Foreword

> “Communities are clear in their expectations: genuine early engagement, transparent communication, opportunities for local employment and procurement, and visible long-term legacies.

Australia's clean energy transformation is not just an infrastructure challenge – it is a nation-building project that reaches deep into our regions, our industries and our communities. The success of this transformation depends not only on how much renewable capacity we build, but on how well we build it: in partnership with Traditional Owners, with respect for Country and with a clear commitment to leaving lasting value for the communities who host these projects.

The Clean Energy Council's Best Practice Charter exists to guide us in that task. Each of the signatories that have reported against the charter this year, have shown that good practice is more than compliance – it is about trust, collaboration and accountability. Whether it's co-designing benefit-sharing funds with local councils, supporting First Nations equity partnerships, integrating agriculture and solar, or ensuring worker accommodation doesn't strain local housing, the message is the same: when we get it right, everyone benefits.

As someone who has spent much of my career working to strengthen communities and economies, I know that transitions of this scale only succeed when people feel included, respected and heard. This snapshot, taken from more than 400 examples, demonstrates that developers are listening – and importantly, learning – from the lived experience of regional Australians.

Of course, there is more to do. Communities are clear in their expectations: genuine early engagement, transparent communication, opportunities for local employment and procurement and visible long-term legacies. Getting this right is not a 'nice to have'; it is central to project delivery, investor confidence and public trust in the clean energy transition.

This year's reporting against the charter provides not only evidence of progress but also a blueprint for what's possible when industry lifts the bar together. It shows a sector that is maturing – one that is embedding social performance as deeply as engineering or finance. That is the pathway to a transition that is not only fast, but fair; not only ambitious, but enduring.

I am proud to lead the Clean Energy Council at this pivotal moment. Together, with governments, industry and communities, we will deliver a transition that creates opportunity, strengthens resilience and leaves a legacy, of which Australians can be proud.

Jackie Trad
Chief Executive Officer
Clean Energy Council

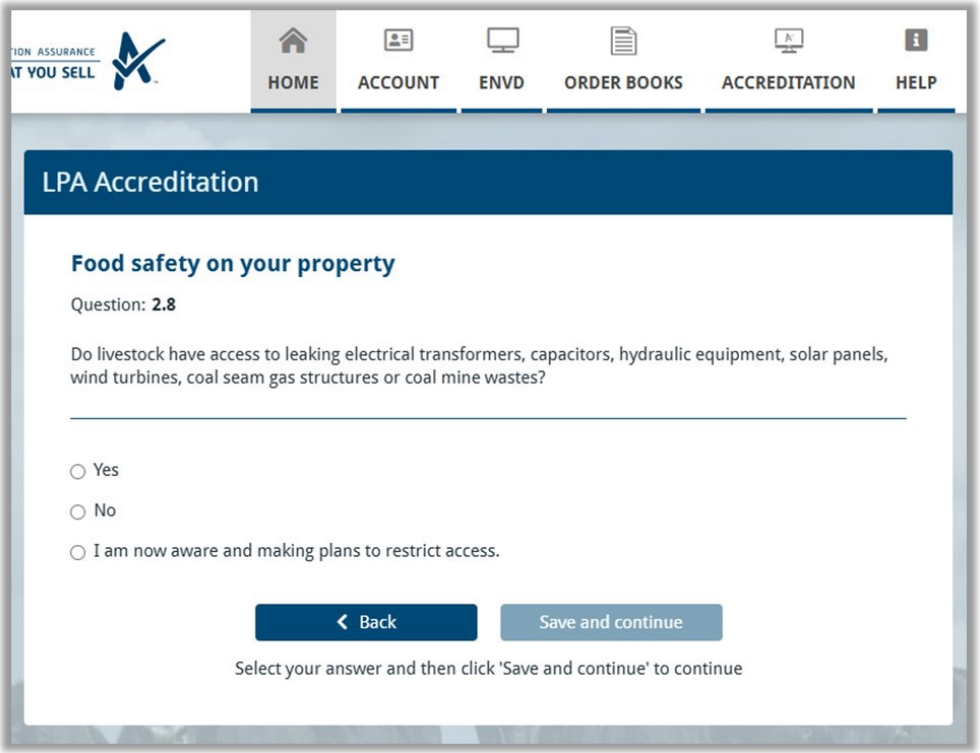
Best Practice Charter commmitments

1. We will engage respectfully with the local community, including Traditional Owners of the land, to seek their views and input before submitting a development application and finalising the design of the project.
2. We will provide timely information and be accessible and responsive in addressing the local community's feedback and concerns throughout the life of the project.
3. We will be sensitive to areas of high biodiversity, cultural and landscape value in the design and operation of project.
4. We will minimise the impacts on highly productive agricultural land and explore opportunities to integrate agricultural production.
5. We will consult the community on the potential visual, noise, traffic and other impacts of the project, and on the mitigation options.
6. We will support the local economy by providing local employment and procurement opportunities.
7. We will offer communities the opportunity to share in the benefits of the project, and consult them on the options available, including the relevant governance arrangements.
8. We commit to using the project to support educational and tourism opportunities where appropriate.
9. We will demonstrate responsible land stewardship over the life of the project and welcome opportunities to enhance the ecological, cultural and/or agricultural value of the land.
10. During the life of the project, we will recycle waste materials where feasible and commit to responsible decommissioning or refurbishment/repowering of the site at the end of the project's life.

