

# ALDOGA SOLAR FARM NEWSLETTER

**JULY 2025**

In this edition:

1. PROJECT UPDATE
2. OPERATIONS TEAM
3. WORKING WITH NFP HOUSE
4. LEGACY INVESTMENT PROGRAM
5. SMALL GRANTS
6. ECO FEST
7. TURBINE MADE
8. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE
9. MANAGING QUERIES & COMPLAINTS
10. EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Welcome to the Aldoga Solar Farm Newsletter! We are delighted to be a part of the community and have been busy since we started construction in April last year, getting the project underway and showing our support in the community.

Aldoga Solar Farm was built by ACCIONA Energía and its contractors and is expected to be operational in the last quarter of this year. Located in Aldoga, around 20km north-west of Gladstone, it has approximately 820,000 solar panels capable of producing 380 megawatts of electricity—enough to power 185,000 homes!

## Project Update

We started construction in April 2024 and have come a long way. The last solar panel was installed at the end of March 2025. Construction is now complete, seven months ahead of schedule. The project will be gradually commissioned over the coming three months, bringing a new source of clean electricity to the National Electricity Market.

Some project highlights:

- We have used over 500km of recycled cabling from Plastic Forests – an award-winning Australian manufacturer of recycled plastic products, made from 100% soft plastics.
- We worked with Australian manufacturer Orrcon Steel to incorporate locally produced steel components.
- Over 40 local businesses were engaged during the project, from catering provided by Gladstone Fruit Shop to Potable Water supplied by Gladstone Water Haulage.

## Operations Team

With the commissioning well underway, we have now begun to establish our Local Operations Team and are pleased to introduce the following local team members:

**Acting Site Manager – Tim Wight**

**Site Coordinator – Maddyn Bennet**

We are also recruiting a team of Photovoltaic (PV) technicians. The solar farm will be run by fifteen local operational staff.



*The Aldoga Solar Farm Operations Team*

## Working with Not-for-Profit (NFP) House - Work Volunteering



Recently, ACCIONA Energía teamed up with NFP House, a local not-for-profit located in Gladstone. Gaetane Chiffolleau from NFP House visited the Aldoga Solar Farm to meet with our employees interested in giving back to the community through volunteering via the ACCIONA Workplace Volunteering Program.

We are now working together with NFP House to connect employees to not-for-profits in the local area, providing introductions and building a volunteer plan of action. Workplace volunteering means our team members can provide much needed skills to support local organisations with their governance and operational functions. The placements have started and our team are really keen to get out there!

## Legacy Investment Program



Our Aldoga Solar Farm Legacy Investment Program launched earlier this year. It is designed to contribute to long-term sustainable development in the region – and to support projects that will leave a lasting impact.

We are proud to announce that the Calliope Community Hub project is the program's first grant recipient. We have awarded \$80,000 towards a major renovation that will create a new community centre to host health, social services, and events. Local organisation 'Strong Communities' is leading the project and will repurpose the hall into a central and accessible community space including five consulting rooms, two multi-purpose rooms, a meeting room and connection lounge.

"The Calliope Hub will be a vibrant, inclusive space where individuals of all ages and backgrounds can connect, find support, and access essential services," said Crystal Robson, Co-founder and General Manager of Strong Communities.

"This project will preserve this historic building while adapting it to provide specialised services and activities that empower children, youth, families, seniors, and veterans. We have been consulting with the community about the future of the hall for five years and now, thanks to the support of the Aldoga Solar Farm Legacy Investment Program, we can start construction on this exciting new space."



## Small Grants

This year marked the second round of the Small Grants Program for the Aldoga Solar Farm. Through this program, ACCIONA Energía supports six local groups, assisting initiatives to support local veterans, families and emergency services organisations. The annual grants program is part of our commitment to support the long-term future of communities around our renewable energy projects.

In 2025, \$32,000 in grants have been awarded to the following organisations:

- Mount Larcom RSL Sub Branch – grant to assist with hosting the annual Veteran's and War Animal Memorial Dinner.
- Mount Larcom Support Group SES – grant to purchase laptops to support training and disaster coordination at the Emergency Operations Centre
- Mt Larcom & District Progress Association – grant to support the Association's annual family Christmas Fair
- Westowe Rural Fire Brigade – grant to assist with drainage works to prevent water from entering the station
- Yarwun Primary P&C Association – grant to purchase computers for the school to support student learning outcomes and equity in access to technology
- Gladstone Animal Rescue Group Inc – grant to purchase a generator, lights and equipment to provide back-up power supply in the event of a natural disaster or electrical outage.

