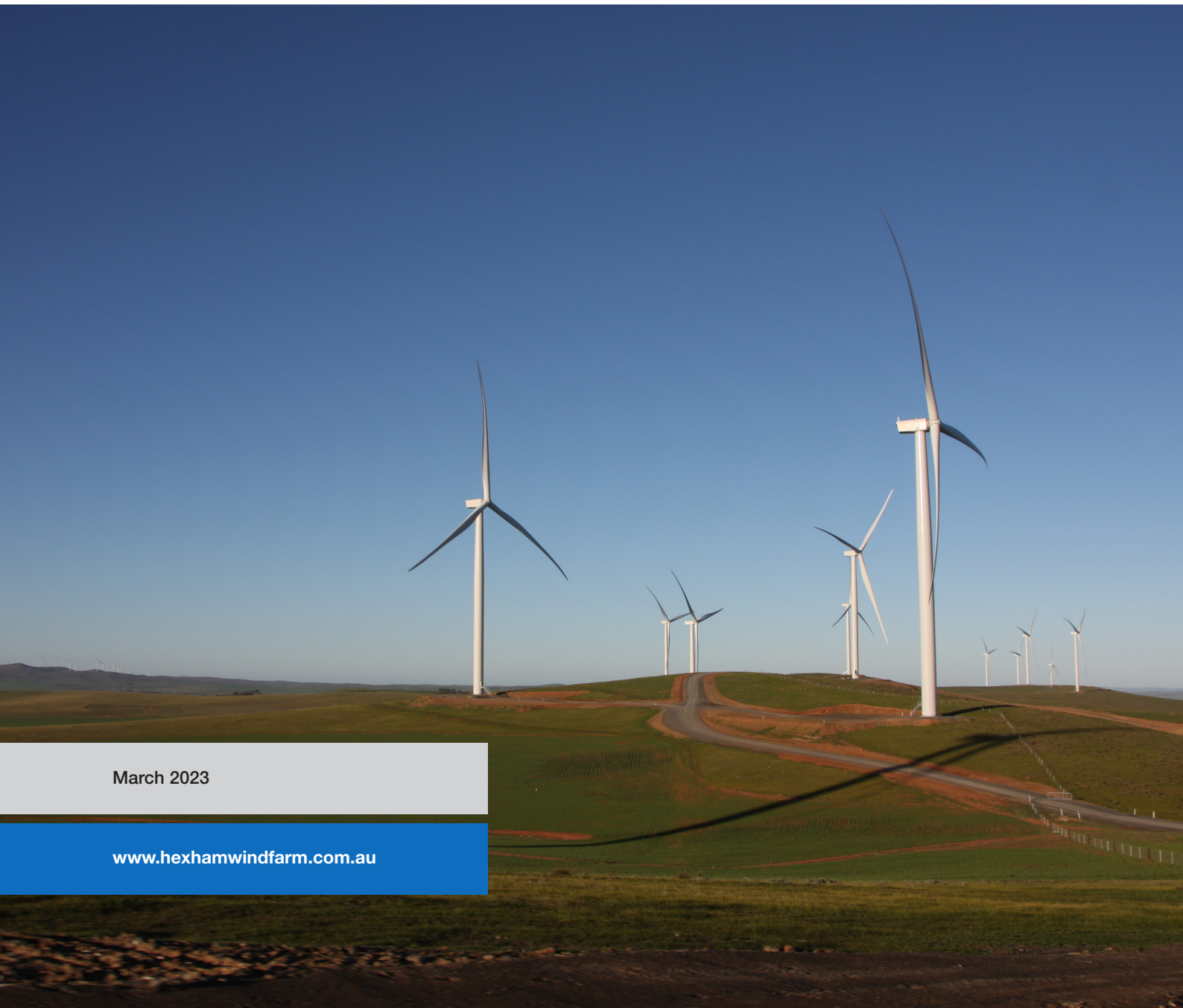




Hexham Wind Farm

Environment Effects Statement
Consultation Plan



March 2023

www.hexhamwindfarm.com.au

Acknowledgement of Country

Wind Prospect acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land on which the project is located, the Eastern Maar People, and pays respect to Elders, both past and present. We acknowledge the ongoing connection between the Traditional Owners with the land and waters.

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1.0 Purpose

This Environment Effects Statement (EES) Consultation Plan (Plan) for the Hexham Wind Farm has been prepared as a requirement of the Ministerial Guidelines for Assessment of Environmental Effects under the *Environment Effects Act 1978*.

As part of the preparation of an EES, Hexham Wind Farm Pty Ltd has the responsibility of informing and consulting with the public and other stakeholders.

This document provides an overview of the guiding principles and engagement objectives. It identifies key stakeholders, the political and community environment and methodology for collecting and recording stakeholder input, feedback and grievances. This Plan also outlines the engagement program, and methods and tools that will be delivered to inform the public, consult with key stakeholders, and provide opportunity for input into the preparation of the EES and Planning Permit Application for the Hexham Wind Farm (the project).

This Plan is not intended to follow a highly prescriptive approach however it establishes the engagement program for the EES stages of the project. Engagement plans and implementation schedules will evolve as the project moves through the EES stages and will respond to issues and stakeholder needs as they arise during the EES process.

The Plan also provides a framework for action and accountability and documents how the proponent will:

- inform the public about the project and program of EES studies
- seek targeted input from stakeholders to identify issues of potential concern, obtain local knowledge of existing conditions, understand perceptions of potential effects, and gain feedback on measures that might provide reasonable responses to stakeholder concerns
- respond to stakeholder input.

2.0 Project background

2.1 Wind Prospect

Wind Prospect Pty Ltd (Wind Prospect) is the owner of Hexham Wind Farm Pty Ltd (the proponent) and will manage the EES process. Wind Prospect has been developing renewable energy projects in Australia since 2000 and has achieved planning approval for 20 wind farms and two solar farms totalling more than 3,000 megawatts of electricity generating capacity. Wind Prospect is a signatory to the Clean Energy Council's (CEC) Best Practice Charter for Renewable Energy Developments.

2.2 The project

Wind Prospect has been exploring the feasibility of the project for several years and announced the project publicly in March 2019.

The project is located between the townships of Hexham, Caramut and Ellerslie in the Moyne Shire local government area of south-west Victoria. It is approximately 15 kilometres west of Mortlake and 15 kilometres north-east of Woolsthorpe. Hexham is the nearest settlement, approximately three kilometres north-east of the project area.

The proposed project consists of up to 108 turbines, a battery energy storage facility and associated infrastructure. A temporary on-site quarry to provide aggregate materials for use during construction is also being investigated.

The project area, which covers approximately 16,000 hectares, has been selected primarily due to its high wind resource and proximity to existing transmission line infrastructure. A new terminal station would be constructed within the project area to facilitate grid connection to the existing 500 kilovolt (kV) Moorabool-Heywood high voltage transmission line which traverses the southern section of the site.

2.3 Project benefits and objectives

Overall, the project represents a \$1.3 billion investment to the Moyne Shire and wider region and will create direct and indirect jobs during both construction and ongoing operations, supporting the local community and economy.

The environmental benefits are significant with the project contributing to Victoria's renewable energy generation and greenhouse gas emissions targets. The project, if successful, will have capacity to produce approximately 2,400 gigawatt hours annually of clean renewable electricity, enough to power up to 530,000 homes.

Key objectives of the project are to maximise the positive effects on the environment and communities as well as engage with stakeholders and local community to identify any potential environmental impacts and implement appropriate mitigation and management measures to minimise negative impacts. In addition, the project aims to improve electricity network strength and stability, contribute to government policies relating to greenhouse gas reduction and renewable energy targets, and deliver affordable and reliable electricity to Victorians.

