

# Report

## **Darlington Wind Farm**

Stakeholder and Community Engagement  
Summary – EES Referral Phase  
15 September 2022



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## Definitions

### **Community**

The term community refers to a group of people that has something in common such as identity, behaviours, interests or values. A community often share a sense of place in a given geographical area (e.g. a country, city, town, or neighbourhood) or in virtual space through communication platforms.

### **Stakeholder**

The word stakeholder refers to individuals, groups or organisations with a stake or interest in the outcome of a decision. Stakeholders may also have the ability to influence the decision given their role or position.

### **Engagement**

Engagement is defined as a planned process with the purpose of working with communities and stakeholders to inform decisions, share knowledge and strengthen relationships.



# 1. Introduction

## 1.1. Purpose of this document

This plan outlines the proposed communication and engagement activities that will be delivered by Global Power Generation (GPG) Australia as part of the statutory planning and approvals process for the Darlington Wind Farm.

Specifically, this plan outlines how GPG Australia will inform, consult, involve and respond to the community, landowners, and occupiers, in accordance with the requirements, relevant regulations determined by the statutory approval pathways.

This plan has been prepared in accordance with GPG Australia's commitment to stakeholders and communities, existing best practice guides and having consideration of the following key documents:

- Clean Energy Council, 2018, [Community Engagement Guidelines for the Australian Wind Industry](#)
- Department of Environment, Land Water and Planning, 2017, [Community Engagement and Benefit Sharing in Renewable Energy Development in Victoria A guide for renewable energy developers \(updated July 2021\)](#)
- Department of Environment, Land Water and Planning, 2018, [Environment Effects Act 1978. EES Consultation Plan Advisory Note](#)
- Department of Environment, Land Water and Planning, 2019, [Development of Wind Energy Facilities in Victoria Policy and Planning Guidelines](#)
- Victorian Auditor-General's Office, 2015. [Public Participation in Government Decision-making: Better Practice Guide](#)

## Acknowledgment of traditional owners

We acknowledge the Eastern Maar peoples as the traditional Aboriginal owners of the Country on which our project sits. We pay our respects to their culture and their Elders past, present and emerging.

## 1.2. Project Overview

The proposed Darlington Wind Farm is located approximately five kilometres south-west of Darlington and eight kilometres north-east of Mortlake along the Hamilton Highway, within the Shire of Moyne, and close to its easternmost boundary. The project proponent is GPG Australia, formerly known as Union Fenosa Wind Australia.

The proposed project site covers an area of approximately 7,600 hectares, where the current land use is primarily agricultural activities including grazing of sheep and cattle.

The site contains infrastructure including roads, power lines and fences. A 500kV transmission line bisects the site in an easterly direction north of the Hamilton Highway. The Highway itself bisects the site in an east-west direction. Scattered around the project site are agricultural and residential buildings within a typically rural landscape setting. There are a number of homes within the site area and several additional homes within the vicinity.



Within the site boundary, there are several land parcels, which are owned by 12 landowners. Almost all of these landowners run cropping or grazing operations on their land.

Figure 1 shows a context map of Darlington in relation to western Victoria and metropolitan Melbourne.

A map of the proposed project site boundary is attached as Appendix A.

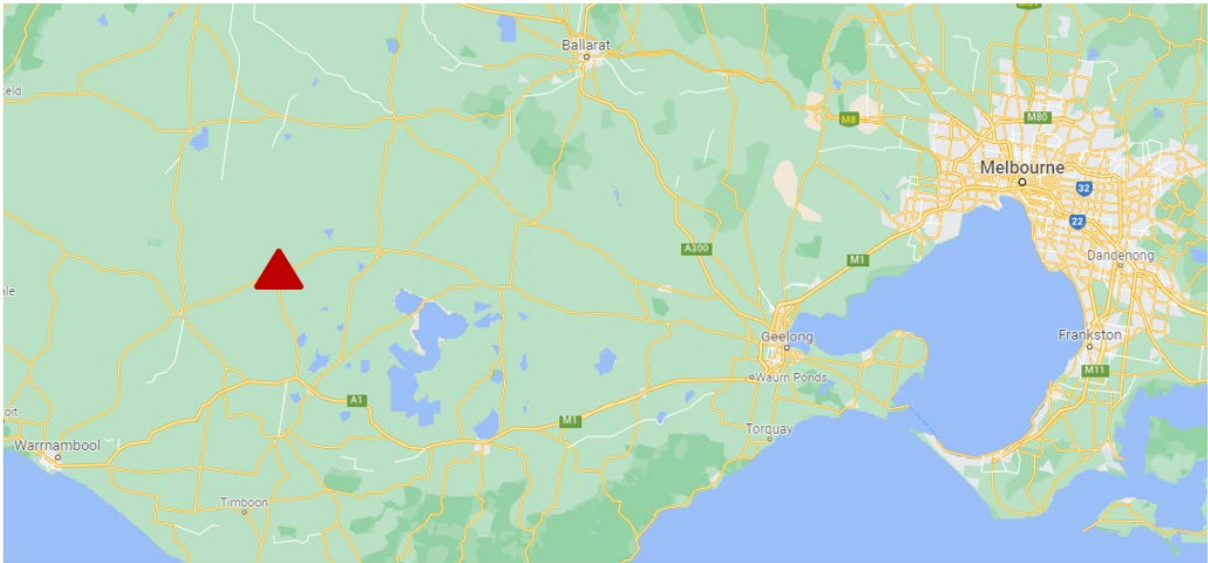


Figure 1 Context map of Darlington

The site was chosen due to its consistent and strong winds, and the access to the high voltage transmission line bisecting it. Existing transmission lines will allow generated energy to be dispatched into the national network easily and efficiently.

