

# WILLATOOK

## Wind Farm



### PROJECT UPDATE

We are pleased that the project has reached a major milestone with the Environment Effects Statement (EES) and planning permit application now on exhibition for public comment.

Developing a wind farm is a complex process. Over the last decade, the project team has been working with technical experts and stakeholders to assess the potential environmental, economic and social impacts and to propose measures that can be taken to manage any potential negative effects while maximising the benefits.

The information gathered forms the basis of the EES and the planning permit application. These documents are now ready for members of the community to read and comment on.

We encourage community members to review the EES while it is on public exhibition and make written submissions to the Victorian government, should they wish to do so, by Friday 12 August. The EES and planning permit application is open for public comment for 30 business days between Monday 4 July 2022 and 11.59pm on Friday 12 August 2022.

We believe Willatook Wind Farm has much to offer both the local area and Victoria as a whole, and are keen for you to have your say on this important project – a project that will generate substantial renewable energy, deliver short and long-term jobs and boost local opportunities through the introduction of a community fund and neighbour benefit program.

We are also pleased to announce that ENGIE is interested in the Willatook Wind Farm and is supporting Wind Prospect to progress the project to the next stages of development, with the view of acquiring the project.

ENGIE is a long-term owner and operator of energy assets including several wind farms and the project aligns with ENGIE's global strategy of accelerating the transition to a carbon-neutral economy. Wind Prospect continues to lead and manage the project.

For more information about ENGIE visit [www.engie.com.au](http://www.engie.com.au)

**Warm regards,**  
**The team at Wind Prospect**

# THE PROJECT

Willatook Wind Farm will harness strong and reliable winds to generate renewable energy through 59-wind turbine generators and battery storage system. It will have the capacity to produce enough clean renewable electricity to power up to 200,000 Victorian homes.



### WIND TURBINES

59 turbines with a blade length of up to 93 metres, a maximum tip height of 250 metres and minimum tip height of 40 metres.



### ON-SITE SUBSTATION

On-site substation will be located within the project site immediately north of the existing Tarrone Terminal Station.



### WIND FARM CAPACITY AND GENERATION

The capacity to generate enough energy to power up to 200,000 Victorian households.



### CONSTRUCTION PERIOD

Approximately 24 months.



### ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

Savings of approximately 1.3 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent annually.



### ON-SITE QUARRY

A temporary on-site quarry to minimise the use of local roads by construction traffic.



### BATTERY STORAGE SYSTEM

An on-site battery storage facility with a capacity of 200 MW / 400 MWh located adjacent to the on-site substation.



### LIFESPAN

25 years.



### ELECTRICAL TRANSMISSION

A network of underground electrical cables is proposed to connect the wind turbines to the on-site substation. A 300 metre overhead transmission line would connect the substation to the Tarrone Terminal Station.



### DECOMMISSIONING

Decommissioning expected to commence within 12 months of wind turbines permanently ceasing to generate electricity.



# WHAT IS THE EES?

In Victoria, the Environment Effects Statement (EES) process is an assessment of the potential environmental impacts or effects of a proposed development.

The EES is a comprehensive document that contains a project description and its potential environmental, economic and social impacts (both positive and negative) and the proposed mitigation measures to avoid, minimise or manage potential negative effects.

The Willatook EES consists of a summary, a main report of 27 chapters and 15 supporting studies and peer reviews.

It covers three main elements:

- Description of the project and relevant context
- Summary of the technical assessments of effects
- Proposed environmental framework and conclusions.

It is recommended that readers start with the summary document which provides a high-level overview of the project, approvals process and the structure of the EES and details on how to access copies of the EES and how to make a submission. (Find more information on making a submission later in this newsletter.)

Depending on your level of interest, you may like to read some or all of the 27 chapters which range from 15 to 60 pages in length. A few examples of these chapters are groundwater, broilga, biodiversity, noise and vibration. There are numerous others.

For even more in-depth information, the report contains all the specialist studies undertaken, along with the stakeholder engagement plan, the map book and details about the neighbourhood benefit program.