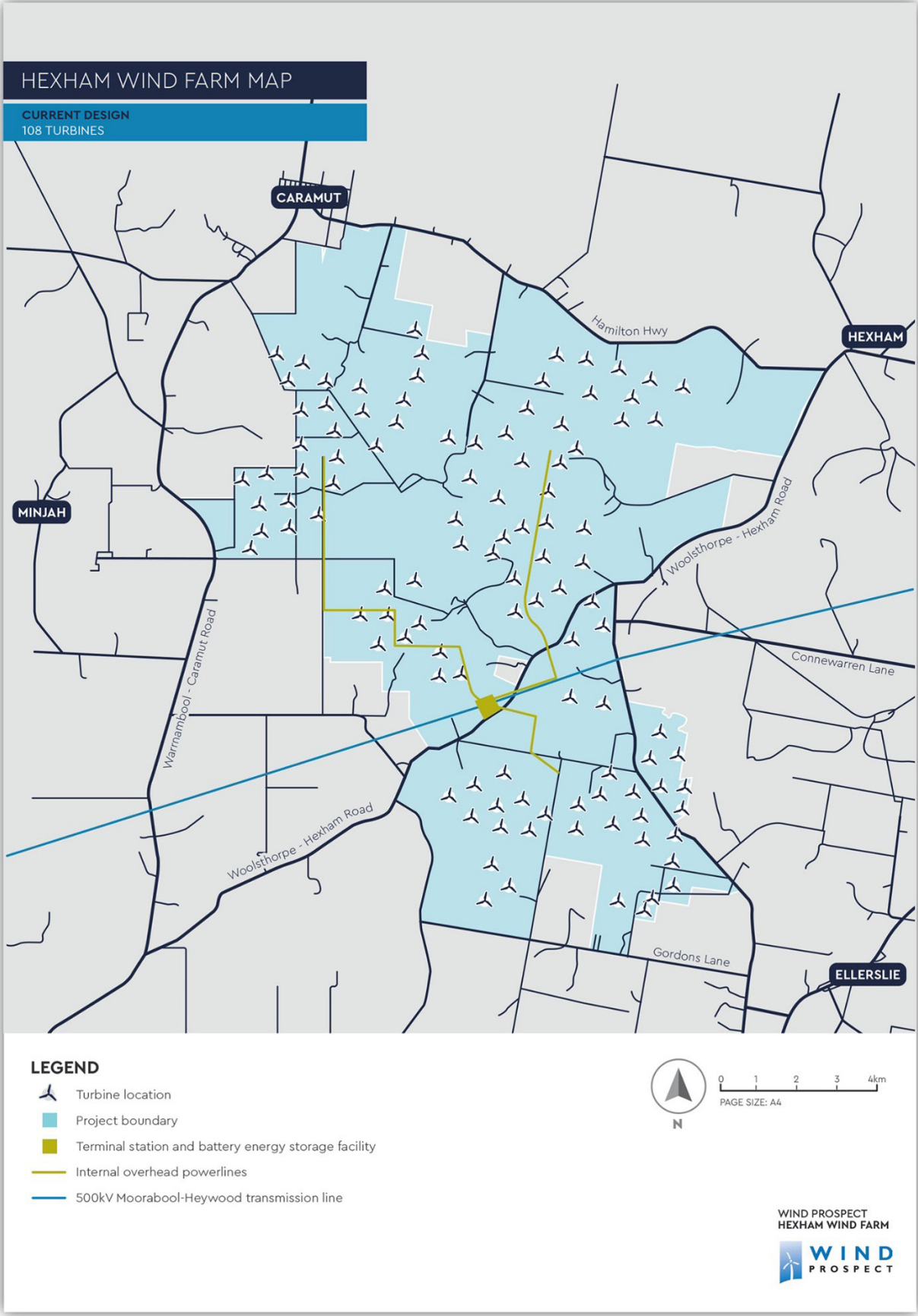


Figure 1 Project map: indicative wind farm site boundary and proposed turbine layout.

2.4 Requirement for an Environment Effects Statement

In April 2022, the Victorian Planning Minister decided that an EES was required for the project under the Environment Effects Act 1978 (the EE Act). It was determined the project has the potential for a range of significant and complex effects that require rigorous assessment. The Minister for Planning's decision on the EES referral (number 2022R-03) is provided in Appendix 1.

A Technical Reference Group (TRG) has been convened by the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) to advise on the preparation of the EES. This comprises statutory decision-makers and government-appointed subject matter experts. They will meet regularly to provide advice to the proponent and DTP during the EES process.

An EES is an assessment process, providing for the analysis of potential effects on environmental and social assets and values, and considers the means of avoiding, minimising and managing any adverse effects.

Following public exhibition of the EES and subsequent Inquiry (appointed under the EE Act) the Minister for Planning will provide a final assessment to relevant decision makers. The assessment will enable them to make decisions equipped with the knowledge of the project's expected environmental effects and the Minister's advice about whether the proposal provides an acceptable outcome.

2.5 The EES process

During the EES process, Wind Prospect will provide opportunities for community members and stakeholders to seek information, ask questions, and provide input and feedback. On behalf of the Victorian Minister for Planning, DTP will provide two formal opportunities for community and other stakeholders to input into EES process. These opportunities are via submissions during the exhibition period for the EES scoping requirements and the EES itself once all the assessments have been completed.

Following an *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) referral to the Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, the department determined the project "a controlled action" as it may have significant impacts on listed threatened species and communities and listed migratory species. As a result, the project will also require assessment under the EPBC Act before it can proceed.

The EES process is accredited to assess impacts on matters of national environmental significance under the EPBC Act through a Bilateral Agreement between the Commonwealth and the State of Victoria. The EES for this project will be undertaken in accordance with the Bilateral Agreement, with the Minister's assessment report provided to the Commonwealth to inform the approval decision under the EPBC Act.

This Plan outlines Wind Prospect's approach to stakeholder and community engagement during all stages of the EES process.

An engagement program that includes identified stakeholders, level of engagement (per EES stage) and proposed methods and tools, is also included in this plan.

Figure 2 is a snapshot of the EES process and highlights the formal and ongoing opportunities for engagement.

Environmental Effects Statement Process



*REFERRAL

Victorian Government EES Referral determination



*^SCOPING

EES Scoping Phase including publication of Draft EES Scoping Requirements for public submissions and issuing the Final Scoping Requirements



* PREPARING THE EES

Preparation and submission of the EES (~12months)



*^ PUBLIC EXHIBITION

Public review of EES including exhibition, submissions and public inquiry



*^ PLANNING APPROVAL

Decision makers consider the assessment

* Ongoing consultation opportunities

A planned engagement program delivered by Hexham Wind Farm will provide ongoing opportunities for stakeholders to access information and share feedback that informs project design and development. The proposed program is included in this Plan.

^ Formal consultation opportunities

Members of the public can also participate in the EES process by providing written comments on the draft scoping requirements and exhibited EES.

Figure 2 The EES process and engagement opportunities

3.0 Our approach

3.1 Engagement and consultation policy

Gaining community and key stakeholder support is fundamental to the success of the project. This support will be best garnered by developing genuine and open relationships with key stakeholders and the local community. Wind Prospect recognises the importance of ensuring a “no surprises” approach with the local community and is committed to long-term relationships between the project team and stakeholders.

Wind Prospect is dedicated to an open and transparent consultation process with all stakeholders and to providing accurate and timely information as the project progresses. It is important that the engagement and communication activities are proactive and where possible, address issues before they arise, are responsive to issues as they are identified, and are flexible wherever possible to reflect the wishes and concerns of those who provide input.

Wind Prospect’s engagement approach aims to create respectful, honest two-way relationships with communities and key stakeholders; engagement that reflects our values and offers stakeholders and communities the opportunity to provide feedback. Proactive engagement creates a framework for discussion that will be the foundation for a positive long-term relationship with project communities.

3.2 Our commitment

Wind Prospect recognises that the project is a major development and relevant to the whole community. The company’s successful track-record of developing renewable energy projects in Australia since 2000 demonstrates a commitment to appropriate engagement.

This commitment includes:

- Respectful and ongoing engagement with local communities and key stakeholders.
- Embracing the values of trust and good faith.
- Ensuring respectful and timely engagement across a range of mediums and throughout the project’s progression from planning through to operation and decommissioning.
- Designing and delivering effective stakeholder engagement to ensure community members and other stakeholders are informed, consulted, and given opportunities to be involved and to influence project outcomes.

