

HEXHAM

Wind Farm



PROJECT UPDATE

Wind Prospect is delighted to announce that the Hexham Wind Farm has taken a major step forward with the submission of an Environment Effects Statement (EES) referral to the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP).

The referral, which contains numerous preliminary studies and assessments on the project's potential environmental impacts, will enable the Minister for Planning to determine the pathway forward for Hexham Wind Farm in the planning approval process.

Wind Prospect will provide an update on the project planning pathway after receiving the Minister's decision, expected in April.

In the meantime, 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.

More information on the fund can be found later in this newsletter. Sponsorship application forms and terms and conditions can be found on the project website's community page (www.hexhamwindfarm.com.au).

You can also visit our website to keep up-to-date on all aspects of the project, including design, planning, community consultation, information sessions, and announcements.

We are committed to keeping you informed, so please keep in touch, attend upcoming community drop-in sessions, drop us an email or give us a call. We want you to be part of this project.

Regards,

Rory McManus

Hexham Wind Farm

Development Manager

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 CO₂
per year



PROPOSAL LOCATION
Between Hexham, Caramut and
Ellerslie in south-west Victoria



LAND HOLDERS
14



SITE SIZE
About 16,000 hectares



INSTALLED CAPACITY
About 700 megawatts (MW)



PROJECT STATUS
Environment and planning
approvals stage



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



POWER GENERATION
About 2400 gigawatt hours
(GWh) per year



CONSTRUCTION PERIOD
Two to three years



PROJECT LIFESPAN
25 years+



EES REFERRAL

Wind Prospect has submitted a referral to the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) to enable the Minister for Planning to determine whether an Environment Effects Statement (EES) will be required for the Hexham Wind Farm. The EES referral contains a preliminary assessment of the potential environmental impacts of the project and demonstrates how these can be avoided or mitigated.

As an outcome of this referral the Minister for Planning will decide whether:

- an EES is required. In this instance, Wind Prospect will undertake all the necessary studies, reports and community consultation required under the EES process.
- an EES is not required. In this instance, Commonwealth and Victorian legislation and guidelines still require a detailed assessment of potential impacts to be carried out to inform a planning permit application.
- an EES is not required but certain conditions must be met. These conditions might relate to the location or dimensions of the project, specific mitigation measures be put in place, or require further studies and/or consultation to be undertaken.

The project design included in the EES referral remains subject to change as the project develops and further environmental assessments are undertaken. Wind Prospect is committed to an open and transparent consultation process with all stakeholders, providing accurate and timely information, and will provide opportunities for you to input into the project as it progresses.

Environmental impact assessments

The preliminary environmental impact assessments that have informed the EES referral are now available on the government's website. The website address is provided below. A link is also provided on the project website.

- www.planning.vic.gov.au/environment-assessment/referrals-and-decisions

Assessments relate to:

- flora and fauna, including Brolga
- Aboriginal cultural and historical heritage
- noise impacts
- visual impacts.

These studies have informed a new project design with fewer wind turbines than previously announced. There is now a maximum of 108 wind turbines proposed, which is a reduction of 17 from the 125 wind turbines proposed in the initial design when the project was launched in 2019.

As communicated in previous newsletters, grid connection for the project will be facilitated by an on-site terminal station and include a battery energy storage facility. These will be developed next to the existing 500 kV transmission line which traverses the project site. The electrical design will also include overhead powerlines contained within the site. There will be no electrical infrastructure, including powerlines, external to the project site.



BROLGA ASSESSMENT

Wind Prospect has engaged an independent ecology consultant to conduct surveys over land within 10 kilometres of the proposed wind farm site and over multiple years to determine the level of Brolga activity in the area.

The project design now includes turbine-free buffer zones around Brolga breeding wetlands as well as other functional wetlands within 2 kilometers of the breeding wetland and the non-wetland areas located between the wetlands. The buffer zones have been informed by, and created in response to, independent research published by ecologist Dr Inka Veltheim. Consultation with landowners, field surveys of the site and surrounding areas, and observations of Brolga movements around Victorian breeding sites from studies over the last 15 years have also informed the buffer zone creation.



NOISE IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

The Preliminary Noise Assessment has also informed the project's design and is available as part of the EES referral. The assessment has considered construction and operational activity noise as well as cumulative noise impacts from other operational or approved wind farms near the Hexham Wind Farm.

The construction and operational noise from the Hexham Wind Farm will comply with environmental protection regulations that specify the New Zealand Standard NZS6808:2010 Acoustics – Wind Farm Noise as the compliance measure. The assessment also demonstrated that there will be no cumulative noise effects when other operating or approved wind farms are considered.



VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

A preliminary assessment of potential landscape and visual impacts has been prepared by an independent visual impact consultant and forms part of the EES referral. The assessment includes detail from 23 viewpoints selected to provide a representative view from publicly accessible areas surrounding the site.

