

HEXHAM

Wind Farm



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PROJECT UPDATE

Hello and welcome to the first Hexham Wind Farm newsletter of 2024.

We are pleased to provide you with an update on the proposed Hexham Wind Farm, a project which spans between Hexham, Caramut and Ellerslie in south-west Victoria and comprises of up to 109 wind turbines.

Over the past year, the Hexham Wind Farm project has experienced delays in progressing the Environment Effects Statement (EES) which is the next stage in the planning and approvals process.

In July 2023, the Victorian Minister for Planning completed her EES assessment of the Willatook Wind Farm, another project by Wind Prospect. The assessment concluded that the project could proceed with recommended modifications in design, particularly concerning the protection of the Brolga and Southern Bent-wing Bat. Upon detailed consideration the Wind Prospect team concluded that the recommended modifications would render the project unviable.

The assessment of Willatook specifically relating to these biodiversity features created uncertainty for many renewable energy projects in the region, including Hexham Wind Farm. Protecting biodiversity features such as Brolga and the Southern Bent-wing Bat is of paramount importance to Wind Prospect.

Over the past year, our team has worked with environmental experts and the Victorian Government to determine what measures can be implemented to avoid, mitigate or offset associated potential impacts on these species.

This process has been comprehensive and thorough, and it has led to delays in the EES process, and consequently the projects planning approvals.

Over the next few months we will have a greater understanding of how we can best avoid and mitigate impacts to Brolga and Southern Bent-wing Bats enabling progress of the Hexham Wind Farm through the EES process. This will be informed by new Victorian Government biodiversity policy. Further details on this policy is provided in this newsletter.

We will continue to keep you updated on the project's progress through the planning and approvals process. If you have any questions about the ongoing development drop us an email or give us a call. We want you to be part of the project so don't hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards,



Rory McManus
Hexham Wind Farm
Senior Development Manager



Wind Prospect respectfully acknowledges the traditional custodians 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.

HEXHAM WIND FARM FAST FACTS

LOCATION

The project area is approximately 15km west of Mortlake and 15km north-east of Woolsthorpe. Hexham is the nearest settlement, approximately 3km north-east of the project area

PROJECT STATUS

Environment and planning approvals stage

TURBINES

Up to 109 wind turbines with a maximum height of up to 260m from ground to blade tip

INSTALLED CAPACITY

About 741 megawatts

POWER GENERATION

Estimated 2,850 GWh annual output

HOMES POWERED

About 515,000 per year, or a city the size of Warrnambool more than 35 times over

