.

The local community will have frequent opportunities to provide input on the project through a variety of channels.

## Delivering long-lasting regional benefits

WiRES is a long-term project and we're committed to delivering fair compensation and genuine benefits.

We understand that the project will only succeed if landholders and hosting communities are the first people to see and feel the benefits.

We will work with all relevant stakeholders along the route - landholders, neighbours, the community - to determine the best ways to share the benefits from the project at both a local and broader level.

### Regional Benefits Scheme

In particular, landholders and hosting communities in the Wimmera will be at the heart of our planning for the project's Regional Benefits Scheme of $750,000 per year (subject to policy direction).

To maximise outcomes, we will work to combine these funds with benefits from other renewable energy projects connecting to WiRES.

A Community Advisory Group - made up of local representatives - will help us understand how to make the most of the Regional Benefits Scheme.

## Community Advisory Group

Subject to policy direction, WiRES will establish a Community Advisory Group (CAG) to help understand the needs, priorities and preferences of local communities, and to identify the initiatives that should be supported by WiRES.

These could include scholarships, sponsorship or a grants program facilitating legacy projects identified through community collaboration. The CAG will help ensure:

- the project team is aware of community needs, concerns and priorities, and
- the community receives quality benefits from the Regional Benefits Scheme.

To express your interest in joining the Community Advisory Group, email info@wiresco.com.au. We will provide more details and the CAG's terms of reference when these are available.

## How to get involved

We encourage local community members to get involved in the project and help us develop region-defining benefits from WiRES.

- Subscribe to project updates and stay informed (join via the website or send your request by email)
- Visit the team at our office at 104 Scott Street, Warracknabeal (refer to website for days & times)
- Attend a WiRES event in your neighbourhood
- Enquire about being part of the Community Advisory Group
- Follow us on Facebook and X (Twitter)
- Call 1300 096 258
- Email info@wiresco.com.au

## Project phases

For more information about the project

www.wiresco.com.au
1300 096 258
info@wiresco.com.au

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