## **NOTICE OF MEETING**

**Dear Councillors** 

You are requested to attend the following meeting of Council.

SPECIAL MEETING OF ISAAC REGIONAL COUNCIL

TO BE HELD ON
THURSDAY, 11 SEPTEMBER 2025
COMMENCING AT 12.00PM
BY MICROSOFT TEAM

**CALE DENDLE**Chief Executive Officer



## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2009**

## **Local Government Regulation 2012**

## Chapter 8, Part 2 Local Government Meetings and Committees

## Division 1A, Requirements for Local Government Meetings Generally Section 254J

## **Closed meetings**

- (1) A local government may resolve that all or part of a meeting of the local government be closed to the public.
- (2) A committee of a local government may resolve that all or part of a meeting of the committee be closed to the public.
- (3) However, a local government or a committee of a local government may make a resolution about a local government meeting under subsection (1) or (2) only if its councillors or members consider it necessary to close the meeting to discuss one or more of the following matters—
  - (a) the appointment, discipline or dismissal of the chief executive officer;
  - (b) industrial matters affecting employees;
  - (c) the local government's budget;
  - (d) rating concessions;
  - (e) legal advice obtained by the local government or legal proceedings involving the local government including, for example, legal proceedings that may be taken by or against the local government;
  - (f) matters that may directly affect the health and safety of an individual or a group of individuals;
  - (g) negotiations relating to a commercial matter involving the local government for which a public discussion would be likely to prejudice the interests of the local government;
  - (h) negotiations relating to the taking of land by the local government under the <u>Acquisition of Land Act 1967</u>;
  - (i) a matter the local government is required to keep confidential under a law of, or formal arrangement with, the Commonwealth or a State.
- (4) However, a local government or a committee of a local government must not resolve that a part of a local government meeting at which a decision mentioned in <a href="mailto:section150ER">section 150ER</a>(2), <a href="mailto:150ES</a>(3) or <a href="mailto:150EU">150EU</a>(2) of the Act will be considered, discussed, voted on or made be closed.
- (5) A resolution that a local government meeting be closed must—
  - (a) state the matter mentioned in subsection (3) that is to be discussed; and
  - (b) include an overview of what is to be discussed while the meeting is closed.
- (6) A local government or a committee of a local government must not make a resolution (other than a procedural resolution) in a local government meeting, or a part of a local government meeting, that is closed.

## Section 254K Participating in meetings by audio link or audio visual link

- (1) A local government may allow a person to take part in a meeting of the local government by audio link or audio visual link.
- (2) A committee of a local government may allow a person to take part in a meeting of the committee by audio link or audio visual link.
- (3) A councillor or committee member who takes part in a local government meeting under subsection (1) or (2) is taken to be present at the meeting if the councillor or member was simultaneously in audio contact with each other person at the meeting.
- (4) In this section—

audio link see the <u>Evidence Act 1977</u>, <u>section 39C</u>.

audio visual link see the <u>Evidence Act 1977</u>, <u>schedule 3</u>.

## **Conflict of Interest Obligations**

Reference is made to Section 150EL of the Local Government Act 2009. Specifically, the obligation of Councillors when they first become aware they have a conflict of interest to make the Chief Executive Officer aware in writing or if in a meeting, ensure they declare immediately.

## **SPECIAL MEETING**

## OF ISAAC REGIONAL COUNCIL

## TO BE HELD ON

## **THURSDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2025**

## **COMMENCING AT 12.00PM**

## BY MICROSOFT TEAMS

## **AGENDA**

- 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING
  - 1.1 WELCOME
  - 1.2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS
- 2. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCES
- 3. CONDOLENCES
- 4. DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST
- 5. DEPUTATIONS
- 6. CONSIDERATION OF NOTICE OF MOTIONS
- 7. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES
- 8. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING
- 9. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS
- 10. OFFICER REPORTS
- 11. CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS
- 12. INFORMATION BULLETIN
- 13. COUNCILLOR QUESTION TIME
- 14. CONCLUSION

Table of Contents
1. OPENING OF MEETING
2. APOLOGIES
3. CONDOLENCES
<u> </u>
4. DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST
5. DEPUTATIONS
3. DEI GIATIONO
6. CONSIDERATION OF NOTICE OF MOTION
7 CONFIDMATION OF MINISTER
7. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES
8. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING
9. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

5.6

This report seeks Council's endorsement for the Renewable Energy Community Benefit Agreement Policy. This Policy lays the foundation for the consistent negotiation and execution of Community Benefit Agreements associated with renewable energy development in the Isaac Region.