The project would connect to the grid via a new onsite substation adjacent to the existing 500kV Haunted Gully-Tarrone Transmission Line. No new external overhead transmission lines are proposed for the project. The size of the onsite terminal Station would be comparable to the existing 132kV Tarrone Terminal Station.

**Key project stats**

**Size:** Up to 61 Wind Turbines

**Capacity:** Up to approximately 400MW

**Blade tip height:** Up to 240 metres

**Turbine Diameter:** Up to 172 metres

**Status:** Environmental and Planning Assessments have commenced as well as preliminary discussions with State and local authorities.



### **1.2.1. Approval pathway**

GPG Australia is seeking advice from lead consultants and the Department of Environment, Land Water and Planning (DELWP) to determine the appropriate statutory approval pathway for this project.

The project was the subject of a referral under the *Environment Effect Act 1978* in November 2007. The outcome of the Referral was that the Minister for Planning decided on 9 January 2008 that an Environment Effects Statement (EES) was not required for the Darlington Wind Farm subject to the following condition:

*“Targeted surveys of the movements and behaviour of Brolgas in the vicinity of the Darlington Wind Farm site during the breeding, migration and flocking seasons for the species are to be undertaken and documented to the satisfaction of the Department of Sustainability and Environment, prior to any statutory decision whether or not to approve the wind farm proposal.”*

The decision does not have a sunset clause and therefore does not expire. However, the project proposal has been revised since the initial referral and a re-referral process has therefore commenced.

### **1.2.2. A revised project scope**

The current project proposal scope and design (2022) has some key differences from the 2007 proposal. The following changes have been made to the project proposal:

- It comprises less than half of the originally intended wind turbines and will involve a different turbine model that is larger in size.
- The project boundary has been amended, and the site area has decreased in size by 1,160 hectares.
- The project boundary change aims to avoid areas of environmental and cultural heritage significance through the project design.

Following recent engagement with DELWP, GPG Australia has committed to lodging a new EES referral. Through this process, DELWP will determine whether an EES is required for the project.

GPG Australia is committed to ongoing engagement with project stakeholders and building relationships with project communities throughout all stages of project development. Should an EES be required, the statutory engagement requirements set out in the *Environment Effects Act 1978* will also be followed.

## **1.3. Stakeholder and community consultation undertaken to date**

GPG Australia has consulted and completed technical studies for the proposed project since 2006. The details of the stakeholder and community consultation undertaken to date are outlined in this section.

### **1.3.1. Moyne Shire Council**

The Moyne Shire Council has been aware of the proposed Darlington Wind Farm since 2006 via engagement related to the previous EES Referral process, which resulted in the Minister’s decision in 2008.

Since this time, and whilst the project was on hold, GPG Australia engaged with the Shire Council via its delegated officers and its Councillors on a as needs basis regarding the Darlington Wind Farm.

Upon re-engagement with the project, GPG Australia, alongside Tract have sought to keep the Moyne Shire Council informed of the project. A Councillor briefing was held on 14 September 2021. This briefing



provided an overview of the project, revisions to the site boundary, the status of preliminary investigations ongoing, and set out proposed timeframes.

During 2022, GPG Australia continued to engage with Moyne Shire Council through meetings and briefings to provide updates on the project status, planning approval processes and to seek guidance on local community engagement requirements. A Council briefing was held on 19 July 2022. In August 2022, a printed project update was distributed to community members by Moyne Shire Council on behalf of GPG Australia. This document provided an overview of the project, information about GPG Australia, the project history, next steps in the planning approval process and information on how to provide feedback or contact the team.

### 1.3.2. Involved Landowners

GPG Australia continues to consult with all the involved landowners on an ongoing basis via email and telephone. This ongoing engagement relates to various matters, including organising technical surveys, reviewing draft agreements, and discussing any concerns arising through the project development phase.

See Table 1 for an overview of previous interactions with involved landowners.

*Table 1 Previous interactions with involved landowners*

Timing	Description
2006	<p>The project was originally proposed by TME Australia Pty Ltd in 2006. As of 2006, seven landowners were proposed to be involved by TME Australia.</p> <p>At that time two wind monitoring masts were placed on site to determine the suitability of the wind resource.</p>
2008	<p>The project was acquired by Union Fenosa Wind Australia (UFWA) (now GPG Australia) from TME. All seven involved landowners were informed about the change of company. Deed of assignment of license agreement to UFWA was signed by the landowners.</p>
2009	<p>In July 2009, the first newsletter for the project was published by UFWA. This newsletter was delivered during door knocks in the area. The door knocking activity sought to gather information from the nearby landowners, and to inform them about the wind farm design process required for the planning application.</p> <p>UFWA issued Test Notices to all involved landowners to inform them that the wind resource is suitable in their property.</p>
2012	<p>In early 2012, UFWA consulted with five other landowners and signed license agreements with these landowners.</p>
2013	<p>A meeting was held in Mortlake with involved landowners organised by UFWA to discuss the status of license agreements, the progress of the project, and future prospects for the project.</p>