3.3 Engagement principles

Key guiding principles are that the consultation will be:

- Constructive – all parties involved will consult in a positive manner that allows all parties to listen and contribute
- Inclusive – the proponent will seek to understand the full range of local opinion
- Fair and evidence based – project design decisions will be based on scientific and social studies, with important information provided by the community
- Unconditional – engagement does not mean support for the project and does not mean that a planning permit is more likely.

3.4 Engagement objectives

The objectives for stakeholder engagement are to:

- identify stakeholders, and their preferred methods of engagement
- facilitate genuine engagement to ensure stakeholders are informed, consulted and involved during the EES process and issues are proactively acknowledged and addressed
- engage meaningfully with broader community and key stakeholders to address key issues raised through consultation and consider and respond to potential project impacts
- provide opportunities for stakeholders and the community to gain further information and provide feedback that informs the project development.

3.5 Engagement approach

Consultation is a key aspect of the environment assessment process in Victoria that helps build understanding around the issues and implications of projects. It enables stakeholder and community knowledge and views to be considered in both project planning and formal decision-making ¹.

The key stages of the EES process and engagement approach are outlined in Table 1.

¹ Victorian Government Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, EES Consultation Plan Advisory Note, October 2018.

Table 1 Consultation during the EES process

EES Stage	Key EES Activities	Consultation Objective	Consultation Focus	Key Messages	Timing
Scoping of EES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draft scoping requirements for public comment for at least 15 business days - Issuing of final scoping requirements to Hexham Wind Farm Pty Ltd and made public 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inform the community and stakeholders on the draft scoping requirements and public comment process led by the DTP - Gather feedback and report this to the TRG for consideration - Gather insight into sentiment and key areas of concern for local community to continuously improve engagement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Drop-in / information session in two or three locations on planning and assessment process (advertising these sessions in local newspaper, project newsletter and e-update) - Quarterly project update (newsletter) - TRG site tour - Quarterly Community Engagement Committee meeting - Ongoing briefings and meetings - Project website - Ongoing engagement: project 1800 hotline and email, project website updates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This is an opportunity to shape the scope of the EES assessments 	Q1 2023
Preparing the EES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EES consultation by proponent - EES technical studies - EES quality assurance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inform stakeholders about the project and investigations including existing conditions, assessment methods, impacts and management measures - Provide opportunities for people to discuss the project with the team and technical specialists and give feedback - Reporting into TRG with stakeholder feedback for their consideration - Gather insight into sentiment and key areas of concern for local community to continuously improve engagement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At least two information sessions in two or three locations on EES technical study program - Webinars of key EES technical investigations - Project collateral including general information booklet, fact sheets and summaries on key technical studies and areas of interest - Quarterly project updates (newsletter) - Community Engagement Committee meeting - Regular meetings with community groups, landowners and neighbours - Ongoing engagement: project hotline and email, project website updates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This is an opportunity to provide input into the technical studies which inform the project design - You can provide information to help project team determine existing conditions, assessment methods, impacts and management measures 	Nov 2022 – Mar 2024
Public review of EES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exhibition of EES for public comment - Inquiry established and submission considered - Preparation of Inquiry report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide access to information about the EES exhibition process, and how to make a submission - Public exhibition of EES - Receive submissions - Support the independent panel and inquiry process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Print advertising - Website update for EES content - Targeted stakeholder letters and emails to inform the submission process - Quarterly project updates (newsletter) - Ongoing engagement: project 1800 hotline and email, project website updates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Your input has informed project development and your concerns have been heard - This is your chance to make a submission and participate in the EES Inquiry 	Apr – Jun 2024
Making an assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minister's assessment and advice to decision makers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inform people of process, outcome and next steps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ongoing engagement: project 1800 hotline and email, project website updates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Your concerns have been heard and considered within the assessment - The Ministers assessment, as required 	Oct – Nov 2024

3.6 Engaging safely during the COVID-19 pandemic

As the project continues to navigate the impacts of COVID-19, the engagement approach has and will continue to be adjusted to ensure the safety of landowners and the broader community.

Engagement activities that would usually be delivered face-to-face may need to be delivered via alternative means that include online forums and telephone calls. The project has and will continue to follow advice from the Victorian Government including social distancing requirements, wearing of masks, having a COVID-Safe Plan and complying with COVID-19 roadmaps.



4.0 Stakeholder identification

4.1 Community profile

The project is within the Moyne Shire in South West Victoria. The Shire covers an area of 5,482 km² and has a population of 17,374¹. Most of the growth within the shire is in the coastal areas to the south, with the entire population growing at about 0.5% per annum. Most of the population is dispersed in rural areas across the shire.

The shire is surrounded by Southern Grampians Shire to the north, Warrnambool City Council to the south-east and Glenelg Shire Council to the west. Moyne Shire includes the townships of Port Fairy, Koroit, Mortlake, Macarthur, Peterborough, Caramut, Hexham, Ellerslie, Framlingham, Garvoc, Hawkesdale, Kirkstall, Panmure, Mailors Flat, Purnim, Wangoom and Woolsthorpe.

The main industries in the region include agriculture, forestry and fishing. These industries support 2,365 jobs representing 37% of total employment in the shire. The manufacturing industry sector makes the greatest contribution to economic output in the region, accounting for 34.5% of total output². Regionally, the unemployment rate (in 2019) was 3.5% compared with 6.4% for the state.

4.2 Political context and energy projects

Moyne Shire is a major location for wind farm development in Victoria, due to the strong and reliable winds, low population density and the proximity of electricity infrastructure such as large transmission lines and terminal stations. The Moyne Shire forms a large proportion of South West Victoria's Renewable Energy Zone (REZ), recently established by the State Government.

The South West REZ offers Moyne Shire an opportunity to play a key role in the national renewable energy transition and provides opportunities for economic diversification in the region beyond the hosting of nationally significant critical infrastructure.

The Shire is represented by the following councillors and CEO;

Cr Ian Smith	Cr Jim Doukas
Cr Daniel Mead	Cr Jordan Lockett
Cr Karen Foster, Mayor	Cr Damian Gleeson
Cr James Purcell	CEO Brett Davis

There are several wind farm projects in the Shire and Council has sought to ensure the interests of the community are reflected in the development of these projects. Currently, within Moyne Shire there are six operational wind farms, two under construction, two with permits (not yet constructed) and four seeking permits or in the feasibility stage.

Should all projects be constructed, the Shire would host approximately 800 turbines, generating about 3 gigawatts of electricity and covering over 12% of Moyne Shire's land area³. On 6 September 2022 Moyne Shire Council set a revised position on wind farm development, which states:

Moyne Shire Council strongly recommends that the State Government pause the issuing of all wind farm planning permits in the Shire until strategic land use planning in the South West Renewable Energy Zone (SWREZ) is completed in consultation with Moyne Shire and other affected Councils and communities⁴.

Previously the Council passed several resolutions in relation to the development and operation of wind farms. These resolutions have been considered during the project design process, with several actions taken to address issues.

The project falls within the Victorian lower house electorates of the South-West Coast District and Polwarth District and the Federal lower house seat of Wannon.

4.3 Community and stakeholders

According to the *Community Engagement and Benefit Sharing in Renewable Energy Development in Victoria* guide published by DELWP (2017 and updated July 2021), the 'community' for renewable energy development is all the people who live within and identify with the geographic area surrounding the proposed site.

The wind industry defines its project stakeholders in two primary categories. The differentiator for a wind farm project is commonly between those who will or are likely to be either affected in either a positive or negative manner (i.e., affected parties) and those who might have an interest in or may influence the project (i.e., interested parties).

Affected parties: People/entities directly affected by the project. Typically affected parties occur within a project's defined area of influence, however, can occur outside this area in unique circumstances. This category includes:

- Communities, groups and individuals who are near neighbours (within 6 kilometres of a project) and the wider community (within 10 kilometres of a project).
- Project participating landholders who intend to host wind farm infrastructure, including any landholders along the transport route and transmission line route.
- The owners of, or those responsible for, infrastructure and airspace proximate to a project including communication towers and roads.
- Traditional Owners including those groups with designated Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) or applicant RAP status.
- Businesses operating proximate to a project.

