

# Community newsletter

ISSUE NO. 3 | DECEMBER 2023



## Welcome to our last Glenrowan Solar Farm Community Newsletter for 2023!

In this edition, we announce the successful applicants of our Community Benefit Sharing Program, shine a spotlight on local supplier Sherratt Plumbing, and update our progress on how we are tracking to support Victoria's clean energy future.

We've reached a significant milestone for the project, with the testing phase of the project now underway.

From all of us at the Glenrowan Solar Farm, we wish our neighbours, local communities and suppliers a joyful, festive period and happy New Year! We look forward to seeing you all again in 2024.

## Sharing the benefits

In August, we announced our community-driven benefit sharing program established to deliver local social, environmental and economic outcomes to meet the needs of the Wangaratta area. By committing \$50,000 to the local region each year for the next decade, we can create a positive legacy and demonstrate Glenrowan Solar Farm's commitment to sharing benefit locally.

We were overwhelmed with the response, with 19 separate applications requesting over \$200,000 in funding.

We received a diverse range of outstanding applications, all aimed at delivering impact for the local community.

Thank you to all groups who completed the application process and congratulations to the following:



Community Reference Group members at our November meeting

## Glenrowan Solar Farm Community Benefit Sharing Program recipients:

Glenrowan Preschool:

*Community Garden* (\$7,000)

Greta Valley Landcare Group:

*Building biodiversity and engagement* (\$4,200)

Hamilton Park Co-Operative:

*Playground* (\$6,000)

Wangaratta Landcare and Sustainability:

*Planning Household Electrification* (\$8,000)

Wangaratta Repair Café:

*Test & Tag electrical equipment capability* (\$2,300)

Warby Range Landcare Group:

*Water restoration project* (\$5,000)

Christopher Robin Pre-School Centre:

*Enhancing education facilities* (\$5,000)

Wangaratta Landcare and Sustainability:

*Restoring One Mile Creek* (\$728)

Wangaratta Men's Shed:

*Extension to existing shed* (\$5,000)

Wangaratta Landcare and Sustainability:

*Bush Regeneration Three Mile Creek Site* (\$5,000)

Moyhu Recreation Reserve Committee:

*New defibrillator* (\$2,000)

We would also like to thank the members of our Community Reference Group (CRG) who have put many hours into assessing each application and helping determine the successful applicants.



Local supplier, Sherratt's Plumbing

### Supplier spotlight: Sherratt's Plumbing

A well-known local, Chris Sherratt was born and raised in Wangaratta and knew from a young age that to succeed, you need to learn from the experts. He completed his plumbing apprenticeship with a well-known local plumber and then decided to spread his wings and open his own business.

Starting Sherratt's Plumbing & Contracting Pty Ltd over six years ago, Chris now has four qualified plumbers, a

third-year apprentice plumber, a school-based apprentice trainee, and two office staff. Having a close connection with the local community, Sherratt's Plumbing & Contracting has deep ties with local trades people. Chris' dedicated team has worked on a myriad of projects, be it new homes, renovations or schools and sporting grounds. They are also the proud sponsors of the Greta Football and Netball Club.

On the Glenrowan Solar Farm, Chris and his team commenced work on the portable buildings in early February and continued performing all plumbing works for the on-site facilities. Within a month, the incredible team had installed the sewer connection of five toilet blocks into underground holding tanks, repaired the existing sewer pipework, plumbed sewerage for four sinks into the dining room and two sinks in the offices, and installed pressure pumps at the rainwater tanks to supply cold water to the facility.

We're extremely thankful for the work Sherratt's Plumbing & Contracting has done for us at the Glenrowan Solar Farm and look forward to continuing our relationship with them and other local suppliers.

### The more you know: Solar farm energisation

#### Milestone Update:

*Energisation and testing has officially started.*

Energisation is the process of enabling an electrical current to flow between the Distribution System - that's the solar farm - and the Customer's Installation at the Connection Point - that's the lightbulb or power point on your end.

For example, when you move property and close your account with your energy supplier you are de-energising your house. And when the power is turned on at your new home, the energy supplier has re-energised the new property.

Glenrowan Solar Farm has now initiated this process. With construction wrapping up and testing now started, we are beginning to transform sunlight into electricity.

The solar farm has started exporting renewable energy to the grid and will ramp up to full production by the end of March 2024.

Once in operation, the solar farm will supply renewable electricity to the national electricity market, generating enough power for approximately 45,000 Australian homes.



Pacific Partnerships Managing Director Simon Nicholls (back, centre) spoke to media at the event, alongside UGL's Patrick McInerney (left), Minister Lily D'Ambrosio (front, centre) and SEC CEO Chris Miller (right)

### Together we're powering Victoria's future

*Reintroducing the State Electricity Commission (SEC)*

Last year, Victorian Minister for Climate Action, Minister for Energy and Resources, and Minister for the State Electricity Commission, Lily D'Ambrosio announced Glenrowan Solar Farm as a successful project from Victoria's Second Renewable Energy Target Auction (VRET2). And in October, the Minister visited our site with SEC CEO Chris Miller following the announcement of the reestablishment of Victoria's State Electricity Commission (SEC) and to celebrate the end of the construction phase of our project.

Pacific Partnerships Managing Director Simon Nicholls attended the event and spoke to media, saying that on behalf of Pacific Partnerships the team was honoured to be developing Glenrowan Solar Farm in partnership with the Victorian State Government.

*"We are excited to be supporting Victoria as it accelerates its renewable future through the SEC's Strategic Plan for the next two years,"* Mr Nicholls said.

