

YOUR REF:
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ENQUIRIES: Dale Stewart



28 March 2025

The Hon. Roger Cook MLA
Premier
Minister for State Development; Trade and Investment;
Economic Diversification
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Dear Premier

CONGRATULATIONS & REQUEST FOR MEETING ON RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SHIRE OF NARROGIN

I would like to extend my congratulations on your re-election and that of the Cook Labor Government. Your leadership is pivotal as Western Australia navigates the future of energy, and we in the Shire of Narrogin, are eager to work alongside you and the government in this critical sector.

The Shire of Narrogin has closely followed the Cook Labor Government's commitment to various infrastructure projects, particularly in the renewable energy and energy sector. We acknowledge the government's continued investment in regional development and infrastructure, including the plan to decarbonise and transition away from coal by 2030 and the broader implications for the energy sector as we support renewable energy developments within our region.

As the Shire of Narrogin is experiencing rapid growth in the renewable energy sector, we are committed to ensuring that these projects are developed in a way that benefits our community while supporting the State's renewable energy targets. However, we are mindful of the growing strain these projects have on local infrastructure, housing, and essential community resources.

In light of this, we would like to discuss the 6 major renewable energy projects currently before us in Narrogin, and the following key issues regarding the renewable energy sector and its implications for our region:

- **Impact of Current Energy Policies on Regional Areas:** We urge your office to consider the unique challenges faced by regional communities, particularly in relation to energy infrastructure, community amenities, and housing. As we continue to attract renewable energy projects to the Shire, it is vital that the State's energy policies account for the specific needs of rural and regional areas **and the host communities to ensure they also support the Government's initiatives.**
- **Support for Renewable Energy Infrastructure and Industry Development:** With several large-scale renewable energy projects already in various stages of development within the Shire, including wind, solar, and battery storage projects, we are keen to ensure that energy policies provide the necessary support for infrastructure and industry development. The local government must be engaged early in the process to ensure the development of coordinated land use plans and housing solutions to support the workforce, which is essential to the success of these projects.

Current Renewable Energy Projects in the Shire:

The Narrogin district is home to several major renewable energy proposals, with projects spanning wind, solar, battery storage, and renewable fuels. These developments represent over **\$8 billion** in proposed investment, with significant opportunities for local contractors and employment.

1. Narrogin East Wind, Solar & BESS Project – Est. \$800M

- To be lodged SDAU, approx. May 2025
- Capacity: 250MW wind, 150MW solar, 200MW BESS
- Location: 10km East of Narrogin between Williams Kondinin Road and Yilliminning Road
- Developer: Lightsource BP
- Construction: ~450 workers, ~18 months from Feb 2026
- Permanent Jobs: ~8
- [Solar Projects | Renewable Energy Projects | Lightsource bp](#)

2. Narrogin Solar Farm & BESS – Est. \$400M

- Lodged - JDAP Meeting May 2025
- Capacity: 200MWDC solar + 200MW, 4hr BESS
- Location: 3km South of Narrogin bounded by Wanerie Road and Great Southern Highway.
- Developer: ACE Power
- Co-use: Sheep grazing maintained
- Construction: ~150 workers, ~18 months from Feb 2026
- Permanent Jobs: ~5
- [Narrogin Solar Farm & BESS | ACE Power](#)

3. Narrogin BESS Project – Est. \$400M

- Lodged - JDAP Meeting May 2025
- Capacity: 200MW, 4hr BESS
- Function: Grid stability & renewable integration
- Location: 3km south of Narrogin near the Narrogin South Substation and Narrogin Valley Road
- Developer: South Energy
- Construction: ~150 workers, ~18 months from Feb 2026
- Permanent Jobs: ~5
- [Narrogin Battery Energy Storage System](#)

4. Narrogin Biodiesel Plant – Est. \$400M

- To be lodged SDAU, approx. May 2025
- Product: 19M litres of renewable diesel/year
- Location: 3km South of Narrogin (Great Southern Hwy & Wanerie Rd)
- Developer: Narrogin Renewable Fuel One Pty Ltd
- Construction: ~150 workers, ~18 months from Feb 2026
- Permanent Jobs: ~30
- Website: Coming Soon

5. Narrogin Wind Farm – Est. \$500M

- Lodged SDAU February 2025
- Capacity: 200MW
- Location: 5km West of Narrogin
- Developer: Neoen
- Future Potential: Battery storage

- Construction: ~200 workers, ~18 months from Feb 2026
- Permanent Jobs: ~8
- [Narrogin Wind Farm - Cleaner Energy for WA](#)

6. Bellwether Wind Farm – Est. \$6B

- To be lodged SDAU, approx. May 2027
- Scale: ~400 turbines over 100,000 ha
- Location: Wheatbelt region, involving dozens of landowners, multiple LGAs
- Developer: ACCIONA Energía
- Construction: ~750 workers, ~36 months from Feb 2028
- Permanent Jobs: ~40
- [Bellwether Wind Farm | ACCIONA Energía Community](#)

We firmly believe that the State's planning and energy policies must align with local government and community priorities to ensure the renewable energy sector develops sustainably and equitably. Accordingly, my Shire President, Mr Leigh Ballard, and I respectfully request an urgent meeting with you to discuss these matters and explore how we can work together to address the specific needs of Narrogin and other regional areas.