2014 to 2021	<i>The project was placed on hold whilst other projects were progressed.</i>
2017	The UFWA company name was changed to GPG Australia.
2021	<p>From early 2021, GPG Australia decided to proceed with the project again. In January 2021, GPG Australia contacted all previously involved landowners. The purpose of these calls was to introduce new project team members and to confirm whether the landowners were still interested in being involved with the project.</p> <p>On March 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 2021, GPG Australia organised a site visit to meet all the interested landowners to inform them of the intention to proceed with this project again.</p> <p>From May 2021 to June 2021, GPG Australia circulated the preliminary wind turbine layouts to all involved landowners relating to their specific properties, for feedback and comments.</p> <p>In September 2021, GPG Australia started sending all new Option of Deed and Lease agreements for Landowners to review.</p> <p>In December 2021, GPG Australia prepared a newsletter for the involved landowners describing project history and plans over the coming months. This newsletter was distributed during the site visit organised by GPG Australia on 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> December 2021 to host landowners.</p> <p>During this time, GPG Australia had communications with a couple of adjacent neighbours to discuss the project and share maps of turbines in proximity to their property.</p>
2022	<p>GPG Australia has ongoing consultation with all the host landowners via email, phone for various matters like organising surveys, negotiating agreements, and discussing their concerns.</p> <p>In early 2022, a dedicated Darlington Wind farm project webpage was launched. This webpage provides publicly available information for the project in the one location. This includes the project description, frequently asked questions, information on community engagement and benefit sharing plan, a document library and information on upcoming community engagement events.</p> <p>Webpage available at: <a href="http://www.darlingtonwindfarm.globalpower-generation.com.au">www.darlingtonwindfarm.globalpower-generation.com.au</a></p> <p>A printed landowner update was distributed in August 2022. This document shared an overview of the project plan including a status update and the planning approval key steps. It introduced the Land, Community and Stakeholder Engagement Officer and gave responses to frequently asked questions.</p>



## 2. Engagement approach

### 2.1. IAP2 Spectrum

The International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) uses a spectrum to help understand the different levels of public participation in decision-making processes<sup>1</sup>.

The spectrum is based on the premise that different stakeholders have different levels of involvement in decision-making. Included within the spectrum are five levels which describe the influence the public has in a decision-making process. These are used consistently throughout this strategy to help convey the intention and level of engagement of each activity. The levels of engagement are:

- **Inform** - to provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.
- **Consult** - to obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.
- **Involve** - to work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.
- **Collaborate** - to partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.
- **Empower** - to place final decision-making in the hands of the public<sup>2</sup>.

This project will focus on the levels of Inform, Consult and Involve, tailored to the needs and interests of community and stakeholder groups.

### 2.2. Engagement Principles

In keeping with the Victorian Auditor-General's Office Public Participation in Government Decision-Making report, communication and engagement activities will be guided by the following principles in Table 2.

*Table 2 Victorian Auditor-General's Office Public Participation in Government Decision-making principles.*

Principles	Description
<b>Meaningful</b>	Meaningful communication and engagement involve clearly articulating the purpose and objectives, as well as developing a shared understanding of project negotiables (can be influenced) and project non-negotiables (cannot be influenced).
<b>Inclusive</b>	Communication and engagement must be inclusive and accessible, both in terms of language and design/delivery. This is a proactive approach to considering and overcoming barriers to understanding and engagement. Asking an individual or group in how they would like to participate and designing the process accordingly demonstrates respect.
<b>Transparent</b>	This means sharing information about the project, its background and rationale. It also means explaining why elements are non-negotiable, and why other elements are negotiable from the outset.

<sup>1</sup> See <https://iap2.org.au/>

<sup>2</sup> Reproduced from IAP2 2018 published resources: <https://iap2.org.au/resources/iap2-published-resources/>



Principles	Description
<b>Informed</b>	This principle is particularly relevant to communication. Stakeholders need to receive relevant, tailored, and timely information about the project. They also need to understand their role in the decision-making process, where this is relevant. Community members need to be informed of the opportunities to take part in engagement. They need to understand how their contributions will be considered.
<b>Accountable</b>	This involves addressing concerns/requests; discussing how stakeholder input has affected/or did not affect a decision. This is known as 'closing the loop'.
<b>Valuable</b>	Value is delivered through the appropriate and efficient use of resources. Value also includes building social licence with the community and reducing financial and reputational risks to government.  Value also applies to participants and their time – community members should always be treated respectfully.

## 2.3. Engagement objectives

GPG Australia has identified the following engagement objectives for the project.

### 2.3.1. Objective 1: “Building community and stakeholder capacity to understand project drivers, impacts and how to be involved”.

We will deliver engagement outcomes this objective in the following ways:

- Clearly describe the project need including broader objectives driving a switch to renewable energy
- Clearly describe the relevant statutory approvals process and how communities can have meaningful involvement
- Enhance community awareness of project implications, including both benefits and impacts
- Increase a deeper understanding and appreciation technical constraints and limitations and establishing realistic project expectations
- Engage in and drive in meaningful conversations and provide productive feedback
- Establish and reinforce reasonable expectations about opportunities for and scope of involvement.

### 2.3.2. Objective 2: “Capturing feedback to inform decisions which respond to community and project needs”

We will deliver engagement outcomes this objective in the following ways:

- Use feedback to support technical investigations and design decisions
- Respond to community concerns and needs
- Promote the fair and reasonable management/distribution of community impacts and benefits
- Use feedback to influence project negotiables



- Empower communities to make meaningful contributions where they can impact the project - e.g., Community benefits
- Maintain clear, consistent source of information and opportunities for input
- Design and deliver a viable and appropriate project
- Support project approval pathway.

