



## ADVERTISED PLAN

This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright

WILLATOOK WIND FARM

# Planning Application Report

## Appendix I Community engagement summary

APRIL 2022

[www.willatookwindfarm.com.au](http://www.willatookwindfarm.com.au)

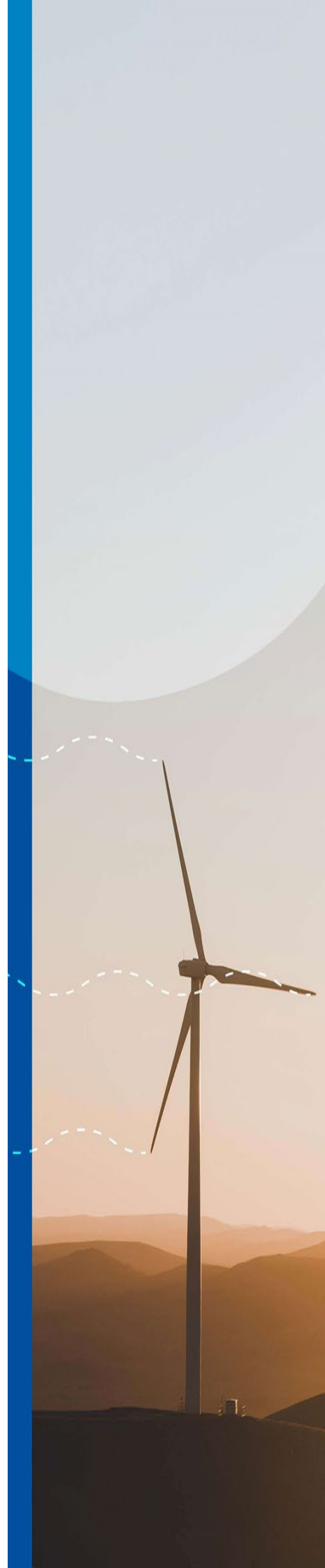


## Contents

1.1	Legislative requirements and guidelines	1-1
1.1.1	Legislation	1-1
1.1.2	Guidelines	1-2
1.2	Engagement approach	1-2
1.3	Stakeholder identification	1-3
1.4	Stakeholder engagement methods – Affected parties	1-5
1.5	Stakeholder engagement methods – Interested parties	1-12
1.5.1	Elected representatives	1-12
1.5.2	Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner	1-12
1.5.3	Technical Reference Group	1-12
1.5.4	Government organisations	1-13
1.5.5	Moyne Shire Council motions	1-13
1.6	Engagement in relation to technical studies	1-15
1.7	Engagement outcomes	1-18
1.7.1	Neighbour opinion poll	1-18
1.7.2	Issue identification	1-19
1.8	Engagement during EES exhibition	1-24
1.9	Planned engagement post-EES exhibition	1-24
	References	1-26

**This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright**

**ADVERTISED  
PLAN**



## Tables

Table 1-1	Aims of the stakeholder engagement process	1-2
Table 1-2	Stakeholder identification	1-3
Table 1-3	Summary of project communications	1-5
Table 1-4	Moyne Shire Council resolutions relating to wind farms	1-13
Table 1-5	Engagement in relation to technical studies	1-15
Table 1-6	Summary of responses to key issues and concerns raised by stakeholders	1-19

## Figures

Figure 1.1	Open day in Willatook Hall	1-10
Figure 1.2	Open day in Orford Hall (1)	1-10
Figure 1.3	Open day in Orford Hall (2)	1-10
Figure 1.4	Drop-in shopfront in Koroit	1-10
Figure 1.5	2022 open day at Orford Hall (1)	1-10
Figure 1.6	2022 open day at Orford Hall (2)	1-10
Figure 1.7	Timeline of specific engagement with affected parties	1-11
Figure 1.8	Concerns raised by survey respondents	1-18

## ADVERTISED PLAN

**This copied document to be made available  
for the sole purpose of enabling  
its consideration and review as  
part of a planning process under the  
Planning and Environment Act 1987.  
The document must not be used for any  
purpose which may breach any  
copyright**

# 1 Overview

Community engagement and stakeholder consultation are critical aspects of developing a wind farm project. Meaningful engagement provides the opportunity to develop a project that considers the full range of local opinions, incorporates local knowledge of the environment, and can minimise potential impacts and improve project outcomes.

