

WILLATOOK

Wind Farm



PROJECT UPDATE

The Willatook Wind Farm has been in planning and development for several years and in this time has undergone continual development and refinement.

Developing a wind farm (or any large infrastructure project) is a complex process requiring detailed investigations of the proposed site and surrounding areas; understanding of a broad range of stakeholder views; and consideration of rapidly changing wind turbine technology and energy sector.

After addressing a range of environmental, social and engineering considerations and feedback from a range of stakeholders, including landowners and neighbours, the final project layout has been selected. It is a design that maximises the wind farm's capacity to generate renewable energy and provide benefits to the community, while minimising the potential impacts to the community and the environment.

The wind farm design, which includes 59 turbines and a large-scale battery, is going through the Environment Effects Statement (EES) process and if approved and constructed, will have a capacity of more than 350MW. The battery would have a capacity of 200MW / 400MWh.

The team has been finalising the EES, planning permit application and a broad suite of technical supporting studies to describe the likely effects if the project were to be approved.

We understand that there has been a delay in releasing the design and recognise that the community will be keen to learn more about the project. As such, we are holding a community drop-in session in later this month, as well as a webinar where you can hear from technical specialists on a range of important topics.

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 260,000 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.



WIND FARM CAPACITY AND GENERATION

The capacity to generate enough energy to power up to 260,000 Victorian households.



ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

Savings of approximately 1.3 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent annually.



BATTERY STORAGE SYSTEM

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



ELECTRICAL TRANSMISSION

A network of underground electrical cables is proposed to connect the wind turbines to the on-site substation. A 275 metre overhead transmission line would connect the substation to the Tarrone Terminal Station.



ON-SITE SUBSTATION

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



CONSTRUCTION PERIOD

Approximately 24 months.



