

HEXHAM

Wind Farm



NO EXTERNAL TRANSMISSION LINE

Wind Prospect is pleased to announce the Hexham Wind Farm proposal will not include external transmission lines.

Project Manager Ash Clifton said Wind Prospect had been reviewing grid connection alternatives for the wind farm and had responded to community feedback by choosing to propose a new onsite terminal station within the project boundary, connecting into the existing 500kV transmission line.

"We have listened to the community and understand there is concern around external transmission lines," Ash said.

"We have responded to feedback and have elected to progress an option that will see an onsite connection to the grid.

"This is in direct response to community comment."

The existing 500kV transmission line runs within the project boundary. This will allow the development of an onsite terminal station adjacent to the transmission line, removing the need for external overhead transmission lines. It is likely that some overhead transmission line will be required within the project boundary.

"When we undertook our community consultation one of the key themes was overhead transmission line infrastructure.

"In line with the feedback we explored the possibility of connecting onsite and are pleased to report this has come back as feasible.

"We are very happy to be able to deliver this option."



KEY FACTS

Number of turbines

Up to 125

Turbine height

Up to 250 metres

Proposal location

South-west of Hexham and south-east of Caramut

Site size

15,930 hectares

Rates payable

Estimated at \$900,000 per year, for 25 years

Local Government

Moyne Shire

Responsible authority

Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

Landowners

15

Installed capacity

About 700 megawatts (MW)

Power generation

About 2400 gigawatt hours (GWh) per year

Homes powered

About 550,000 per year, or a city the size of Warrnambool more than 36 times over

Emission savings

About 2.6 million tonnes of CO₂ per year

Project status

Feasibility stage

Construction period

Two to three years

Project lifespan

25 years plus

WORK CONTINUING ON BENEFIT SHARING PROPOSAL

Thank you all for your feedback on our Benefit Sharing Proposal, which will see the following initiatives implemented:

- Neighbor benefits program;
- Energy cost offset program;
- Community co-investment program (subject to interest); and
- Community benefit fund.

We appreciate your feedback on the proposal and are currently using this feedback to create guidelines for each program, which we hope to share with you in our next newsletter.

NEW CFA GUIDELINES

The CFA has recently released *Guidelines for Renewable Energy Installations*. The report provides detailed guidelines on 'standard measures and processes in relation to fire safety, risk and emergency management'¹.

The guidelines clarify some community concerns around fire risk at wind farms. The report states 'adequate access to and within the facility will assist CFA in responding to and managing fires on-site'². The Hexham Wind Farm will have a quality access track network which will allow firefighters to reach all areas of the wind farm site. These tracks can also act as fire breaks during bushfires, preventing the spread of the blaze.

With regard to aerial firefighting, the guidelines state: 'wind turbines are to be located no less than 300 metres apart. This provides adequate distance for aircraft to operate around a wind energy facility given the appropriate weather and terrain conditions. Fire suppression aircraft operate under visual flight rules. As such, fire suppression aircraft only operate in areas where there is no smoke and can operate during the day or night'³. Turbines at the Hexham Wind Farm will be no less than 400 metres apart.

You can download the guidelines at www.cfa.vic.gov.au, or email us at info@hexhamwindfarm.com.au or call **1800 934 322**



¹ Community Infrastructure Department, State Infrastructure and Dangerous Goods Unit Guidelines for Renewable Energy Installations, Guidelines for Renewable Energy Installations, February 2019, p4.

² Community Infrastructure Department, State Infrastructure and Dangerous Goods Unit Guidelines for Renewable Energy Installations, Guidelines for Renewable Energy Installations, February 2019, p8.

³ Community Infrastructure Department, State Infrastructure and Dangerous Goods Unit Guidelines for Renewable Energy Installations, Guidelines for Renewable Energy Installations, February 2019, p12

SPONSORSHIP FUND NOW OPEN

As many of you will be aware, the Hexham Wind Farm currently has an annual \$20,000 sponsorship fund available for community initiatives. Applications are now open – if you

would like to submit an application please download the form from our website. Alternatively, we can post one to you – please email info@hexhamwindfarm.com.au.

DOZENS ATTEND COMMUNITY DROP IN DAYS

More than 100 people attended Wind Prospect's community information sessions for the proposed Hexham Wind Farm at Caramut and Ellerslie in May.

Wind Prospect General Manager of Development Ben Purcell said the company was very pleased with the attendance at the days.

"We have door-knocked everyone within six kilometres of the proposed wind farm, and it was fantastic to see many of these people again at the drop-in sessions, as well as some new faces," Ben said.

"There were more than 70 attendees at Caramut and close to 40 people visited us at Ellerslie.

"The Caramut session was held from 12pm to 8pm on a Thursday and the Ellerslie day from 9am to 3pm on a Friday, which provided opportunity for locals to drop in at a convenient time."

Wind Prospect had acoustic, aviation and ecology experts on hand to answer queries.

"Many people were after general information about the project, some enquired about work opportunities and others had flora and fauna or other specific queries. Our specialist consultants were able to provide information relevant to their particular fields.

"We will continue engaging with the community as we work towards submitting a planning permit application, likely early 2020."



FLORA & FAUNA COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Can you help? Wind Prospect invites you to share your local knowledge on flora and fauna in and around the proposed Hexham Wind Farm site.

As part of the specialist studies, specialist ecology consultancy Nature Advisory will be undertaking a detailed assessment of the proposed wind farm site and neighbouring area. **We invite you to share your knowledge of the local flora and fauna at the following consultation sessions:**

Caramut Hall:

Monday 12th Aug from 12pm to 7pm;
Tuesday 13th Aug from 10am to 7pm &
Wednesday 14th Aug from 9am to 5:30pm

Ellerslie Community Hall:

Thursday 15th Aug from 10am to 7pm &
Friday 16th August from 9am to 1pm

Information is sought regarding the land use, flora and fauna species present on your property and current land management practices. Species of interest include Raptors, Striped Legless Lizards, Growling Grass Frogs, Brolga, Spiny Rice Flower and Matted Flax Lily, or any other threatened species you may have observed on your land.

Understanding the plants, animals and ecological communities around the wind farm site will support us in reducing the potential impact of the project on these species. Feel free to bring along any information you may have regarding local flora and fauna including location maps or photographs.

To take part in the flora and fauna consultation or to obtain further information, please contact Rory McManus at info@windprospect.com.au or telephone: (03) 9005 9075



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