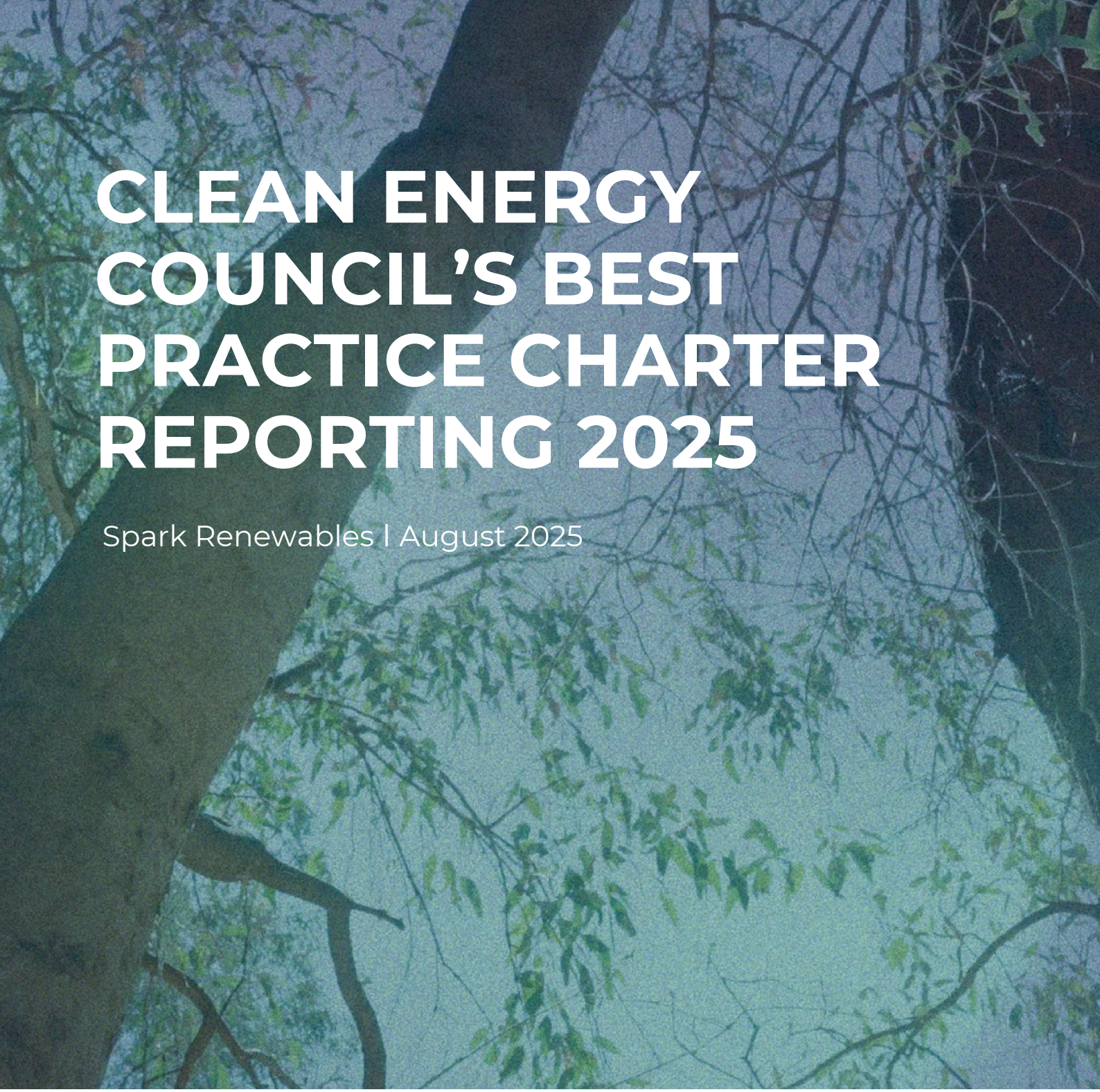

CLEAN ENERGY COUNCIL'S BEST PRACTICE CHARTER REPORTING 2025

Spark Renewables I August 2025

SPARK RENEWABLES

sparkrenewables.com
linkedin.com/company/sparkrenewables
@sparkrenewables

CLEAN ENERGY COUNCIL MEMBER

Acknowledgement of Country

Spark Renewables acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands on which we operate, including the lands of the Dharawal, Gadigal, Gameragal, Gayemagal, Guringai, Gundungarra, Latji Latji, Muthi Muthi, Narungga, Paakantji (Barkandji), Ngiyampaa, Wodi Wodi, Wiradjuri, Yitha Yitha, and several smaller nations of the Murrumbidgee plains peoples, and all those upon whose lands we may work in the future.