*"As a leading greenfield infrastructure developer, Pacific Partnerships is playing its part to act on climate change, with Glenrowan Solar Farm now undertaking testing and commissioning activities,"* he said.

*"Construction has come a long way since we started in December 2022 and we look forward to being ready for operation by the end of March next year."*

Glenrowan Solar Farm, which supports the Victorian Renewable Energy Target, will deliver power to the Victorian Government.

Speaking at the Glenrowan Solar Farm, Minister D'Ambrosio celebrated the opportunities the SEC will generate. *"The SEC will help create 59,000 jobs and help deliver an unprecedented workforce of highly skilled renewable energy professionals,"* she said.

*"There are so many opportunities to come from the renewable energy transition and training providers, TAFE and the SEC Centre of Training Excellence will be critical to ensuring our future workforce has the right skills for the job."*

### The faces of Glenrowan Solar Farm: Introducing Amanda Carnes



**A Wangaratta local for over 20 years, Amanda is Glenrowan Solar Farm's Site Administration Officer. She brings a wealth of valuable construction experience and expertise, having previously worked on the West Gate Tunnel Project while based in Wangaratta.**

UGL Construction Manager, Patrick McInerney, perfectly captures Amanda's essence when he described her as the 'heart and soul' of the office, opening doors locally to make things happen.

"With Amanda's kindness and proficiency, the team can deliver the project with resourcefulness and a greater connection to the local community," Patrick said.

Amanda believes it's the culture at Glenrowan Solar Farm that unifies her workplace and shows the team's dedication to diversity and excellence.

*"Everyone is great to work with,"* she said. *"I've met some amazing people from all over the country."*

Working on the solar farm from the comfort of her hometown also means Amanda can stay involved with the local community. Both Amanda and her husband play in a local darts competition and they're not too bad either. But for them, it's not about the competitiveness, rather it is about being a part of the fun and engaging with their community.



UGL Construction Manager Patrick McInerney with students from Wangaratta Primary School

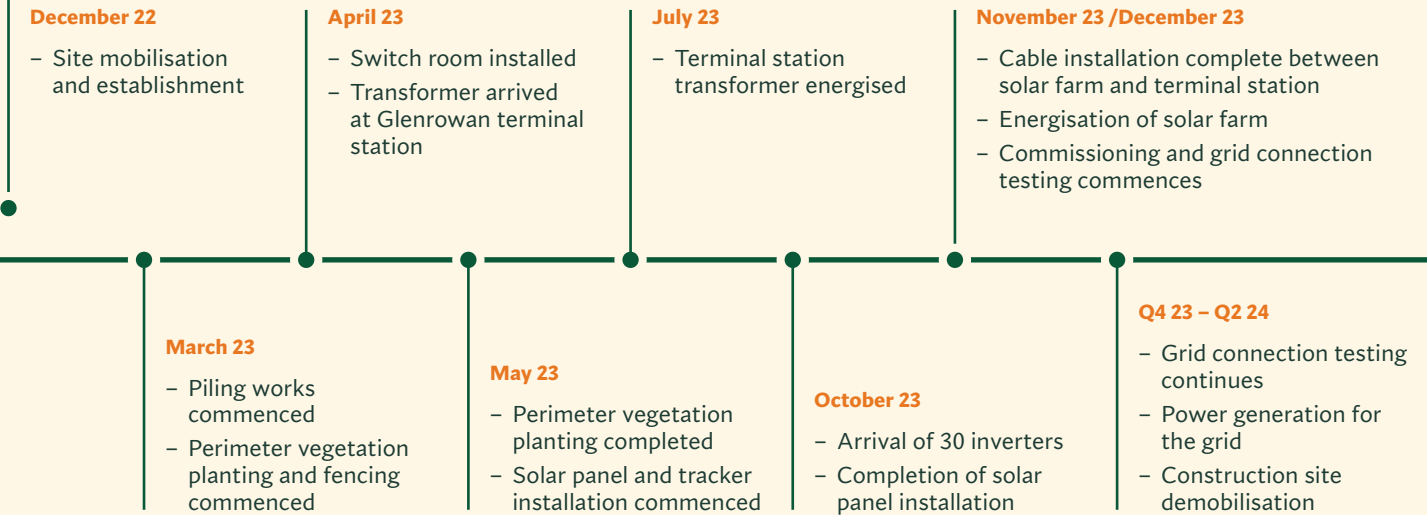
### Inspiring and enriching students in Wangaratta

In November, our contractor UGL was delighted to donate 1,000 plants to Wangaratta Primary School to support their new Indigenous Garden and their 2024 Arts program.

The large variety of native plants will be sold through fundraisers to support the student’s learning through hands-on Art activities and programs. The plants will be used to enhance the natural beauty of the school’s new Indigenous Garden, creating an inspiring and enriching environment for students.

Kayleen Mexon, the Art Teacher at Wangaratta Primary School said, *“the gesture aligns perfectly with our commitment to fostering an appreciation for our local flora and providing an immersive educational experience. The support empowers us to continue nurturing creativity and environmental awareness among our students. We are excited to see our garden flourish and become a source of inspiration for our art projects.”*

### Project timeline



### Public holiday period

Low-impact activity only will be undertaken on site during the Christmas and New Year period.

### Get involved

If you are interested to find out more about the solar farm, our Community Benefit Sharing Program, or have other suggestions or initiatives you would like to share with us, please get in touch. You can subscribe for regular project updates at [glenrowansolarfarm.com.au](http://glenrowansolarfarm.com.au).



Solar panel installation completed in October 2023