AGREEMENT POLICY

RENEWABLE ENERGY COMMUNITY BENEFIT

	10. OFFICER REPORTS
No	o officer reports this meeting.
	11. CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS
	confidential reports this meeting.
	12. COUNCILLOR QUESTION TIME
	13. CONCLUSION

# OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



MEETING DETAILS	Special Meeting Thursday 11 September 2025	
AUTHOR	Jessica Bugeja	
AUTHOR POSITION	Research and Policy Advisor	

9.1	RENEWABLE ENERGY	COMMUNITY	BENEFIT	AGREEMENT
	POLICY			

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report seeks Council's endorsement for the Renewable Energy Community Benefit Agreement Policy. This Policy lays the foundation for the consistent negotiation and execution of Community Benefit Agreements associated with renewable energy development in the Isaac Region.

## COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION

Resolution No.: PECS1379

Moved: Cr Terry O'Neill Seconded: Cr Alaina Earl

That the Committee recommends that Council:

- 1. Endorses the Renewable Energy Community Benefit Agreement Policy noting that in endorsing this policy, they are accepting items:
  - a. 1.1 being the Community Benefit Contribution Formula and its associated minimum contribution amounts
  - b. 1.3a) being to apportion funds, no less than seventy percent (70%), to Community and Legacy Projects for the first five (5) years
  - c. 1.3b) being to apportion funds, not exceeding fifty percent (50%) to Future Investment and Intergenerational Equity
  - d. 1.3c) being to, from the commencement of construction, collect up to 5% of the annual Community Benefit Contribution amount, to fund a Renewable Energy Coordinator Position.
- 2. Endorse the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute Community Benefit Agreements on behalf of Council.
- 3. Receives and notes the Community Benefit Agreement Guide.

Carried

# OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



## **BACKGROUND**

In July 2025, the Queensland Government passed the Planning (Social Impact and Community Benefit), and Other Legislation Amendments Act 2025. Changes under the Amendment Act were made to the Planning Act 2016 (Planning Act) and the Local Government Act 2009.

The Planning Act now requires wind and solar farm proponents with an electricity output of one (1) megawatt or more, to conduct a social impact assessment and enter into a Community Benefit Agreement (CBA) with the local government before lodging a development application. These need to be submitted as part of a properly made submission. The Planning Act (under section 106ZL) also stipulates that financial contributions "for a particular thing" under a CBA "must be used for that purpose".

Amendments to the Local Government Act 2009 enable local government to set fees and recover costs associated with Social Impact Assessments and Community Benefit Agreements, including mediation. It also requires local government to keep registers about Community Benefit Agreements and cost recovery.

The Renewable Energy Community Benefit Agreement Policy addresses these legislative changes and lays the foundation for the consistent negotiation and execution of CBAs.

Work is currently underway between LGAQ, King and Co. and local governments to develop a Community Benefit Agreement Template. This intent is to make the template available to all local governments in Queensland. Staff will update Council of this work as the project progresses.

## **IMPLICATIONS**

Administrative costs associated with the participation requirements of a Social Impact Assessment and negotiation of Community Benefit Agreements (including mediation) will be included in Council's Fees and Charges Register. These fees are recoverable from proponents by law. Council will receive monetary contributions through CBAs to help fund community and legacy projects. It is recommended a portion of the Community Benefit Contribution be used to fund the Renewable Energy Coordinator Position to address ongoing reporting and administration requirements of CBAs.

## CONSULTATION

Consultation on the Renewable Energy Community Benefit Agreement Policy as occurred through engagement with the Major Projects Team and the Community Benefit Agreement Framework workshop held with Council and ELT on the 20 August 2025. Collectively, this consultation included engagement with:

- Chief Executive Officer
- Mayor
- Councillors
- Director Engineering & Infrastructure
- Director Water and Waste
- Director Corporate Governance and Financial Services
- Director Planning, Environment and Community Services
- Executive Manager Advocacy and External Affairs
- Manager Liveability & Sustainability

## OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



- Manager Financial Services
- Manager, Rate and Accounts
- Manager Economy & Prosperity
- Manager of Galilee and Bowen Basin Operations
- Economic and Business Resilience Coordinator
- Program Leader Development Assessment
- Program Leader Environment and Sustainability

## BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The basis for recommendation is to provide a foundation for the consistent negotiation and execution of Community Benefit Agreements associated with renewable energy developments in the Isaac Region

## **ACTION ACCOUNTABILITY**

Chief Executive Officer will be responsible for the negotiation and execution of Community Benefit Agreements on behalf of Council, provided the agreement is in accordance with this policy and any relevant legislative requirements.

