



Fact sheet

Renewable energy developer rating scheme

The Australian government is committed to improving the way developers engage with communities when developing renewable energy infrastructure and new transmission lines.

To support this goal the government will introduce a new renewable energy developer rating scheme. The scheme aims to provide landholders and communities with greater transparency about companies that propose new energy infrastructure in their area.

The scheme is being developed with input from state and territory governments and key stakeholder groups including landholders, local governments, community organisations, industry bodies and developers of renewable energy and transmission infrastructure. A panel of impacted landholders and neighbours was established last year to provide advice to government on the scheme and will continue to play an important role including on the design.

The government is now seeking registrations of interest from developers of renewable energy infrastructure and transmission lines wishing to participate in the new scheme including participation in a design panel and testing program. Companies interested in participating should review this fact sheet and submit a registration of interest on our [Have your say](#) page. Companies interested in being selected to participate in the design panel will need to submit their applications by **4 April 2025**.

Background

In December 2023 the Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner, Mr Andrew Dyer, completed a [Community Engagement Review](#) to advise the government on improving community engagement on renewable energy infrastructure developments. The government agreed, or agreed in principle, with all 9 of the review's recommendations. The full recommendations can be found in the [report](#).

Recommendation 1 of the review called for a developer rating scheme to encourage best practice and to inform landholders on reputable developers to be selected for new projects. A key aim of the scheme is to provide landholders and communities with transparent information about a developer's track record and capabilities, including their community engagement.

About the rating scheme

The proposed scheme will be operated by a suitably qualified and experienced independent organisation. A selection process is underway to identify and appoint such an organisation as a design partner and operator of the scheme.

The scheme will be voluntary. The independent operator will undertake transparent assessments of participating developers' performance, track record, and capability including their community engagement performance and capability using objective measures. Periodic assessments are expected to occur, and the names of companies who receive positive assessments to be published and publicly accessible on a website.

The government is taking a phased approach to the roll-out of the scheme, which will include rigorous testing and ongoing monitoring. Following the design and testing of the first phase, the scheme is expected to be operational later this year.

The first phase of the scheme will focus on assessing developers' performance, capability and track record with past projects, compliance with their commitments to local communities, company conduct, the character of key persons in the company, financial stability and counter-party risks.

To ensure continuous improvement of the scheme, the government intends to build additional assessment measures into the scheme design as part of a second phase of the scheme.

About the design and testing process

To incorporate feedback from key stakeholder groups, the government is taking an inclusive co-design approach which is involving potential scheme participants, including landholders that host renewable energy infrastructure and representatives from state, territory and local governments, industry, First Nations and community groups.

Last year the government established a Landholder and Community Lived Experience Panel. This panel of host landholders and neighbours from communities hosting major projects, is already providing advice on the scheme and will continue to play an important role in the design phase. This panel provides advice to government and shares its insights with a broader Stakeholder Reference Group, which is comprised of members from community groups, environmental groups, industry and civil society.

Developers that wish to participate in the scheme, including the design and testing, are invited to register their interest in joining the Renewable Energy Businesses Participation Panel. This panel is anticipated to comprise 10 members involved in different renewable energy infrastructure from companies of various sizes and operating in different locations around Australia. These panel members and other interested companies identified through this Registration of Interest process, will be invited to test the scheme once the platform is operational.

It is anticipated that panel members will need to be available to contribute to the design and testing phase for up to 2 hours per month over a 4-month period following the closing date alongside the existing landholder and neighbour panel. This will include attending periodic meetings and providing feedback on draft proposals and materials.

Registering your interest

To register your interest to participate in the new scheme including its design and testing, you must submit a Registration of Interest form on our [Have your say page](#). Companies interested in being selected as a member of the Renewable Energy Businesses Participation Panel should express their interest by **4 April 2025**. We may approach other companies who register their interest to participate in the testing of the scheme once the scheme platform is operational.

Registrations of interest are invited from:

- Developers of renewable energy infrastructure with experience in developing large scale solar, or onshore wind projects, transmission lines, large scale batteries or pumped hydro
- Small, medium and large companies operating in Australia

For the purposes of this Registration of Interest a renewable energy developer includes companies that are proponents, owners and/or operators of large-scale renewable energy projects, or are responsible for carrying out the development of a renewable energy project, including engaging subcontractors involved in the development of the project.

Next steps

Companies will be advised of the outcome of their registration of interest in participating in the Renewable Energy Businesses Participation Panel following the closing date. We may also invite other companies to assist with the testing of the scheme later this year once the scheme platform is operational.

Please note that your company and contact details will be shared with the scheme design partner when they are appointed.

More information

Please email Social.Licence.Policy@dcceew.gov.au should you require further information.