Through community consultation to date, visual impact has been raised as one of the main concerns of local residents and neighbours. The greatest potential for visual impacts to occur is from dwellings between 1 and 3 kilometres of a turbine, and these dwellings would be the focus of further detailed assessment as the project design develops. Visual screening options would be available to neighbouring dwellings out to approximately 6 kilometres of a constructed turbine.

The project team has and will continue to engage with the community around the site to understand concerns regarding visual impacts and consider these in the design.

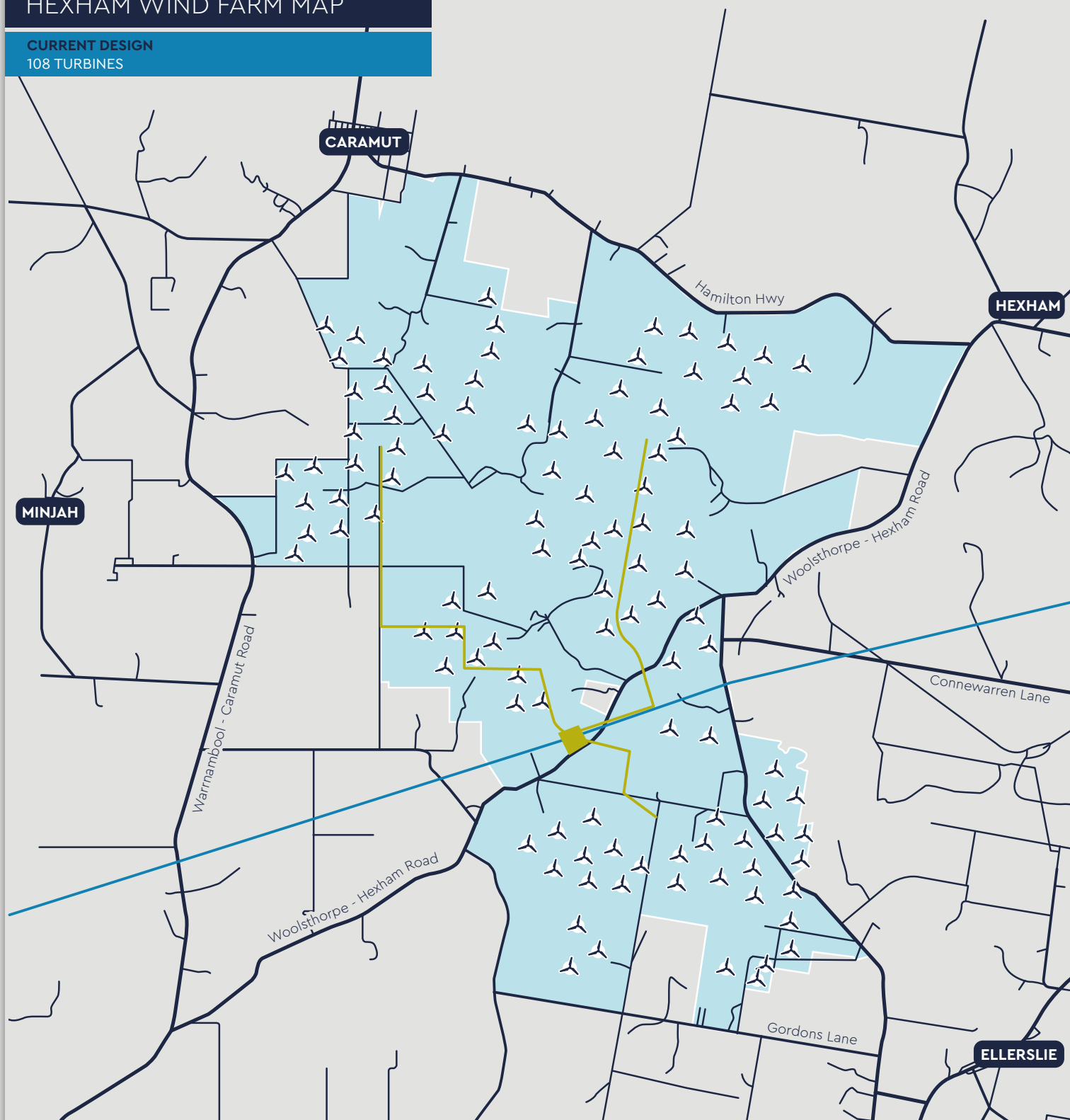


COMMUNITY AND NEIGHBOUR ENGAGEMENT

Engaging with the community living and working in the project area is important to us. Our team is always available to discuss the project and we encourage you to get in touch.

