

HEXHAM

Wind Farm



PROJECT UPDATE

Development of the Hexham Wind Farm continues to progress with the Victorian Minister for Planning announcing in April that the project must undergo an Environment Effects Statement (EES) process. The Minister's announcement confirms the planning approval pathway required for the project.

Wind Prospect will now undertake all the necessary studies and consultation required under the EES process, all of which is expected to take up to two years. Over that time there will be several opportunities for the community to be involved in the development process.

We are committed to keeping you up-to-date throughout the planning and development of Hexham Wind Farm and, as such, are holding a series of community drop-in sessions to provide information on the EES process, including development of the scoping requirements and how you can be involved.

The scoping requirements are included in a document prepared by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) on behalf of the Minister. They include matters that must be investigated and included within the EES.

Draft scoping requirements will first be prepared with input from Wind Prospect and a Technical Reference Group drawn from bodies such as government agencies and regional authorities that have a statutory or policy interest in the project. The draft will be released for public comment, with feedback influencing what will be included in the final scoping requirements for the EES.

As soon as the draft scoping requirements are available, a notification will be posted on the project website at www.hexhamwindfarm.com.au with a link to the document.

Details of the drop-in sessions can be found later in this newsletter.

Please visit our website (www.hexhamwindfarm.com.au) to keep up-to-date on all aspects of this project, including the design, planning process, planned information sessions, and important announcements.

If you have any questions about the project, please attend our community drop-in sessions, drop us an email or give us a call. We want you to be part of this project so don't hesitate to get in touch.

Regards,

Rory McManus

Hexham Wind Farm

Senior Development Manager



ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS STATEMENT

The requirement for an Environment Effects Statement

In April 2022, the Victorian Planning Minister decided that an EES would be required for Hexham Wind Farm under the Environment Effects Act 1978. It was determined the project has the potential for a range of significant and complex effects that require rigorous assessment. In particular, the project as proposed could have significant effects on:

- I. Significant biodiversity values, including threatened species and communities listed under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 and Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999;
- II. Native vegetation and ecology of the area's terrestrial environments and freshwater environments, including wetlands and creeks;
- III. Aboriginal cultural heritage; and Landscape and visual amenity.

Other matters highlighted include uncertainty of potential effects related to historic heritage, traffic, shadow flicker, soils, groundwater, electromagnetic interference, aviation, amenity and socioeconomic values. The decision also raised potential for cumulative adverse effects on environmental values in the context of other existing and proposed projects within the region.

All these matters will subject to further assessments through the EES process.








What is an EES?

An EES is an assessment of the potential environmental, economic and social impacts of the proposed project. The Minister for Planning then provides a final assessment to relevant decision makers to enable them to make decisions about a proposal in the knowledge of its environmental effects and the Minister's advice about whether the proposal provides an acceptable outcome.

During the EES process there will be formal opportunities for the community and other stakeholders to make submissions about the project's potential environmental effects to DELWP. DELWP will seek public comment via submissions on behalf of the Minister.

The EES process

The EES process has distinct stages as shown below. Feedback from consultation can influence the project design and encompasses both informal consultation during the development of an EES and formal opportunities for public input into both the scoping requirements for an EES and the review of an exhibited EES.

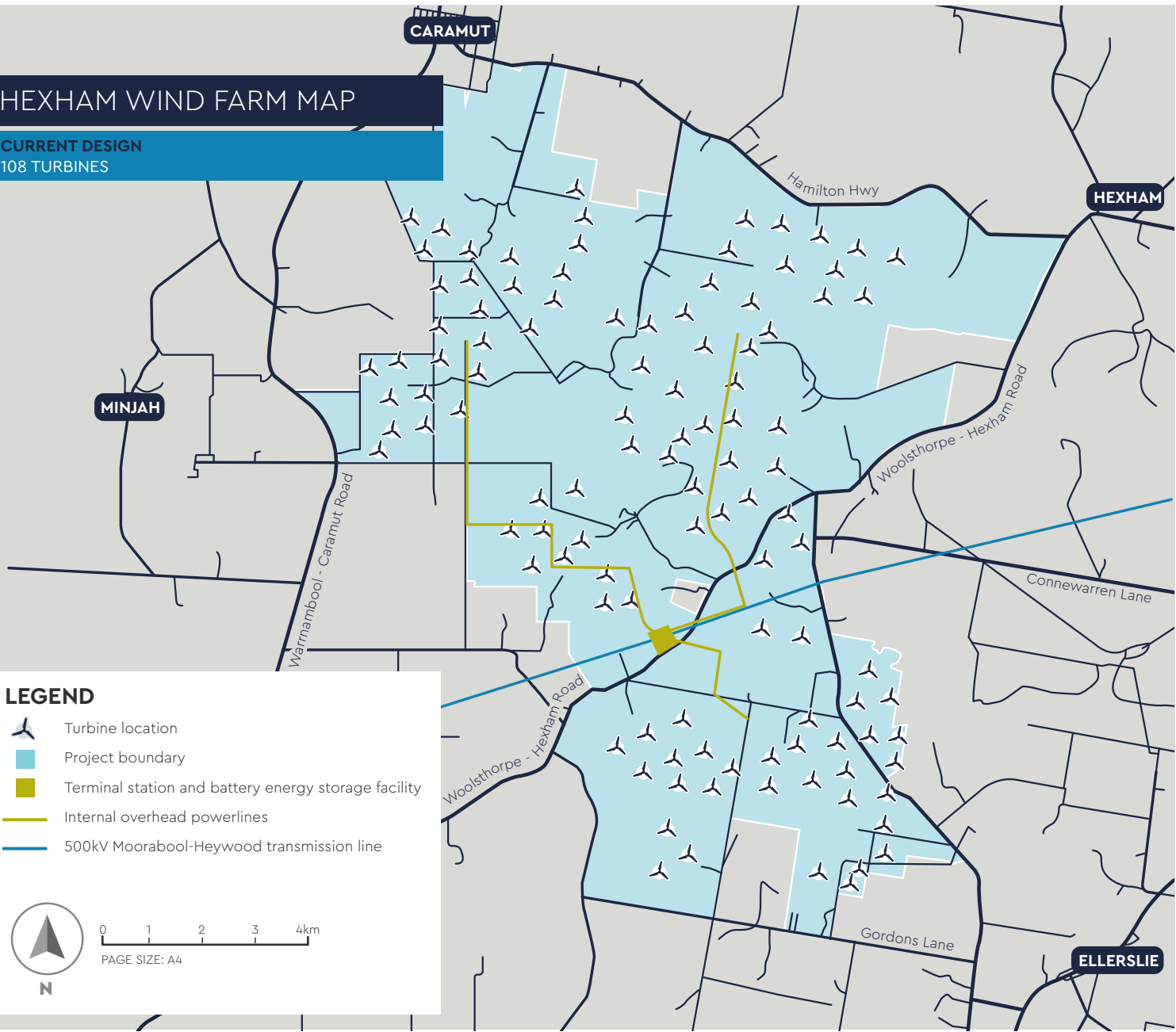
EES PROCESS							
REFERRAL	DECISION	<div>We are here</div>	SCOPING	PREPARING THE EES	PUBLIC EXHIBITION	MAKING AN ASSESSMENT	PLANNING APPROVAL
							
