

PUNCHS CREEK RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECT

Community Benefits Program

Help shape how the program is designed and what it funds

EDP Australia is setting up a Community Benefits Program for the life of the Punchs Creek Renewable Energy Project. Before we decide how it works, we want Millmerran to tell us where the funds should go, who should be eligible and who should make the decisions.

Consultation runs until 30 June 2027. Details on how to have your say are on page 4.

$100,000

every year for community benefits, for the life of the project

30 June 2027

consultation runs until this date, with sessions in Millmerran throughout

Register

your interest to be notified of sessions and project team visits

Punchs Creek Renewable Energy Project

COMMUNITY BENEFITS PROGRAM

Where the project is at

The project has planning approval. Initial works on the Powerlink substation and other early site activities have been undertaken. Major construction has not started. EDP is now working to secure a customer for its electricity to progress the project.

We will update the Millmerran community when the project reaches financial close.

Why we are asking for your input

EDP operates community benefit programs in projects around the world. Punchs Creek Renewable Energy Project will provide $100,000 per year for community benefits. We want to consult the community on how the funds can best meet local priorities.

THE PROJECT

- **A 400 MW solar farm** and a 400 MW battery with four hours of storage, across a 926 hectare site
- **Located at 328 Punchs Creek Road,** about 13 km south-east of Millmerran
- **Approved** by Toowoomba Regional Council, 2024
- **Owned by EDP Australia,** which acquired Stage 1 from SkyLab in August 2025
- **Expected operating life:** approximately 35 years
- **Around 520 workers** are expected at peak construction, with 20 jobs during operation

What you have already told us

In November 2024, the Millmerran community commissioned its own social impact assessment, completed in April 2025. We have read it and we are using it as the starting point rather than asking the district to say it all again. Three of its findings sit squarely within what a community benefits program can do.

Education and youth retention

The local state school teaches to Year 10. Students leave the district for Years 11 and 12 and most do not come back. Scholarships, traineeships and apprenticeships can work on this.

Support for community groups

Local organisations are carrying more with fewer volunteers. A fund can pay for equipment and projects, and take some of the administrative load that wears volunteers out.

Small grants go a long way

Household incomes sit at about 70 per cent of the Queensland median, so fees and equipment are a real barrier. Hats for school children and guards for football posts matter, even though the sums are small.

A local example worth considering

Millmerran has done this before. The Millmerran Power Community Benefits Program ran 10 annual funding rounds between 2000 and 2009. A local committee decided where the money went, and it reached schools, halls, rural fire brigades, Landcare and most of the sporting clubs. That program ran for 10 years. The Punchs Creek program is intended to run for the life of the project.

Punchs Creek Renewable Energy Project

COMMUNITY BENEFITS PROGRAM



What is open and what is not

Some aspects of the project are open to community input. Others have already been determined.

OPEN TO YOUR INFLUENCE

- Funding priorities and the order in which they are addressed
- The allocation of funds between one-off investment, regular grants, and skills and training
- Which towns and localities are eligible to apply
- The process for assessing applications and making funding decisions
- Eligibility criteria and any exclusions
- The frequency of funding rounds and the approach to community communication

ALREADY FIXED

- The project's location, size and type
- The approved haul route and the conditions attached to the development approval
- Operating hours, landscaping, security and safety requirements
- The total budget

Three shapes the money could take

Programs commonly combine these models. The consultation will seek views on the preferred mix.

One-off investment

A one-off contribution to a long-term community asset or project. Examples include upgrades to a community-owned facility, infrastructure for local events, or more expensive equipment.

Regular grants

One or two funding rounds each year, through which local groups can apply for support for events, projects and equipment.

Skills and training

Scholarships, school-based traineeships, apprenticeships and training partnerships with organisations such as TAFE and the University of Southern Queensland.

The five priority areas we start from

These come from EDP's global social investment policy. The feedback form asks you to rank them for Millmerran.

- **Community enhancement**
- **Health and wellbeing**
- **Environment**
- **Reconciliation**
- **Education and skills**

Punchs Creek Renewable Energy Project

COMMUNITY BENEFITS PROGRAM

Who should make the decisions

The decision-making model has not been fixed. The consultation will seek views on these options.

A **An existing local organisation:** Several local groups may have the governance arrangements to hold and distribute funds. EDP would approach the one the community suggests.

B **A panel specific to this project:** A panel would oversee how the funds are allocated. This would require time from local members, so EDP would limit the number and length of meetings.

C **EDP assessment against community-set criteria:** EDP would assess applications against criteria informed by the community and report annually on its decisions. No volunteers would be needed.

D **Another model:** The feedback form will provide an opportunity to propose a different approach.

How to have your say

Consultation runs until 30 June 2027. EDP will hold sessions and visit Millmerran at different times during this period.

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST

EDP will notify registered residents directly when a session is scheduled or when the project team will be in Millmerran.

To register, provide your name and preferred contact method: email, phone or post. Registrations can be made through any of the channels below, or by ticking the box on the feedback form.

1800 282 300

punchscreek@edp.com

Ways to register and give feedback

- Fill in the feedback form at **edp.co/punchscreek**
- Post back the paper feedback form that comes with this fact sheet
- Email **punchscreek@edp.com** to register or send feedback
- Call **1800 282 300** to register or provide feedback by phone
- Ask us to come to your group's meeting instead to save you time



IF YOU CANNOT GET TO A SESSION

Call us on **1800 282 300** and we will visit you, take your feedback over the phone, or send a feedback form in a format that suits you.

Get in touch

Email: punchscreek@edp.com **Phone:** 1800 282 300

EDP Australia acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which this project is built. For Punchs Creek Renewable Energy Project, we acknowledge the Kambuwal People and the Maree family, the endorsed Aboriginal party under the Cultural Heritage Management Plan. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.