### **2.3.3. Objective 3: Strengthen relationships with stakeholders and community to foster trust, awareness, and understanding of the Project**

We will deliver engagement outcomes this objective in the following ways:

- Strive to support community cohesion
- Develop and maintain a social license to develop, construct and operate by ensuring stakeholder engagement outcomes are central to planning and decision making
- Act at all times to build trust with local communities and stakeholders through transparency
- Use feedback and engagement insights to assist and inform project decisions
- Work effectively with local Indigenous communities and Traditional Owners
- Maintain clear feedback loops with communities and stakeholders
- Establish confidence, trust and certainty for landowners and impacted communities
- Meet project and business objectives responsibly.

## **2.4. Engagement and COVID-19**

This Plan has been prepared to reflect the most up-to-date advice to maintain community safety during the COVID-19 pandemic. The approaches outlined in this plan favour a precautionary approach to engagement to maintain the safety of stakeholders, community and our project staff. Public Health advice is updated regularly, and our engagement approach will be reviewed as required to maintain transparent and accessible engagement while protecting community safety.



## 2.5. Project negotiables

Clear project negotiables and non-negotiables will be communicated to stakeholders and communities as part of project messaging to ensure that they understand how their contribution may influence decisions.

This will assist in clarifying and understanding stakeholder expectations from the outset, and continually reinforced to alleviate any potential for misunderstanding during the engagement.

Table 3 outlines the project negotiables and non-negotiables identified to date. These will be further review and refined as the project progresses and as part of ongoing evaluation and monitoring.

*Table 3 Project negotiables and non-negotiables*

	Non-negotiables	Negotiables
Project design and management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project timeline</li> <li>Number of turbines</li> <li>Turbine locations - profitability, technical/ environmental constraints</li> <li>Turbine design and Australian standards</li> <li>Statutory requirements and guidelines</li> <li>Technical constraints identified through specialist investigation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Turbine micro-siting, setbacks from directly impacted dwellings</li> <li>Routes for site access and access roads</li> <li>Design/ micro-siting of ancillary buildings</li> <li>Management of amenity impacts</li> <li>Detailed site design - landscaping, screening, vegetation type</li> <li>Operational hours of onsite batching</li> </ul>
Statutory and technical requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project will go ahead if approval is secured</li> <li>Approval pathway and statutory requirements</li> <li>Methodology/ scope of technical investigations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approach with regulators and Registered Aboriginal Parties</li> <li>Post approval conditions and extent of evaluation</li> <li>Monitoring impacts</li> </ul>
Community impacts and opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Technical constraints</li> <li>Statutory requirements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How we consult with community and stakeholders</li> <li>Extent and scope of local procurement for goods and services</li> <li>Design and management of community benefits scheme such as how annual contributions are spent, how decisions are made and in which forums</li> <li>Opportunities for benefit sharing such as Brolga impacts and protection, solar installation, road upgrades, affordable housing</li> <li>Local issues of community concern which are within the reasonable scope of the project to influence</li> </ul>



### 3. Stakeholders

An overview of key stakeholders is outlined in Table 4. However, it is anticipated that other stakeholders may emerge throughout the engagement process. In this instance, the strategy will alter to appropriately identify and target the stakeholder’s interest, influence, and engagement in the project.

Table 4 Project stakeholder summary

Stakeholder group	Likely engagement interests
<b>Community</b>	
Involved landowners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Impacts to property during construction and operation</li> <li>● Health and safety concerns</li> <li>● Amenity and environmental impacts</li> <li>● The planning approvals process and acquisition concerns (if required)</li> <li>● Measures to mitigate, minimise and manage impacts</li> <li>● Opportunities and avenues to seek compensation</li> </ul>
Neighbouring landowners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Impacts to property during construction and operation</li> <li>● Impacts to property values</li> <li>● Health and safety concerns</li> <li>● Amenity and environmental impacts</li> <li>● The planning approvals process</li> <li>● Measures to mitigate, minimise and manage impacts</li> </ul>
Landowners with line-of-sight of wind farm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Impacts to property values</li> <li>● Amenity and environmental impacts</li> <li>● The planning approvals process</li> <li>● Measures to mitigate, minimise and manage impacts</li> </ul>
Traditional owner/ Aboriginal groups (Eastern Maar RAP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Potential impacts to sites and areas with cultural heritage significance</li> <li>● Economic and social benefits, particularly in relation to Aboriginal participation and employment opportunities</li> </ul>
Community interest groups	<p>Including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Local wind farm opposition groups such as Mortlake and District Wind Farm Action Group, Stopthesethings.com, Mt Fyans Action Group, Wind Farm Living Community</li> <li>● Environmental and conservation groups such as Landcare groups, Brolga recovery group, Mt Noorat Management Committee, Nature in Nature Bus, Bird Life Australia</li> <li>● Community organisations and clubs such as Terang Mortlake Football Netball Club, Kolora-Noorat Football Netball Club, Mortlake College, St Coleman's Primary School, Mortlake and District Community Notice Board, Music Homestead Incorporated</li> <li>● Emergency services such as Local CFA groups</li> <li>● Transport businesses.</li> </ul>