# How to access and view the EES, planning permit applications and exhibited documents

The EES, planning permit applications and supporting documentation are now available to read and download at the project website: [www.willatookwindfarm.com.au/planning](http://www.willatookwindfarm.com.au/planning)

During exhibition, hard copies of the EES and planning permit applications will be available at the following locations during normal opening hours:

Location	Day	Time
Mortlake Council Office – 1 Jamieson Avenue, Mortlake	Monday to Friday	8.45am to 4.45pm
Port Fairy Council Office – Princes Street, Port Fairy	Monday to Friday	8.45am to 4.45pm
Koroit Library – 102 High Street, Koroit	Monday Wednesday Friday Saturday	10am to 1pm 1pm to 5pm 11am to 5pm 10am to 12noon
State Library Victoria – 328 Swanston Street, Melbourne	7 days	10am to 6pm
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning – 8 Nicholson Street, Melbourne	Monday to Friday	9am to 5pm

A USB flash drive will be sent to any stakeholder at any time during the public exhibition period upon request. Hard copies of the EES and planning permit applications can be obtained from Willatook Wind Farm Pty Ltd at cost by contacting:

**Tel:** 1800 934 313

**Email:** [info@willatookwindfarm.com.au](mailto:info@willatookwindfarm.com.au)

# How to make a submission

Submissions can be made on the EES or the planning permit applications or both. All submissions will be considered through the Inquiry and Hearing process.

The submission process for the EES is independently managed by Planning Panels Victoria (PPV).

Submissions on the EES must be made in writing and be received by 11.59pm on Friday 12 August 2022.

Only one submission on the EES is needed to address all your views about the project, its effects, and the relevant documents.

Online submissions are preferred and can be lodged via an online form on the Victorian Government's engagement website: <https://engage.vic.gov.au/willatook-wind-farm-inquiry>

If you are unable to lodge a submission online, you can contact Planning Panels Victoria (PPV) through the DELWP Customer Call Centre on 136 186 (select option 6) and request a hardcopy submission coversheet. Each hardcopy submission on the EES must be accompanied by a coversheet issued by PPV for privacy reasons.

If you would like to make a submission on the planning permit application, you can write to the Minister for Planning via:

Post: PO Box 500, East Melbourne VIC 8002

Email: [Development.Approvals@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:Development.Approvals@delwp.vic.gov.au)

Any person who makes an objection or submission on the planning permit applications will be contacted by Planning Panels Victoria and offered the opportunity to make a request to be heard at the public Hearing to speak in support of their objection or submission.

# What happens after submissions are lodged

Following public exhibition of the EES and planning permit application, the Minister for Planning will appoint an independent panel to hold an inquiry into the project and its environmental effects. The Inquiry will review the public submissions and EES and planning permit applications and consider the environmental effects of the project in accordance with Terms of Reference issued by the Minister for Planning.

After the exhibition period, the Inquiry will hold a Directions Hearing where the necessary arrangements and timetable for the Public Hearing will be established. The Public Hearing process will likely commence mid October and run for approximately 3 to 4 weeks. Members of the public and any other parties seeking to be heard at the public hearing are required to submit a written submission and indicate on the online submission form or hard copy submission coversheet that they would like to be heard at the hearing.



## INFORMATION SESSIONS

In April, we held a community drop-in session at the Orford Hall for locals to learn about the proposed project. Over 20 people attended and discussed a range of topics including the various environmental assessments underway for the project, and the community and neighbour benefit programs.

We also held our first webinar where specialists presented the process and findings of three key environmental assessments; ecology, noise and visual amenity. The webinar presentation is available to view or download from the project website.

## KEEPING YOU INFORMED

We understand that the EES and planning permits are large documents and this is a complex process. To ensure that you have the information you need to contribute to the EES process, Wind Prospect is happy to arrange a time to meet with you to discuss the project, the EES or the submission process.

To arrange a meeting contact us via **phone 1800 934 313** or **email [info@willatookwindfarm.com.au](mailto:info@willatookwindfarm.com.au)**.

To keep up-to-date on the project's progress, you can register for project updates at [www.willatookwindfarm.com.au](http://www.willatookwindfarm.com.au), visit the news section of the website. Contact us via **phone 1800 934 313** or **email [info@willatookwindfarm.com.au](mailto:info@willatookwindfarm.com.au)**.

Questions relating to the making of a submission or the inquiry process are best directed to Planning Panels Victoria by **phone** on **136 186** (select option 6) or **email [planning.panels@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:planning.panels@delwp.vic.gov.au)**

Questions relating to the EES process are best directed to the Impact Assessment Unit at DELWP via **email [environment.assessment@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:environment.assessment@delwp.vic.gov.au)**

### In relation to the Planning Permit applications process

Questions relating to the Planning Permit application process are best directed to the Renewables – Development Approvals and Design team at DELWP

**Email: [Development.Approvals@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:Development.Approvals@delwp.vic.gov.au)**

Do you have  
a community  
project that needs  
a little help?

Open  
now!

## Perhaps Wind Prospect can help.

As part of our commitment to the Willatook community, we have established a \$20,000 per year sponsorship fund to assist community groups and organisations that operate in the vicinity of the proposed wind farm.

### Open year-round

Application forms can be found at [www.willatookwindfarm.com.au](http://www.willatookwindfarm.com.au)