The CEO may delegate responsibilities associated with the development of a CBA to relevant executives, managers or officers, where relevant or necessary.

## **KEY MESSAGES**

- Council has developed its policy for the consistent negotiation and execution of Community Benefit Agreements associated with renewable energy development in the Isaac Region.
- Community Benefit Agreements are designed to make sure renewable energy projects deliver longlasting, widespread and meaningful benefits for our communities
- Council will ensure Community Benefit Agreements support community needs and direct benefits back into the towns and communities hosting renewable projects.

Report prepared by:

JESSICA BUGEJA

**Research and Policy Advisor** 

Date: 3 March 2025

Report authorised by:

CALE DENDLE

Chief Executive Officer

Date: 4 September 2025

## **ATTACHMENTS**

- Attachment 1 Renewable Energy Community Benefit Agreement Policy
- Attachment 2 Community Benefit Agreement Guide

## REFERENCE DOCUMENT

Nil



## RENEWABLE ENERGY COMMUNITY BENEFIT AGREEMENT POLICY

Λ	D		0	1/	Λ	LS
А		м	U	v	н	LO

POLICY NUMBER	DOC.ID Insert
CATEGORY	
POLICY OWNER	
APPROVAL DATE Insert	RESOLUTION Insert



Doc Number: [Insert document number]
Date Effective: [Insert effective date] This document is uncontrolled when printed. Document Owner: [Insert document owner]
Version [#]
Page 1 of 6



## **OBJECTIVE**

Isaac Regional Council is committed to ensuring renewable energy projects (projects) deliver long-lasting, widespread and sustained net benefits to Isaac communities and the broader region. The Renewable Energy Community Benefit Agreement Policy lays the foundation for the consistent negotiation and execution of Community Benefit Agreements (CBA) associated with renewable energy developments in the Isaac Region.

## SCOPE

This Policy applies to renewable energy projects within the Isaac Region, including wind, solar, hydro-electric and battery energy storage developments with an electricity output of one (1) megawatt or more.

The Policy applies to all Council staff engaged in renewable energy project negotiations and is intended to inform developers (Proponents) and/or their delegated representatives of Council's expectations in relation to the Community Benefit Agreement negotiation process.

## **DEFINITIONS**

N/A

## LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY CONTEXT

In July 2025, the Queensland Government passed the Planning (Social Impact and Community Benefit), and Other Legislation Amendments Act 2025. Changes under the Amendment Act were made to the Planning Act 2016 (Planning Act) and the Local Government Act 2009.

The Planning Act now requires wind and solar farm proponents with an electricity output of one (1) megawatt or more, to conduct a social impact assessment and enter into a Community Benefit Agreement with the local government before lodging a development application. These need to be submitted as part of a properly made submission. The Planning Act (under section 106ZL) also stipulates that financial contributions "for a particular thing" under a CBA "must be used for that purpose".

Amendments to the Local Government Act 2009 enable local government to set fees and recover costs associated with Social Impact Assessments and Community Benefit Agreements, including mediation. It also requires local government to keep registers about Community Benefit Agreements and cost recovery.

## **AUTHORITY**

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) is authorised by Council to negotiate and execute CBAs on behalf of Council, provided the agreement is in accordance with this policy and any relevant legislative requirements.

The CEO may delegate responsibilities associated with the development of a CBA to relevant executives, managers or officers, where relevant or necessary.



## **POLICY STATEMENT**

## **Community Benefit Agreement Framework**

Council considers Community Benefit Agreement's as a social licence contract with community. They should strengthen trust, respond to community needs and aspirations, and uphold the social accountability commitments of proponents.

Council is committed to ensuring Community Benefit Agreements adhere to the following principles. CBAs should:

- be informed through strong Social Impact Assessments (SIAs) and other previously identified needs of Isaac's communities.
- reflect community expectations and aspirations.
- ensure that the benefits of renewable energy development are equitably distributed within the community and intergenerationally
- integrate with, and value-add to, existing local initiatives and organisations.
- embed transparency and accountability.
- align with Council's strategic direction and long-term planning frameworks.
- not be used as a substitute for statutory conditions or infrastructure charges, nor relied upon to offset State Government responsibilities.