Stakeholder group	Likely engagement interests
Community interest groups (cont.)	<p>These groups will be interested in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Locally specific information about the Project, its progression and impacts</li> <li>● Social and economic benefits arising from the project</li> <li>● Local community benefits (and their equitable distribution)</li> <li>● Disruptions from construction</li> <li>● Amenity, landscape, and visual impacts</li> <li>● Operational noise, vibration and/or related off-site impacts</li> <li>● Environmental impacts, including impacts on Brolga communities, and general avifauna</li> <li>● The planning approvals process</li> <li>● Measures to mitigate, minimise and manage impacts</li> <li>● Community benefits including opportunities to leverage economic benefits of the Project.</li> </ul>
Broader community members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Locally specific information about the Project, its progression and impacts</li> <li>● Social and economic benefits</li> <li>● Local community benefits (and their equitable distribution)</li> <li>● Disruptions from construction</li> <li>● Reliability and security of network supply</li> <li>● Health and safety concerns</li> <li>● Amenity impacts</li> <li>● Environmental impacts, including impacts on Brolga communities</li> <li>● The planning approvals process</li> <li>● Measures to mitigate, minimise and manage impacts</li> <li>● Community benefits including opportunities to leverage economic benefits of the Project</li> </ul>
Media	<p>Such as Terang Express, Mortlake Dispatch, Warrnambool Standard</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Community sentiment and concern</li> <li>● Local community impacts and local jobs creation</li> <li>● Opportunities for communities and stakeholders to be involved in planning and approval processes</li> </ul>
<b>Government</b>	
Moyne Shire Council  Corangamite Shire Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Community sentiment and concern</li> <li>● Local community impacts and local jobs creation</li> <li>● Relevant permits and approvals processes including program and coordination</li> <li>● Opportunities for communities and stakeholders to be involved in planning and approval processes</li> <li>● Cumulative impacts of other wind farm projects occurring in the area</li> </ul>
Members of Parliament	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Social and economic impacts</li> <li>● Environment and amenity impacts</li> <li>● Measures to mitigate, minimise and manage impacts and enhance community benefit</li> </ul>



Stakeholder group	Likely engagement interests
State (Department and Ministers)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Environmental and planning approvals processes</li> <li>● Social, economic and environmental impacts</li> <li>● Measures to mitigate, minimise and manage impacts and enhance community benefit</li> </ul>
Regulators and policy-makers	<p>Such as Glenelg Hopkins Catchment, Wannon Water, Regional Roads Victoria, Invest Victoria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Economic and technical aspects</li> <li>● Disruptions during construction and operation</li> <li>● Delivery and compliance with necessary approvals/standards</li> </ul>
<b>Industry and special interest groups</b>	
Industry Bodies/ Associations	<p>Such as Victorian Farmers Federation, Clean Energy Council, Australian Wind Alliance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Social, economic, and environmental impacts</li> <li>● Impacts on sector operations and land uses</li> <li>● Disruptions during construction and operation</li> </ul>
Special interest groups	<p>Such as Shooter and Fisher's parties and Environmental Justice Australia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Environmental, social and economic impacts</li> <li>● To be informed of approvals processes and opportunities for input</li> </ul>

## 4. Engagement and communication tools and activities

### 4.1. Engagement and communication tools

The following Table outlines a number of engagement and communication tools and methods both for online and physical, in-place engagement.

The engagement program will utilise a mix of tools and activities determined by the purpose and content of engagement at various stages throughout the project, stakeholder needs and issues, access and inclusion, and Covid safety measures and restrictions. Additional engagement and communication tools or methods may be implemented should stakeholder interest or project needs require.

The following engagement methods and stakeholder and community engagement program will be delivered alongside ongoing specialised engagement streams including ongoing liaison with directly impacted landowners and occupiers, statutory process relating to approval pathways and engagement supporting technical studies and Aboriginal Cultural Heritage assessments.

*Table 5 Summary of engagement and communication tools*

Tool	Description	Stakeholders
<b>ONLINE ENGAGEMENT</b>		
<b>Online engagement hub (Website)</b>	<p>Designed to provide a central hub of project information with potential for interactive opportunities to participate through use of digital engagement tools.</p> <p>Written materials such as e-updates and printed communication materials and advertising will direct people to the online engagement hub as a central project resource. All project materials will be saved onto the website library.</p> <p>The website provides answers to frequently asked questions, upcoming community engagement event information and opportunity to the digital mailing list.</p>	All
<b>Dedicated project hotline and email</b>	<p>Providing a direct contact point for the community and stakeholders to ask questions and seek support to participate in the process.</p> <p>All public information and collateral can be made available to people via the project hotline and dedicated project email.</p>	All community stakeholders
<b>Interactive online mapping tool</b>	<p>Hosted on the project website. The interactive map allows people to provide location-based feedback on negotiable aspects of the project at key engagement phases. The map base and detail will be updated throughout the course of the project to reflect decision gateways and new information.</p>	All community stakeholders
<b>Online interactive sessions</b>	<p>Such as webinars and on-line forums where the public is able to receive updates and share feedback with key members of the project team and with technical specialists. Webinars to be widely promoted and deployed at key stages during the planning, approvals and construction process.</p>	All community stakeholders





