

Project Manager

OUR CULTURE

The **Department for Energy and Mining (DEM)** is committed to being the Most Transformative Energy and Mining Government Department in the World. To achieve this, we have developed four key enablers to high performing behaviour. These enablers underpin everything we do.

- Our culture is diverse, professional, accountable, respectful and committed to safety. We work collaboratively so we all succeed.
- We are committed to demonstrating personal and professional leadership and value being recognised as leaders in our field.
- We deliver the best outcomes for South Australians.
- We listen and engage meaningfully so that our decisions and actions build a successful and sustainable future for all South Australians

We are a White Ribbon Accredited workplace that promotes gender equality and a zero tolerance of violence in the workplace.

DEPARTMENT CONTEXT

DEM leads the global transformation economy, overseeing the responsible mining and production of the minerals, metals and fuels of the future, to safely and sustainably generate the energy and low carbon products of the future.

Our low-cost power, leading regulation system and culture of innovation is leading to the decarbonisation of industry, new modern manufacturing opportunities, increased employment and greater prosperity and security for the people of South Australia.

We particularly acknowledge the essential role that traditional Aboriginal people play in the energy and mining sector as land managers, heritage custodians, business owners and community leaders.

The **Corporate and Commercial Division (CCD)** sits at the core of the Department for Energy and Mining's (DEM) organisational success. A dynamic hub for all corporate and business support functions with a commercial focus on industry. CCD's unwavering commitment to leading practice standards, makes it the driving force behind DEM's strategic commercial lens, business services, financial management, audit, risk, assurance, and reporting activities.

ROLE TITLE	Project Manager		
CLASSIFICATION	ASO8	POSITION NUMBER	
DIVISION	Corporate and Commercial		
BRANCH	Assets and Facilities		
TEAM	Remote Area Energy Supply (RAES)		
DESIGNATED POSITION ¹	Yes		

ROLE PURPOSE

The **Project Manager** leads the planning, governance, and delivery of major strategic reform initiatives under the Remote Area Energy Supply (RAES) Scheme. The role is responsible for driving the commercial, legal, and operational transition of off-grid RAES micro-grid assets into broader regulated utility frameworks.

The **Project Manager** evaluates future service delivery models, prepares high-level Cabinet submissions and Ministerial briefings, and leads inter-agency and market negotiations to support critical government decision-making for remote South Australian electricity services.

Under broad direction, the **Project Manager** exercises a high level of independent judgement to manage complex commercial, regulatory, technical, and community matters, ensuring risks, costs, and policy impacts are effectively navigated.

The role is accountable for executing key project milestones, multi-stage asset and contractual transfers, and strategic stakeholder engagement.

REPORTING / WORKING RELATIONSHIP

- Reports to: Manager, Assets & RAES
- Direct reports: Nil
- Works with: RAES Team
- Liaises with:
 - RAES team members to manage risks and ensure compliance.
 - Contractors and consultants to ensure positive working relationships, compliance with contractual obligations, and delivery of high-quality services against project milestones.
 - Engages and involves personnel across councils and progress associations, state and federal government departments and agencies.
 - Engages with service providers, private and commercial, in remote communities to improve knowledge and coordination of activities to aid in the effective and efficient delivery of projects in these areas.
 - Close collaboration with DEM procurement for all acquisitions.
 - Crown Solicitor's Office (CSO) to seek advice on special matters related to contract management with stakeholders/contractors.