1 Australian Bureau of Statistics 2021 Census of Population and Housing

2 Remplan.com.au/moyne/economy

3 Moyne Shire Council

4 <https://www.moyne.vic.gov.au/Our-Services/Energy-s/Advocacy-Engagement-and-Information>

- Government bodies responsible for planning and environment and management of local resources and infrastructure.
- Residents of the Local Government Area (LGA) in which a project is located who may be indirectly affected by economic development and employment opportunities and additional pressures on resources and services.
- Local community, environmental and business groups such as sporting groups, Lions Club, Rotary Club and groups with a focus on local economic development and advancement.
- Other stakeholders with an interest in the project including elected representatives, absentee landowners and government bodies that don't fall into other categories mentioned.

Interested parties: This category encompasses people or entities that are interested in the project and/or could affect the project in some way, including:

Residents of the greater LGA.

- Community-based, faith-based or non-government organisations.
- Suppliers and service providers to the proponent.
- Other notable projects in the region.
- Federal, State and Local Governments.
- Project investors and financiers.
- Media, academics and/or other special interest groups.

A more detailed list of key stakeholder groups and organisations is available in Appendix 2.

4.4 Traditional Owners

The Eastern Maar peoples are the Traditional Owners and hold native title over the proposed project area. Eastern Maar Traditional Owners Corporation (EMAC) manages native title rights for the Eastern Maar Peoples and is also the Registered Aboriginal Party.

First Peoples-State Relations (FP-SR) are responsible for evaluating the project's Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) since there was no Registered Aboriginal Party for the project area when a notice of intent to prepare a CHMP was lodged. Consultation with FP-SR and EMAC will guide the development of the CHMP assessment methodology and EMAC participation in sub-surface testing of project areas considered to have potential for Aboriginal heritage. Consultation will also include the identification, recording and significance assessment of any intangible Aboriginal cultural heritage within the project area.

With the support of specialist indigenous heritage advisors Wind Prospect will seek involvement and consultation with Traditional owners on topics beyond the CHMP during the EES process including the potential economic and social benefits of the project for indigenous peoples.

4.5 Hard to reach communities

Recognising that not every community member has access to reliable internet in the Moyne Shire, Wind Prospect commits to delivering an engagement program that is a mix of digital, written and in person methods and tools. The 'hard to reach' groups, perceived barriers to them engaging with this project, and proposed tools and tactics to ensure equal access for all are included in Table 2.

Table 2 Hard to reach communities and barriers to engagement

Group	Barriers to engagement	Tools/tactics
No internet access	Cannot participate in online engagement activities as they do not have access to the internet connection, which is particularly problematic during Covid-19.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use a mix of digital and written communication tools to provide information about the project. - Ensure online activities and platforms are compatible with a mobile device. - Partner with local libraries and organisations who can support residents who don't have access to an internet connection.
Not digitally savvy	Do not feel confident or have the skills to participate in online engagement activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide support to individuals on how to use digital tools, like Zoom to encourage participation. - Encourage them to call the project 1800 hotline to ask questions and troubleshoot issues. - Use a range of communication and engagement tools to provide the community with a choice of how they would like to participate.
Geographically isolated individuals	Do not have access to a strong internet connection or long distances mean they cannot participate in face-to-face engagement activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use a mix of digital and written communication tools to provide information about the project. - Tap into existing local networks to engage with as many people as possible.
Distrusting community members	Community members feel that the project will progress regardless of community support.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue to promote engagement opportunities and enforce that the project is still subject to approval.
Renters (transient population)	Do not feel a strong connection to the local area so do not feel a need to participate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Send communication materials to both landowners and tenants so they are aware of the project.

5.0 Consultation to date

Early consultation and engagement with the community and stakeholders has been a priority. A stakeholder consultation plan for the project was developed in 2019 and included the following key engagement activities.

Table 3 Engagement activities to date

Activity	Details
Agency consultation	Preparation of the EES referral required consultation with various key agencies including the DTP (formerly DELWP Planning), First Peoples – State Relations, the Moyne Shire Council, Regional Roads Victoria, Airservices Australia, Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA), DEECA (formerly DELWP Environment), Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority, Southern Rural Water, Country Fire Authority, AusNet Services, Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation, Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, the Australian Energy Market Operator, and the Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
Community Engagement Committee	The Moyne Shire established a Community Engagement Committee (CEC) for the project in June 2019. The CEC comprises three Moyne Shire councillors, six members of the local community and two Wind Prospect staff members. Eleven meetings have been held to date and are expected to continue on a quarterly basis.
Stakeholder database	A database has been developed and continues to evolve. It currently includes over 360 stakeholders. The project uses a Stakeholder Management tool to keep stakeholder information updated and interactions recorded.
Door knocking	In March 2019 (round one) and August 2019 (round two) all neighbouring dwellings within 6 kilometres of the proposed project area were visited (218 in total).
Public opinion surveys	Public opinion surveys were provided to all neighbouring landowners within 10 kilometres of the project when the project was launched via a combination of door knocking activities, information sessions, mailouts and face-to-face meetings. The surveys are also available on the project website. At the time of writing 121 public opinion survey responses had been received. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 76 (62.8%) responses were supportive of the project. - 20 (16.5%) responses indicated that after viewing the information provided, they were either neutral, undecided or required further information regarding the project. - 25 (20.7%) responses were against the project.
Information sessions	Two initial community information sessions were held at the Caramut Hall and Ellerslie Hall in May 2019. 110 people attended. Information sessions were also held in 2019 and 2020. Another three information sessions were held on June 1 and June 2, 2022, at Hexham, Caramut and Ellerslie to detail the EES process and explain how residents could be involved.
Face-to-face meetings	About 100 face-to-face meetings have been held with involved landowners and neighbours.
Direct mail-out	Mailouts are used to communicate with owners of land within 10 kilometres of the project. To date, direct mail has been used to introduce the project, provide regular updates and newsletters.
Flora and fauna interviews	40 interviews conducted with landowners within the project area and neighbouring landowners to inform the flora and fauna assessment.
Newsletters	Six project newsletters have been issued and are published on the project website.
Project website	A website has been established to provide easy access to information about the project including the ability to provide feedback ('Have Your Say') and to contact the project for further engagement. The project website can be found at www.hexhamwindfarm.com.au and includes the newsletters, Neighbour Benefit Sharing Program, public opinion survey, and frequently asked questions (FAQs) flyer.
Media release	A media release was distributed to select local media for the public launch in 2019.

Activity	Details
Electronic mail	Letters introducing the proposed project were sent to the Responsible Authority, referral agencies (including DEECA and DTP, Moyne Shire, Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority, Southern Rural Water, Country Fire Authority and Regional Roads Victoria), local state and federal politicians, the National Infrastructure Commissioner, Moyne Shire councillors, aviation operators (including recreational, agricultural/business and emergency services), transmission and distribution network service providers, communication service operators and naturalist/Landcare groups.
Murra Warra Wind Farm Tour	A facilitated site visit of an operational wind farm was held in November 2019. A total of 19 people attended.
Meetings, phone calls, letters and emails	Various methods are used regularly to keep stakeholders informed and to provide an opportunity for feedback.

5.1 Summary of concerns

Engagement activities to date have identified community concerns. A summary of the concerns is listed in Table 4 below.

Table 4 Summary of concerns

Issues/concerns	Details
Cumulative effects	Cumulative effects associated with other existing, operational or proposed wind farms in the local area are potentially the issue of greatest concern and have been raised in relation to noise, visual effects and the potential impact of increased Wind Turbine Generator (WTG) numbers on aerial fire-fighting capabilities.
Noise	Local residents are concerned about wind farm noise.
Visual and landscape effect	Concerns that this project, along with other approved wind farm projects in the local area, will result in too many turbines being visible and that this effect could change the character of the area making it more of an industrial landscape rather than an agricultural landscape.
Property values	Property devaluation and potential impacts on resale value and retirement funds of resale value and retirement funds.
Aviation	The potential impact of the project on agricultural aviation and aerial fire-fighting.
Overhead powerlines	Concerns around the impact of external overhead powerlines and visual effects, risk of electrical faults causing bushfires and traffic safety.
Other issues	Other concerns raised include construction noise; disruption during construction; damage to roads; impact on TV reception; effects on Brolga, avifauna and Hopkins River; effects to health; increased fire risk and that the project is divisive in the local community.