For transparency, we are also concurrently seeking separate meetings with the Minister for Energy and Decarbonisation, the Minister for Regional Development, and the Minister for Planning and Lands; Housing and Works, in their respective roles. However, we consider it equally critical to meet with you as Premier and Minister for State Development, given the value of the projects before us and the complexities our community faces, which demand **'State level' strategic intervention, coordination, planning and support**.

Mr Leigh Ballard and I look forward to your response and the opportunity to meet in person to discuss these matters in more detail, including the Shire's adopted guiding documents:

- Renewable Energy Framework Submission;
- Local Planning Policy – Temporary/Transient Workforce Accommodation; and
- Narrogin - Love the Life, Power the Future - Community Enhancements Fund (CEF).

In closing, we write to you with both a deep sense of urgency and an unwavering belief in the collective opportunity before us.

Our region is at the centre of a seismic shift in Western Australia's energy landscape. The proliferation of large-scale renewable energy proposals surrounding Narrogin and the wider Wheatbelt marks a defining moment not only for our community but for the State's transition to a clean energy future. These projects hold immense promise, environmentally, economically, and symbolically, but their success depends on more than turbines, batteries, solar panels, and transmission lines. They require people, place, and purpose.

Despite the magnitude of investment proposed, host communities, those who will live with, support, and sustain this transformation, have yet to see a clear and committed plan from the State that safeguards their wellbeing and long-term resilience. We are calling for direct State Government intervention and support in three critical areas:

1. Transitional and Legacy Housing Solutions

The current and projected influx of workers has already begun to strain our limited (read unavailable) housing stock. Without urgent investment in transitional housing and long-term legacy solutions, we risk creating bottlenecks that will not only undermine project viability but deepen regional disadvantage. We are asking for State-supported planning pathways and targeted housing investment that will leave a lasting legacy for our residents, not just temporary accommodation for short-term workforces.

2. Infrastructure and Community Enhancements

Renewable energy must not merely pass through Narrogin; it must grow with it. We seek strategic investment in infrastructure, sewerage, water, industrial and residential; development with and essential services to support growth, uplift liveability, and foster long-term sustainability. This is also an opportunity to build enduring community infrastructure, recreation, culture, and civic spaces, that reflects the scale of the transformation we are enabling.

3. Planning Support and Policy Direction

Local governments cannot shoulder the burden of managing this transition alone. We need State-level planning, intervention that supports speed, certainty, and alignment with local aspirations. The Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, in collaboration with Energy Policy WA and Development WA, must lead a coordinated response that ensures approvals, land use, and development contributions are managed proactively and equitably.

This is not merely a call for support, it is an invitation to lead.

With a bold, collaborative approach, the State Labor Government has an unprecedented opportunity to demonstrate how a just energy transition can and should be delivered: by respecting and investing in host communities, by leaving a tangible legacy in regional WA, and by bringing the people of the Wheatbelt into the story of transformation not as bystanders, but as central participants.

Through the Shire's Community Enhancements Fund, anchored in our vision of "Narrogin, Love the Life – Power the Future," we are showing what's possible when community, Council, and developers work together for shared outcomes. With State support, and a holistic State-led community impact assessment, this vision can become a model for regional resilience and renewable integration across Western Australia.

Narrogin and its neighbouring towns have long been the heartland of agricultural productivity. Now, we stand ready to help power the future of this State. But we must not be left behind in the process. With your support, we can turn this moment into a model, of fairness, of foresight, and genuine partnership between regional communities and the Government that represents them.

We would welcome the opportunity to host you in Narrogin to show you firsthand both the opportunities, and the urgency, that lie ahead and to ensure a bipartisan and world's best practice approach.

Should you require further information or clarification on the above, please contact me via email, enquiries@narrogin.wa.gov.au or telephone 9890 0900.

Yours sincerely



Dale Stewart
Chief Executive Officer

Cc Mr Leigh Ballard, Shire President

Att. 1) Local Planning Policy – Temporary/Transient Workforce Accommodation
2) Narrogin - Love the Life, Power the Future - Community Enhancements Fund (CEF)
3) Renewable Energy Framework Submission