We recognise and respect their cultural heritage, continuing beliefs, and connection to land, water and community, which we acknowledge as having continued importance to the Traditional Owners' and Custodians' descendants living today. We pay our respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.

Contents

About Spark Renewables

Spark Renewables is one of Australia's leading developers and long-term owners of renewable energy generation assets. Starting in 2018 with a single 120 MW_{dc} solar farm, the potential generation capacity of our development portfolio has grown rapidly to span solar, wind and battery storage projects.

Our goal is to develop and build projects leading the renewable energy transition in Australia. We work with industry innovators and tertiary institutions to provide sustainable, socially acceptable solutions for generation of electricity.

Spark Renewables is a member of the Clean Energy Council, and a sponsoring donor of RE-Alliance.

Our Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan launched in 2024 received endorsement from Reconciliation Australia.

Spark Renewables has signed the Clean Energy Council's 'Pledge Against Modern Slavery' and is committed to ensuring our operations and supply chains are free of adverse human rights impacts, including modern slavery.

In 2025 it was announced that Spark Renewables' flagship Dinawan Energy Hub project, located in the South West Renewable Energy Zone (REZ), was awarded ~1 gigawatt (GW) of access rights by the NSW Energy Corporation (EnergyCo), under the NSW Government's Renewable Energy Zone access scheme.

Spark Renewables is part of the leading Malaysian energy utility, Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB), a group of companies owning and operating renewable energy projects in Malaysia, Türkiye, Ireland, the United Kingdom and Australia.

1. Approach to consultation and engagement

As one of Australia's leading developers and long-term owners of Australian renewable energy projects, a big part of our operations involves managing our environmental and social impacts. We recognise the strong link between community acceptance and success of our projects – the importance of striving to have a social licence to operate.

While our projects can bring significant, long-lasting benefits, we acknowledge that the nature and scale of these developments can cause disruption to communities. We remain committed to sharing benefits with the wider community and mitigating project impacts.

Spark Renewables is committed to engaging respectfully and transparently with the community and stakeholders throughout the lifetime of a project, and in line with a fundamental commitment to reconciliation. We are committed to environmental, social and cultural sensitivity and to make a positive contribution to the regions in which we operate.

1.1. Engagement tools and methods to engage respectfully

For each project, Spark Renewables prepares a Community Engagement Plan, detailing the engagement strategy, stakeholder mapping, project key messages and schedule of consultation events. Methods to communicate effectively with all stakeholders include open engagement opportunities such as one-on-one briefings, information sharing and focus group workshops, consultation pop-up stalls and drop-in sessions, and regular project briefings.

During the year, Spark Renewables held consultation sessions for the Mallee Energy Hub, Dinawan Energy Hub, and Wattle Creek Energy Hub. Across our projects, we hosted public community information sessions, attended and sponsored local events such as field days, setting up temporary offices in nearby towns, and completed targeted consultations with neighbours, local community groups, and organisations. Consultation activities and materials are documented and made available on individual project websites at https://sparkrenewables.com/projects.

1.2. Commitment to the Reconciliation Action Plan program

We are determined to ensure that as we take the decisions we need to grow and to progress our renewable energy developments, we do so in line with a strategy that incorporates a First Nations perspective of the land on which we are seeking to build our projects and in line with a fundamental commitment to reconciliation.

Spark Renewables has appointed local Aboriginal community members as engagement coordinators to build connections with community stakeholders, Traditional Owners and Registered Aboriginal Parties, and to guide the development of our First Nations Engagement Strategy. Through this consultation Spark Renewables has gained a valuable insight on community opportunities and issues that impact First Nations peoples, which will inform the initiatives we can design for a shared vision for change.

