

Involving the Community

Ark Energy's approach

Ark Energy appreciates the importance of engaging, listening to and involving community members and other local stakeholders throughout the project's development, and ensuring that local priorities and concerns are considered.

Ark Energy's approach to consultation is informed by the International Association for Public Participation's (IAP2) Core Values, Code of Ethics and Public Participation Spectrum, widely accepted as the industry benchmark. It is open, inclusive, responsive, accessible and transparent.

Ark Energy is a signatory to the Clean Energy Council's *Best Practice Charter for Renewable Energy Projects*, a voluntary commitment to engage respectfully with communities, be sensitive to environmental and cultural values, and make a positive contribution to the regions in which we operate.

We are focused on providing opportunities for interested community members and stakeholders to participate, and maximising opportunities for the community to benefit from the project in meaningful ways.

We value input from local community members and community consultation is ongoing. There are many ways to stay informed, provide feedback and participate in the process, and where possible the community's input is incorporated into project plans to improve outcomes and lasting benefits.

Ways to stay informed & opportunities to participate

Website & online feedback form

The project website - richmondvalleysolar.com.au - provides up to date project information, maps, previously issued newsletters and an online feedback form.

Project newsletters

Project newsletters are available by email and post. For e-news register online at arkenergy.com.au/mailling-list-details. To receive printed newsletters in the mail, please send your postal address to info@richmondvalleysolar.com.au.

We respect your privacy and your details will only be used for this purpose.

Community information sessions

Local information sessions with project team members will be held at key times during planning and development. Details of information sessions and when these are scheduled will be included on the website and in project newsletters.

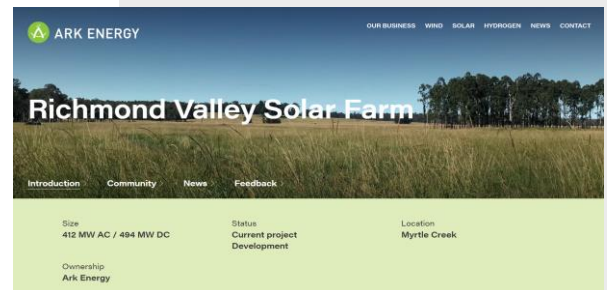
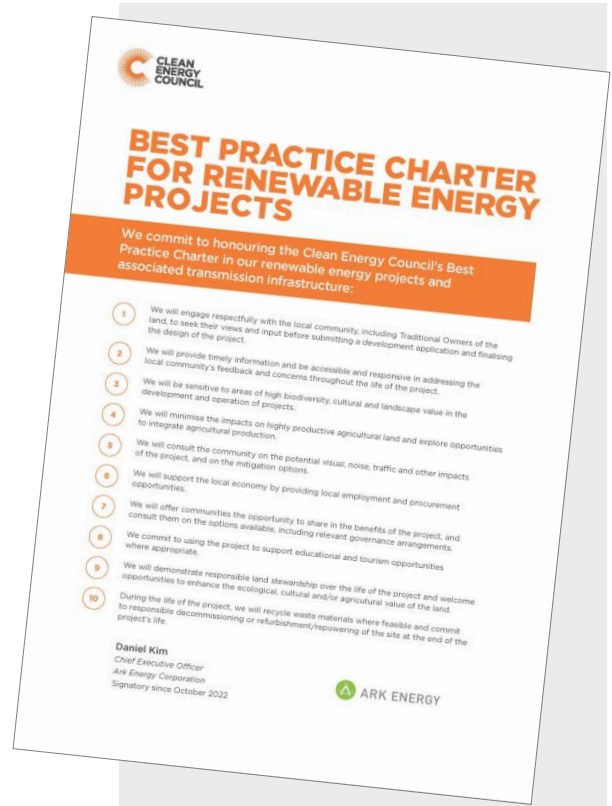
Public exhibition period

After the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has been lodged and accepted by the DPE, it will be placed on public exhibition and open for submissions.

Community benefit sharing

The project will involve a Community Benefit Program for the wider local community. It will be designed in consultation with the community and local stakeholders, and funding will commence from the start of construction and continue for the life of the solar farm. Suggestions on priorities for the community benefit program are welcome and can be sent to the project team.

The project will also involve a Neighbour Benefit Sharing Program to share benefits with those who own property close to proposed infrastructure. If you think you may be eligible please contact the project team.



Share what's important to you for Richmond Valley Solar Farm's Community Benefit Program

The Richmond Valley Solar Farm will involve a Community Benefit Program, with funds from the start of construction and for the life of the project.

This is intended to:

- **Share** benefits with the local community.
- Make a **meaningful contribution** to issues the community cares about.
- Be **flexible** to focus on changing priorities over time.
- Ensure the project is a **positive, rewarding** and **beneficial** development for the local community.
- Advance **community connectedness and inclusivity**.

Community members and other interested local stakeholders are invited to share their views on what is important for the local community.

This can be done through a feedback form, available online or at information sessions, or by emailing the project team directly - contact details below.

Questions and feedback welcome at any time

Questions and feedback are welcome at any time.

Send your comments directly to the project team via email or the online feedback form on the project website.

We appreciate all input and will do our best to respond to you as quickly as possible.

Ark Energy's engagement goals & commitments

Ark Energy's goals for community engagement include to:

- Ensure community members are well informed and kept up to date on project status and developments.
- Obtain feedback and provide ample opportunities for community members to communicate their views, concerns and aspirations for the project.
- Address any community member's issues or concerns promptly.
- Work to minimise the impacts and maximise the benefits of the project for the local community.
- Wherever possible utilise input from community members to optimise the design of the project.

Ark Energy commits to:

- Be proactive – connect early in the process and regularly share information so community members know what is happening and how to interact with and provide feedback on the project.
- Be transparent – be honest and ethical in our dealings with all.
- Seek solutions – engage to understand and explore ways to minimise impacts and maximise the benefits of the project.
- Be flexible and inclusive – ensure that our engagement provides opportunities for all community members to have access to information and members of the project team.
- Continually improve – evaluate the effectiveness of engagement and iteratively adapt the approach and activities as required.



Community information sessions

More information

Tel - 1800 731 296

Email - info@richmondvalleysolar.com.au

Newsletters – register at arkenergy.com.au/mailling-list-details for email news, or to receive newsletters by post, email your postal address and a request to be added to the mail (post) list.

Website - richmondvalleysolar.com.au or scan QR code right



Scan QR code to visit the project website