

Hexham Wind Farm

FACT SHEET

Temporary on-site quarry



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.



Assessment

While the proposed quarry forms part of the Hexham Wind Farm Environment Effects Statement (EES) and will be assessed alongside the broader project, a separate approval process is also required before it can operate. In Victoria, quarry operations must comply with the *Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990* and obtain a Work Authority issued by Victoria's Earth Resources Regulator.

This means that in addition to being considered through the EES process, the proposed quarry must also meet ERR's requirements through the submission and approval of a detailed Quarry Work Plan. ERR will assess the Work Plan to ensure the quarry can operate safely, responsibly and in line with regulatory standards before any works can begin.

To support the construction of the wind farm, Wind Prospect is proposing to establish a temporary quarry within the Project area to supply rock and other materials needed during construction.

By sourcing materials on-site, the quarry would help minimise heavy vehicle movements on local roads and reduce potential impacts to the community.

The quarry would operate only during the construction phase of the wind farm and would not supply material to the public.

How the work plan has been developed

The Work Plan has been drafted in accordance with the requirements of the Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990 and relevant regulatory guidelines and will form the basis for seeking approval from ERR before quarrying can commence.

A range of technical investigations and assessment methods have been used to better understand the local environment and potential effects of the quarry, and to ensure appropriate management and mitigation measures are included in the Work Plan. These studies have covered areas such as:

- geology and geotechnical conditions to confirm the suitability of the site for quarrying
- air quality and dust generation
- noise and vibration from quarry activities and blasting
- groundwater and surface water management
- flora, fauna and cultural heritage
- site access, traffic and safety
- progressive rehabilitation and closure.

Draft versions of the Work Plan and supporting technical assessments have been prepared as part the EES process and shared with the Technical Reference Group for feedback. The Work Plan would continue to be developed post Project planning approval and refined in consultation with ERR for assessment and approval.

Managing impacts

Specialist assessments undertaken to inform the draft Quarry Work Plan have shown that, with appropriate management measures in place, the proposed quarry can operate with minimal impacts on the surrounding environment and community.

A range of controls will be implemented through the Work Plan to manage potential effects during quarry establishment, operation and rehabilitation.



Noise and vibration

The proposed quarry is well separated from nearby residences, with the closest home more than two kilometres away. This distance means noise levels at neighbouring properties are expected to be low. Quarrying will be limited to daytime hours and mobile crushing equipment with noise suppression features will be used. Blasting, if required, will be carefully managed and monitored to ensure vibration levels remain well below thresholds for potential damage.



Dust and air quality

The type of rock to be quarried (basalt) presents no risk of respirable crystalline silica dust. Assessments have found that, due to the quarry's location and distance from nearby homes, dust risks are very low. Even so, a range of management measures will be in place to minimise dust during operations. These include the use of water carts and sprays on roads, stockpiles and during extraction to prevent dust from leaving the site.

Dust levels will also be monitored during quarry operations as part of the site's dust management program, in line with regulatory requirements. Although specific dust limits have not been set given the low risk profile of the site, monitoring will ensure that emissions remain within acceptable levels and that control measures remain effective. Results will be reported to regulators as part of routine compliance obligations. If any issues are identified or community concerns arise, this information will be shared transparently with the local community.



Traffic and site access

Quarry traffic will use internal wind farm access tracks as much as possible to transport materials, limiting heavy traffic vehicle movements on public roads during normal operations. Site access will be strictly controlled to ensure the safety of the community and workers.





Blasting and fly rock

Blasting activities, if required to access the rock, will be carefully planned and controlled to minimise potential impacts. The nearest home is located more than two kilometres, which is well beyond regulatory clearance distances. Blasting will be designed to control vibration, prevent fly rock from leaving the quarry site, and ensure that any vibration levels at nearby properties remain very low and well below thresholds for potential damage.

Blasting will only take place on weekdays between 10am and 4pm, and will not occur on weekends or public holidays. In addition, neighbours who register to receive notifications will be advised in advance of scheduled blasts by SMS, email or phone. A complaints register will also be maintained, and any concerns raised by neighbours will be investigated and addressed.

Monitoring will be undertaken during blasting activities to confirm that vibration and air blast levels remain well below regulatory limits and to ensure the effectiveness of management measures.



Water management

Water use will be carefully managed to avoid impacts on local waterways and groundwater. Surface water, such as rainfall and runoff from quarry areas, will be captured and controlled using bunds, drains, sediment traps and quarry sumps. This means water will be contained on-site and either reused or treated so it does not leave the site untreated. Regular monitoring will take place to ensure these systems are working properly, especially after rainfall. Once the quarry is rehabilitated, monitoring will continue for several years to make sure the site remains stable and no runoff issues occur.

Groundwater, which may be intercepted during quarrying, will be collected and reused on site. This may include for dust suppression. A dedicated groundwater monitoring program will run for the life of the quarry to regularly assess groundwater levels and quality. If necessary, a licence will be obtained to regulate how much groundwater can be used.



Rehabilitation and closure

Rehabilitation will occur progressively throughout the life of the quarry to minimise the area disturbed at any one time. Once quarrying is complete, the site will be reshaped, covered with topsoil and seeded with pasture grasses. The aim is to return the site to safe, stable and productive agricultural land suitable for grazing. After collecting in the rehabilitation area will be directed to a farm dam.



What to expect during construction and operation

The proposed quarry would be temporary and is expected to operate for around two years to support construction of the Hexham Wind Farm. While quarrying activities will be carefully managed, residents may notice some noise, dust and vehicle movements during construction and operation. The main activities during each stage are outlined below:

Construction (temporary)

- Establishing internal access roads and site infrastructure
- Installing fencing, bunding and water management controls
- Preparing stockpile areas and installing mobile equipment
- Minor earthworks to prepare the quarry extraction area

Operation

- Extracting, crushing and screening rock
- Blasting activities, if required, during weekday daytime hours only
- Hauling materials via internal project roads (no public road use)
- Using water carts and sprays to manage dust
- Ongoing monitoring of noise, dust, vibration and water
- Progressive rehabilitation of the quarry area as extraction progresses

Operation hours

The proposed quarry would operate during standard daytime hours to minimise impacts on nearby residents.

Quarry activities, including blasting if required, would only take place between:

Monday to Friday: 7am to 6pm

Saturday (if required): 7am to 1pm

No quarrying, including blasting, would occur on Sundays or public holidays.

Next steps

The proposed quarry will continue to be assessed as part of the Hexham Wind Farm EES, which will be publicly exhibited for community and stakeholder feedback before any decisions are made.

In addition to the EES process, Earth Resources Regulation (ERR) must approve the quarry's Work Plan before any quarrying activities can commence. ERR will carefully review the Work Plan to ensure the proposal meets all regulatory requirements and manages potential impacts appropriately.

If satisfied, ERR will issue approval through a Work Authority. This formal approval is required before quarrying can begin.

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.

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