Tool	Description	Stakeholders
<b>1.1. Direct/targeted engagement methods</b>		
<b>Targeted meetings/workshops (online or face-to-face)</b>	<p>Delivered online or face-to-face, meetings will be targeted to key stakeholder groups requiring focused and tailored information such as special interest groups, consumer representatives and industry groups, regulators and policy-makers, and Registered Aboriginal Parties/Traditional Owner Groups. These opportunities allow for targeted conversations on specific interests or issues with technical experts.</p> <p>Meetings and workshops can be held online or face-to-face (where possible), as required.</p>	<p>Involved and neighbouring landowners (existing and newly impacted)</p> <p>Councils</p> <p>DELWP</p> <p>Eastern Maar RAP</p> <p>Regulators and policy makers</p> <p>Community and special interest groups</p> <p>Industry Bodies/Associations</p>
<b>Drop-in information sessions and pop-ups</b>	<p>“Drop-in” information sessions across key locations within the project site to provide interested community members and stakeholders the opportunity to engage with technical content and experts, inspect relevant material, plans or project updates</p> <p>Where Covid restrictions may require it, sessions can be replaced by online sessions which mimic the experience of face-to-face drop-in sessions.</p> <p>“Pop-ups” are a scaled down drop-in session which can be incorporated into local events such as farmers markets or can be established in high activity areas to capture local interest.</p>	<p>All community and local stakeholders</p>
<b>Site tours</b>	<p>Designed for interested individual and groups, guided site tours would provide on-ground context to wind farm designs. Tours can be targeted to address concerns of specific individuals or groups, or themed to reflect technical areas.</p>	<p>All community and local stakeholders (by appointment)</p>
<b>Reference or Working Groups (optional as required)</b>	<p>Established to provide a feedback loop and further opportunities for in-depth insight sharing between the project team and stakeholders, reference or working groups may be established to provide a diverse local perspective on project matters and seek input to support planning and development. Such groups may be independently chaired to maximise exchange of ideas, inputs and insights of use to in project development.</p>	<p>Community representatives</p> <p>Key stakeholders</p>
<b>1.2. Communications</b>		
<b>Project e-updates</b>	<p>Project e-updates distributed to anybody who subscribes via specific engagement sessions or the online engagement hub. Sent at regular intervals and key project milestones, updates will keep people informed and highlight opportunities to get involved. Where requested, postal updates can also be distributed to individual households.</p>	<p>All</p>



Tool	Description	Stakeholders
<b>Printed communication materials</b>	Project factsheets, posters and postcards will be distributed to key locations and to directly impacted landowners to raise awareness of the project and opportunities to be involved. Printed communication materials will be prepared and distributed to support planned engagement activities or as required in response to emerging project issues. To ensure equitable access, all material and content available on the online engagement hub will also be made available in hard copy. Such material can be provided in community languages as required.	Local community stakeholders
<b>Project signage</b>	Located in local activity nodes and public site boundaries, highly visible static signage will promote the project and opportunities to be involved via QR codes or links to the project website, email, and phone hotline.	All local community stakeholders
<b>Media and advertising</b>	Using key local media outlets to provide project updates and raise awareness of opportunities to participate in upcoming engagement. Media and advertising will also seek to investigate opportunities through existing community communication channels where appropriate.	All



## 5. Engagement phases

Figure 2 provides an overview of the possible approval processes for this project.

Engagement through all approval phases will have ongoing liaison with DELWP. Tables 6, 7 and 8 represent the public engagement program over the course of project investigations and approval processes.

The engagement for the EES Referral process is provided in Table 6.

The next phase of engagement will be determined by the Minister's advice on whether an EES submission is required or not to assess the projects potential environmental, social, and economic impacts.

- If the Minister advises that an EES is required, the engagement approach outlined in Table 7 will be followed.
- Where no EES is required, the project will follow the planning permit application process outlined in Table 8.

Targeted engagement streams such as negotiation with directly affected involved landowners will run concurrently and will be subject to detailed planning and delivery by a dedicated team of land agents. Similarly, engagement with Traditional Owner groups will be led by the technical specialists undertaking the Cultural Heritage investigations.

