



# GOORAMBAT EAST SOLAR FARM

## NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2025

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### Safety is our number one priority!

If you observe any of our staff or contractors displaying unsafe or unacceptable behaviour around the local area, please report it to us via

**1800 845 067** or

**goorambatsolarfarm.au@engie.com**

so that we can take action.

### JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

Stay up to date with project updates and opportunities by subscribing to our mailing list.



You can sign-up on the project website or contact the team at:

 **1800 845 067**

 **theplainsenergypark.au@engie.com**

**engie.com.au/goorambat**

We respect and honour Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders past, present and future. We acknowledge the stories, traditions and living cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples on the lands on which our sites are located and commit to building a brighter future together.

# PROJECT UPDATES



A lot has been happening in and around Goorambat as construction of the Solar Farm progresses.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING ONSITE?

### CURRENTLY AROUND



**100**

LIGHT VEHICLES  
ACCESSING SITE



**172**

PEOPLE  
ONSITE



**14,000**

PILES  
INSTALLED

Piling is well underway with around 14,000 piles already installed. Piling started in the Northwest part of the site and has recently moved to the Southwest. Piling work is the noisiest of all the work to occur onsite.

Tracker installation is in progress in the Northwest. Trenching is also in progress in the Northwest part of the site

Security fencing around the site is currently being installed with works along Goorambat-Chesney Road in progress.

In accordance with the planning permit:

Deliveries can occur between 7am and 6pm Monday to Friday. No deliveries can occur on Saturdays, Sundays or public holidays.

Standard hours of construction are Monday - Friday between 7am and 6pm and on Saturdays between 7am - 1pm.

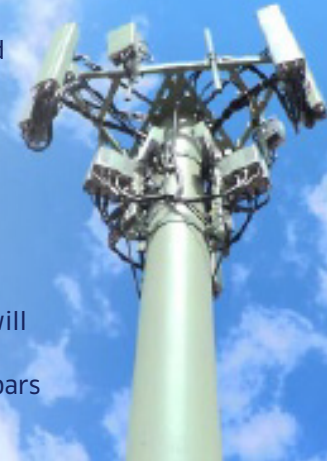
No works can be carried out on Sundays or public holidays.

### MOBILE COVERAGE BOOST FOR GOORAMBAT

It will come as no surprise to anyone local that Goorambat's new mobile tower has been switched on, providing a much-needed boost in local mobile coverage and connectivity.

The tower was supported by the project, which contributed \$50,000 to the initiative in recognition of its importance in enhancing connectedness in Goorambat.

Testing and fine-tuning will likely be underway for a period, but the boost in bars is great to see!



### PROTECTED ZONES

As the project site transforms into a solar farm, there are some areas which will remain as-is and protected. This is either due to the area having significance or to support biodiversity onsite.

Over 200 nesting boxes have been installed in the area as part of the project.

Thanks to the community members of surrounding properties that have helped with locations.

# LOCAL JOBS UPDATE

**The project is seeing a growing number of people employed on site and that number is growing as works ramp up. We're pleased to see many local people and businesses in the mix, ensuring the project provides employment opportunities for people who are local to the area.**

Protech, who have an office in Benalla, have been engaged to manage a large portion of employment for the project.

Protech are a leading workforce provider for the thriving renewables sector, with a legacy of supplying skilled people across a wide and diverse range of clean-energy projects. With a strong understanding of the unique demands and challenges of these sectors, they bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to every project.

Protech will list vacancies on their website [protech.com.au/job-listings/](https://protech.com.au/job-listings/)

## Meet Raymond and leashya

**Raymond (Yorta Yorta) and leashya (Kuku Yalangi & Kalkadoon) are Proudly Blue Collar Protech employees, starting their journey with Protech in March 2022 as two shy in-experienced Civil Trainees.**

Since then, they have worked hard to complete their Traineeship, working on Regional Rail upgrades across Victoria, Big Build Projects in Melbourne and we are so pleased that they have now joined as fully trained, highly experienced Civil Professional's on the Goorambat East Solar Farm Project.



## DID YOU KNOW?

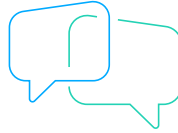
**The majority of the workforce will be bused in and out of site from a central pick-up location in Benalla which will reduce vehicle numbers and thus the impact on local roads and nearby residents.**

Benalla Bus Lines has been engaged to provide this service, so we thank them for making sure workers get to and from work safely and on-time.





# COMMUNITY FEEDBACK



As construction progresses, we remain attentive to community concerns. Where possible, we seek to address these concerns in a timely manner to reduce the impact on the community.



## DIRT MOUNDS AT NEW INTERSECTION

We have had a number of community members express concern about the look of the dirt mounds at the Goorambat-Chesney Road intersection.

This intersection is owned by Council, so we are discussing with them how these mounds will be managed in the longer term and if they need to remain, how they can be made more visually appealing.



## CONSTRUCTION TRAFFIC

We are aware of some construction traffic using unapproved routes to get to and from site (approved access and egress from the property must only be from Saunders Road and Goorambat Chesney Road and must avoid Peck Road).