IRC's CBAs will comprise of two core components:

- 1. Community Benefit Contributions (CBC)
- 2. Community Benefit Agreement Conditions (CBAC)

## 1. Community Benefit Contributions

Community Benefit Contributions (CBCs) are compulsory payments to Council based on Council's minimum charge per megawatt formula.

#### 1.1 **Contribution Formula**

The following figures are considered the minimum threshold amounts for negotiating Community Benefit Contributions.

Project Type	2025/2026 Minimum Contribution
Solar	\$850 per approved megawatt capacity in the IRC LGA per
	year
Wind	\$1050 per approved megawatt capacity in the IRC LGA per
	year
Stand-alone Battery Energy Storage	\$150 per approved megawatt hours in the IRC LGA per year
System (BESS)	
Other Energy Storage (including hydro- electric)	\$850 per approved megawatt hours in the IRC LGA per year

#### 1.1.1 **Consumer Price Index adjustment**

Minimum Contributions are to be adjusted annually in line with the Consumer Price Index. The annually adjusted amounts will apply throughout the life of a CBA to ensure the base contribution remains equitable and commensurate with changing economic conditions.

Doc Number: [Insert document number] Date Effective: [Insert effective date] This document is uncontrolled when printed.

Document Owner: [Insert document owner] Version [#] Page 3 of 6



#### 1.1.2 **Mixed Generation Projects**

Where a project includes mixed generation, the total contribution amount will be determined by calculating the respective approved type, capacities and contribution rate, and adding them together. Energy storage developed in conjunction with solar and/or wind project does not apply to mixed generation.

#### 1.2 **Payment Terms**

Community Benefit Contribution payments are activated at construction and cease at successful decommissioning. Up to 5% of annual CBC amount will be claimed from construction as per purpose c) below. The full annual CBC amount becomes claimable upon project commissioning.

CBC Payments will be invoiced annually from the adjusted CPI amount. Council may consider, by negotiation, alternative payment terms. For example, a proponent may want to negotiate paying their Community Benefit Contributions in an upfront lump sum in lieu of annual payments.

#### 1.3 **Community Benefit Contribution Purpose**

Community Benefit Contributions will be used for the following purposes:

#### a) **Community and Legacy Projects**

A portion of funds, as deemed appropriate by Council but no less than seventy percent (70%) for the first five (5) years, will be used to deliver sustainable, high-value initiatives that deliver legacy outcomes for impacted communities and the broader region. Projects will be determined by Council and informed by Council's Social Investment Plan, strategic planning documents, and capital works program. Projects may otherwise be identified by Isaac Regional Council in consultation with relevant affected communities and/or proponents and their Social Impact Assessment.

## **Future Investment and Inter-generational Equity**

A portion of funds, not exceeding fifty percent (50%) annually, may be used for reserve to support ongoing social investment costs and to offset operational impacts arising from the project. The amount allocated to such reserve will be reported through Council's normal financial reporting process.

## **Renewable Energy Coordinator Contribution**

From the commencement of construction, up to five percent (5%) of the annual Community Benefit Contribution amount, will be allocated to fund a Renewable Energy Coordinator position, responsible for progressing renewable energy initiatives, partnerships, and projects within the region.

## 1.4 Community Benefit Contribution Rebate

Investment towards or delivery of eligible items on Council's Social Investment Plan may be deducted from a proponent's annual Community Benefit Contribution amount through agreement with Isaac Regional Council. The value of the rebate is directly proportional to the financial contribution or eligible project cost.

Doc Number: [Insert document number] Date Effective: [Insert effective date] This document is uncontrolled when printed.

Document Owner: [Insert document owner] Version [#] Page 4 of 6



## 1.5 Administration, Governance and Reporting

Community Benefit Contributions funds will be held in a dedicated reserve/s by Isaac Regional Council. Council will manage and disperse of the funds in accordance with the Local Government Act 2009, the Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements Act 1982, IRC's Investment Policy and IRC's Reserves Policy.

Community Benefit Contributions will be accounted for in Council's annual budget and unspent funds will be carried forward in the reserve. Interest generated through the future investment funds will be returned to the dedicated reserve. Council will report on the expenditure of Community Benefit Contributions as part of its annual financial statements.