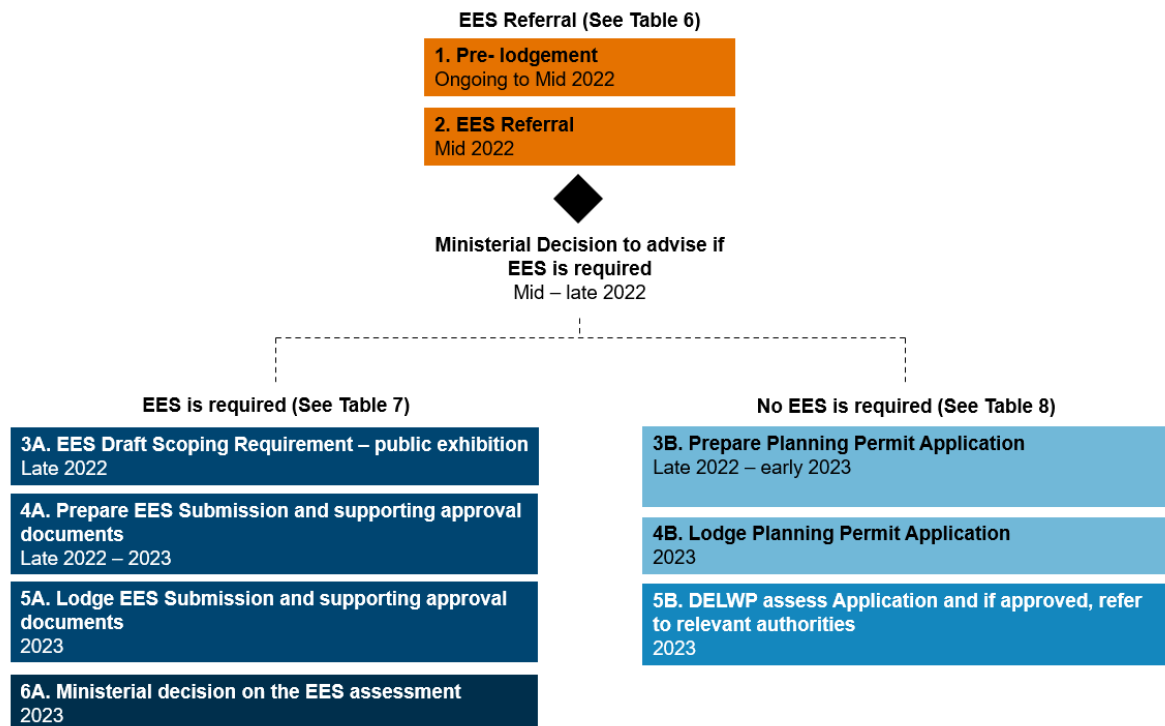


Figure 2 Anticipated planning approval processes



## 5.1. EES Referral phase

Table 6 Overview of EES Referral engagement phase

Timeframe	Ongoing to Mid-2022	Mid 2022
Phase	1.Pre-lodgement	2.EES Referral
<b>Project Approvals process</b>	Technical studies in preparation for EES Referral.	Prepare and lodge EES Referral with DELWP.
<b>Engagement Purpose</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish landowner contact</li> <li>Introduce revised project to landowners</li> <li>Build public awareness of the project and upcoming stages</li> <li>Present general update, process to date and next steps</li> <li>Obtain indication of willingness to grant access for investigations</li> <li>Record individual concerns</li> <li>Seek advice from existing landowners regarding mitigation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Present update, process to date and next steps</li> <li>Introduce revised project to broader community</li> <li>Promote public project description, narrative, information collected to date</li> <li>Present consultation approach highlighting opportunities to be involved</li> <li>Present possible approval process and opportunities to influence outcomes</li> <li>Present clear negotiables, assumptions and constraints</li> </ul>
<b>Desired engagement outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Landowner survey access arrangements secured</li> <li>Agreement on how landowners would like to be engaged</li> <li>Contact established and key stakeholders are aware of the project</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community understand process and how they can be involved</li> </ul>
<b>Target Stakeholder groups</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Involved landowners</li> <li>Councils</li> <li>Traditional owners (Eastern Maar RAP)</li> <li>Regulators and policy makers</li> <li>Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Involved landowners</li> <li>Neighbouring landowners</li> <li>Landowners with line-of-sight of wind farm</li> <li>Community interest groups</li> <li>Special interest groups</li> <li>Broader community members</li> <li>Media</li> <li>Councils</li> <li>Industry Bodies/ Associations</li> <li>Regulators and policy makers</li> <li>Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning</li> </ul>
<b>Engagement activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Direct landowner contact - Email/direct mail, Phone call from land agent</li> <li>Project phone number and email</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Launch online engagement hub (project description, frequently asked questions and project documents)</li> <li>Printed host landowner project update</li> <li>Printed community project update</li> <li>Dedicated project hotline and email</li> </ul>



Timeframe	Ongoing to Mid-2022	Mid 2022
Phase	1.Pre-lodgement	2.EES Referral
		<p>Targeted stakeholder meetings (online or face-to-face)</p> <p>Dedicated landowner engagement is ongoing.</p>

## 5.2. Where EES is required

Table 7 Overview of engagement phases, where EES is required

Timeframe	Late 2022	Late 2022 – 2023	2023
Phase	3A. EES Draft Scoping Requirements	4A. Prepare EES Submission and supporting planning approval documents	5A. Lodge EES Submission and supporting approval documents
Project Approvals process	Draft scoping requirements are prepared by DELWP and released for public comment.	Detailed Technical Investigations required for EES Application and relevant planning approvals. Agreement on plan/layout	Lodge EES Submission and supporting approval documents to DELWP.
Engagement Purpose	<p>Build community awareness of the EES process and opportunities to comment on scoping directions</p> <p>Support DELWP with scoping directions public exhibition.</p> <p>Promote ongoing opportunities to be involved</p>	<p>Build community awareness of the EES process and opportunities to provide feedback</p> <p>Support DELWP with establishing Technical Reference Group, including key stakeholder groups</p> <p>Share feedback/findings of consultation and technical investigations to date</p> <p>Notify community and stakeholders of on-site investigations/activity</p> <p>Promote ongoing opportunities to be involved</p> <p>Continue to build understanding of technical investigations and constraints</p> <p>Seek further feedback on impacts and mitigations</p> <p>Seek feedback on approach and opportunities for benefit sharing</p>	<p>Present outcome of investigations</p> <p>Outline process undertaken to arrive at this point</p> <p>Position for relationship handover to construction</p> <p>Promoting opportunities to view final docs</p> <p>Provide guidance on how to make a submission / participate in inquiry process</p> <p>Support DELWP with public exhibition as required</p>