Community and stakeholder engagement started in 2010 during the project feasibility stage and included the distribution of newsletters to dwellings within 10 kilometres of the project. A neighbour doorknock of properties was carried out within three kilometres of the project site and local organisations and businesses were contacted to let them know about the project. A community engagement committee with local representatives was established around that time by the Moyne Shire Council.

During 2014 the development of the project was slowed considerably due to policy uncertainty. Due to the absence of substantial activity to share, stakeholder engagement activities were less frequent during this time, however the community engagement committee has continued to meet since 2010. Community engagement and stakeholder consultation activities increased in 2017 when development activity ramped up.

After the referral of the project to the Victorian Government in September 2018, the Minister for Planning determined that an EES was the appropriate assessment pathway for the project. The community engagement has occurred as part of the EES process and also to inform the planning application for the project.

At the start of the EES process a Technical Reference Group was established by DELWP to advise on the scoping and adequacy of the EES impact assessments and chapters. Consultation and engagement with the Technical Reference Group has occurred throughout the EES process, up until lodgement for exhibition. Continued engagement with the local community also occurred throughout the EES process and consisted of open days, a shop front at Koroit and doorknocks at dwellings within six kilometres of proposed wind turbine locations.

The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic impacted the ability to carry out in-person engagement activities throughout much of 2020 and 2021. However, during this time, a virtual presence was maintained through the project website, email and phone, updates provided to the community engagement committee, and project update newsletters were distributed in June 2020, April 2021, September 2021, December 2021 and March 2022. Virtual community engagement committee meetings were held in August and December 2020, March 2021 and August 2021, February 2022 with one in person meeting in May 2021.

A community drop-in session was held at Orford Hall in late March 2022, where people could speak to the project team about the project. An online webinar was also held in early April 2022 where some of the key specialist consultants presented on the outcomes of their assessments, and community members could ask questions.

## 1.1 Legislative requirements and guidelines

### 1.1.1 Legislation

Victorian stakeholder engagement related legislation relevant to the project includes the Victorian *Environment Effects Act 1978* and *Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990*:

- Under the *Environment Effects Act 1978*, an EES is required to outline all stakeholder engagement carried out during the development of the EES and present all issues raised by the public, including responses by the proponent.
- Section 39A of the *Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990* is relevant to the proposed quarry, requiring licence holders to consult with the local community during all stages of the quarry's development, including sharing information about any activities that may affect the community and providing the community with reasonable opportunities to express their views.

**ADVERTISED  
PLAN**

## 1.1.2 Guidelines

The project has been developed following the guidance in the *Ministerial Guidelines for Assessment of Environmental Effects under the Environment Effects Act 1978* (Department of Sustainability and Environment, 2006). These guidelines outline the responsibility of the proponent to inform the public and consult with stakeholders, including the need to prepare a consultation plan.

Engagement has also been shaped by *Community Engagement and Benefit Sharing in Renewable Energy Development: A Guide for Renewable Energy Developers* (Lane and Hicks, 2017) and the updated guideline published by DELWP in late July 2021 (*Community Engagement and Benefit Sharing in Renewable Energy Development in Victoria: A Guide for Renewable Energy Developers*). Both documents provide guidance to renewable energy developers about how to carry out best practice community engagement and develop a benefit sharing program.

Other guidance documents considered included:

- *Development of Wind Energy Facilities in Victoria: Policy and Planning Guidelines* (DELWP, 2021)
- *Best practice charter for Renewable Energy Developments* (Clean Energy Council, 2021)
- *Environment Effects Act 1978: EES Consultation Plan Advisory Note* (DELWP, 2018)
- *Community Engagement Guidelines for the Australian Wind Industry* (Clean Energy Council, 2018).

Wind Prospect, the developer of the project (acting on behalf of the proponent, Willatook Wind Farm Pty Ltd), is a signatory to the Clean Energy Council's (2021) *Best Practice Charter for Renewable Energy Developments*. This charter is a voluntary set of commitments designed to clearly communicate the standards to be upheld in the development of clean energy projects.

## 1.2 Engagement approach

Throughout project development there has been a commitment to:

- respectful and ongoing engagement with local communities and key stakeholders
- the values of trust and good faith
- ensuring respectful and timely engagement across a range of mediums and throughout the project's progression from planning through to operation and decommissioning
- designing and delivering effective stakeholder engagement to ensure community members and other stakeholders are informed, consulted and given opportunities to be involved and influence project outcomes
- participation in the EES process by the community so local knowledge, priorities and expertise could be evaluated as part of the various technical studies.

