

Willatook Wind Farm

Project Update

AUGUST 2025



It has been some time since our last update, and we want to ensure the community remains informed about the status of the Willatook Wind Farm project.

We're now entering a new phase of feasibility investigations to explore how the Project could respond to the recommendations made by the Victorian Minister for Planning following the Environment Effects Statement (EES) process.

The recent release of the *Handbook for the Development of Renewable Energy in Victoria* by the State Government provides clearer guidance on how projects like Willatook should assess and manage biodiversity impacts.

Progress update

In July 2022, the Environment Effects Statement (EES) and planning applications were placed on public exhibition for community and stakeholder feedback. Later that year an Independent Planning Panel hearing was conducted over four weeks. At the hearing, there were presentations by several expert witnesses, government agencies, Moyne and Glenelg shire councils, and community members.

In mid-2023, the Victorian Minister for Planning released her assessment of the EES. The Minister recommended that the Project could proceed, subject to modifications to address potential impacts on the Brolga and Southern Bent-wing Bat.

Since the release of the Minister's assessment, we have been investigating ways to modify the Project's proposed design, construction and operation to secure better biodiversity outcomes while maintaining the viability of the Project. We have also awaited further direction from the Victorian Government.

Wind Prospect respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land that the project is located on, being the Eastern Maar and Gunditjmara peoples, and wishes to pay respect to Elders, both past and present. We acknowledge the ongoing connection between the Traditional Owners with the land and waters.

willatookwindfarm.com.au

Project at a glance



Located around 20km north of Port Fairy and 30km northwest of Warrnambool in the Moyne Shire Council Local Government Area in south-western Victoria



Infrastructure

Wind turbines and supporting infrastructure including site office, on-site substation, on-site quarry and battery energy storage facility



Grid connection

Transmission line connecting to the Tarrone Terminal Station



Community benefit sharing

A \$20,000 annual Sponsorship Fund is currently in place to support local community projects. If approved, a larger Community Benefit Sharing Program would commence during construction



Economic benefits

\$120 million in direct regional benefits in construction

\$158 million in ongoing economic benefits for the life of operation.



Project lifespan of more than 25 years from operation to decommissioning



New guidance now released

In April 2024, the Victorian Government announced measures to better facilitate environmental assessments and approvals and to support the energy transition while managing biodiversity needs. This included implementing a new suite of tools and guidelines to assist renewable energy developers in building renewable energy projects in ways that minimise impacts on wildlife like Brolgas and bats.

In May, the new official guidelines were published. This new document, called the *Handbook for the Development of Renewable Energy in Victoria*, provides a clearer and more consistent process for how environmental impacts should be assessed and addressed. The handbook includes:

- A risk-based approach to identifying and assessing biodiversity impacts early in the planning process.
- Clear steps on how to reduce or avoid impacts to important species and habitats.
- Expectations for how developers should design and manage projects to protect the environment.
- Tools to help guide decisions about site selection, project layout and mitigation measures.

Now that the final guidance has been released, we're reviewing the project design and updating some of our previous environmental assessments to make sure the Project aligns with these guidelines.

You can read the full handbook online at:
www.environment.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0029/752078/CS-1911-Handbook-for-the-development-of-renewable-energy-in-Victoria_V5.pdf

Next steps


Wind Prospect will review and update a number of technical studies that were originally prepared as part of the EES, responding to the Minister for Planning's recommendations and the new biodiversity guidelines. This includes revisiting assessments related to species such as the Brolga and Southern Bent-wing Bat.

In parallel, the overall design of the project will be revised and refined to carefully respond to the Minister for Planning's recommendations. Part of this process will involve determining the most appropriate planning pathway for making these revisions and to ensure that any updates to the Project are released publicly and provide an opportunity for community and stakeholder feedback.

Stay informed

To stay informed with the latest updates, you can provide your contact information via the below details. We will continue to provide updates through in-person visits and local events.

 info@willatookwindfarm.com.au

 1800 934 313

willatookwindfarm.com.au

Engaging with the local community

As the Project progresses through the next phase of work, Wind Prospect will continue engaging with Moyne Shire Council, local landholders and the wider community.

We're looking forward to being back out in the community, continuing important conversations and hearing your valuable insights as the Project moves forward.

If you have any questions in the meantime, you can contact the Project team on 1800 934 313 or via email at info@willatookwindfarm.com.au.



Community Sponsorship Fund

The Willatook Wind Farm Community Sponsorship Fund is open for applications.

The fund provides \$20,000 annually to support local community groups, clubs, and not-for-profit organisations delivering positive outcomes in the region surrounding the proposed wind farm.

We'll also be reviewing several applications received previously, and welcome new submissions from groups seeking support for initiatives, programs or facility upgrades.

Since launching in 2019, the fund has supported more than 26 local projects with contributions of more than \$100,000. Since the publication of the last newsletter, several community organisations have been supported by this fund including:

- Port Fairy Men's Shed
- Koroit Football and Netball Club
- Port Fairy Agriculture Show
- Friends of St Brigids Crossley



We encourage local organisations to apply. Full details, including eligibility and how to apply, are available on the Project website or by scanning the QR code.