5.2 Feedback

Based on extensive technical investigations and consultation over several years, Wind Prospect has identified key environmental values or assets that are important to stakeholders. These are integral to assessing potential hazards and impacts of a project and influence the project's development and design.

Feedback has led to changes to the initial design proposed during the public launch in March 2019 with various protection buffers and exclusion areas implemented to protect environmental values as outlined in the EES referral. The project will continue to refine the design in response to feedback and consultation with stakeholders during the EES process informed by further technical investigations on environmental values.

6.0 Engagement program

6.1 Level of engagement

Our approach to engaging stakeholders is based on the Public Participation Spectrum developed by the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) and globally recognised as the primary framework for structuring consultation by the Victorian Government.

Table 5 shows that differing levels of participation are legitimate depending on the goals, timeframes, resources and levels of interest/concern in the decision to be made. At all levels of engagement, it is fundamental to define the promise and ensure it is clearly understood by both the decision makers and the stakeholders to be engaged.

There is potential for expectations to not be effectively managed and dissatisfaction with the engagement process to occur if stakeholders or the community do not clearly understand the promise for each engagement event.

Our objective is to **inform, consult and involve** with stakeholders using a range of methods and tools listed. This will evolve as feedback is sought during the EES process.

Table 5 Levels of engagement based on IAP2's Public Participation Spectrum

Level of Engagement	Engagement objective	Our promise
Inform	Provide balanced and objective information to assist understanding of the problem, opportunities and solutions.	We will keep stakeholders informed at all stages of development.
Consult	Obtain feedback on analysis, alternatives and decisions.	We will keep stakeholders and the community informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations and provide feedback on how your input influenced the decision.
Involve	Work directly with stakeholders throughout all stages of the project	We will work with stakeholders to ensure your concerns and aspirations are reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how you influenced the decision.

6.2 Proposed engagement methods and tools

Engagement methods (Table 6) and communication tools (Table 7) will be developed based on the needs of each stakeholder group and this will evolve as the project progresses through the various stages of development. Each level of engagement is a valid one, provided it is delivered in a meaningful way.

Table 6 Proposed engagement methods

Method	Description	IAP2 level of engagement
One-on-one discussions	Discussions with individual landowners or community members.	Consult
Project briefings/ meetings	Presentations and discussions with key stakeholder groups.	Consult
Advisory group meetings	Community Engagement Committee (CEC) meetings Technical Reference Group (TRG) meetings Department of Transport (DTP) meetings	Inform (CEC) Involve (TRG, DTP)
Site tours/visits	A forum for face to face discussions with project team and technical experts as required on site.	Involve
Webinars	Online information session to provide information about the project and provide stakeholders and community with an opportunity to ask questions. Indicative topics for project webinar based on stakeholder and community feedback received to date include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project update - Landscape and visual impacts and mitigation/management - Ecology and biodiversity impacts and mitigation/management - Noise impacts and mitigation/management. 	Inform
TRG meetings	Monthly meetings with the DTP convened TRG, in person and via online platform. At these meetings the proponent will provide TRG with feedback and input gathered from stakeholder engagement activities in the form of reports and presentations.	Consult
Dwelling visits/door-knocks	Face to face visits and meetings with affected landowners	Consult
Landholder engagement	Conversations (both in person and via phone) with affected landowners and project neighbours	Consult
Information/Drop-in sessions	Public information sessions incorporating a series of displays or stations staffed by technical experts, engagement professionals or the project team. This method of engagement will be critical to inform community of the formal opportunities for them to input into the EES (scoping requirements and public exhibition). Indicative session topics; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Session 1: EES scoping requirements - Session 2: EES process and technical studies - Session 3: project update - Session 4: EES lodgement and public exhibition 	Inform
Attendance at community events / pop-ups / schools	Regular attendance at community events will allow the community to view displays of information about the project and have face-to-face discussion with representatives from the project team. Suggested events include farmers markets, agricultural and vintage shows in the Moyne and surrounding shires.	Consult
Partnerships/joint-projects and initiatives	Engagement with community groups, industry and business organisations to achieved shared outcomes (for example industry forums and community sponsorship program).	Involve
Visualisation tools	Innovative visualisation engagement tools will be available to stakeholder groups in a range of opportunities	Consult
Fieldwork/studies	EES technical specialists conduct surveys and investigations on site to inform EES process.	Inform

Table 7 Proposed engagement tools and level of engagement

Tools	Description	IAP2 level of engagement
Email	Email to provide project updates, promote engagement events and respond to enquiries.	Inform
Letters and postcards	Provide project updates, promote engagement events and respond to enquiries.	Inform
Media and events pack	Media pack to include media release, key pieces of communications collateral and video/visuals. Local newspapers have a high readership and will be an important tool in promoting the project benefits and engagement events.	Inform
1800 hotline number	Phone line for people to contact the project team and ask questions about the project. These are recorded in the stakeholder management database and provided to the project manager.	Consult
Project email	Email for people to ask questions about the project.	Consult
Project website	Central place of information regarding the project including; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project details - EES technical study information and fact sheets - Project maps - Details on how to provide information and feedback to project team and EES process - Project newsletters and latest project updates - Community sponsorship and Neighbour Benefit Sharing Program 	Inform
Project announcements	Formally announce the project or project milestones. Announcements will be made via e-news, and media.	Inform
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)	Q&As to support internal and external communications, briefings and presentations.	Inform
Fact sheets/ information sheets	Materials to support the sharing of project information and developments.	Inform
Advertising	Press advertisements in local and national papers to inform the community and stakeholders on the public exhibition of the draft scoping requirements and exhibition of the EES periods. Press advertising to inform the community and stakeholders of public information sessions.	Inform
Briefing packs	Provide identified stakeholders with key information about the project.	Inform
Video (simulation of final design)	Video content to capture project milestones, explain complex concepts and record community engagement events.	Inform
Infographics and designed maps	Stylised visual content to explain complex or technical concepts. Content will be embedded on project websites, newsletters and social media.	Inform
Newsletters	Use of e-news channel to send out regular updates to stakeholders and the community including the exhibition of draft EES scoping requirements and the EES exhibition periods.	Inform
Visualisation tools	Use of innovative visualisation engagement tools.	Involve
Feedback forms/note-taking forms	Feedback / note-taking forms are used at drop-in sessions and one-on-one visits and meetings. These enable the project team to record the interaction and identify key areas of concerns raised by the stakeholder. Notes are taken by the project team member and added to the stakeholder management database and provided to the project manager.	
Reports	Summary reports of stakeholder engagement activities, attendance and key issues to be provided to the TRG and at advisory group meetings.	Inform
Surveys	Online surveys to gather feedback and input at key project milestones and for technical study findings.	Involve

6.3 Program

Following initial consultation, key stakeholder groups and their anticipated level of interest have been determined and a planned engagement program has been established as shown in Table 8 below.

This approach to engagement focuses on stakeholders and their specific needs and interest areas and remains flexible to be updated as appropriate. A schedule of activities will be developed and delivered quarterly as the project progresses. project A schedule of activity planned for the first quarter of 2023 has been provided as an addendum to this plan.

