

HEXHAM

Wind Farm



PROJECT UPDATE

Wind Prospect is pleased to provide an update on the Hexham Wind Farm project.

The Minister for Planning is preparing the draft scoping requirements which will detail the environmental matters to be investigated and documented in the Environment Effects Statement (EES). Once they're available for public exhibition we'll let you know how you can access them. We'll also invite you to attend community drop-in sessions in Hexham, Ellerslie and Caramut to speak to us about the project and the EES process. After considering the feedback received from the public, the Minister for Planning will issue the project's final EES scoping requirements.

In preparation for the EES investigations and planning process we have been exploring the various wind turbine models that could be available in the coming years. One significant change is the maximum blade tip heights for wind turbines which now can exceed 250 metres. To ensure the latest wind turbines are available to the project when it comes time to construct, we have made the decision to increase the maximum tip height proposed for this project from 250 metres to 260 metres.

Making this decision now ensures all potential impacts are adequately assessed in the EES process and considered in the Planning Permit Application.

We have also been evaluating the project's design subject to the EES assessments and process and are now proposing the project consist of up to 109 wind turbines which is one more than communicated previously.

We understand that people will have questions about these changes and the project in general, so we encourage you to come along and speak to our team at the community drop-in sessions.

Fieldwork is continuing to inform the project's potential environmental impacts, including bird and bat surveys. Hydrologists have carried out an assessment of waterways and wetlands in the area and work has commenced on identifying a temporary on-site quarry site that could feasibly supply aggregate for the project's internal access roads during construction.

Recently we engaged Umwelt Australia to undertake a Social Impact Assessment for the Hexham Wind Farm. To inform their assessment, Umwelt is seeking feedback from residents and local community members about the project. They are also keen to hear about people's experiences of living in the local community and the broader region. Information about how you can participate in the survey can be found later in this newsletter.

Regards,

Rory McManus
Hexham Wind Farm
Senior Development Manager

KEY FACTS

 WIND TURBINES Up to 109	 MUNICIPALITY Moyne Shire	 HOMES POWERED About 515,000 per year, or a city the size of Warrnambool more than 35 times over
 TURBINE HEIGHT Up to 260m	 RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY Department of Transport and Planning	 EMISSION SAVINGS About 1.88 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 741 megawatts (MW)	 CONSTRUCTION PERIOD Two to three years
 RATES PAYABLE Estimated at \$900,000 per year, for 25 years	 POWER GENERATION About 2850 gigawatt hours (GWh) per year	 PROJECT LIFESPAN 25 years+



EES TECHNICAL REFERENCE GROUP

A Technical Reference Group (TRG) has been appointed to provide technical advice to both the DTP and Wind Prospect on preparing a quality EES. This group consists of government agencies, local government, regional authorities and government-appointed subject matter experts.

The project team meets with the TRG regularly and receives advice from the group throughout the EES process. The TRG members for this project are:

- Victorian Department of Transport and Planning
 - Impact Assessment Unit/TRG Chair
 - Renewables Planning Team
 - VicRoads and Regional Roads Victoria
- Victorian Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action
- Victorian Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions (Earth Resources Regulation)
- Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
- First Peoples – State Relations
- Moyne Shire Council
- Environment Protection Authority
- Southern Rural Water
- Heritage Victoria
- Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority

SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT SURVEY

Wind Prospect has engaged Umwelt Australia, a social and environmental consultancy, to undertake a social impact assessment for the Hexham Wind Farm project. This assessment will analyse, monitor and manage the intended and unintended social consequences, both positive and negative, of the project.

To help inform Umwelt's Social Impact Assessment, we have shared with them information and feedback collected as part of our previous community engagement activities. Umwelt will also use other methods, such as semi-structured interviews and a survey, to better understand potential social impacts associated with the project.

The survey will enable Umwelt to collect information about the perceived positive and negative social impacts of the project from the broader community. The survey will also ask respondents to consider:

- their experience and interactions with Wind Prospect to date
- the community's needs and values
- their preferences for future engagement.

Responses to the survey will be confidential and will only be reported in aggregate form (this means that responses will be compiled by Umwelt and individuals will not be identifiable by Wind Prospect or others).

For more information and to fill out the confidential survey please scan the QR code or visit www.hexhamwindfarm.com.au/community/.



A print-out of the survey and a pre-paid return envelope is included with this newsletter for those who receive a hard copy of the newsletter. Please fill out the survey and send it back in the enclosed envelope by 30 June 2023.

THE EES PROCESS

Environment Effects Statement Process

WE ARE HERE



REFERRAL

Victorian Government EES Referral determination



SCOPING

EES Scoping Phase including publication of Draft EES Scoping Requirements for public submissions and issuing the Final Scoping Requirements



PREPARING THE EES

Preparation and submission of the EES (~12months)



PUBLIC EXHIBITION

Public review of EES including exhibition, submissions and public inquiry



PLANNING APPROVAL

Decision makers consider the assessment

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE EES PROCESS

Engaging with the community living and working in the project area is important to us and critical to the EES process. Community members have various opportunities to keep informed on the project and provide information and feedback to Wind Prospect as we prepare the EES.

These activities are ongoing and include:

- Newsletters (posted to dwellings within 10 kilometres of the site and available on the project website)
- A project 1800 number and email for all inquiries
- Project website, news updates and FAQs
- Community drop-in sessions
- Face-to-face meetings.

Formal opportunities to contribute to the EES are provided by the Department for Transport and Planning (DTP) via submissions during both the exhibition period for the EES scoping requirements (happening soon) and the EES public exhibition period when assessments have been completed (in 2024).

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

On 12th May 2023 the Moyne Shire's Community Engagement Committee (CEC) met to discuss matters important to the community. The minutes of the CEC are available on the Moyne Shire Council's webpage. www.moyne.vic.gov.au/Our-Services/Energy-Projects/Wind-Farms-in-Moyne/Hexham-Wind-Farm.

The CEC comprises one Moyne Shire councillor, six members of the local community and two members of the Wind Prospect team. We encourage people to reach out to the CEC community members to find out more about the project.

COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIP FUND

The Hexham Wind Farm community sponsorship fund is open year-round with \$20,000 available each year during the development phase. The project has recently awarded \$3,000 of sponsorship funding to the Hexham Recreation Reserve Committee for window shutters on the club rooms.

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.

THE FUND IN ACTION

The fund is part of our commitment to the Hexham community and we are delighted to see it making a difference to the Mortlake community.

"The addition of office furniture, shelving and signage make the space better in every way, visually more pleasing and so much easier to stock take and present products. Your assistance is gratefully appreciated by the community."

**Terree Parsons
at Anglicare
Victoria Southwest.**



The fund is active now! Sponsorship application forms and terms and conditions can be found on the project website (www.hexhamwindfarm.com.au/community).



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