EMISSION SAVINGS

Up to 1.88m tonnes of CO₂ abated annually

PROJECT VALUE

Estimated at \$1 billion

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY

Moyne Shire

RATES PAYABLE

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

LAND SIZE

About 16,000 hectares

CONSTRUCTION PERIOD

Two to three years

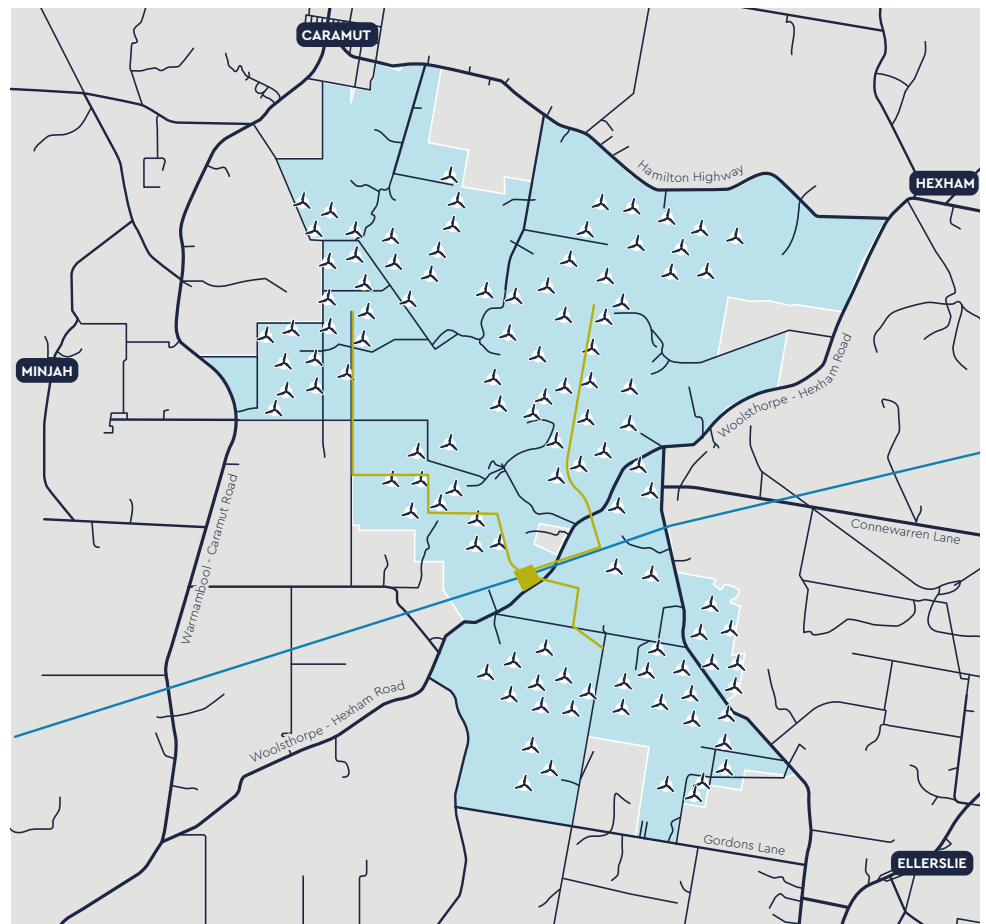
BENEFIT SHARING

A sponsorship fund of \$20,000 per year

Once the wind farm is commissioned, the sponsorship fund will be replaced by the Community Benefit Fund, which will continue annually for as long as the wind farm is operational.

PROJECT LIFESPAN

At least 25 years



LEGEND

- Turbine location
- Project boundary
- Terminal station and BESS
- Internal overhead powerlines
- 500kV Moorabool-Heywood transmission line



WIND PROSPECT – WHO WE ARE

Based in Melbourne, Wind Prospect is one of Australia's most successful renewable energy project developers having achieved planning approval for 22 wind farms, 15 of which are operational and two solar farms.

You can find out more about us at www.windprospect.com.au

What is the current status of Hexham Wind Farm?

The project is currently in the Environment Effects Statement (EES) scoping phase. The final EES scoping requirements, which outline all the aspects to be investigated and documented in the EES, are pending approval by the Victorian Minister for Planning.

Wind Prospect is consulting with government and environmental experts to determine how the project can limit impacts on the biodiversity species Brolga and Southern Bent-wing Bat before recommencing the EES process.

Why has the project been delayed?

In July 2023, the Minister's Assessment of the Willatook Wind Farm EES was released. That project is also being developed by Wind Prospect. Recommendations in that assessment relating to Brolga and Southern Bent-wing Bat created uncertainty for the Hexham Wind Farm project design. Limiting impacts on these species is important, and Wind Prospect have been working with expert consultants and government to understand how these species should be protected. This has contributed to delays in the EES process.

What are the next steps?

Over the next few months Wind Prospect will continue to work with the Victorian Government and environmental experts on measures that can be implemented to avoid, mitigate and offset impacts on Brolga and Southern Bent-wing Bat. We are confident these measures can be implemented to the satisfaction of the Victorian Government enabling progress of the EES process.

What has been the recent policy announcement by the Victorian Government that will impact the planning approvals process for renewable energy projects?

In March, the Victorian Government announced it will commit to taking steps to improve the knowledge and understanding of potential impacts to biodiversity from wind farms and how best to avoid and mitigate them. This includes providing new tools and guidance that will identify biodiversity values and clearly outline expectations for how to identify, assess and mitigate impacts. Key actions by Government will include mapping of biodiversity values to inform the siting of renewable energy developments; targeted research on key bird and bat species including Brolga and Southern Bent-wing bat; and guidance for the planning and construction of renewable projects in Victoria.

Further details on the release statement 'Protecting biodiversity in the energy transition', can be found at www.energy.vic.gov.au/about-energy/news/news-stories/better-managing-biodiversity-impacts-of-energy-projects.

Why is new guidance required?

Given the scale of the energy transition currently underway, it is important to find a balance between delivering the necessary renewable energy generation and minimising impacts on biodiversity. At present, the government's policy objectives regarding renewable energy generation are clear and new biodiversity guidance will provide for the management of potential impacts.

What are the renewable energy targets for Victoria?

