



# **Position Statement on Renewable Energy Investment**





# Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide a consolidated, transparent and consistent position on renewable energy investment and transition throughout Hindmarsh Shire. Hindmarsh Shire Council does not participate in the planning approval process for renewable energy projects, transmission lines, or mining activities, these projects are approved by State Government.

Council's purpose is to support, enable, and deliver the best long-term outcomes for our community. Our position balances our approach to working with stakeholders and the State and Federal Governments, with the social, economic, and environmental priorities of our residents and ratepayers that are at the heart of our decision-making, advocacy and work.

This statement requests a holistic approach from the State Government regarding the social, environmental, and economic wellbeing of our communities in support of energy and emission targets. Given our community's significant contributions to the state and national economy - particularly in agriculture - it is both reasonable and necessary that we benefit from enhanced infrastructure, upgraded road networks, and sustained investment. Prioritising these improvements is essential to support our region's ongoing development and long-term sustainability.





# Background

Victoria has a strong commitment to renewable energy, aiming for 65% renewable energy generation by 2030 and 95% by 2035, as well as net zero emissions by 2045. To achieve these goals, the state is actively developing Renewable Energy Zones (REZ), improving grid infrastructure, and encouraging investment in renewable energy projects. Renewable energy zones are areas identified as the best places to host wind and solar projects and batteries for storage.

Council recognises that individual renewable energy projects remain subject to required consultation and statutory assessment processes which are controlled by the State and/or Commonwealth Government.

Council's Climate Adaption Strategy was adopted in August 2024 and contains the following actions:

*Advocate for renewable energy projects which contribute to the Shire's economy and jobs, and which assist the Shire to attract investment in both innovative technologies and value-added products (especially those which add-value to the Shire's agricultural commodities).*

*Negotiate with incoming renewable energies providers to the region to ensure they create lasting community and economic benefits for the Shire.*

This position statement supports these adopted aims.





# Position

- Council asks that planning proposals under consideration by the State Government be subject to mandatory impact assessments that involve genuine consultation with Councils and the local community.
- Council asks that road infrastructure that is damaged due to construction or use of the renewable energy development be remediated in full by the developer and/or the State Government with consideration given to ongoing maintenance costs. Infrastructure should be upgraded to cater for the needs and volume of the traffic generated by the development, during and after the completion of the development.
- To ensure our region can fully contribute to and benefit from this transition, it is vital that we receive a fair share of investment in local road networks, enabling safe, efficient transport and delivering lasting benefits to our community.
- Council believes that social wellbeing and development should be embedded in the outcome of all projects, facilitated through the re-investment of funds generated from the energy transition back into our community and through renewable energy proponents establishing legacy benefits through projects within Hindmarsh Shire Legacy benefit projects include significant investment in key local services like education, childcare and healthcare and the roads, footpaths and community infrastructure that are vital to our communities;
- Council supports individual community members being provided with meaningful opportunity to input into planning and statutory assessment processes (be it in support or opposition), before final State and/or Commonwealth Government decisions are made about individual renewable energy projects, and advocates for the return of the right for individuals to seek redress through VCAT should they be adversely impacted by virtue of proximity to a renewable energy site.
- Council asks that legislation and approval processes are reviewed and reformed to protect the intergenerational connection between our agricultural community and their land.





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