HEXHAM WIND FARM MAP

CURRENT DESIGN
108 TURBINES



LEGEND

-  Turbine location
-  Project boundary
-  Terminal station and battery energy storage facility
-  Internal overhead powerlines
-  500kV Moorabool-Heywood transmission line

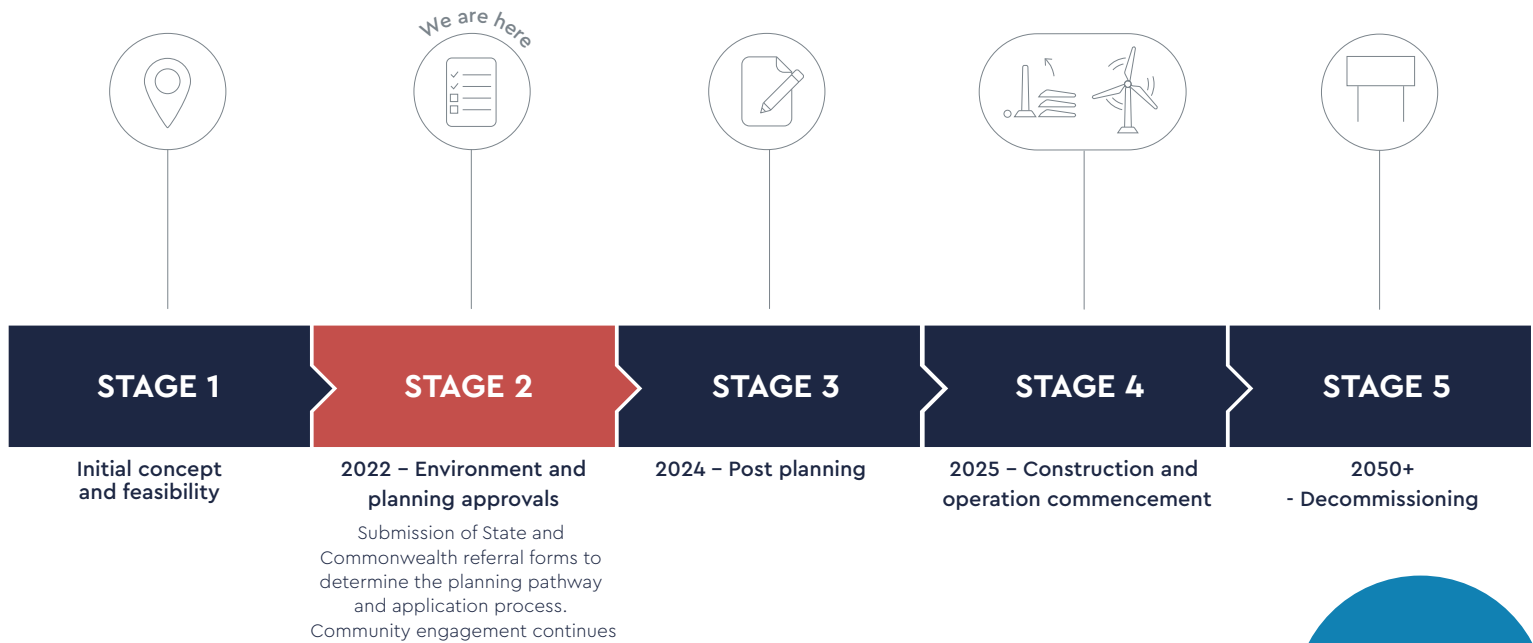


0 1 2 3 4km
PAGE SIZE: A4

WIND PROSPECT
HEXHAM WIND FARM



PROJECT TIMELINE



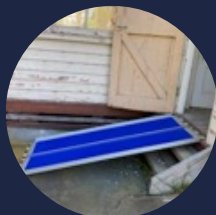
COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

Open now!

Have a community project that needs a little support?

"On behalf of the Hexham Community Association, I would like to extend our sincere thanks to Wind Prospect for supporting our project. The realisation of our vision; to ensure our community building is accessible to all, has now been achieved thanks to your support in funding our FEAL portable wheel chair ramp. Once again, the Community Association would like to thank you for contribution towards this project."

**President
Hexham Community Association**



Images provided by the Hexham Community Association of the FEAL portable wheel chair ramp

Perhaps Wind Prospect can help.

As part of our commitment to the Hexham Wind Farm community, Wind Prospect has established a \$20,000 per year sponsorship fund 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 been beneficiaries of this fund.

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.

To find out whether your organisation is eligible for this fund and to access the application forms, visit our community page on the project website.

If the wind farm is constructed and commissioned the sponsorship fund will transition into a Community Benefit Fund which will operate for the life of the project. Moyne Shire Council and the local community will be involved in shaping the design and eligibility criteria of this fund.

ENGAGING IN COVID TIMES

COVID has restricted our ability to be as active in the local community as we would have liked, however the rules are changing and the team is keen to re-connect, in a COVID-safe way.

COMMUNITY DROP-IN SESSIONS

Now that the EES referral has been lodged, we are planning to hold community drop in sessions for people to learn about the proposed project and the next steps in the planning process. Keep an eye on your post box and emails as we will share the community drop-in session dates in the next newsletter.