

For Public Notice via Internet

REASONS FOR DECISION UNDER ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS ACT 1978
(REFERRAL NUMBER 2024-R04)

Proponent

Acciona Energy Australia Global Pty Ltd (ACCIONA Energía)

Project

Tall Tree Wind Farm (the project)

Description

The Tall Tree Wind Farm project is a proposed wind energy facility in the Golden Plains Shire Council area, south of Meredith, west of Lethbridge, north of Teesdale in Central West Victoria. The project will be in two sections: Wind Farm Area, covering approximately 5,135 ha, and the Transmission Corridor, covering approximately 107 ha. The project proposes developing up to 53 wind turbine generators (WTG) with a total generation capacity of approximately 330 MW.

Decision

The Minister for Planning has decided that an environment effects statement (EES) is **required** for the Tall Tree Wind Farm, as described in the referral accepted on 18 June 2025, subject to the following conditions:

Reasons

- The project has the potential for a range of environmental effects, in particular some potentially significant effects that require integrated assessment, i.e.:
 - i) threatened species and communities listed under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* and *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*; and
 - ii) native vegetation and ecology of the area's terrestrial environments, including conservation reserves;
 - iii) values of freshwater environments, including wetlands and creeks and groundwater dependent systems; and
 - iv) cultural and landscape values.
- There is also the potential for cumulative adverse effects on these regional and state significant environmental values in the context of other existing and proposed windfarms within the broader region.
- There is uncertainty about the extent and magnitude of other potential effects, related to historic heritage, amenity and social values that also require further assessment, although these are less likely to be significant at a regional or state scale.
- An EES is warranted to enable an integrated assessment of the environmental effects of the project, in particular the potentially significant effects, to inform decision-making for required approvals. The EES enables examination of necessary opportunities to avoid or minimise potential significant effects through relevant alternatives (e.g. layouts, designs), as well as the effectiveness of proposed mitigation and offsetting measures.
- Integrated assessment via the EES process would also inform statutory decision-making required for the project to proceed.

Date

18/9/2025

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- (ix) The EES is to be exhibited for a period of 30 business days for public comment, unless the exhibition period spans the Christmas–New Year period, in which case 40 business days will apply.
- (x) An inquiry will be appointed under the *Environment Effects Act 1978* to consider environmental effects of the proposal.

Notification

The following parties (proponent and relevant decision-makers) are to be notified of this decision in accordance with sections 8A and 8B(4)(a)(i) of the *Environment Effects Act 1978*, as appropriate.

- Acciona Energy Australia Global Ltd (proponent)
- Minister for Planning
- Minister for Environment
- Minister for Environment and Water (Cwth)
- Secretary of the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action
- Environment Protection Authority
- Executive Director of First Peoples – State Relations
- Executive Director of Heritage Victoria
- Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation (WTOAC)
- Corangamite Catchment Management Authority
- Golden Plains Shire Council
- Parks Victoria


Hon Sonya Kilkenney MP
Minister for Planning

Date:

18/9/2025