In 2024 Spark Renewables launched its Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan and established a working group to implement it in accordance with Reconciliation Australia's formal program.

1.3. Partnerships with universities

Spark Renewables is committed to supporting educational opportunities through our projects by fostering partnerships with local universities, investing in research initiatives, and collaborating with local schools. We do this by formal agreements and letters of support, which can involve offering graduate placements and internships, in-kind employee and data sharing contributions, and funding support.

1.3.1. Case Study: Partnership with the University of Sydney

Gates of the Arthursleigh property, which was bequeathed to the University of Sydney and is operated commercially producing Merino wool, Angus cattle and cereals

The Wattle Creek Energy Hub is a proposed project to be located on land held by the University of Sydney, located in the Southern Tablelands of NSW. Spark Renewables was selected by the University to deliver on its vision for a Renewable Energy Generation Park after a comprehensive competitive process involving more than 30 competing developers.

The Arthursleigh property, a commercially operated farm producing Merino wool and Angus beef, is used for research and education in agricultural science, environmental science and engineering.

A key element of the proposed energy hub is a “test-bed facility” for research on new and emerging technologies, including further testing of innovative battery systems developed by Gelion, a company spun out from the University in 2015.

The partnership includes an ongoing research agreement collaborating on initiatives related to clean energy in the fields of science, engineering, business and economics. The proposed partnership will also include a work experience and placement program for undergraduate and PhD students.

1.4. Sustainable farming and agrivoltaics

Spark Renewables partners with landowners from early investigation, through project development, construction, and during operations. Our long-term partnerships with our host landowners are of critical importance. Minimising the impacts on highly productive agricultural land and exploring opportunities to integrate agricultural production serves to achieve that outcome.

We plan for grazing and agriculture activities to continue within the project areas throughout wind farm operation largely undisturbed. Spark Renewables avoids placing infrastructure in more productive cropping zones as much as possible, and locates turbines in areas where they can co-exist with grazing activities.

We have a particular focus on supporting research and trials that drive the successful long-term co-location of agricultural and renewables projects to maximise the productivity of the land through co-existence of solar and agriculture work, also known as 'agrivoltaics' and 'agrisolar'.

At Bomen Solar Farm, which is an operational agrisolar farm, Spark Renewables invested in critical farm infrastructure to make sheep grazing viable, enabling hosting Merino wethers and dry ewes on the site.

1.4.1. Case Study: Partnership with Macquarie Law School to drive research in Australia's renewable energy transition

In 2024 Spark Renewables announced its partnership with Macquarie University under the leadership of Dr. Madeline Taylor, the Director of Research Training at Macquarie Law School and a Senior Lecturer in Law at Macquarie University. Dr. Taylor was awarded an Australian Research Council Early Career Industry Fellowship, creating a partnership between Spark Renewables, NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, and Macquarie University.

The three-year Fellowship will support research on the energy transition that responds to industry needs. This program will connect researchers, industry, and government to develop the best regulations for agrivoltaics, aiming to improve energy justice.

This partnership is part of our ongoing effort to build our relationships with Australian universities, to work together with some of the best minds from across the nation and play our part in progressing the renewable energy transition in Australia.

2. Local economy and employment

Visiting Tindo Solar's facility in Adelaide, where Australian solar panels are manufactured, October 2024

Spark Renewables prioritises the local procurement of goods and services and engagement and training of local workers wherever possible. On each project, plans for procurement and accommodation depend on advice and guidance from government agencies, community, and service and education providers. Spark Renewables supports training in the local community that can directly connect the local community (including First Nations community members) with employment on the construction of our projects, preferably with transferrable skills that can apply to future job opportunities.

Spark Renewables has engaged ICN Gateway to publish available work packages through its portal; and has an open online portal for local businesses to register their interest in supplying the project with goods and services during construction and operations, creating a local businesses and capabilities register.

In 2024, Spark Renewables proudly partnered with the Griffith Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) to seize opportunities for the Aboriginal community through the Dinawan Energy Hub. The focus of the partnership is to identify opportunities for mutual benefit, collaboration, training and employment pathway co-design.