Copies of executed Community Benefit Agreements will be made public on Council's website. Recognition protocols will be established so proponent's contributions are acknowledged and credited for their investment.

### 1.6 Exclusion clause

The value or extent of the following items cannot be used to offset Community Benefit Contribution amounts owed to Council:

- Any landholder payments, neighbour payment schemes or other similar arrangements between proponents and individual landholders.
- General rates associated with the project. Isaac Regional Council will not entertain a Payment in lieu of Rates (PILoR) scheme.
- Community Benefit Agreement Conditions, unless otherwise negotiated with Council.

## 2. Community Benefit Agreement Conditions

Council's Community Benefit Agreement Conditions are binding requirements Council imposes on the project to directly address project impacts and support to community aspirations. Community Benefit Agreement Conditions uphold community and social accountability commitments, protect amenity and environmental values and build public trust in the planning system.

Community Benefit Agreement Conditions will be developed with the proponent and are informed by:

- a) the Proponent's Social Impact Assessments and Social Impact Management Plans in line with the key matters identified in the Strong and Sustainable Resource Communities Act 2017 and SIA Guideline.
- b) the Proponent's draft development application
- c) Local planning considerations as per IRC's Planning Scheme
- d) Other local considerations

Community Benefit Agreement Conditions may apply to, but are not limited by:

- workforce management
- housing and accommodation
- local business and industry procurement
- waste management
- infrastructure impacts
- community grants and donations programs

Doc Number: [Insert document number] Date Effective: [Insert effective date] This document is uncontrolled when printed.

Document Owner: [Insert document owner] Version [#] Page 5 of 6







- visual, noise, dust and vibration disturbance
- Bushfire hazard
- Flood impact
- Emergency and disaster management
- Water supply and sewer servicing
- Environmental offset programs, habitat creation, biodiversity enhancement, environmental remediation
- Local capacity building projects
- Near neighbour energy rebates
- Decommissioning and end-of-life

## **CBA Cost recovery Fees**

Council costs in relation to participation and review of a project's Social Impact Assessment and the subsequent Community Benefit Agreement will be listed in Council's Fees & Charges Register.

## **Reservation of Rights Clause**

Council reserves the right, acting reasonably, to include, negotiate, or remove items outlined within this policy as part of the Community Benefit Agreement, to ensure alignment with community needs, changing circumstances, and Council priorities.

## LEGISLATIONS AND RELATED GUIDELINES

- Planning Act 2016
- Planning Regulation 2017
- Local Government Act 2009
- Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements Act 1982
- Isaac Regional Council's Investment Policy
- Isaac Regional Council's Reserves Policy
- Community Benefit Agreement Guide

Doc Number: [Insert document number] Date Effective: [Insert effective date] This document is uncontrolled when printed. Document Owner: [Insert document owner] Version [#] Page 6 of 6





# DEVELOPING PROJECTS IN THE ISAAC REGION

Current as of August 2025

Isaac Regional Council welcomes development that is well planned, community-minded and contributes to the long-term liveability of our towns.

We know our region plays a critical role in powering, feeding and building Queensland, and with that comes responsibility to make sure projects deliver benefits where they are most needed.

Council supports development that:

- Works in partnership with community, government and industry
- · Invests in essential services like housing, childcare, health, education and roads
- Creates opportunities for local businesses and workers
- Strengthens the social and economic fabric of our towns

Our message is simple:

If you are building in Isaac, you are part of Isaac.

We expect developments to be done with our communities, not just in our communities, so that the legacy is one of stronger, safer and more resilient towns.

## **OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU**

- · Working with you early and often to resolve issues
- Responding quickly to project documents
- · Sharing our knowledge to help tailor outcomes
- Helping you connect with local networks and services
- Being transparent and accountable

## **OUR EXPECTATIONS OF YOU**

- Engage early and regularly with Council and community
- Go beyond compliance—create real social value
- Avoid negative impacts through project design
- Be honest, open and responsive to feedback
- Be flexible with mitigation efforts where needed
- Deliver on each of the seven key social impact areas

# PROJECT ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

Project notification Engage with Renewable
Energy Coordinator.
(Proponent receives
Renewable Energy
Community Benefit
Agreement Policy)

SIA
Development Phase
(Notification of community consultation)

Development of Draft Community Benefit Agreement

Community Benefit Agreement Execution Pre-lodgement / Project Briefing Meeting with Isaac Regional Council Major Projects Team

Proponent presents draft SIA/SIMP and Development Application to Isaac Regional Council Major Projects Team

Briefing of elected officials on Draft SIA/SIMP, Development Application and Draft Community Benefit Agreement.