Table 8 Engagement program for each stakeholder group

Stakeholder group	Details	Likely needs and interest	Engagement methods	IAP2 Engagement Approach
Local Councils	Councillors, executive and officers from the following Councils: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Moyne Shire Council - Warrnambool City Council - Glenelg Shire Council Community Engagement Committee (CEC) convened by Moyne Shire Council	Social and economic impacts to local residents and businesses Environmental impacts and impact to cultural heritage significance Local community impacts and local jobs creation Regulatory permits and approvals processes, including program and coordination project Opportunities for communities and stakeholders to be involved in planning and approval processes (specifically opportunities for people to comment on the draft scoping requirements and the exhibited EES) How feedback influences EES Cumulative impacts and assessments	Meetings and briefings (CEC meetings and Moyne Shire attendance at TRG meetings). Partnering with community groups through local Council.	Inform/ Consult/ Involve
State Government representatives and departments	Victorian Minister for Planning Minister for Regional Development Municipal Association of Victoria Member of Legislative Assembly Members of Legislative Council for Western Victoria – ALP, Liberal, Greens DEECA DTP Regional Roads Victoria Regional Development Victoria	Environmental, social, economic impacts Potential impacts to sites and areas with cultural heritage significance Measures to avoid, minimise and manage impacts and enhance community benefit	Regular meetings Briefings as required	Inform/ Consult/ Involve
Federal Government representatives and departments	Federal Minister for the Environment and Water Federal Member for Wannon Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	Environmental assessment and approval Social, economic and environmental impacts	Briefings as required	Inform/ Consult/ Involve

Stakeholder group	Details	Likely needs and interest	Engagement methods	IAP2 Engagement Approach
Technical Reference Group (TRG)	Convened by the DTP, TRG members are from government agencies, regional authorities and councils with a statutory or policy interest in the project	Environmental, social, economic impacts Environmental assessment and approvals including cumulative impacts Stakeholder engagement and community sentiment and feedback/input. Review draft EES documentation including EES Consultation Plan.	TRG meetings Stakeholder engagement reports Briefings Site tours	Inform/ Consult/ Involve
Authorities	Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) Country Fire Association (CFA) State Emergency Services (SES) South West Region Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) Southern Rural Water AusNet Services Airservices Australia Glenhopkins Catchment Management Authority	Environmental assessment and approvals	Briefings as required	Inform/ Consult/ Involve
Landowners	14 participating landholders and landholders hosting infrastructure and transport routes	Impacts to property during construction and operation Access for surveys to inform EES Amenity and environmental impacts including; - Visual amenity - Noise - Air quality - Cumulative impacts - Traffic and road conditions - Ecology - Access and safety - Fire risk management - Communication towers and electronic signal - Neighbour Benefit Sharing Program Opportunities to comment on the draft scoping requirements and the exhibited EES.	Newsletters Website Telephone One-on-one discussions Dwelling visits / door-knocks Drop-in and information sessions Visual impact assessments Visualisation tools	Inform/ Consult/ Involve
Neighbours	Neighbours within 6 kilometres	Impacts to property during construction and operation Amenity and environmental impacts including; - Visual amenity - Noise - Air quality - Cumulative impacts - Traffic and road conditions - Ecology - Access and safety - Fire risk management - Communication towers and electronic signals - Neighbour Benefit Sharing Program Opportunities to comment on the draft scoping requirements and the exhibited EES Cumulative impacts	Newsletters Website Telephone One-on-one discussions Dwelling visits / door-knocks Drop-in and information sessions Visual impact assessments Visualisation tools	Inform

Stakeholder group	Details	Likely needs and interest	Engagement methods	IAP2 Engagement Approach
Traditional Owners and Indigenous groups	Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation	Economic and social benefits in relation to Aboriginal participation and employment opportunities Aboriginal and cultural heritage impacts and CHMP Opportunities to comment on the draft scoping requirements and the exhibited EES	Meetings as required TRG meetings Site tours Cultural Heritage Surveys	Inform/ Consult/ Involve
Broader community	Residents of the Moyne Shire including those living and working in Hexham, Caramut, Ellerslie and Mortlake	Project information and updates including progression and impacts Social and economic benefits Community impacts Amenity and environmental impacts Cumulative impacts Road access and disturbance during construction Local community benefits Economic impacts Opportunities to comment on the draft scoping requirements and the exhibited EES	Website Newsletter Drop-in and information sessions Meetings as required Surveys / questionnaires Project 1800 hotline Visualisation tools Local media/advertising Attendance at community events Sponsorship program	Inform
Special interest groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community groups - Landcare / environmental groups - Schools, kindergartens - CFA - Sports Clubs - Lions Clubs - Rotary Clubs - Country Women's Association - Hexham Environment Action Group 	Visual amenity Employment opportunities Neighbour Benefit Sharing Program Cumulative impacts Opportunities to comment on the draft scoping requirements and the exhibited EES.	Website Newsletter Drop-in and information sessions Meetings as required Project 1800 hotline Visualisation tools Partnerships/joint-projects and initiatives	Involve
Businesses	Businesses	Employment opportunities and benefit program Network and economic impacts Social, economic and environmental impacts Opportunities to comment on the draft scoping requirements and the exhibited EES. Cumulative impacts	Website Newsletter Drop-in and information sessions Meetings as required Project 1800 hotline Partnerships/joint-projects and initiatives	Inform/Involve /Collaborate
Media		As above	Media releases as required Media responses	Inform

6.4 Proposed engagement for EES Technical Study Program

Community and stakeholder engagement are a key element of the EES process. It enables key issues to be identified and addressed during the EES process and project design.

A number of technical studies will be completed to assess the potential effects of the project that require various levels of consultation with a number of agencies and members of the local community.

Consultation will be specific to the particular technical study and aims to seek relevant information and identify any particular concerns that will inform project design (see Table 9).

Table 9 Snapshot of technical study program and engagement

Assessment topic/Key values	Technical study and assessment of effects	Stakeholder	Form of engagement	Approximate timing
Catchment values and hydrology	Surface water Ground water	Landholders, neighbours, Moyne Shire Council, Traditional Owners, Glenelg Hopkins CMA, Southern Rural Water, DEECA.	Phone calls, meetings, emails, website and project newsletters.	December 2022 – August 2023
Biodiversity and habitat	Native vegetation and project ecological communities Flora Brolga Southern Bent-wing bat Grey-headed flying fox Other fauna	Landholders, Moyne Shire Council, DEECA, Traditional Owners, special interest groups.	Phone calls, meetings, emails, drop-in and information sessions, webinar, website content and project newsletters.	December 2022 – August 2023
Landscape and visual	Landscape and visual Shadow flicker and blade glint Landforms and soils	Landholders, neighbours, Moyne Shire Council, DEECA special interest groups.	Phone calls, One-on-one discussions Dwelling visits / door-knocks Drop-in and information sessions Visual impact assessments Visualisation tools, Webinar, Newsletters Website	February 2023 – November 2023
Amenity	Noise and vibration Aviation Air quality Electromagnetic interference Fire hazards	Landholders, neighbours, Moyne Shire Council, DEECA, EPA, Air Services Australia, Department of Defence, CFA, CASA, Department of Health and Human Services, broader community, special interest groups.	Phone calls, meetings, drop-in and information sessions, webinar, website content and project newsletters.	February 2023 – November 2023
Cultural heritage	Aboriginal cultural heritage Historical heritage	Traditional Owners and Indigenous groups, landholders and neighbours, special interest groups	Phone calls, meetings, emails, website, drop-in and information sessions, fact sheets and project newsletters.	February 2023 – November 2023
Land use and socioeconomic	Land use and planning Socio-Economic and community	Landholders, neighbours, Moyne Shire Council, DEECA, DTP	Phone calls, meetings, emails, website, drop-in and information sessions, fact sheets and project newsletters.	February 2023 – November 2023
Traffic and roads	Traffic and transport	Landholders, neighbours, Moyne Shire Council, DEECA, DTP, DEECA, broader community.	Phone calls, meetings, emails, website, drop-in and information sessions, fact sheets and project newsletters.	February 2023 - September 2023

Cumulative impacts will be considered within the technical studies particularly for biodiversity, landscape and visual, social and amenity values given the proximity of other proposed, approved and operating wind farms.

It is critical that all interested stakeholders understand the technical studies being undertaken and know how to contribute to the EES process.

6.5 Technical Reference Group

DTP has convened a Technical Reference Group (TRG) to advise Wind Prospect and the department on the scoping and adequacy of the EES studies during the preparation of the EES, as well as coordination with statutory approval processes.

The TRG members are drawn from government agencies, local government and regional authorities and are appointed to provide technical advice to both DTP and the proponent on preparing a quality EES.

The TRG also provides feedback on the EES Consultation Plan and monitors the delivery of the EES consultation program.

A TRG members site visit took place on December 1, 2022. This method of engagement provided an opportunity for members to see the proposed project area firsthand.

The TRG will meet regularly in a hybrid meeting model, consisting of online and in-person meetings. Wind Prospect will work collaboratively with members of the TRG sharing information and presenting assessment reports including assessment of cumulative adverse effects and assessment of project design alternatives.