These commitments align with the aims of the stakeholder engagement process in Table 1-1 Aims of the stakeholder engagement process.

**Table 1-1 Aims of the stakeholder engagement process**

Openness	Awareness	Inclusion
<p>To demonstrate <b>openness</b>, we:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• proactively provide opportunities to meet with the project team</li> <li>• meet with neighbours and stakeholders when requested</li> <li>• be open and honest in all communications.</li> </ul>	<p>To demonstrate <b>awareness</b>, we:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• use a range of communication methods such as open days, drop-in centres, shop front, doorknocks and newsletters</li> <li>• target engagement with near neighbours and the wider community for face-to-face discussions to share information.</li> </ul>	<p>To demonstrate <b>inclusion</b>, we:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• seek to understand the full range of local opinions</li> <li>• consult on specific technical issues with relevant groups</li> <li>• attend community engagement committee meetings to discuss the project and respond to issues raised</li> <li>• provide a variety of opportunities to source and discuss information (open days, drop-in centres, shop front, doorknocks and newsletters).</li> </ul>
Responsiveness	Transparency and integrity	Accountability

This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright



# ADVERTISED PLAN

To demonstrate **responsiveness**, we:

- acknowledge and respond to all queries and any issues raised
- provide updates and feedback on project design, assessment results and consultation responses.

To demonstrate **transparency and integrity**, we:

- request feedback on the project design, including any issues or concerns and suggested mitigation measures
- provide information with enough time for people to review and provide feedback.

To demonstrate **accountability**, we:

- provide contact details (freephone, email, postal address) to facilitate contact from the local community
- provide information on the potential impacts from the project that could arise and affect local residents.

## 1.3 Stakeholder identification

Typically, across the wind energy industry there are two primary categories of project stakeholders; those who would or are likely to be affected (positively or negatively) (i.e., affected parties), and those who are unaffected but may have an interest in, or may influence, the project (i.e., interested parties).

**Affected parties:** Those directly affected by the project, typically (but not always) within (nominally) six kilometres of a wind turbine.

**Interested parties:** Those interested in the project and/or could affect the project in some way.

A stakeholder consultation database was created for the project, which is a live document that evolves over time. The database includes all stakeholders identified throughout project development, and a record of recipients who have been provided with project information. Moyne Shire Council reviewed the database and recommended that several stakeholders be added.

Communities, groups and individuals within three kilometres of proposed wind turbine locations were identified as 'near neighbours' for more focused engagement. When the size of the proposed wind turbines increased and best-practice standards for engagement changed, the distance for identifying near neighbours was extended to six kilometres. All near neighbours within six kilometres of proposed wind turbines have been kept informed and provided with the opportunity to get involved via newsletters, doorknocks and other forms of engagement (see Section 1.4).

Further afield, the 'local community' was defined as being within 10 kilometres of proposed wind turbine locations. Potential impacts such as those relating to the community or amenity are expected to decrease in likelihood and severity with increasing distance. At 10 kilometres potential impacts are not expected to be substantial, although they may nevertheless occur. The local community includes the localities of Broadwater, Tarrone, Willatook, parts of Bessiebelle, and the towns of Orford and Hawkesdale. This community has received information about the project and the opportunity to provide feedback. Distribution of newsletters to the local community was achieved with help from the Moyne Shire Council. Both absentee owners of land and residents received newsletters about the project. Project newsletters were also directly distributed to other stakeholders in a more targeted manner via mail and email (e.g., community groups, the Country Fire Authority and members of parliament).

A dedicated website was established to provide easy access to project information and allow the community to provide anonymous feedback (via 'Have Your Say'), as well as the ability to contact the project team for more information. The project website can be found at [www.willatookwindfarm.com.au](http://www.willatookwindfarm.com.au).

A summary of key project stakeholders is provided in Table 1.2 below.

**Table 1-2 Stakeholder identification**

Stakeholder type	Stakeholder description
<b>Affected parties</b>	
Landowners and near neighbours	Owners of land within the project site and neighbours with dwellings within six kilometres of proposed wind turbine locations (about 190 dwellings for concept design).

