



@STAKE ENERGY EDITION

The Wattle Ridge Project
Every choice changes the system

GAME COMPANION GUIDE

Student Guide

A stakeholder decision-making simulation

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@Stake Energy Edition — Student Guide
The Wattle Ridge Project

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About this guide

A companion resource for exploring stakeholder perspectives,
evidence, trade-offs and consequences in the energy sector.

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STUDENT GUIDE | The Wattle Ridge Project

A decision-making simulation about stakeholder perspectives, evidence and the consequences of energy development.



Your role

You are helping shape decisions about a proposed wind, solar and battery project at Wattle Ridge. Six linked decisions will influence different groups in different ways. There is rarely a choice that satisfies every stakeholder.

What you will practise

- Recognising different stakeholder interests and priorities.
- Weighing evidence, uncertainty and competing claims.
- Explaining trade-offs and defending your decisions.
- Noticing immediate and delayed consequences.

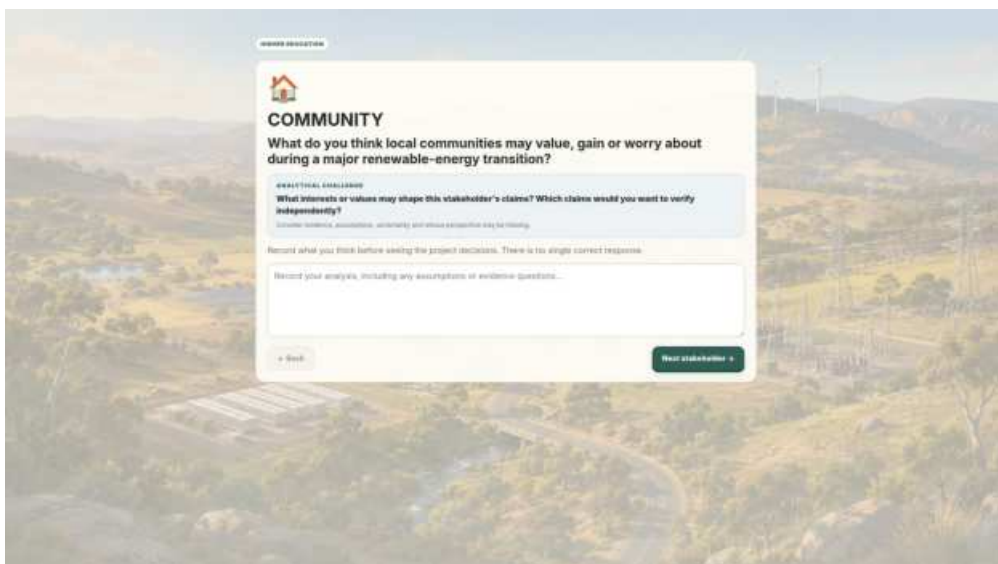
GETTING STARTED



Choose Senior Secondary or Higher Education. Both follow the same decisions; the questions and evidence expectations differ.

Before the first decision

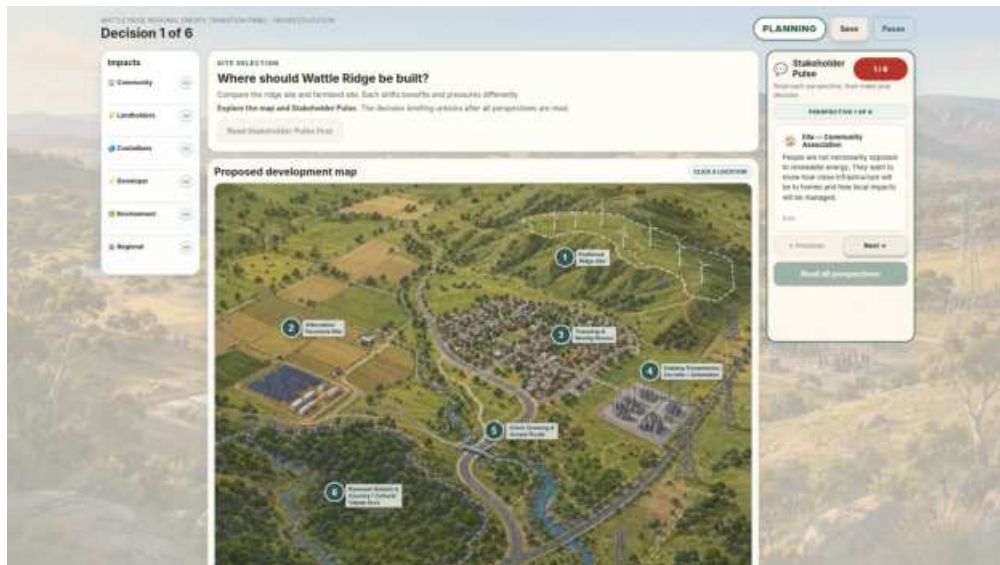
- Choose your learning pathway and enter your own name or a group name.
- Read the pre-simulation briefing; examine the stakeholders and make your initial prediction.
- If working in a group, agree on how you will discuss and record each choice.