We are monitoring and addressing this on an ongoing basis and have recently re-instated signs that have been removed and installed a number of additional 'no solar farm traffic' signs around the area. Our security team are monitoring vehicles entering site on a daily basis.



## BENALLA-TOCUMWAL ROAD/GOORAMBAT-THOONA ROAD INTERSECTION

The current traffic management set up at the Benalla-Tocumwal Road/Goorambat-Thoona Road intersection is a requirement of the Department of Transport and Planning (aka VicRoads). This set up is a temporary measure until the intersection is upgraded.

ENGIE will pay all costs associated with this upgrade and is awaiting approval of the design from DPT so that works can begin.



## INFORMATION SESSIONS

In response to feedback, we will hold a number of information sessions during construction which will allow the community to be updated on the project's progress and ask any questions they may have. These sessions will be advertised locally and open for all to attend.



## QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS

We encourage anyone with concerns regarding the project to contact us directly. We would discourage the funneling of feedback through a small number of community members as this doesn't give us an indication of how widespread an issue is.

These contact cards will soon be available around town so please grab one and keep it handy.

**If you have any questions or concerns about construction related activities, please contact:**

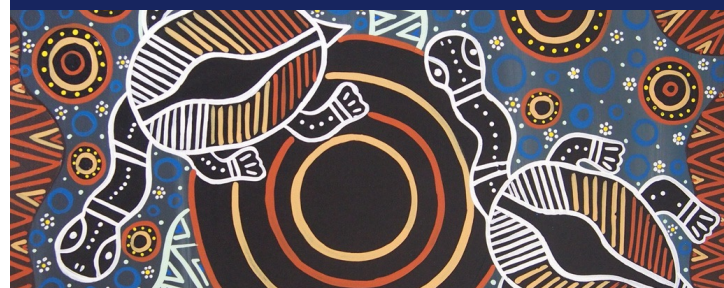
 0481 741 183

 [s.craven@bouygues-construction.com](mailto:s.craven@bouygues-construction.com)

**For all other queries, please contact:**

 1800 845 067

 [goorambatsolarfarm.au@engie.com](mailto:goorambatsolarfarm.au@engie.com)



# COMMUNITY BENEFITS



## FIREWOOD

Approximately 40 tonnes of wood from the site has been donated to the Goorambat Football Netball Club to sell as firewood which will greatly assist their fundraising efforts.



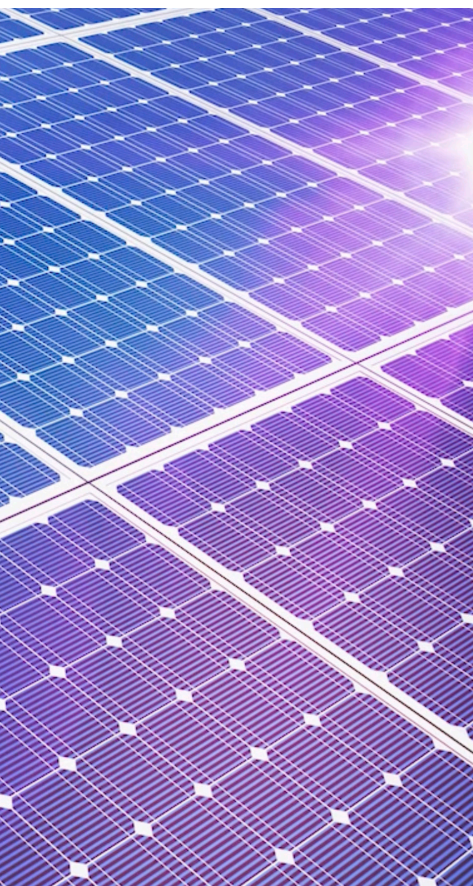
## COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND

**ENGIE is committed to providing \$75,000 per year to the local community for the life of the project (~30 years) once the solar farm starts operating (expected from 2027).**

We know that there is a lot of anticipation about this, so work is underway internally to understand potential governance and operating models that will ensure the community fund is set up with the appropriate legal structures in place.

The community will be consulted on this in 2025 and invited to co-design the fund for the Goorambat community.

We appreciate your excitement and patience as we work to get this right.



## HOW ARE SOLAR PANELS CLEANED?

**One of the questions that is often asked is how will the solar panels be cleaned?**

For the most part, the solar panels will be cleaned through natural rainfall. The system rotates from -50 degrees to 50 degrees therefore the natural tilt of the modules helps to facilitate runoff of any dirt from the modules when exposed to rainfall.

Given rainfall is not constant, a soiling monitoring station will be installed.

The station advises how dirty the panels are and enables a cleaning strategy to be put in place when there is no rainfall forecast. Multiple cleaning methods can be utilised with the exact cleaning for Goorambat to be determined however the following options are likely:

- Use of a watering house and soft squeegees to wipe modules.
- For stubborn dirt a mild, non-abrasive cleaning solution may be used.