This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright

Stakeholder type	Stakeholder description
Local community	The surrounding communities, landowners and residents within 10 kilometres, including residents of Willatook, Orford, Broadwater, Tarrone, Hawkesdale and parts of Bessie Belle.
Broader community members	The broader regional community within the entire Moyne Shire.
Aboriginal communities and organisations	The relevant Registered Aboriginal Parties (Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation and Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation) as well as other groups with an interest in Aboriginal heritage (e.g., Framlingham Aboriginal Trust).
Special interest groups	<p>Special interest groups including recreational aviation clubs, Rotary Clubs, Lions Clubs, local schools, landcare groups, societies, associations and 'friends of' groups, including, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aerial Agricultural Association of Australia</li> <li>• Basalt to Bay Landcare Group</li> <li>• Birdlife Australia</li> <li>• Brolga Recovery Group</li> <li>• Chatsworth Landcare Group</li> <li>• Committee for Portland</li> <li>• Environment Victoria</li> <li>• Friends of Tower Hill</li> <li>• Gazette Landcare Action Group</li> <li>• Geological Society of Australia</li> <li>• Hamilton Aero Club</li> <li>• Hawkesdale &amp; District Development Action Committee</li> <li>• Hawkesdale Historical Society</li> <li>• Hawkesdale Lions Club</li> <li>• Hawkesdale P-12 College</li> <li>• Hawkesdale-Macarthur Football Netball Club</li> <li>• Koroit &amp; District Historical Society</li> <li>• Koroit Lions Club</li> <li>• Landcare Glenelg Hopkins</li> <li>• Macarthur Advancement &amp; Development Association</li> <li>• Macarthur Lions Club</li> <li>• Orford Hall and Recreation Reserve</li> <li>• Port Fairy Historical Society</li> <li>• Port Fairy-Warrnambool Rail Trail Committee of Management</li> <li>• Rotary Club of Port Fairy</li> <li>• South Beach Wetlands and Landcare Group</li> <li>• St Helens &amp; District Landcare</li> <li>• Warrnambool Airport</li> <li>• Warrnambool Coastcare Landcare Group</li> <li>• Warrnambool Field Naturalist Club</li> <li>• Warrnambool Nature Reserves Society</li> <li>• Willatook Recreation Reserve</li> <li>• Woolsthorpe Community Progress Association</li> <li>• Woolsthorpe &amp; District Historical Society.</li> </ul>
Business	<p>Local businesses and businesses operating in the local area including agricultural businesses, quarry operators, local aviation operators, and the owners of distribution and transmission infrastructure, gas pipeline infrastructure and communications infrastructure (communications masts and operators of communications links in the local area around the project) including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AGL Energy</li> <li>• AusNet Services</li> <li>• Aussie Broadband</li> <li>• Australian Bluegum Plantations</li> <li>• Australian Communications and Media Authority</li> <li>• BAI Communications</li> <li>• Hawkesdale General Store/Post Office</li> <li>• Holcim Australia</li> <li>• Keppel Prince Engineering Macarthur General Store/Post Office</li> <li>• Mecrus Resources Pty Ltd</li> <li>• Mirboo Ridge Pty Ltd</li> </ul>

**This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright**

**ADVERTISED  
PLAN**

Stakeholder type	Stakeholder description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NBN</li> <li>• Optus Networks</li> <li>• Powercor</li> <li>• South East Australia (SEA) Gas</li> <li>• State Emergency Services</li> <li>• Telstra.</li> </ul>
Interested parties	
Government organisations	<p>Numerous government organisations were identified as interested parties and have been consulted as part of the development of the project, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air Services Australia</li> <li>• Australian Energy Market Operator</li> <li>• Civil Aviation Safety Authority</li> <li>• Country Fire Authority</li> <li>• Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment</li> <li>• Department of Defence</li> <li>• DELWP</li> <li>• Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions – Earth Resources Regulation</li> <li>• Environment Protection Authority Victoria</li> <li>• First Peoples – State Relations Group (formerly Aboriginal Victoria)</li> <li>• Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority</li> <li>• Heritage Victoria</li> <li>• Land Use Victoria</li> <li>• Parks Victoria</li> <li>• Regional Roads Victoria</li> <li>• Royal Australian Air Force</li> <li>• Southern Rural Water</li> <li>• Sustainability Victoria</li> <li>• Wannon Water.</li> </ul>
Federal, state and local governments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local government officers and councillors from Moyne Shire Council</li> <li>• Local government officers and councillors from adjoining shires (Warrnambool Shire, Corangamite Shire, Glenelg Shire, Southern Grampians Shire, Ararat Shire)</li> <li>• Local members of State and Commonwealth government parliaments</li> <li>• State government ministers.</li> </ul>

## 1.4 Stakeholder engagement methods – Affected parties

Throughout the project development a variety of methods, materials and tools were used to engage with affected parties (see Table 1.3).