ON-SITE QUARRY

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



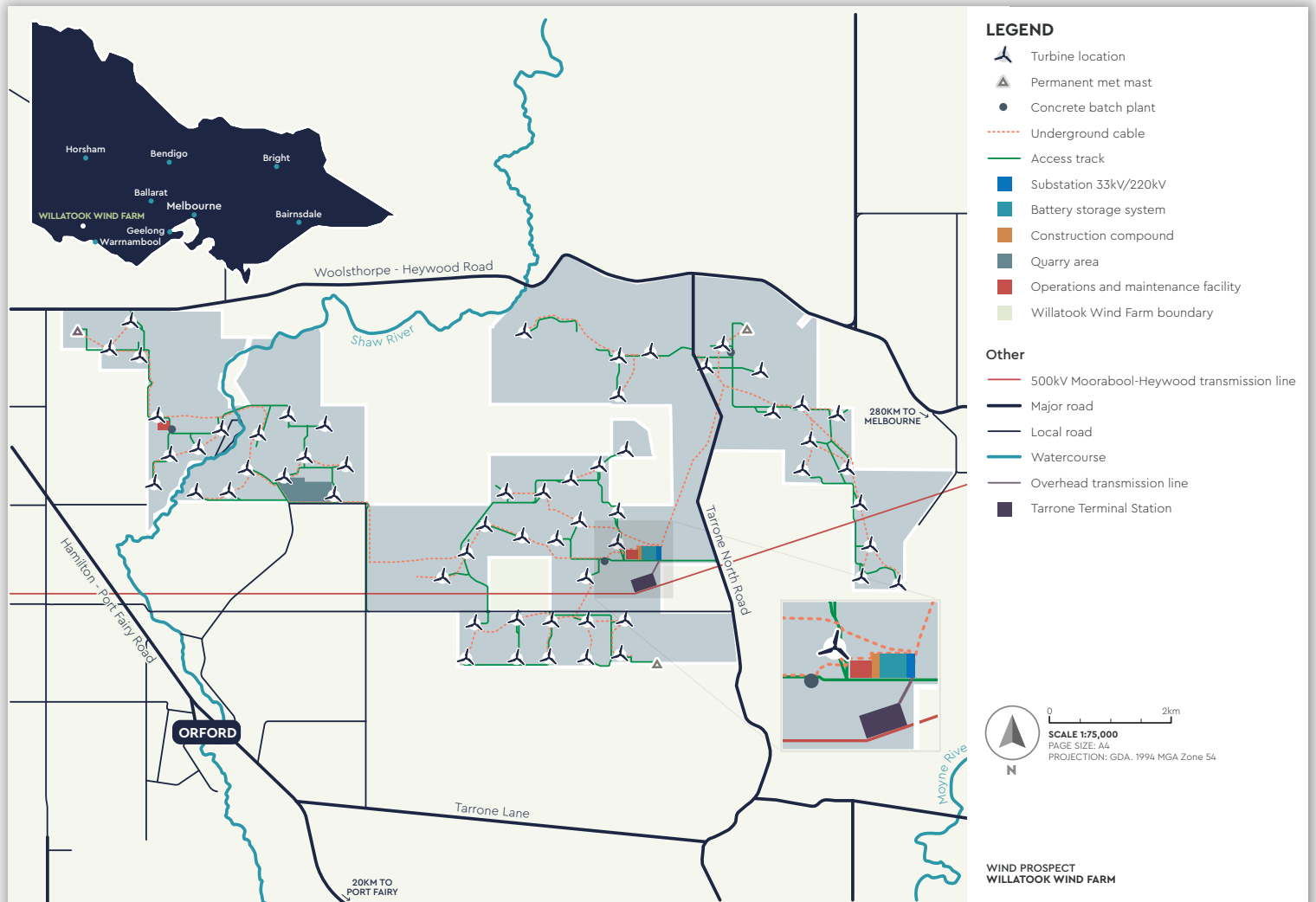
LIFESPAN

25 years.