Timeframe	Late 2022	Late 2022 – 2023	2023
<b>Phase</b>	<b>3A. EES Draft Scoping Requirements</b>	<b>4A. Prepare EES Submission and supporting planning approval documents</b>	<b>5A. Lodge EES Submission and supporting approval documents</b>
<b>Desired engagement outcomes</b>	Stakeholder awareness of scoping directions. Stakeholders are able to input to EES study scope.	Information gathered for final submission Community inputs to prepare Community Engagement reports and/or refine Social EES Chapter Community and stakeholders understand the needs for the project and how they can be involved Key stakeholders are kept up to date	Community and stakeholder aware of lodgement and understand how to make submission Stakeholder involvement in public exhibition. Consistent commitment to engagement through construction
<b>Target Stakeholder groups</b>	Ongoing targeted landowner engagement Neighbouring landowners Landowners with line-of-sight of wind farm Community interest groups Special interest groups Broader community members Media Councils Industry Bodies/ Associations Members of parliament State Government Department and Ministers	Landowner engagement Neighbouring landowners Landowners with line-of-sight of wind farm EES Technical Reference Group (TRG) Community interest groups Special interest groups Broader community members Media Councils Industry Bodies/ Associations Members of parliament State Government Department and Ministers	All stakeholders Construction contractors (pending outcome of assessment)
<b>Engagement activities</b>	Ongoing activities: - Maintain and ongoing update to online engagement hub and printed materials - Dedicated project hotline and email - Project e-update  Dedicated landowner engagement is ongoing.	Ongoing activities: - Maintain and ongoing update to online engagement hub and printed materials - Dedicated project hotline and email - Project signage - TRG meetings - Project e-update  At project milestones:	Deliver ongoing activities from Stage 3a. EES Exhibition (20 – 30 business days, TBC on Ministerial decision) Inquiry Period (TBC – may involve submission review, conference with submitters and/or a formal hearing)



Timeframe	Late 2022	Late 2022 – 2023	2023
<b>Phase</b>	<b>3A. EES Draft Scoping Requirements</b>	<b>4A. Prepare EES Submission and supporting planning approval documents</b>	<b>5A. Lodge EES Submission and supporting approval documents</b>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Targeted meetings/workshops (online or face-to-face)</li> <li>- Drop-in information sessions and pop-ups</li> <li>- Site tours</li> <li>- Media and advertising</li> <li>- Project e-update</li> </ul> Dedicated landowner engagement is ongoing.	

### 5.3. Where EES is not required

Table 8 Overview of engagement phases, where EES is not required

Timeframe	Late 2022 – early 2023	2023
<b>Phase</b>	<b>3B. Prepare Planning Permit Application</b>	<b>4B. Lodge Planning Permit Application</b>
<b>Project Approvals process</b>	Detailed Technical Investigations required for Planning Permit application. Agreement on plan/layout	Lodge Planning Permit Application to DELWP.
<b>Engagement Purpose</b>	Share feedback/findings of consultation and technical investigations to date Notify community and stakeholders of on-site investigations/activity Promote ongoing opportunities to be involved Continue to build understanding of technical investigations and constraints Seek further feedback on impacts and mitigations Seek feedback on approach and opportunities for benefit sharing	Present outcome of investigations Outline process undertaken to arrive at this point Position for relationship handover to construction Promoting opportunities to view final docs Provide guidance on how to make a submission / participate in inquiry process
<b>Desired engagement outcomes</b>	Information gathered for final submission Community and stakeholders understand the needs for the project and how they can be involved Key stakeholders are kept up to date	Community and stakeholder aware of lodgement and understand how to make submission Consistent commitment to engagement through construction
<b>Target Stakeholder groups</b>	Ongoing targeted landowner engagement Neighbouring landowners Landowners with line-of-sight of wind	All stakeholders Construction contractors (pending outcome of assessment)



Timeframe	Late 2022 – early 2023	2023
Phase	3B. Prepare Planning Permit Application	4B. Lodge Planning Permit Application
	farm Community interest groups Special interest groups Broader community members Media Councils Industry Bodies/ Associations Members of parliament State Government Department and Ministers	
<b>Engagement activities</b>	Ongoing activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Maintain and ongoing update to online engagement hub and printed materials</li> <li>- Dedicated project hotline and email</li> <li>- Project signage</li> <li>- Project e-update</li> </ul> At project milestones: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Targeted meetings/workshops (online or face-to-face)</li> <li>- Drop-in information sessions and pop-ups</li> <li>- Site tours</li> <li>- Media and advertising</li> <li>- Project e-update</li> </ul> Dedicated landowner engagement is ongoing.	<i>TBC pending outcome of approval process</i> Ongoing activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Maintain and ongoing update to online engagement hub and printed materials</li> <li>- Dedicated project hotline and email</li> <li>- Project signage</li> <li>- Project e-update</li> </ul> Dedicated landowner engagement is ongoing. Establish in-community presence (pending outcome of assessment)





## 6. Monitoring and evaluation

GPG Australia is committed to continuous improvement of stakeholder and community engagement throughout the life of the Project. Monitoring the effectiveness and success of this plan will occur at regular intervals.

Project objectives and outcomes provide a frame for the monitoring and evaluation. Table 9 provides a summary of some of the ways we will monitor our activities. The monitoring and evaluation key performance indicators will be finalised after the planning approval pathway is determined.

*Table 9 How we will measure the effectiveness of our approach*

Engagement objectives	How we will measure it
1. Building community and stakeholder capacity to understand project drivers, impacts and how to be involved:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Participant feedback captured during engagement activities</li><li>• Monitoring issues/complaints recorded through stakeholder interactions</li><li>• Site visits and downloads of information documents</li></ul>
2. Capturing feedback to inform decisions which respond to community and project needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Effectiveness of methods used to distribute communications</li><li>• Participant feedback captured during engagement activities</li><li>• Feedback from the project team on how community and stakeholder input was used</li><li>• Demonstrated consideration of community and stakeholder input in project development/decision-making</li><li>• Report back to the community and stakeholders</li></ul>
3. Strengthen relationships with stakeholders and community to foster trust, awareness, and understanding of the Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Monitoring issues/complaints recorded through stakeholder interactions</li><li>• Media sentiment</li><li>• Documentation of how continual improvement of approach is occurring</li><li>• Participant feedback captured during engagement activities</li><li>• Tracking of deliverables against the Plan</li></ul>







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