

Potentia Energy

Girgarre Solar Farm | Community Engagement

Girgarre Solar Farm, located 50 km west of Shepparton, Victoria, produces approximately 200 gigawatt hours (Gwh), powering over 43,000 Victorian homes each year. Construction for Girgarre Solar Farm commenced in 2023; the solar farm has been fully operational since early 2025.

At Potentia Energy, we recognise the positive engagement and feedback with the local community, was a key to the successful delivery of the Girgarre Solar Farm.

Our approach to community engagement is anchored in the ‘Creating Shared Value’ philosophy. Central to this philosophy is the notion that the achievement of business objectives should be intrinsically linked to positive local community outcomes. Throughout the lifecycle of the project, we have collaborated with the Girgarre Development Group to ensure our actions are mutually beneficial for the project and the local community.

We are proud to have our work recognized by industry through receiving the Clean Energy Council's Community Value and Impact Award in 2025.



Powers 43,000 Victorian Homes



93MW Operational Capacity

Girgarre Solar Farm

Community Engagement



Objective: To establish a collaborative relationship with the local community throughout the life of the project, reflecting Potentia Energy's recognition of our project's long-term presence in regional areas.

Stakeholder Engagement activities

- **Stakeholder Liaison:** Our team regularly attended the Girgarre Development Group monthly meetings to provide updates on the project and address community's questions and comments through the different phases of the project.
- **Local facilities and social hubs Engagement:** Engaged with the Girgarre Football Club, Gargarro Botanic Garden and Girgarre Primary School to upgrade the facilities
- **Neighbour Engagement:** Our team has established productive relationships with project neighbours, through informal gatherings, which has fostered strong, lasting relationships.
- **Site Visits:** We have invited various community group representatives to our site, to deepen our connection with local stakeholders. During the construction phase of the project, we hosted site visits for the Girgarre Development Group, the Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation, Campaspe Shire Council representatives, amongst other groups.

Outcomes

By working closely with community stakeholders throughout every phase of the project, our team ensured that local needs and aspirations were fully represented. This collaborative approach fostered long-term relationships and led to strong community support, which led to the project being accepted by the community. As a testament to this, the Chair of the Girgarre Development Group stated that the Girgarre Solar Farm is now seen as 'part of the Girgarre Community'.



Girgarre Solar Farm

First Nations Engagement



Objective: To develop long-term relationships with local First Nations Groups and related stakeholders to enhance social inclusion, employment and procurement opportunities, cultural celebration, and community wellbeing.

Stakeholder Engagement activities

- **Site Visits:** Potentia Energy engaged early with the community to provide information about the project. We invited various first nation group representatives, including the Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation to site, to enhance and deepen the connection between local stakeholders and the project area.
- **Cultural Agreement:** Established a meaningful relationship with Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation, which has been formalised in a Cultural Agreement signed by the two organisations for the lifetime of the project.
- **Partnerships:** Potentia Energy has partnered with Rumbalara Aboriginal Co-operative, an Aboriginal community-led sporting organisation based in Shepparton, who plays a vital role in creating a supportive space where First Nations people, especially youth, are empowered to engage in sport, culture, and community.
- **Employment Opportunities:** Provided sustainable employment opportunities to local Indigenous organisations throughout the lifecycle of the project.

Outcomes

Strengthened relationships with First Nations communities by formally recognising and respecting cultural heritage through a long-term cultural agreement. Worked towards supporting youth engagement and wellbeing, fostering a lasting positive impact on cultural, social and community development. Provided economic benefits through employment opportunities fostering financial stability and growth.



Girgarre Solar Farm

Creating Shared Value



Objective: To ensure that a Creating Shared Value model was applied successfully with project stakeholders, so that both the project and the Girgarre community could thrive from the construction and operations of the Girgarre Solar Farm.

Stakeholder Engagement activities

- **Cattle Agistment Program:** Shared cattle agistment and cropping arrangement, with \$70,000 proceeds reinvested into local community initiatives. The project was led by the Girgarre Development Group and has directly supported the growth and development of the community in meaningful ways.
- **Solar Access Initiative:** Installed solar panels across various local community facilities in Girgarre, including the Gargarro Botanic Garden, the Girgarre Football Club and the Girgarre Primary School.
- **EV Charging:** Installation of Electric Vehicle charging stations at the Gargarro Botanic Gardens and Girgarre City Hall.
- **Sponsorship of local events:** Sponsored local events with project team members in attendance, including the famous local Girgarre Moosic Muster.
- **Sheep Grazing:** Co-use of land agreement, with the project site made available during operation for sheep-grazing, offering local landholders additional land for grazing, while simultaneously benefiting the project by contributing to the site vegetation management.

Outcomes

Delivered local economic benefits through cattle agistment and the installation of solar panels on community infrastructure. Supported local initiatives that continue to contribute to the Girgarre town's overall wellbeing and development. Established partnerships that demonstrate how renewable energy projects can successfully integrate with agricultural practices to create a more resilient and sustainable future.



Our Commitment

As a long-term asset owner with projects across diverse regional areas of Australia, we understand the significant positive impact we can make and the legacy we can leave.

We recognise the unique characteristics of each region where we operate and, drawing on an established community engagement and benefit-sharing framework, we thoughtfully tailor our approach to the specific needs and context of each local community.

We are proud signatories to the Clean Energy Council's Best Practice Charter. This commitment affirms our dedication to excellence in community engagement, ensuring that our projects adhere to the highest standards of transparency, inclusivity, and respect. By aligning with the Charter's principles, we reinforce our pledge to work towards creating meaningful and positive impacts in local communities and ensure ongoing consideration of environmental and cultural values. As a signatory we must report annually on how we are adhering to the 10 commitments, our 2024 report can be viewed [here](#).

**Thank
You**