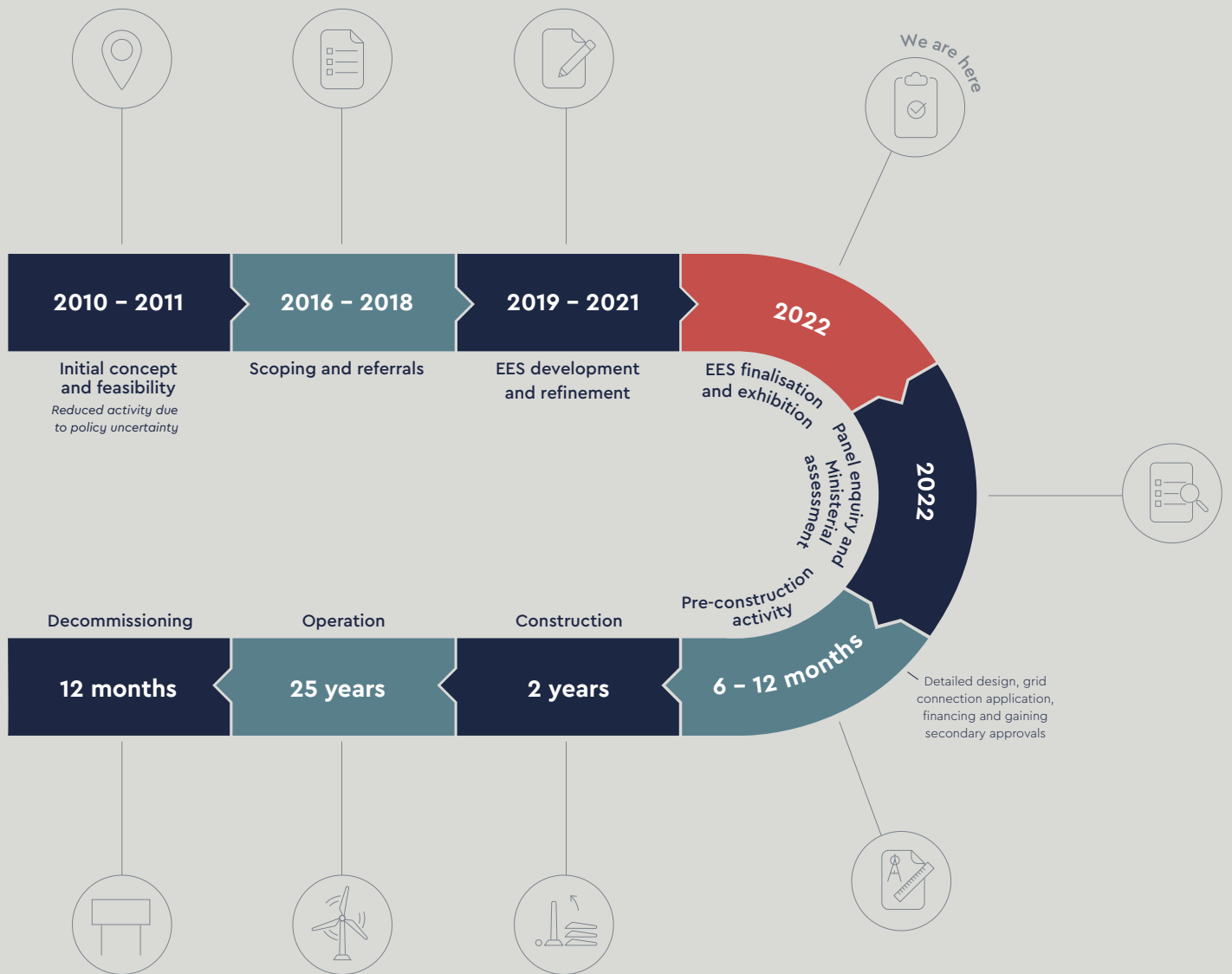


DECOMMISSIONING

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



PROJECT TIMELINE



A BIG BATTERY HELPING TO POWER VICTORIA

Battery storage systems are increasingly becoming part of renewable energy projects and a large-scale battery storage system (one of the largest in the state) is included in the plans for Willatook Wind Farm. The 200MW / 400MWh battery will be located adjacent to the on-site substation.

Large-scale batteries stabilise the electricity grid; they can immediately dispatch (or release) stored electricity when demand increases relative to supply, or when there is a sudden temporary loss of supply. This can reduce the frequency of power blackouts and reduce the need for load shedding when there is a supply imbalance (for instance, a shortage of supply).

The facility will be up to two hectares in size within the project site, and incorporate a series of modular batteries and other electrical infrastructure.

Did you know...

When operational, close consultation between the wind farm operators, Energy Safe Victoria and the fire authority ensures rigorous inspection and testing procedures are in place for the batteries and all other electrical infrastructure?

THE ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS STATEMENT PROCESS

Willatook Wind Farm was referred to the Victorian Minister for Planning in October 2018, under the *Environment Effects Act 1978*. In late December 2018, the Minister determined an Environment Effects Statement (EES) was required due to the potential for the project to have significant effects on environmental and social values.

The EES is nearly finalised and we will soon submit the EES document and supporting technical reports to the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) for review. It consists of a main report of 27 chapters and 15 supporting studies and peer reviews. Once submitted, the EES (studies and peer reviews) will be on public exhibition for at least 30 days and made available online and at several locations.

This is an opportunity for community members to provide written submissions on the project to the State Government appointed independent panel. These submissions inform the panel in making its recommendations to the Minister for Planning. The Victorian Minister for Planning will assess the EES, public submissions and inquiry report in order to make an assessment.

When the EES document is finalised, it will be published on our website www.willatookwindfarm.com.au and the DELWP website www.planning.vic.gov.au/environment-assessment/browse-projects/projects/willatook-wind-farm.

COMMUNITY DROP-IN SESSION AND WEBINAR

The ongoing global pandemic has impacted our ability to engage face-to-face, however restrictions are easing and consultation is starting once again. We are planning a community drop in session in Orford later this month, followed by an online webinar for people to learn about the project including the final layout, and a range of important topics including ecology, noise, visual amenity and the EES process.

Webinars provide a COVID-safe way for people to get the information they need and we are looking forward to holding our first online session for this project. Technical specialists will provide an update on key study areas including ecology, visual impacts and noise and a question-and-answer session will follow.

Community drop in session <i>Drop in to chat with a project team member and learn more about the Willatook Wind Farm.</i>	Wednesday 30 March, 2022 11am to 7pm Orford Community Hall
Online webinar <i>The link to join the webinar will be available on the project website and shared via a newsletter update.</i>	Thursday 7 April, 2022 6:30pm – 8pm www.willatookwindfarm.com.au

SUPPORTING COMMUNITY PROJECTS

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