## 6 PILLARS OF SOCIAL LICENCE













## COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Objective: Make sure the people who live here are part of the conversation from day one. When a renewable project comes to town, locals deserve more than a glossy brochure. Engagement needs to be real, transparent and ongoing - from planning right through to operations. Communities need to see how their feedback has shaped decisions, and there must be clear ways to raise concerns and have them addressed.

## WORKFORCE MANAGEMENT

Objective: Prioritise local jobs first and protect the wellbeing of workers. Projects must put local and regional workers at the front of the queue for jobs. Training, local apprenticeships and development opportunities should be built in, so we're skilling people up for long-term opportunities. Workers' health both physical and mental must be looked after as a priority, because safe and supported workers are productive workers.

## HOUSING AND ACCOMMODATION

Objective: Build housing solutions that strengthen communities. Renewable projects should plan housing and accommodation in ways that add value to the towns and regions that host them. That means making sure there are quality options for workers who want to live locally, supporting familyfriendly housing where possible, and ensuring purposebuilt worker accommodation is well designed, safe and connected to services. Done right, housing investment can leave a lasting legacy - growing capacity, supporting liveability, and helping communities thrive well beyond

the life of the project.

## LOCAL BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY PROCUREMENT

Objective: Keep contracts and opportunities in the hands of local businesses. Every renewable project should aim to buy goods and services from local suppliers and First Nations businesses. Procurement strategies must actively reduce barriers to entry, have favorable payment terms that support small businesses and help build capacity in the region. If we get this right, projects will strengthen the local economy and support business growth.

## HEALTH AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING

Objective: Support the health, safety and wellbeing of the people who live here. Projects should actively support essential services like healthcare, childcare, schools, Country University Centres and emergency services so they can keep pace with growth. It means protecting lifestyle and amenity, managing noise, dust, waste and water impacts, and making sure communities remain safe and connected. Renewable energy projects should not just avoid harm, they should look for opportunities to invest in stronger, healthier towns to create places where families can live well, access the services that are important to them and enhances the community fabric.

## HARD INFRASTRUCTURE

Objective: Contribute to the backbone infrastructure that keeps our communities moving and connected. That means planning and investing in the roads, water, waste, power and digital networks that are directly impacted by construction and ongoing operations. It is about making sure regional communities are not left to carry the burden alone. When hard infrastructure is built well and early, it supports both the project and the towns around it - creating safer roads, stronger utilities, and the capacity for communities to grow with confidence.

## WHAT IS IN ISAAC'S COMMUNITY BENEFIT AGREEMENT?

Isaac Regional Council's Community Benefit Agreements are designed to make sure renewable energy projects deliver long-lasting, widespread, and meaningful benefits for our communities. CBAs are a social licence contract between proponents and community.

Each agreement has two core components:

## 1. Community Benefit Contributions (CBCs)

What are CBCs?: Compulsory payments made by project proponents, based on the size and type of renewable

How are they calculated?: Below are the minimum community benefit contribution amounts for each renewable energy project type.

Solar: \$850 per approved megawatt (MW) capacity in the IRC LGA per year Wind: \$1,050 per approved megawatt (MW) capacity in the IRC LGA per year

Stand-alone Battery Energy Storage System (BESS): \$150 per approved megawatt hour (MWh) in

the IRC LGA per year

Other Energy Storage (including hydro-electric): \$850 per approved megawatt hour (MWh) in the IRC LGA per

Purpose: These funds are invested into projects that create real legacy outcomes, like community facilities, housing, education, and regional infrastructure. A share is also reserved for future investment to support intergenerational equity, and a small portion funds a Renewable Energy Coordinator role within Council.

## 2. Community Benefit Agreement Conditions (CBACs)

What are CBACs?: Enforceable conditions placed on projects to manage impacts on our communities. These are informed by the Social Impact Assessment Guidelines and Strong and Sustainable Resource Community Act 2017 **Example conditions may include:** Workforce accommodation standards, housing contributions, procurement commitments for local businesses, waste and water management, and measures for dust, noise, and road impacts. Why do we have CBACs?: Community Benefit Agreement Conditions protect liveability, safety, and amenity for local residents while ensuring industry has certainty around the expectations of community.