Use the stakeholder analysis to notice whose needs may align and whose may conflict.

THE DECISION CYCLE

Each of the six decisions follows a similar process. Use all available information before selecting an option.



1 Explore the map

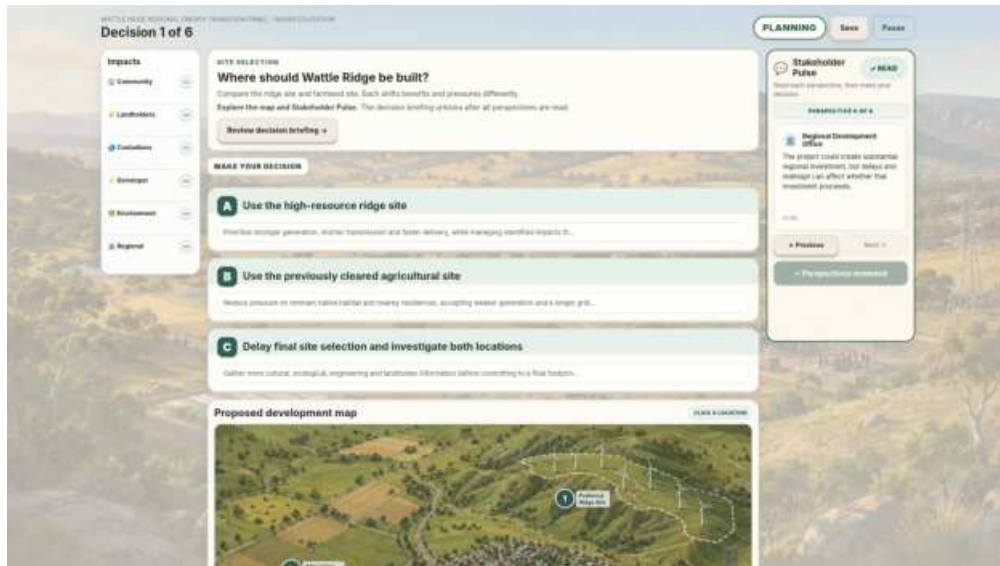
Select numbered locations to understand the proposed development and the places or people affected.

2 Read the Stakeholder Pulse

Review all perspectives rather than stopping at the first familiar or persuasive opinion.

3 Open the Decision Briefing

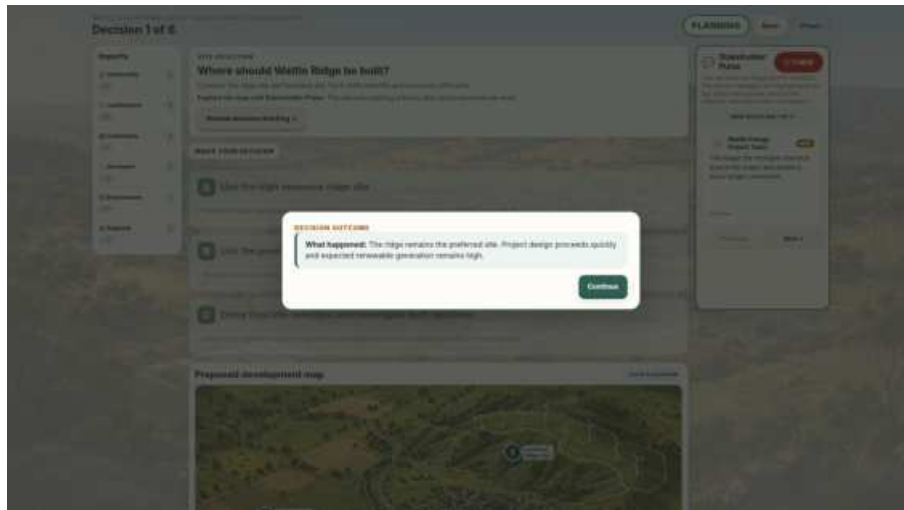
Identify the key problem, supporting evidence, uncertainty and the critical question.



4 Compare options and decide

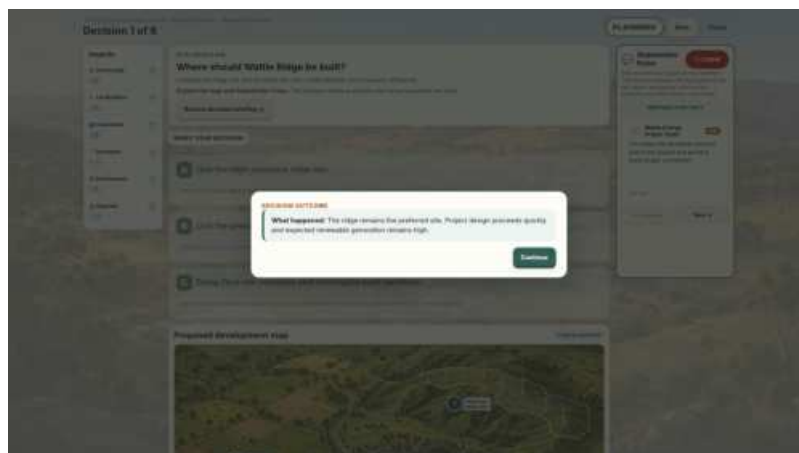
Ask what each option gains, what it risks and whose priorities it supports. Discuss your reasoning before submitting.

