



Community Engagement & Transparency

Supporting our communities as they strive to protect the natural environment & food production in the Wimmera Mallee region of Victoria.

Who is WMEAP?

Formed in October 2024 at a meeting of 70 community members in Brim. The group understood that the unique qualities of our landscape and agricultural land required protecting from the impact of approaching developments.

180 + members and growing

Immediate Concerns

- Wind & Solar Projects
- Transmission Lines
- Mineral Sands Mining
- Rushed poorly planned development process
- Inability of developers to obtain social license
- Inability to get answers to simple questions
- "I will have to get back to you on that" is just not good enough.

Community

Community cohesion is highly valued by our members. We advocate that communities come together to understand potential development impact and ensure community are involved in a transparent development process.

What can you do?

- Talk to your neighbours before signing
- Get independent legal advice
- Visit our website
- Attend our monthly meeting
- Share information on social media
- Follow WMEAP Facebook & Instagram
- Educate yourself and get involved
- \$10 membership - email for application

Wimmera Mallee Environmental & Agricultural Protection Association Inc.

Contact us via

admin@wmeap.com

www.wmeap.com



DRAFT: HOW TO WORK WITH CORPORATIONS, COMPANIES & GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES

ADJUSTING TO CHANGE

Wind & Solar Energy - Mining - Food Production - Environmental Change

**A guide to working out your course of action.
We are all unique and we are all important.**

CHAPTER ONE

Change happens.

- Without it we cease to grow and develop as a community.
- Individuals and businesses have engaged with change to build commercial and economic growth in communities for decades.
- Towns have flourished and fallen, business have refocused and reoriented, individuals stayed or left.

Overall **COMMUNITY** is our identity as individuals, businesses and our geographic location.

Change is pervasive and with it there will be adjustments to what we know today. However, we are in control of tomorrow if we act as a **COMMUNITY**.

Changing our **COMMUNITY** is an action that requires us all to agree on a common cause to improve the way we live and deliver benefit for ourselves and others.

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CHAPTER TWO

Challenges to COMMUNITY.

- You are up against corporations and companies that are driven by profit for shareholders not communities.
- Singular profit driven goals dominate over local and logical solutions.
- Global views crush local innovation.
- Corporations and companies divide and conquer through selective consultation and limited representative arguments.
- Innovation is ignored by adoption of world best practice???
- Government Ministers are not above the law, but we often think they are.

CHAPTER THREE

What do I do? When?

I receive correspondence from a corporation or company in relation to my property.

- Read it carefully.
- Discuss it with clever friends.
- Have it read by a skilled legal practitioner.
- Share the content of the request with your neighbours.
- Ask questions where you do not understand something.
- Don't act until you understand and can explain to others.
- Ensure all contact with the company is via email or hard copy.

I am invited to meet with representatives of the company.

- Agree.
- Take notes.
- Manage communication through email or written exchanges.
- Invite neighbours (witnesses).
- Oversee any activity on your property and take photographs.
- Ask for company notes, data, outcome reports from any visit.

I receive a notice from a corporation or company in relation to my property.

- Consider the request. Don't rush.
- Read it carefully.
- Discuss it with clever friends.
- Have it read by a skilled legal practitioner.
- Share the content of the request with your neighbours.
- Ask questions where you do not understand something.
- Don't act until you understand and can explain to others.
- Ensure all contact with the company is via email or hard copy.

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CHAPTER THREE Continued

What should I do if a company wishes to attach a caveat to my title.

- Consider all the impacts, talk to an appropriate skilled legal practitioner.
- If company wish to apply a caveat on your title, you should not allow this to occur until project has full planning approvals.
- If caveat is applied to land, make sure it coincides with appropriate payment for the restrictions .
- Do not let caveat holders apply caveat, without agreement.
- If caveat is incorrectly applied, insist that it be removed from your title.
- It is unfair if one party has control over another party, if a landholder has caveat applied to their land, then landholders should have a say or control over who a developer is able to sell the project to.

I am required by a corporation or company to comply with a request/order.

- Consider the request/order.
- Determine the authority issuing the request/order.
- Have the request/order examined by a legal practitioner.
- Determine your course of action.
- Share your course of action with your community.
- Act when you understand and can explain to others.
- Ensure all contact with the company/Government is evidentiary.

I receive a threat

- Report it to the police.
- Report it to a regulating authority

I find people on my property

- Ask them to comply with the standards of access applying to your property.
- Report the incident to police

I do not authorise entry on my property.

- Report illegal entry to police.
- Take photos and or videos.
- Talk to neighbours and trusted friends and discuss in detail.

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CHAPTER FOUR

Who represents my interests? YOU DO

How can I advocate for myself and my community?

- Formally advise your elected Federal, State and Local Government representative of your position.
- Without knowledge of your position, they are unable to act on your behalf.
- Even if the majority is not supporting your position representatives have no way of determining the merits of cases without information.
- All locally elected public officials represent your issues. However, they will never know you have issues unless you tell them.

How do I tell them?

Telephone, send an email or write a letter to your local member (Federal & State) and your local councillor that identifies the issue (energy project, mining, transmission line, property access) and clearly states your position. Request a non-generic response in writing (email/hard copy).

CHAPTER FIVE

Enviromental considerations

- Be aware of endangered & other species in the area and lodge them on iNaturalist App.
- Take notes of raptor species (bats, owls, hawks, eagles and southern stone curlews), birds and flying mammals, that will be most impacted.
- Take photos and videos which will record location and date
- Prior to any construction or associated project work commencing, conduct professional background sound testing
- Impacts on remnant vegetation such as Yarriambiack Creek ecosystem must be thoroughly considered.
- Impacts on neighbours, could be sound, light flicker and shedding of micro particles from blades
- Impacts on agricultural operations, restrictions or advance notice to wind operators by farmers for spraying or paddock operations.
- Disposal of waste oil, blades and other components in an ethical and sustainable way

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CHAPTER SIX

Local incorporated bodies

Your community can be represented through an incorporated association as a legal entity. It can:

- Collect your views and represent them.
- Receive funds from its membership to undertake independent research and development to compare with corporate funded actions.
- Provide collective consultation that helps establish a community view.
- Deliver a forum for concern and remediation.
- Organise community consultation and presentation of facts.
- Deliver a forum to discuss relevant issues and presentations to decision makers.
- Gather together, and prevent people from feeling isolated.
- Provide social interaction to support well-being.

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