An update on community and stakeholder activities and outcomes including sentiment and key emerging themes will be regularly presented to the TRG. This information will be provided in the form of reports and presentations.

6.6 Community Engagement Committee

The Moyne Shire Council established a Community Engagement Committee (CEC) for the project in 2019. The CEC members are Moyne Shire councillors, local community members and Wind Prospect staff members. The meetings are conducted formally with a Chair, an agenda and with meeting minutes recorded.

Wind Prospect, the Moyne Shire Council and community representatives each present an update and an opportunity is provided for all to ask questions of one another. The first meeting was in October 2019 and meetings are held quarterly.

The purpose of the CEC, as described in the charter, is:

- To develop strategies to create an effective flow of information to and from the community regarding the proposed Hexham Wind Farm project;
- To act as a conduit for information flow between Council, the project proponent, the community, and relevant stakeholders regarding the progress of the Hexham Wind Farm project;
- To assist in the resolution of issues that may arise during the pre-application, application, and if necessary during the construction and operational phases of the Hexham Wind Farm project.

6.7 Reporting, monitoring and evaluation

The project uses a stakeholder management database to record phone calls, meetings and minutes of formal meetings with key stakeholders. A stakeholder communications folder also holds records of interactions including incoming and outgoing letters, and meeting records relating to host landowners, neighbouring residents, key interest groups, government and non-government organisations and, the Community Engagement Committee. All data is recorded and stored in line with relevant privacy acts and regulations. These tools enable the project team to capture the wide-ranging information, stakeholder and community questions, comments and views on the project, including specific issues of concern.

The effectiveness of this plan will be measured and evaluated against the communications and engagement objectives (see Table 10 for detail). This will continue throughout the EES process.

Table 10 Evaluation process

Objective	What will be achieved?	What is measured as part of the EES program
Identify stakeholders, and their preferred methods of engagement.	<p>The project successfully identifying stakeholders and their engagement needs.</p> <p>Widespread understanding of the project among impacted residents, stakeholders and the broader community.</p> <p>Responsiveness to issues and complaints.</p>	<p>An effective database management system.</p> <p>The timeliness of information received by impacted community and stakeholders regarding impacts.</p> <p>Hybrid engagement activities scheduled to suit community needs.</p> <p>Number and diversity of participants.</p>
Facilitate genuine engagement to ensure stakeholders are informed, consulted and involved during the EES process and issues are proactively acknowledged and addressed.	<p>General community awareness and understanding of the project.</p> <p>General satisfaction among stakeholders that they have been given the opportunity to express their views and that they have been heard.</p> <p>Strong local relationships and trust.</p>	<p>Issue timely and relevant communications (project newsletters, direct mail, letters and FAQs).</p> <p>Participant satisfaction with delivery of engagement activities.</p> <p>Website visits and downloads of information documents.</p> <p>Number and diversity of participants at engagement events.</p>
Engage meaningfully with broader community and key stakeholders to address key issues raised through consultation and consider and respond to potential impacts the project.	<p>The timeliness of information received by impacted community and stakeholders regarding impacts</p>	<p>Participant feedback is captured during activities.</p> <p>Response times in getting back to enquiries from the public.</p> <p>Review of methods used to distribute communications.</p> <p>Timely delivery of engagement activities to maximise opportunities to influence design and planning.</p>
Provide opportunities for stakeholders' feedback that informs the project development.	<p>Monitoring and responding to issues and complaints</p> <p>Demonstrated consideration of community and stakeholder input in project development/decision-making</p>	<p>Expectations and issues managed effectively through communications and meaningful engagement.</p> <p>Participant feedback is captured during activities.</p> <p>Number and diversity of submissions received on the draft scoping requirements and the exhibited EES.</p>

6.8 Incorporating feedback

Community or stakeholder concerns, issues and feedback raised will be recorded along with the response(s) to the points raised. Where the issue relates to a specific technical assessment, it will be considered in the technical study, along with any discussion on and response to the issue.

A response to a particular issue or concern could be as follows:

- Provision of further information,
- Neighbour Benefit Sharing Program
- Changes to the assessment to include the issue(s) raised,
- Mitigation measures, or
- Changes to the project design.

A summary of all issues raised, along with responses and references to any relevant technical reports will be provided within the EES documentation. During construction and operation of the wind farm, any issues or concerns will continue to be recorded and responded to.

Feedback from the community on the project including technical studies is critically important as is feedback on where, when and how the project engages with its community. We have a commitment to continuous improvement and will refine and adjust the engagement approach and activities as required to ensure that our information is reaching the community in a manner that is appropriate and desired.

6.9 Key project information

A summary of relevant contact information is supplied in Table 11.

Table 11 Project contact information

contact information	
Proponent	Hexham Wind Farm Pty Ltd
Owner	Wind Prospect Pty Ltd (Wind Prospect) is the owner of Hexham Wind Farm Pty Ltd (the proponent) and will manage the EES process.
Project website	www.hexhamwindfarm.com.au
Postal Address	PO Box 110 Fitzroy VIC 3065
Project telephone	1800 934 322
Project email	info@hexhamwindfarm.com.au
Register for project updates	www.hexhamwindfarm.com.au/news

6.10 Complaints and grievances

Successful stakeholder engagement can often be measured by the effectiveness and suitability of the implemented grievance process or mechanism. Effective and responsive communication when dealing with community complaints and feedback is essential for continual development of strong robust community relations.

The complaints and grievance management system that will be implemented by Wind Prospect will align with the methodology established in Appendix 3.

Continuous improvement of the grievance mechanism is an important priority, and the project will therefore use the following practices to assist in achieving this aim.

- Easily accessible and understandable information relating to complaint lodgment;
- Acknowledgement and registering of all complaints within one business day of receipt;
- Regular communication and feedback to complainants relating to proposed courses of action or resolution strategies;
- Where possible, documented resolution of all complaints. Alternatively, if agreement has not been achieved, demonstration of compliance and implementation of suitable engagement strategies
- Implementation of regular auditing and review process.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Minister's Decision EES Referral

For Public Notice via Internet

REASONS FOR DECISION UNDER *ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS ACT 1978*
(REFERRAL NUMBER 2022R-03)

Proponent

Hexham Wind Farm Pty Ltd

Project

Hexham Wind Farm

Description

The proposed Hexham Wind Farm project comprises up to 108 wind turbine generators (WTGs) with a maximum blade tip height of up to 250 metres, across an area of approximately 16,000 hectares in south-west Victoria. The windfarm has an anticipated operational life of 25 years, after a 2-year construction period, with preliminary assessment indicating power generation of 2,400 gigawatt hours (GWh) per annum.

Project components, other than the WTGs, would include access tracks, connections to existing overhead 500kV transmission lines via a new terminal station, underground cabling and new overhead powerlines, a battery storage facility, meteorological masts and an on-site compound. The project may also include a temporary on-site quarry depending on the outcomes of further investigations.

Decision

The Minister for Planning has decided that an environment effects statement (EES) is required for the Hexham Wind Farm project, as described in the referral accepted on 16 March 2022.

Reasons

- The project has the potential for a range of significant and complex effects that require rigorous assessment. In particular, the project as proposed could have significant effects on:
 - i. Significant biodiversity values, including threatened species and communities listed under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* and *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*;
 - ii. Native vegetation and ecology of the area's terrestrial environments and freshwater environments, including wetlands and creeks;
 - iii. Aboriginal cultural heritage; and
 - iv. Landscape and visual amenity.
- There is uncertainty about the extent and magnitude of potential effects related to historic heritage, traffic, shadow flicker, soils, groundwater, electromagnetic interference, aviation, amenity and socioeconomic values that also require further assessment.
- The project has potential for cumulative adverse effects on local and regional environmental values in the context of other existing and publicly known proposed projects within the region.

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- An EES is warranted to enable an integrated assessment of the environmental effects of the project and associated uncertainties, to inform decision-making for required approvals. The EES will evaluate feasible, relevant alternatives, the effectiveness of proposed mitigation and offsetting measures, including opportunities to avoid or minimise significant adverse effects through alternative layouts, designs and other mitigation measures.