## How it all fits together

Isaac's CBAs are not one-off deals. They are structured agreements that:

- Direct benefits back into the towns and communities hosting renewable projects.
- Provide transparency and accountability in how contributions are spent.
- Support both immediate needs (like childcare and housing) and long-term investment in services, infrastructure, and opportunities.
- · Create a fair, consistent approach across all projects, so everyone is clear on the legacy benefits a project creates.

More detailed information can be found in Isaac Regional Council's Renewable Energy Community Benefit Agreement Policy.

## **SOCIAL INVESTMENT PLAN** CLARKE CREEK AND LOTUS CREEK

## 1. COMMUNITY & STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Undertake genuine, transparent stakeholder engagement with consideration given to consultation fatigue.

Undertake tiered Neighbourhood compensation/benefits scheme

## 2. WORKFORCE MANAGEMENT

Undertake genuine, transparent stakeholder engagement with consideration given to consultation fatigue.

Deliver a workforce attraction program that includes live local incentives for operational workforce

Deliver a local workforce development program (i.e skills development and pathways for traditional owners, youth & residents)

Undertake financial partnership with key emergency service providers - CQ Rescue

Undertake financial partnership with Rural Fire Brigade Association of Qld (RFBAQ) supporting the localized Rural fire brigade units (being 4 additional slip on units & portable UHF's) - (\$100,000)

## 3. HOUSING AND ACCOMMODATION

Deliver a workforce accommodation strategy that delivers enhanced benefit to regional housing matters for both its construction and operational workforce

Undertake financial partnership with IAHT

## 4. LOCAL BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY PROCUREMENT

Adopt a genuine definition of Local, that benefits Isaac & broader region supply, and target local supply spend i.e https://www.glcln.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/GW3\_QLCLN-Flyer\_Digital.pdf

Conduct local supply chain mapping and create suitable subcontracting packages

Enhance and develop local business capacity through partnership/s financial and otherwise with Isaac Business Chamber

Participate in the Shop Isaac Local buy program for employee rewards that support local business

## 5. HEALTH AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING

Deliver a community grants program for the life of project commensurate with the project size

Undertake partnerships with specialist and allied health services such as Heart of Australia, Breast screen gld, Dental vans, Early intervention Speech Pathologists/Occupational therapists and Mental Health professionals etc, to attend the local area

Undertake partnership with Clarke Ck Isolated Children's Parents Association (ICPA)

Undertake partnership with key local community service providers i.e Broadsound Coastal Care (\$45,000) & Hinterland Community Care (\$90,000) to replace aging fleet vehicles

Support the activation of Isaac's youth through partnership with local schools, community service providers and Isaac Regional Council youth action group.

Partner with the Childcare Leadership Alliance and or local childcare service providers to enhance child care service delivery in region

Deliver a tertiary scholarships program and commit to financial partnership with Isaac's Country University Centre

Partner with Isaac Regional Council on a Pest & Weed management program with initial focus on aerial feral pest control program

Partner with Fitzroy Basin Association to deliver Natural Resource Management programs in the area.

## **6. HARD INFRASTRUCTURE**

Undertake electricity resilience and affordability initiatives towards local community i.e provision of energy rebate schemes, resilience initiativies through solar/battery/generator equipment.

Deliver upgraded telecommunication infrastructure which a) increases coverage area and addresses black spots along the Sarina Marlborough Road and b) strengthens the existing 4G/5G signal

### Roading network;

Undertake partnership with relevant authority for items below;

- Clarke Ck range safety improvements i.e widening, shoulder drop offs, barrier rails and signage (DTMR)
- Increased flood immunity and dual lane upgrades to Lotus Ck, Connors River & Funnel Ck bridges (DTMR)
- Installation of speed reduction and electronic signage at Clarke Ck school \$50,000 (DTMR, IRC)
- Decommissioning and upgrade of flood monitoring cameras and equipment at Funnel and Denison Ck \$130,000 (IRC)
- Installation of flood monitoring cameras and equipment at Connors River \$60,000 (IRC)"

Community Infrastructure;

Undertake financial partnership with Clarke Ck School (& or P&C) towards;

- Support delivery of multi purpose courts resurfacing
- School oval resurfacing
- Pool access path covered shade structure
- Page 19 Multi purpose court and pool covered shade structure

## CONTACTUS



- isaac.qld.gov.au
- PO Box 97 MORANBAH Q 4744
- x records@isaac.qld.gov.au