KEY OUTCOMES

- Lead the strategic planning, governance, and delivery of major projects and reform initiatives under the RAES Scheme, ensuring alignment with Government priorities and agency objectives.
- Undertake and support the assessment, development, and implementation of future service delivery models, transition options, and strategic reform opportunities for remote electricity services.
- Provide authoritative advice, high-level briefings, business cases, and Cabinet submissions to support Cabinet, Executive, and Ministerial decision-making on the future direction of the RAES Scheme.
- Leads community engagement activities, including public presentations and stakeholder communications with key stakeholders on matters relating to the RAES transition and reform initiatives.
- Lead complex commercial negotiations and strategic engagement with local government, industry participants, market regulators, contractors, service providers, and key stakeholders.
- Establish and oversee project governance frameworks, multi-stage implementation plans, reform budgets, procurement activities, risk management strategies, and reporting arrangements.
- Lead the resolution and management of complex commercial, technical, regulatory, and community issues associated with transitioning off-grid electricity services into regulated utility frameworks.
- Coordinate cross-government activities and foster strong collaborative relationships with Commonwealth, State, and local government agencies to achieve program objectives.
- Ensure strict compliance with legislative, regulatory, policy, and governance requirements, including framework obligations under national electricity laws and infrastructure disposal/lease provisions.
- Monitor, evaluate, and report on project performance, financial outcomes, risks, and stakeholder impacts, and take appropriate action to address emerging issues and manage risks within delegated authority, escalating matters where required.
- Provide input into and support the development of the long-term strategic direction, sustainability, and continuous improvement of the RAES Scheme through innovation, structured problem-solving, and strategic foresight.
- Provide expert leadership, advice, guidance, and mentorship in project management, procurement, and commercial negotiations to officers across the branch and department.

KEY CHALLENGES

- Leading a high-profile, significant utility reform program characterized by strong community interest, high political visibility, and complex government expectations.

- Balancing technical, commercial, legal, regulatory, and customer considerations when implementing future remote electricity supply and ownership structures.
- Managing diverse stakeholders with competing priorities, including private operators, local councils under administration, market regulators, state/federal agencies, and remote communities.
- Delivering multi-stage infrastructure and operational transitions across dispersed, remote locations with ageing assets, constrained local resources, and challenging operating environments.
- Effectively managing project risks to ensure the uninterrupted, safe, and reliable continuity of essential electricity services during major organizational and regulatory changes.
- Formulating strategic advice and actionable recommendations for senior executives, Ministers, and Cabinet on high-stakes issues involving financial liabilities, tariff impacts, and policy risks.
- Achieving project milestones within approved timeframes and budgets while dynamically adapting to evolving legislative requirements, emerging risks, and shifting Government priorities.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS

- Tertiary education with minimum of diploma level in project management – *Highly desirable*.
- Extensive engagement experience - *Highly desirable*
- Experience with remote South Australia communities - *Highly desirable*

SELECTION CRITERIA

- Demonstrated experience delivering major and complex projects, preferably in remote or regional environments.
- Proven project management capability, including project planning, governance, procurement, scheduling, risk management, stakeholder management and reporting.
- Demonstrated ability to provide strategic advice and recommendations on complex project, commercial, regulatory and operational matters.
- Strong stakeholder and community engagement skills, with the ability to build trust, manage sensitive issues and communicate complex concepts clearly to diverse audiences.
- Experience working with local government, utilities, contractors, consultants and multiple government agencies in a complex delivery environment.
- Understanding of electricity distribution, retail or energy systems, including asset management and maintenance planning, or the demonstrated ability to quickly acquire and apply this knowledge.
- Well-developed written and verbal communication skills, including the ability to prepare reports, business cases, Cabinet submissions, Ministerial briefings and other high-quality project documentation.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

- DEM encourages flexible working arrangements such as working from home, part time work, job share, compressed weeks and purchased leave. Arrangements are negotiated with the appropriate manager.
- The incumbent will embrace diversity in all its forms and demonstrate inclusive behaviours in the workplace.
- The incumbent will be required to maintain a safe working environment by adopting appropriate hazard management practices consistent with the role.
- The incumbent is expected to uphold the ethical behaviour and professional integrity standards as contained in the *Public Sector Act 2009*, as well as comply with any other relevant legislated requirements.
- Out of hours work will be required.
- Intra state and interstate travel will be required for up to one week at a time.
- Current SA driver's licence.
- The incumbent will be required to drive 4WD vehicles on unsealed roads in variable weather conditions and must undertake and maintain certification in 4WD safe driving.
- This position is classified as a designated position and as such, appointment to this role will be subject to a satisfactory National Police Clearance screening check.