AFTER EACH DECISION



5 Look for consequences

Some effects are immediate; others are delayed. Watch the impacts and read new stakeholder reactions to see how the wider system changes.



6 Reflect and move forward

Do not judge a decision only by whether one group benefited. Consider fairness, evidence, trade-offs and longer-term impacts.

Useful questions

- What evidence influenced us the most?
- Whose perspective did we initially overlook?
- What would we change if new evidence emerged?

YOUR FINAL ANALYSIS

HIGHER EDUCATION • FINAL ANALYSIS

The simulation provides evidence. You provide the judgement.

Use the evidence beside you to construct a defensible judgement. Your reasoning should acknowledge uncertainty and a reasonable alternative interpretation.

1. Which decision involved the most significant trade-off?
Compare at least two competing values, interests or consequences. Explain what you prioritised and why.

2. Which evidence or stakeholder claim changed your thinking?
Evaluate why you considered it relevant or credible, and identify at least one assumption you were making.

3. Construct a judgement: is your final pathway sustainable?
Use evidence from the simulation. Address distribution, short- and long-term consequences, and uncertainty.

4. What is the strongest reasonable counterargument to your conclusion?
Explain why another decision-maker could reasonably disagree with you and what additional evidence could change your judgement.

Evidence for your final analysis

Learning pathway: Higher Education

Use this as a reference while you write. It describes the outcome of your pathway. It does not judge whether the outcome is sustainable.

Final stakeholder position	
☐ Community	63/100 • Mixed
☐ Landholders	46/100 • Pressured
☐ Traditional Custodians	51/100 • Pressured
☒ Energy Developer	82/100 • Strongly supported
☐ Biodiversity & Local Environment	43/100 • Pressured
☐ Regional Government & Economy	59/100 • Mixed

Your six decisions

- Where should Wattle Ridge be built? — Use the high resource ridge site
- How should the project reach the grid? — Build the shortest above-ground corridor
- Who should benefit from the energy transition? — Prioritise payments to directly affected households
- How should the project respond to new evidence? — Retain the approved design with extra mitigation
- How should construction pressure be managed? — Continue at full pace
- Should Stage Two proceed now? — Approve expansion broadly as proposed

Heatwave system test

A prolonged heatwave drives electricity demand to a new regional high. Renewable output is available, but regional services and infrastructure are already strained as demand peaks.

View my Wattle Ridge report

The final analysis brings together your reasoning and the decisions made during the project.

@STAKE: ENERGY • FINAL REPORT

Participant / Group: Manual Demo • Learning pathway: Higher Education • Report date: 8 October 2026

Wattle Ridge — the system you created

This report shows how your six decisions, delayed consequences and the heatwave system test distributed benefits and pressure. There is deliberately no overall judgement.

Important: A high score for one stakeholder does not mean the simulation considers your overall outcome “better”. The question is whether you consider the resulting pattern of trade-offs acceptable and sustainable — and why.

☐ Community 63/100 Mixed	☐ Landholders 46/100 Pressured	☐ Traditional Custodians 51/100 Pressured	☒ Energy Developer 82/100 Strongly supported	☐ Biodiversity & Local Environment 43/100 Pressured	☐ Regional Government & Economy 59/100 Mixed
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Pattern of outcomes

Most supported in your pathway: ☒ Energy Developer Most pressured in your pathway: ☐ Biodiversity & Local Environment This describes distribution. It is not a judgement about which stakeholder should have been prioritised.

Your decision record

- Where should Wattle Ridge be built? — Use the high resource ridge site
- How should the project reach the grid? — Build the shortest above-ground corridor
- Who should benefit from the energy transition? — Prioritise payments to directly affected households
- How should the project respond to new evidence? — Retain the approved design with extra mitigation

Heatwave system test

What happened: A prolonged heatwave drives electricity demand to a new regional high. Why your system responded this way: Earlier delivery and direct transmission increased renewable output, while rapid construction

Your final judgement

Most significant trade-off: Balancing faster renewable delivery against local ecological

Use your report to explain—not just describe

- Identify a decision you would defend and the evidence behind it.
- Discuss one compromise or trade-off that was difficult.
- Find an unexpected or delayed consequence and explain why it matters.
- Name a stakeholder whose viewpoint changed your thinking.

Final challenge: Would you make the same decisions again? What would you keep, change or investigate further?