Project referred to the Minister for planning	Minister's decision on the need for an EES		Draft scoping requirements for public comment Final scoping requirements	EES consultation by proponent EES studies EES quality assurance	Exhibition of EES for public comment Inquiry established and submissions considered Preparation of Inquiry report	Minister's assessment and advice to decisions makers	Decision makers consider the assessment
FORMAL CONSULTATION OPPORTUNITIES							
			Feedback from the community will influence what will be included in the final scoping requirements for the EES		Feedback from the community will be included in the final EES report delivered to the Minister for consideration		
ONGOING COMMUNITY CONSULTATION							
Wind Prospect will continue to provide opportunities for community questions, input and feedback as the project progresses.							

Further information on the EES process and how you can get involved is available at:

- <https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/environment-assessment/what-is-the-ees-process-in-victoria>

HEXHAM WIND FARM MAP

CURRENT DESIGN
108 TURBINES



KEY FACTS

WIND TURBINES Up to 108	MUNICIPALITY Moyne Shire	HOMES POWERED About 530,000 per year, or a city the size of Warrnambool more than 35 times over
TURBINE HEIGHT Up to 250m	RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	EMISSION SAVINGS About 2.7 million tonnes of CO ₂ per year
PROPOSAL LOCATION Between Hexham, Caramut and Ellerslie in south-west Victoria	LAND HOLDERS 14	PROJECT STATUS Environment and planning approvals stage
SITE SIZE About 16,000 hectares	INSTALLED CAPACITY About 700 megawatts (MW)	CONSTRUCTION PERIOD Two to three years
RATES PAYABLE Estimated at \$900,000 per year, for 25 years	POWER GENERATION About 2400 gigawatt hours (GWh) per year	PROJECT LIFESPAN 25 years+

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Wind Prospect understands that the success of Hexham Wind Farm is dependent on the genuine, open and ongoing relationships we develop with key stakeholders, including (most importantly) members of the local community. We recognise the importance of ensuring a 'no surprises' dynamic with the local community and are committed to developing and nurturing long-term relationships between our team and the various project stakeholders.

Stakeholder engagement commenced for Hexham Wind Farm when the project was officially launched in March 2019. Activities since that time have included:

- Door knocks, including public opinion surveys, at neighbouring dwellings within 6 km of the project and
- Development of website and 1800 number
- One-on-one meetings and phone calls with neighbours and landowners, Council, and the project's Community Engagement Committee
- Project newsletters
- Commitment to a Neighbour Benefit Sharing Program
- Response to questions from community and local suppliers through the website
- Community information sessions (held in Caramut and Ellerslie)
- Community drop-in sessions (held in Hexham, Caramut and Ellerslie)
- Study Tour of Murra Warra Wind Farm

ONGOING COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Engaging with the community living and working in the project area is important to us. To ensure ongoing engagement, our team will hold a series of community drop-in sessions over the coming weeks to detail the EES process and how you can be involved.

These drop-in sessions will be held at:

TOWN	LOCATION	DATE	TIME
Hexham	Hexham Hall	Wednesday, June 1	1.30pm-4.30pm
Caramut	Caramut Hall	Wednesday, June 1	5.30pm-8.30pm
Ellerslie	Ellerslie Hall	Thursday, June 2	10.30am-1.30pm

If you cannot attend these sessions or want more information, our team is available to meet face-to-face or over the phone and we encourage you to get in touch.

Friendly reminder

"We would like to remind community groups that the Hexham Wind Farm community sponsorship fund is open year-round with \$20,000 available per year."

The fund helps community groups to enhance or improve community services, programs, initiatives and facilities – basically it is designed to improve community life for all residents around the proposed wind farm.

This fund is part of our commitment to the Hexham community and was established to assist community groups and organisations that operate in the vicinity of the proposed wind farm.

The fund is active now! In fact, Hexham Community Association, Ellerslie War Memorial Trust and Food & Fibre Great South Coast have already received sponsorship from this fund.

Sponsorship application forms and terms and conditions can be found on the website on the project (www.hexhamwindfarm.com.au/community).