Date 19/4/22

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Appendix 2: List of key stakeholders

Table 12 List of key stakeholders

Category	Stakeholder	Level of engagement
Local Government	Councillors, executive and officers from the following Councils: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Moyne Shire Council - Warrnambool City Council - Glenelg Shire Council Community Engagement Committee (convened by Moyne Shire Council)	Inform, involve
State Government	Members of Parliament Victorian Minister for Planning Minister for Regional Development Municipal Association of Victoria Member of Legislative Assembly Members of Legislative Council for Western Victoria Departments Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action Regional Roads Victoria Regional Development Victoria	Inform, involve
Federal Government	Ministers Federal Minister for the Environment and Water Federal Member for Wannon Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner Departments Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	Inform
Authorities	Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) Country Fire Association (CFA) State Emergency Services (SES) South West Region Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) Southern Rural Water AusNet Services Airservices Australia Glenhopkins Catchment Management Authority	Inform
Directly impacted	14 participating landholders Neighbours within 6 kilometres Participating landholders hosting infrastructure and transport routes	Inform, Consult
Indigenous groups	Registered Aboriginal Parties and first nations peoples; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation 	Inform, consult, involve
Broader community and special interest groups	Residents and businesses within 10 kilometres <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Schools - St Coleman's School - Mortlake College P-12 - Warrnambool College - Community Groups - Cemetery Trusts (Hexham and Ellerslie) - Hexham Community Association - Hexham CFA & Ellerslie CFA - Ellerslie War Memorial Committee - Caramut Football Netball Club INC - Western District Pony Club - Hexham Equestrian Centre - Great Southern Coast Eventing Association - Caramut Riding Club - Great South Coast Eventing Association - Hexham Polo Club - Western Victoria Branch of the Australian Stock Horse Association - Caramut War Memorial Hall Committee Inc - Caramut and District Garden Club - Mortlake Lions Club - Mortlake Rotary Club - Country Women's Association Mortlake Day Branch - Western Plans Spinner, Weavers and Craft Group - Environmental Groups - Hexham Environment Action Group - Ellerslie Landcare and Tree Group - Basalt to Bay Landcare 	Inform, consult, involve,

Category	Stakeholder	Level of engagement
Businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Caramut Western Hotel and Café - Caramut Store - Caramut Post Office - Caramut Transfer Station - Mortlake businesses 	Inform, consult, involve
Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Caramut Concerns - Mortlake Lions Club Newsletter - Mortlake Dispatch - Western District Farmer - 9 News Western Victoria - 95.3 Coast FM Warrnambool - 94.5 3YB FM - 3 Way FM 103.7 - ABC South West Victoria 	Inform

Appendix 3: Complaints and grievance procedure

The purpose of this document is to describe the process that would be followed should Wind Prospect receive a complaint regarding the project. The procedure is a mechanism that stakeholders can use to lodge complaints in a formal way that provides a stepwise approach to the handling of and response to the complaint. Information relating to the complaint would be recorded and the procedure would be reviewed following the close out of any complaint to ensure that the process is effective. Figure 1 outlines the complaints management process and a description of each step is provided below.

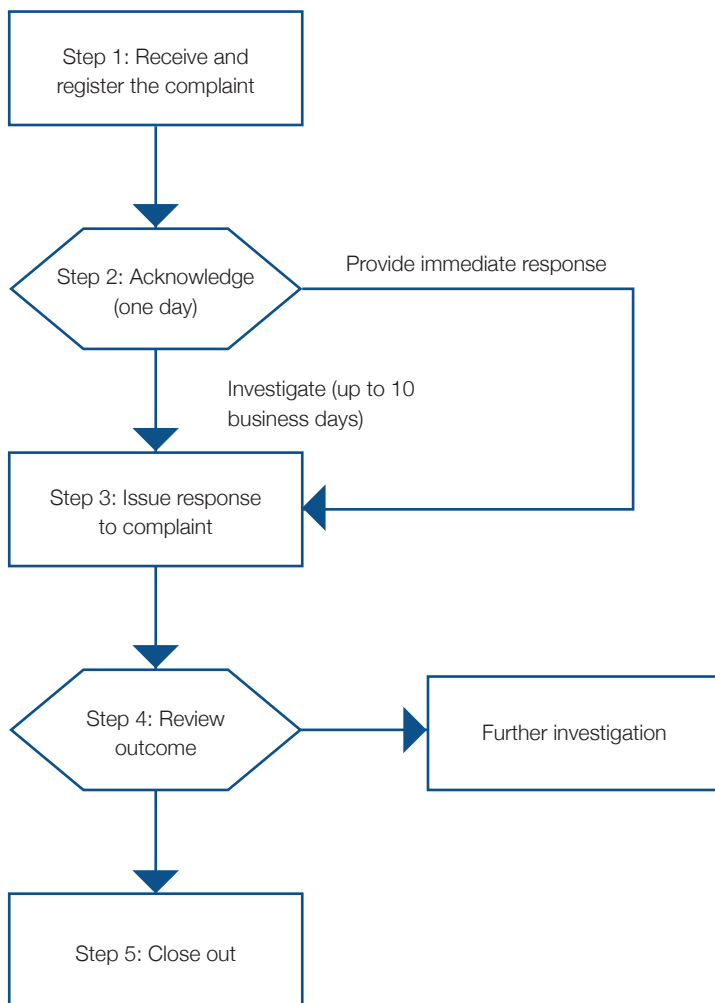


Figure 3 Wind Prospect complaints management process

Step 1: Receive and Register the Complaint

On receipt of a complaint, whether by telephone, email, letter or in person, specific information will be gathered and entered into the Customer Relationship Management (CRM) database. This information will include, where available, the name and address of the complainant; the date; a description of the complaint; and, the date when acknowledged (including how acknowledged and by who). Complaints may be lodged anonymously, however, they may then be more difficult to follow up.

Step 2: Acknowledge the Complaint

Within one business day, the complaint will be acknowledged and assessed according to whether a response can be provided immediately, or whether further investigations are required before a response can be provided. Further investigations may involve discussions with the relevant technical consultant, who may need to do further work in order to address the issue raised. The time required for this will depend on the nature of the complaint, however, Wind Prospect will endeavour to seek a response within the prescribed time. A record of the actions taken to address the complaint will be included in the CRM database.

Step 3: Issue a Response to the Stakeholder

The aim will be for a response to be issued to the complainant within 10 business days of receipt of the complaint. Should this not be achievable, the stakeholder will be contacted to provide an update on progress in responding to the issue(s) raised. The response will be issued by email or letter, depending on the preference of the complainant.

Step 4: Review Outcome of Response

Once the complainant has had an opportunity to review the response provided, Wind Prospect will ask whether it is considered that the complaint has been dealt with satisfactorily. If the complainant is satisfied with the response, the complaint can be considered to be resolved and closed out. If the complaint is not resolved then further investigation may be required.

Further Investigation

This may involve Wind Prospect investigating the complaint further and Wind Prospect will endeavour to do this within 10 business days. Alternatively, the complainant may decide to follow up their complaint with an alternative stakeholder, such as the National Wind Farm Commissioner.

Step 5: Close Out

An email or letter will be issued to the complainant to advise that the complaint has been closed out and this will be recorded in the CRM database.

Appendix 4: Feedback form

Feedback Form			
	Community Benefit Sharing Landscape and visual Aviation Noise Property values	Ecology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Flora - Fauna - Brolga - Migratory birds - Bats Cumulative impacts Hydrology/Geology Transmission lines	
Sentiment	Negative	Neutral	Positive
Other/general comments			

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 • Internet: www.willatookwindfarm.com.au

Feedback Form

	Community Benefit Sharing Landscape and visual Aviation Noise Property values	Ecology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Flora - Fauna - Brolga - Migratory birds - Bats Cumulative impacts Hydrology/Geology Transmission lines	
Sentiment	Negative	Neutral	Positive
Other/general comments			

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The project website is a useful resource to learn about the project, keep up to date with community engagement events and opportunities and to register for project updates.

For further information:

Visit www.hexhamwindfarm.com.au

Call 1800 934 322

Email info@hexhamwindfarm.com.au

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