**Table 1-3 Summary of project communications**

Communication methods, materials and tools	Summary
<b>Doorknock of neighbouring dwellings</b>	<p>An initial doorknock of neighbouring properties within three kilometres of a proposed wind turbine location was carried out in March 2010 and repeated in August 2017.</p> <p>A follow-up doorknock of neighbouring properties within six kilometres of a proposed wind turbine location was carried out during November 2019 and February 2020.</p>
<b>Face-to-face meetings with members of the community</b>	<p>The project team sought to understand and respond to members of the community who requested further information about the project or expressed concerns with the project. Wherever possible, this involved face-to-face meetings with those people.</p> <p>A public meeting was held at Willatook Hall on 14 February 2018, organised by some neighbouring residents to express their concerns about the project. The project team attended the meeting to listen to concerns and issues and to answer questions about the project.</p>



Communication methods, materials and tools	Summary
Landowner meetings	Periodic meetings were held with participating landowners to provide updates and discuss the project design. Contracts were negotiated with the owners of all land on which the project would be developed. These contracts detail the terms and conditions by which access to land is allowed and parts of these properties that can be used to plan, construct, operate and maintain project infrastructure.
Community engagement committee	<p>A community engagement committee was established by Moyne Shire Council in 2010 to provide a forum for direct engagement between the project team, representatives from the local community, and the Moyne Shire Council (including councillors and staff).</p> <p>The purpose of the community engagement committee is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• develop strategies to create an effective flow of information to and from the community about the project</li> <li>• act as a conduit for information flow between Council, Wind Prospect, the community, and other stakeholders about the progress of the project</li> <li>• help in the resolution of issues that may arise during the pre-application, application, and if necessary, during the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the project.</li> </ul> <p>There were 28 meetings held with the community engagement committee between 2010 and 2021. The project development slowed considerably between 2014 and 2016, and the community engagement committee did not meet during this time. Since then, the community engagement committee has met about every three months.</p>

## ADVERTISED PLAN

**This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright**

Communication methods, materials and tools	Summary
Community information sessions	<p>The project team hosted community information sessions in July 2019 (see Figure 1.1, Figure 1.2 and Figure 1.3). The sessions were promoted via a newsletter to all residents within 10 kilometres of the project two weeks prior to the events and via the project website. Collectively there were at least 37 attendees at Orford Hall and Willatook Hall.</p> <p>Specialist consultants attended the information sessions and discussed project matters relating to their area of expertise with attendees. The specialist consultants included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a noise expert who provided a demonstration so that attendees could experience noise levels at different distances from a wind farm</li> <li>an aviation expert available to discuss aerial spraying and aerial firefighting</li> <li>two flora and fauna experts who were also able to collect information about the local area from attendees</li> <li>a representative from AusNet Services, the owner of the transmission infrastructure the project would connect to, who was available to discuss transmission lines and the grid connection.</li> </ul> <p>Information on display included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>key facts about the project, including the proposed number of wind turbines and the wind turbine tip height</li> <li>information about Wind Prospect</li> <li>the wind farm project development lifecycle</li> <li>a summary of available research about wind farms and health</li> <li>a summary of the environmental and economic benefits of the project</li> <li>information about fire prevention and mitigation</li> <li>a summary of available research about wind farms and property values</li> <li>a summary of the landscape and visual impact assessment and assessment method, including photomontages of what the wind farm would look like</li> <li>information about wind farm noise, including maps showing the project design, noise contours and dwelling locations</li> <li>a summary of the various impact assessments being completed</li> <li>information about the proposed Benefit Sharing Program.</li> </ul> <p>Six members of the project team were also available to greet attendees, discuss the project and respond to queries. Surveys were available to gather information about attendees' views of the project, note any issues or concerns, seek local information about flora and fauna, and provide feedback on the proposed Benefit Sharing Program.</p> <p>An information session was also held at Orford Hall in late March 2020. Posters were on display with key topics covered, and an updated information booklet was made available. Approximately 20 people attended the session.</p>
Webinar	<p>An online webinar was held in early April 2022 to provide an overview of the project and allow specialists to present the outcomes of their assessments. The webinar was advertised widely in local newspapers, project newsletters (mailed and emailed), at the community information session and via the project website. Specialists presented on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ecology, including Brolga, southern bent-winged bats, and native vegetation</li> <li>wind farm noise</li> <li>landscape and visual impact assessment.</li> </ul> <p>Community members had the opportunity to ask questions of presenters during the webinar and answers were provided at the time or taken on notice and responded to over the following days. Seven people attended the webinar. The webinar was recorded and made available to stakeholders via the project website.</p>

