

Hexham Wind Farm

FACT SHEET

Environment Effects Statement

The proposed Hexham Wind Farm is located between Hexham, Caramut and Ellerslie in the Moyne Shire in south-west Victoria. If approved, the Project would incorporate up to 106 wind turbines with an approximate height of up to 260 metres from ground to blade tip. The proposed Project also includes an on-site terminal station and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and other associated infrastructure.



What is an Environment Effects Statement (EES)?

In Victoria, an Environment Effects Statement (EES) is required for the assessment of potential environmental impacts or effects of a proposed development under the *Environment Effects Act 1978* (Vic). The EES is a detailed assessment that forms part of the approval process. It assists statutory decision-makers to determine whether a project should be approved to proceed and under what conditions. The EES process is managed by the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) on behalf of the Minister for Planning.

Learn more about the EES process online:



As part of the Victorian Government's planning and approvals process for major projects, Wind Prospect is preparing an Environment Effects Statement (EES) for the proposed Hexham Wind Farm. An EES is a requirement under the *Environment Effects Act 1978* and includes a detailed assessment of a wide range of environmental and social assessments on areas such as biodiversity, ecology, historical heritage, Aboriginal cultural heritage, landscape and visual amenity, traffic and transport, noise, socio-economic and surface and groundwater.

To complete the assessments, considerable research and consultation is being undertaken to avoid and mitigate any potential adverse effects on the environment and the social fabric of the community during construction, operation and decommissioning of the proposed Project. Wind Prospect recognises the value of the natural and built environment in which the proposed Project is based and understands and respects the community's desire to protect both the environmental and social landscape that has existed for many years.



Environment Effects Statement (EES) considerations

As part of the EES preparation, a range of detailed studies are conducted to assess the potential impacts of the Project. These include but are not limited to:



Biodiversity and ecology

Assessing the impact on local wildlife, including any risks to protected species and habitats.



Water resources

Evaluating potential effects on local water systems, such as wetlands and streams, as well as groundwater.



Cultural heritage

Investigating the potential impact on both Aboriginal and European cultural heritage sites.



Noise, dust and traffic

Analysing how construction and operational activities might affect local amenity, including noise levels, dust and traffic.



Visual amenity

Examining how the wind turbines could alter the landscape and considering measures to reduce visual impacts, including shadow flicker.



Socio-economic effects

Assessing how the Project could impact local agriculture, the regional economy and infrastructure.



Fire risk

Assessing fire risk associated with bushfire within the proposed study area.



Onsite quarry

Wind Prospect is proposing a temporary quarry to supply rock and other materials needed during construction. This would minimise heavy vehicle movements on local roads and reduce potential impacts to the community.

The aim of these studies is to identify any potential issues and develop strategies to avoid, mitigate or manage them.

What will the EES look like?

The EES is a detailed report that describes the proposed project, the potential environmental and social effects, and the planned management of these possible impacts so that they are removed or reduced to an acceptable level. The EES includes an extensive range of technical studies completed by specialists, a summary of how the community has been engaged and will be engaged during the planning, construction and operation phases, and a map book. The EES must demonstrate how input from the community has been considered as part of the planning process as community feedback is a key part of the assessment process. A summary is also prepared as part of the EES package and will provide information on how to review the report and how to make a submission (formal feedback).

Where will the EES be published?

The EES will be published on the Hexham Wind Farm project website and available to view in hard copy at local locations. The locations of where you can review the hard copies will be made available on the Project website, via project updates and advertisements in local media.

How will the community be engaged as part of the EES process?

We will be engaging with local residents, landowners, and other stakeholders at several stages during the project planning and delivery including:

- Throughout the EES preparation phase, Wind Prospect engages with the community through information sessions, newsletters, and one-on-one consultations. This provides opportunities for local stakeholders to raise concerns, ask questions, and share their views.
- Once the EES is prepared, it will be made available to the public for review. This gives the community a chance to formally provide feedback on the findings to the Minister for Planning. Any issues raised in this stage will be carefully considered, and adjustments to the Project will be made if necessary. The feedback and Wind Prospect's response will form part of the final EES.
- Ongoing communication: Wind Prospect is committed to maintaining open lines of communication throughout the process to ensure that the community remains informed and involved at all stages. All feedback contributes to the planning and delivery of the project.

EES process



CONSULTATION



Ongoing consultation opportunities

A planned engagement program delivered by Wind Prospect will provide ongoing opportunities for stakeholders to access information and share feedback that informs project design and development.



Formal consultation opportunities

Members of the public can also participate in the EES process by providing written comments as outlined above.

When will the EES be exhibited?

Wind Prospect is working toward finalising and submitting the Environment Effects Statement (EES) to the Victorian Government. We expect the EES public exhibition will take place in late 2025.

What is the outcome of the EES process?

The Minister will assess the Project's social, environmental and economic impacts. The Minister's assessment may conclude that:

- a project would have an acceptable level of environmental effects in relation to overall project outcomes
- a project would have an unacceptable level of environmental effects
- a project would need major modifications and/or further investigations to establish that an acceptable level of environmental outcomes would be achieved and further assessment process may be required.

The EES for the Hexham Wind Farm project is also considered under the *Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. The Commonwealth Minister for the Environment will consider the Victorian Minister's assessment before deciding whether to approve the Project and, if so, under what conditions.

Have your say

The environmental, social and economic technical studies are being finalised and we welcome you to have your say on the proposed Project. You will be provided with advance notice of the EES exhibition and the formal opportunity to submit a submission, however you can provide feedback at any time by getting in touch with the Project team by email, phone or mail.

We will be out in the community in the lead up to and during the public exhibition period to answer questions about the proposed Project, the EES, technical studies and any other queries you may have.

Visit the Project website for more information on our upcoming in-region engagement activities.

Wind Prospect respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land on which our office and each of our projects are located. We also acknowledge and uphold their continuing relationship to the land and pay our respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.

Contact

If you need an interpreter, please call 13 14 50. If you are deaf and/or find hearing or speaking with people on the phone difficult, please contact the National Relay Service on voice relay number 1300 555 727, TTY number 133 677 or SMS relay number 0423 677 767.

 **PO Box 110**
Fitzroy VIC 3065

 **1800 934 322**

 **info@hexhamwindfarm.com.au**

hexhamwindfarm.com.au