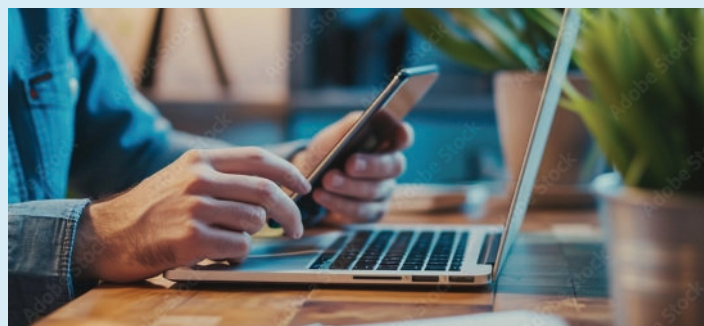
Victoria has legislated targets of 65% renewable energy generation by 2030 and 95% by 2035. To achieve this energy transition in Victoria, around 8.3 Gigawatts (GW) of new grid-scale renewable energy generation capacity will be needed by 2035. Over this period, wind energy generation is anticipated to increase from 20% to around 60% of all energy generation.

What is the timeline for Hexham Wind Farm?

On recommencement of the EES process with the Victorian Government the project timeline to complete planning approvals will become clearer. Wind Prospect however, anticipate achieving planning approval in the first quarter of 2026.

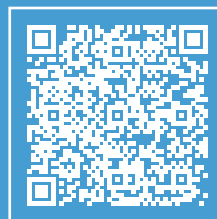
To help answer the most common questions from our community engagement activities, we have compiled an FAQs factsheet with key information about the Hexham Wind Farm project.

To view the FAQs and other factsheets, please visit the Resources page on the website at: www.hexhamwindfarm.com.au/resources.



PROJECT FACT SHEET

To help explain the Environment Effects Statement (EES) process, we have put together a fact sheet which will help you get a better understanding of what is required.



To view the fact sheet, scan the QR code or visit: www.hexhamwindfarm.com.au/EESprocess

COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIP

Wind Prospect is excited to introduce the projects that have received funding via the Hexham Wind Farm community sponsorship fund. The \$20,000 fund, which will be distributed annually, has been established for the duration of the project's development phase. It aims to empower local community groups and organisations in the vicinity of the proposed wind farm. Now open for 2024, the fund invites applications to enhance community services, programs, initiatives or facilities.

Managed by Wind Prospect, the fund's application forms and terms can be found on the [project website](#). Once the wind farm is commissioned, the Hexham Wind Farm community benefit fund will succeed the sponsorship fund. The community benefit fund will continue annually for as long as the wind farm is operational.

Since the publication of the last newsletter, we are delighted to share the following projects and programs that have been supported through the sponsorship fund:



ST COLMAN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

\$ \$1,984.62

Supporting 'Little Colman's Playtime', which is a welcoming space for young families to learn and grow through play, fostering community connections.



CARAMUT FOOTBALL AND NETBALL CLUB

\$ \$4,000

Supporting Caramut Football and Netball Club in providing essential First Aid and CPR training for community members.



MORTLAKE KINDERGARTEN

\$ \$2,971.08

Providing sponsorship funding for the purchase and installation of four ceiling fans at the Mortlake Kindergarten, which aims to reduce the use of the split system and create a more energy efficient environment.



MORTLAKE LIONS CLUB

\$ \$1,000

Providing financial support for the Mortlake Lions Club's Carols by Candlelight event, which was held on 15 December, 2023. This was a festive event that brought the local community together.



WOORNDOO MORTLAKE FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB

\$ \$3,740

Providing sponsorship funding to Woorndoo Mortlake Football Netball Club to purchase a bain marie heated food display which will be used for fundraising events, club family nights and other community events.



MORTLAKE GIFT ORGANISING COMMITTEE

\$ \$1,000

Sponsoring the inaugural Mortlake Gift, which was held on 15 October, 2023. The funding will help with the upkeep of Mortlake Recreation Reserve and contribute towards new changing rooms and amenities.



APPLY NOW FOR COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIP

The 2024 sponsorship fund is now open. To find out more and to apply, scan the QR code or visit: www.hexhamwindfarm.com.au/sponsorshipform

WHAT'S NEXT

The Wind Prospect team will be organising further community drop in sessions in the coming months. We look forward to reconnecting with many of you and learning more about how the Hexham Wind Farm project can contribute to supporting your local community.

Stay tuned for further updates.

KEEP UPDATED

Newsletters and updates are distributed to share information with the local community and other stakeholders. If you wish to receive these communications, please join our mailing list. Contact the team to provide your contact details or sign up to the mailing list on the project website at: hexhamwindfarm.com.au/news.



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