

# STANWELL COMMUNITY NEWS

CENTRAL QUEENSLAND



## WELCOME TO THE DECEMBER 2024 EDITION!

Read about:

- our exciting progress with the Future Energy Innovation and Training Hub and Battery Energy Storage System project
- our involvement with Wycarbah and District Landcare to calculate the optimum ratio of trees and pasture in Queensland
- how we're supporting local projects through the latest round of the Stanwell Community Partnership Fund



# A MESSAGE FROM OUR GENERAL MANAGER

**Angie Zahra**

General Manager - Stanwell Power Station



This year has been filled with fantastic opportunities to connect with our local community and learn what matters most to our people and region. Perhaps you joined us at some of the events we've supported, such as trivia nights, rodeos, horse sports, as well as school and health events across the area.

An annual highlight for me is the Stanwell Community BBQ – I always enjoy catching up with our local neighbours and hearing stories from across the region.

It's pleasing to see so many of us coming together to kick-start the festive season at our end-of-year events.

## **Operations update**

Stanwell Power Station has been operating at high levels of availability to ensure the energy needs of our commercial and industrial customers, and the National Electricity Market are met.

This year's planned maintenance outage at Stanwell Power Station, which was completed in July marked the completion

of the busiest part of our 5-year maintenance schedule. The schedule Stanwell adheres to means that as planned, we don't need to conduct outage maintenance in 2025. The next 5-year maintenance cycle will begin in 2026.

During the past year, Stanwell has also progressed the development our renewable energy portfolio including power purchase agreements (long-term contracts to purchase electricity from renewable energy projects for customers) and renewable energy projects in which we have varying levels of ownership, operation or maintenance responsibilities.

We know we can't operate successfully without partnerships, collaborations and most importantly, without the support of our communities.

Wishing you and your families a restful and enjoyable holiday period before we welcome an exciting 2025!

**Angie Zahra**

## WYCARBAH AND DISTRICT LANDCARE: PARTNERING FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

In September, Stanwell welcomed Wycarbah and District Landcare to site to visit the Woodlands silvopastoral project site, a system incorporating trees and livestock grazing in sub-tropical and tropical systems. The visit was hosted by our Land and Property Manager, Nick Lawler and Stakeholder Engagement Advisor, Greg Heath.

The project aims to provide a calculation of the optimum ratio of trees and pasture for the central Queensland climate.

"It measures real outcomes of carbon which allows Stanwell's neighbours and Queensland farmers to make more

informed decisions about the cost and benefits of silvopastoral systems for their farming businesses," Nick said.

"Cattle farming is the most common land use around Stanwell Power Station, and Rockhampton is of course the Beef Capital (sorry Casino!)."

Measurements of the trees are taken each year and biodiversity assessments have been completed, nearly two years into the 5-year project.

Led by Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) and co-funded by Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA), the project will publish data from the Stanwell project site as

well as more than 20 other silvopastoral project sites across Queensland and New South Wales.

"Sustainability and carbon reporting are becoming big drivers in agricultural businesses. The steaks we buy from the butcher in 2030 will more than likely have a carbon rating so customers can make more informed and responsible purchases," Nick said.

The project data will be used to develop decision-making and support tools for local cattle farmers on the species, numbers, configurations and locations of trees on farming land to deliver carbon and other benefits.

# NEXT-GEN BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM TAKES OFF

Another significant project for Stanwell is the construction of our Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), which began in July this year, adjacent to the power station.

Once finalised, there will be 324 shipping container-sized Lithium-ion Tesla Megapack batteries in place to enable four hours of energy for up to 203,000 homes on demand, several times a day.

As always, the safety of our community and employees remains at the top of the priority list. Each unit will undergo extensive fire testing and will include integrated safety systems, specialised monitoring software and 24/7 response support.

“We understand that local communities are concerned

about the potential risks associated with battery projects. We are addressing this through robust safety protocols and a commitment to sustainable practices in the construction and commissioning of battery energy storage systems,” Luke Sondergeld, Acting Manager of Health, Safety, and Environment for Major Projects, said.

“These safety factors have been the number one priority as we have progressed the BESS project. The technology for battery storage is advancing quickly, which means safety improvements are being made alongside technology advances,” Luke said.

The BESS is expected to be fully developed and commissioned to provide secure and reliable energy by 2026.



# FUTURE ENERGY INNOVATION AND TRAINING HUB TO EQUIP FUTURE WORKFORCE



FEITH will provide a pilot and testing facility for new energy technologies, such as iron-flow batteries and will also include a renewable energy education and training facility which will allow our employees to gain the skills they will need to work in the clean energy industry.

The FEITH project has made significant progress throughout 2024, and work is now underway to scope out the detailed design for the renewable energy centre. This facility will likely include meeting rooms, interactive educational spaces, workstations, offices and spaces that foster collaboration and learning that support our workforce as the energy system changes.

# ENERGY SHARED: COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP FUND FUELLING LOCAL PROJECTS

Through our recent round of the Community Partnership fund, we invested \$90,000 in local community organisations. We're proud to be investing back into the communities that are supporting our operations. Take a look at the projects that we supported!

## STANWELL STATE SCHOOL

The Stanwell State School P&C's Picnic Table Upgrade Project will enable the school to replace outdated tables with safe, durable, and stable outdoor seating.

New picnic tables will transform the outdoor area into a welcoming, functional space for students and community members, fostering social connectedness and collaborative learning.

This improvement will enhance the school's ability to host playgroups, family picnics, and local gatherings, strengthening bonds between the school and the community and creating a more supportive environment for all.

## ROCKHAMPTON BOXING AND SPORTS PROMOTION

Rockhampton Boxing and Sports Promotion's facility will upgrade their roof and air vents, to continue to provide a safe and accessible environment where youth and community members engage in positive activities. The facility's programs foster social connectedness, especially for First Nations youth, by providing supportive, culturally aware activities that strive to help reduce youth crime, increase school attendance, and improve community safety.

## STANWELL PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

Stanwell Progress Association's kitchen refurbishment will enable the community to have a safe, functional and vermin-proof facility that supports local events and provides essential resources in times of disaster.

The kitchen, last renovated in 1988 with Stanwell Power Station's assistance, is integral to hosting community gatherings, private hall rentals, and emergency preparations.

This upgrade strengthens social connectedness, enhances event accessibility, and improves the community's resilience and preparedness during emergencies. Current members strongly support the project, reinforcing its alignment with local needs and priorities.

## ALTON DOWNS HALL ASSOCIATION

The association will upgrade their stairs, kitchen and storage facilities to strengthen the hall's role as a central hub for fostering resilience and social connection in the Alton Downs community.

The upgrades will ensure safe access to the kitchen for community activities and events, enhance security with a properly fastened kitchen door, and provide increased storage capacity.



## COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

Our Community Sponsorship Program is open year-round and is available for grants between \$500 - \$5,000. We're available for a chat to establish if we're the right partner for your community organisation and we'll always value the opportunity to connect with you.

We're committed to positively impacting the lives of those in our local communities, and we want to know what your priorities are and how your projects will make a difference to our region and people.

For more information on Stanwell's community benefit programs visit [www.stanwell.com/community](http://www.stanwell.com/community) or contact our Stakeholder Engagement team:

 [centralengagements@stanwell.com](mailto:centralengagements@stanwell.com)

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## CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

As we near the end of another successful year, we're wishing you and your families a happy, restful and safe Christmas period. We're looking forward to embarking on

an exciting 2025 as we continue to deliver reliable and secure energy while playing a key role in Queensland's transition to a renewable energy future.