Representatives from the successful community organisations came together to celebrate their new initiatives at a morning tea in early July at The Junction Café, Tondoon Botanical Gardens. It's our absolute pleasure to continue to fund these great initiatives and we look forward to future sponsorship opportunities.



*The 2025 Small Grants Morning Tea*



## Clinton State School – Reconciliation Path and Edible Native Garden

CATSIP (Clinton Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Parents) had been working for some time on the creation of a First Nations native garden as part of their Reconciliation Action Plan and as a long-term project for the group. Having had the opportunity to provide funding towards the creation of this beautiful green space, we were honoured to be invited along to the opening ceremony on 1 April.

The native garden was planted between two classroom blocks towards the front of the school with a 'reconciliation path' running through it. Both the reconciliation path and the garden are named using Byellee language, the native language of the Bailai people.



The garden was planned by First Nations parents at Clinton State School, and it consists of a dry water bed with lomandra longifolia surrounding it, flowing down from there to various other edible plants ending with an amphitheatre at the other end. Classes can sit together here before or after entering the garden and learn about the plants, creating items such as dilly bags from the lomandra, sharing the harvest they've collected.





## Eco Fest

We were proud to sponsor the Gladstone 2025 Ecofest, Central Queensland's largest environmental awareness event. This year's theme was 'Small steps can make a big difference—reduce, reuse, recycle', and we inspired others to do the same through the ACCIONA Energía Turbine Made initiative. We were excited to be a guest speaker and present the Turbine Made initiative on the main stage during the day, and to talk to the community at our stall.



## Turbine Made

Earlier this year, we unveiled the world's first surfboards made from decommissioned wind turbine blades. In collaboration with professional surfer Josh Kerr and his surfboard brand, Draft Surf, we've created 10 prototype surfboards that utilise retired turbine blades. This project is part of our Turbine Made initiative, which explores innovative ways to repurpose retired wind turbine blades into new materials and products. By transforming blades into surfboards, we're not only reducing waste but also pushing the boundaries of sustainable innovation in the renewable energy sector.

We had such a great time chatting with everyone at Ecofest 2025, and we were so impressed by all the positive feedback about our Turbine Made initiative. So many people told us they had no idea wind turbine blades could be recycled! Our Turbine Made surfboards sparked some great conversations. A lot of people who visited our stall were surprised to learn that wind turbine blades can actually be recycled, and had some really interesting questions, like what parts of the surfboard are made from the recycled material.

Approximately 30% of the first surfboard is Turbine Made. The recycled fibreglass fins provide stability and control and the turbine blade flex strips deliver customised performance. The turbine particulate infused throughout the glassing process enhances overall durability and strength. When measured by weight, the utilisation of decommissioned turbine materials represents nearly one-third of the finished board!

Find out more at <https://www.acciona.com.au/turbine-made>.





## Community Engagement Committee

Our Aldoga Solar Farm Community Engagement Committee was established mid-last year and has met four times to discuss project progress and community concerns. The minutes of each meeting, once endorsed by the committee, can be found on the Aldoga Solar Farm Community Engagement Committee [page](#).

We are now calling for two new committee members. If you are interested in taking part, please go to our CEC page for more details - [community.accionacom.au/aldoga/aldoga-cec](https://community.accionacom.au/aldoga/aldoga-cec)



## Managing Queries and Complaints

We work hard to engage with local communities, and to be a good neighbour. However, sometimes things don't go exactly to plan, and we always want to be available to listen to your concerns and complaints and do our best to resolve them. Our Aldoga Solar Farm Complaint investigation and Response Plan is available on our [Community Hub](#). You can always get in touch with us by email, phone or by visiting us in person – see our Contact Us section below.

## Employment Opportunities

ACCIONA Energía established an online employment hub during the construction of the project as a way of helping local people and contractors find work opportunities. We will keep you posted [here](#) with any future opportunities for Aldoga Solar Farm operational roles.

## Contact Us

Feel free to get in touch for more information or with feedback about any of our activities. Please email [aldoga.au@accionacom.au](mailto:aldoga.au@accionacom.au), call our freephone helpline on **1800 283 550** or visit our Community Hub - **Level 1, 72 Goondoon Street, Gladstone.**

You can also visit our online community hub to find out more about our solar farm at [community.accionacom.au/aldoga](https://community.accionacom.au/aldoga).

And we encourage you to subscribe via the QR code. That way we can provide email updates whenever we are posting important news.

Scan the QR Code