Best Practice Charter signatories

The Four Principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) are:

- The Precautionary Principle: When there is a threat of serious environmental damage, action should be taken to prevent it, even if there is not full scientific certainty.
- Intergenerational Equity: The current generation should take care of the environment so that future generations can benefit from it.
- Conservation of Biological Diversity: The diversity of plants and animals should be preserved.
- Improved Valuation, Pricing, and Incentive Mechanisms: The costs of pollution and waste should be paid by those who cause them.


TION ASSURANCE
AT YOU SELL
HOME
ACCOUNT
ENVD
ORDER BOOKS
ACCREDITATION
HELP
LPA Accreditation
Food safety on your property
Question: 2.8
Do livestock have access to leaking electrical transformers, capacitors, hydraulic equipment, solar panels, wind turbines, coal seam gas structures or coal mine wastes?
Yes
No
I am now aware and making plans to restrict access.
Back
Save and continue
Select your answer and then click 'Save and continue' to continue

Advisory Note AN-004
Extinguishment of Li-Ion Battery Fires

This advisory note provides important information regarding the evaluation and verification of evidence of conformity for the extinguishment of Li-Ion batteries under the CSIRO Verification Services' ActivFire® Scheme.

With increasing usage of Li-Ion batteries in our daily lives, there has been an increase in documented fires, both in Australia and globally, caused by failure of Li-Ion batteries. Some of these fires have caused serious damage to properties in Australia, while fatalities have occurred overseas, throwing a spotlight onto the safety of Li-Ion batteries.

While a number of Li-Ion battery fire extinguishment solutions have been proposed globally, no Australian Standard has been published to provide performance requirements for the extinguishment of fires related to Li-Ion batteries.

In Australia, the Australia Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) sets out a list of mandatory standards to make particular safety or information features on products compulsory for legal supply of the product into the Australian market. This includes portable aerosol fire extinguishers and portable non-aerosol fire extinguishers. More information can be found here: https://www.productsafety.gov.au/product-safety-laws/safety-standards-bans/mandatory-standards.

Accordingly, CSIRO Verification Services' ActivFire® Scheme advises its stakeholders that it *has not and will not* certify, and thus provide a Certificate of Conformity, that any fire extinguisher can effectively extinguish a Li-Ion battery fire.

CSIRO Verification Services' ActivFire® Scheme supports the development of an Australian Standard and/or acceptance of an internationally recognised Standard that includes performance requirements for the extinguishments of Li-Ion battery fires and will continue to work with key stakeholders in the development of such a Standard.

Please contact your local fire brigade in the case of a Li-Ion battery fire.

Issuing Authorities

Kai Loh, Executive Office, ActivFire scheme – CSIRO Verification Services

Tracey Gramlick, Deputy Director – Growth and Strategy, Infrastructure Technologies

Issue date

30-Nov-2023

Contact us

1300 363 400
+61 3 9545 2176
csiroenquiries@csiro.au
csiro.au

For further information

CSIRO Conformity Services Branch
conformityServices@csiro.au

**NHMRC Updated Australian Drinking Water Guidelines - 25th June 2025

- revised chemical fact sheets on **per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), selenium, lead and manganese**
- an information sheet on **metals and metalloids** leaching from plumbing products
- a new chemical fact sheet on **bismuth**
- a new combined chemical fact sheet on **silicon and silica**

Reduce health risks from PFAS chemical exposure in Australian Drinking Water:

*PFOA (perfluorooctanoic acid): 200 ng/L
*PFOS (perfluorooctane sulfonic acid): 8 ng/L
*PFHxS (perfluorohexane sulfonic acid): 30 ng/L
*PFBS (perfluorobutane sulfonic acid): 1000 ng/L
*GenX chemicals (hexafluoropropylene oxide dimer acid and its ammonium salt)

COMMONWEALTH PFAS BAN

Wind Turbine Blades & Lithium-ion Batteries are Toxic PFAS Contaminants

Solar Panels + the Electrical Wiring sourced from China are both **coated in PFOS (Perfluorooctane Sulfonate or Perfluorooctane Sulfonic Acid)** listed as a **Toxic Contaminant** in the updated **Australian Drinking Water Guidelines.**

Due to these **'Forever Chemicals'** being **linked to cancer, birth defects, liver disease, thyroid disease, plummeting sperm counts and a range of other serious health problems the Commonwealth Government has banned the import, use and manufacture of some of the more prominent types of PFAS (PFOS, PFOA and PFHxS) from 1st July 2025** - (21 Feb 2024)


HAVE YOUR POWER BILLS GONE DOWN NO
WEAK LEADER =WEAK COUNTRY
WHITFORD LIQUID WASTE
5331 1829