3. Community benefit sharing

Spark Renewables proudly supports the communities where our projects are developed. Our focus is to create lasting, positive change that supports the needs of each community.

In co-designing benefit sharing schemes, Spark Renewables provides funding in line with relevant guidelines, such as the *NSW Benefit Sharing Guideline* (NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure, November 2024).

We recognise that every local community is different, which is why we take a location-based approach, working with each community to co-design a community benefit sharing scheme that meets the unique needs of that community.

We conduct regular workshops, public meetings, individual meetings, and focus group discussions to gather input from a broad cross-section of the community. These sessions are designed to be inclusive, accessible and transparent, providing detailed information about the available options and how they can be tailored to meet local needs.

Our approach ensures that these programs are aligned with community needs and governed transparently and inclusively; and that all feedback is documented and considered in the decision-making process.

Governance arrangements for benefit sharing programs are established in collaboration with the community and funding partners to ensure transparency and accountability. This includes setting up governance committees comprising community members, local government representatives, power purchasing partners, and Spark Renewables staff. These committees are responsible for overseeing the implementation of benefit-sharing initiatives, reviewing funding applications, and ensuring that the projects funded through the community benefit fund and other programs are delivering the intended benefits.

We are committed to continuous improvement by reviewing the effectiveness of our initiatives continuously; and seeking feedback from the community to identify areas for enhancement.

3.1. Case Study: Sharing the benefits of the Dinawan Energy Hub

Spark Renewables has developed a benefit, upskilling and industry program worth over $100 million, aimed at building community wealth, health and ‘renewables-readiness’.

Benefits include the South West Renewable Energy Zone access fee contributions for community and employment components, paid during 15 years and administered by EnergyCo.

In 2024 Spark Renewables launched the Dinawan Pilot Grant Program, to award $20,000 in support of eight community-initiated projects. The Pilot Grant Program is the forerunner to the community fund as part of a long-term benefit sharing scheme proposed to run from the start of construction and throughout the operational life of the project. The final size of the community benefit sharing program will be based on the approved and constructed size of the project.

The program of community enhancement initiatives is formed of four components and divided as follows:

Murrumbidgee & Edward River Councils' approved priority developments

70%

Community Benefit Fund administered by a Council committee

15%

Neighbour Benefit Fund & the Electricity Rebates Scheme

7.5%

Aboriginal Community Fund & the Em-Powering Elders Program

7.5%

4. Approach to issues management

Watch the video of our approach to project development at the Dinawan Energy Hub at: dinawanenergyhub.au

All of Spark Renewables' projects are State Significant Developments and require a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to be submitted to the Department of Planning within respective states. The EIS requires several specialist assessment studies to be undertaken for the project. Once the EIS is provided for public comment, the local community can formally raise key issues and concerns relating to construction and operation of the project. These are individually considered and addressed as part of a Response to Submission, before the project can be eligible for Development Approval.

Avoiding, minimising and mitigating impacts continue to be key considerations throughout the development and assessment process of our projects, with feedback from on-site surveys as well as discussions with host and neighbouring landowners informing amendments to the design of the project layout.

We work to avoid vegetation clearance, maximise the use of previously disturbed land, protect significant heritage values, and minimise impacts on neighbouring landholders.

4.1. Commitment to responsible decommissioning

At the beginning of the planning process of each project, Spark Renewables identifies the anticipated waste amounts and how we can maximise recycling waste. At the end of the project lifecycle, the facility will either be re-energised through a new permitting process or decommissioned. As part of mitigation measures, we commit to project-specific measures to be completed at decommissioning to return the land back to the original state and industry as much as reasonably possible, deconstructing and removing infrastructure, and revegetation.

4.2. Maximising opportunities for recycling

Spark Renewables has established several university collaborations and industry partnerships to drive the diversion of solar panel waste from landfill and find sustainable end-of-life solutions for solar panels:

We are collaborating with UNSW on a machine-learning project funded by ARENA using solar panel data from the Bomen Solar Farm. We have partnered with PV Industries and participate in the Circular Solar Trial to support end-of-life solutions for solar and battery technologies.

Contact Information

Level 4, 1a Rialto Lane

MANLY NSW 2095

info@sparkrenewables.com

1300 271 419