**ADVERTISED  
PLAN**

**This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright**

Communication methods, materials and tools	Summary
<b>Drop-in centre</b>	<p>A one day per week drop-in shopfront was hosted in Koroit for 12 weeks between October and December 2019, providing an opportunity for the local community to find out more about the project, to ask questions and/or raise concerns (see Figure 1.4). Other times were made available by appointment. Koroit was identified as the most suitable location to distribute project information because it is the nearest town and population base to the project site, is a convenient on-route location for those travelling between the project site and Warrnambool, and allows members of the project community a degree of anonymity if they would like to gain further information on the project in a more private location.</p> <p>A drop-in session was also held at the Orford Hall in late March 2022 prior to the EES being exhibited.</p>
<b>Public opinion surveys</b>	<p>Public opinion surveys were available at the community information sessions in July 2019.</p> <p>A total of 107 opinion surveys were received, which contributed to an understanding of the key issues and concerns of local landowners (see Section 1.7.1 for a summary of results).</p>
<b>Project information sheets and newsletters</b>	<p>Between 2010 and 2022, ten newsletters were posted to landowners within 10 kilometres of the project site. These newsletters provided updates on work being done, the latest project design, and invitations to information sessions and to attend the drop-in sessions. In September 2019 a project information booklet was compiled, which included the posters displayed at the information sessions. This booklet was distributed to all landowners within 10 kilometres of the project. A public opinion survey and return stamped addressed envelope was included with the booklet (see Section 1.7.1 for a summary of results).</p>
<b>Project website</b>	<p>A project website (<a href="http://www.willatookwindfarm.com.au">www.willatookwindfarm.com.au</a>) has been maintained throughout the project development, providing updates and access to key information to the general public. It also provides links to digital copies of this EES and associated documents.</p>
<b>Telephone, email and post</b>	<p>A free of charge phone number has been maintained, providing a line of communication for the public to contact the project team. These avenues of contacting the project team will continue throughout the EES/planning permit exhibition and beyond.</p>
<b>Letters/emails</b>	<p>Early in the project development phase letters were sent to key interest groups in the local community, including Aboriginal groups, local schools, and the Koroit Business and Tourism Association.</p>
<b>Excursion to an operating wind farm</b>	<p>Two public excursions were made to the operational Murra Warra Wind Farm, held on Saturday 9 November and Wednesday 13 November 2019, to enable community members to experience wind turbines up close and at specific distances from wind turbine locations. This excursion was arranged in response to feedback about the proposed tip height of the project turbines. Wind turbines at the Murra Warra Wind Farm have a tip height of 220 metres (30 metres lower than the potential maximum tip height of the project wind turbines).</p>
<b>Referral documents</b>	<p>Project referrals were submitted, advising relevant authorities of the intention to develop the project and containing an assessment of the potential impacts of the project relevant to that authority. These referrals were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EES referral, submitted to the Minister for Planning under the <i>Environment Effects Act 1978</i> in September 2018</li> <li>EPBC Act referral, submitted to the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment in April 2019.</li> </ul> <p>The referral documents are made public on the relevant authority's websites and provided members of the public to find out more about the project and provide feedback.</p>
<b>Neighbour Benefit Sharing Program flyer</b>	<p>A four-page flyer detailing the proposed Neighbour Benefit Sharing Program was posted to all residences within 6 kilometres of the project in December 2020 and was made available on the project website.</p>

This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright

## ADVERTISED PLAN

This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright



# ADVERTISED PLAN

This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright



Figure 1.1 Open day in Willatook Hall



Figure 1.2 Open day in Orford Hall (1)



Figure 1.3 Open day in Orford Hall (2)



Figure 1.4 Drop-in shopfront in Koroit



Figure 1.5 2022 open day at Orford Hall (1)



Figure 1.6 2022 open day at Orford Hall (2)

Engagement activities are summarised in Figure 1.5.

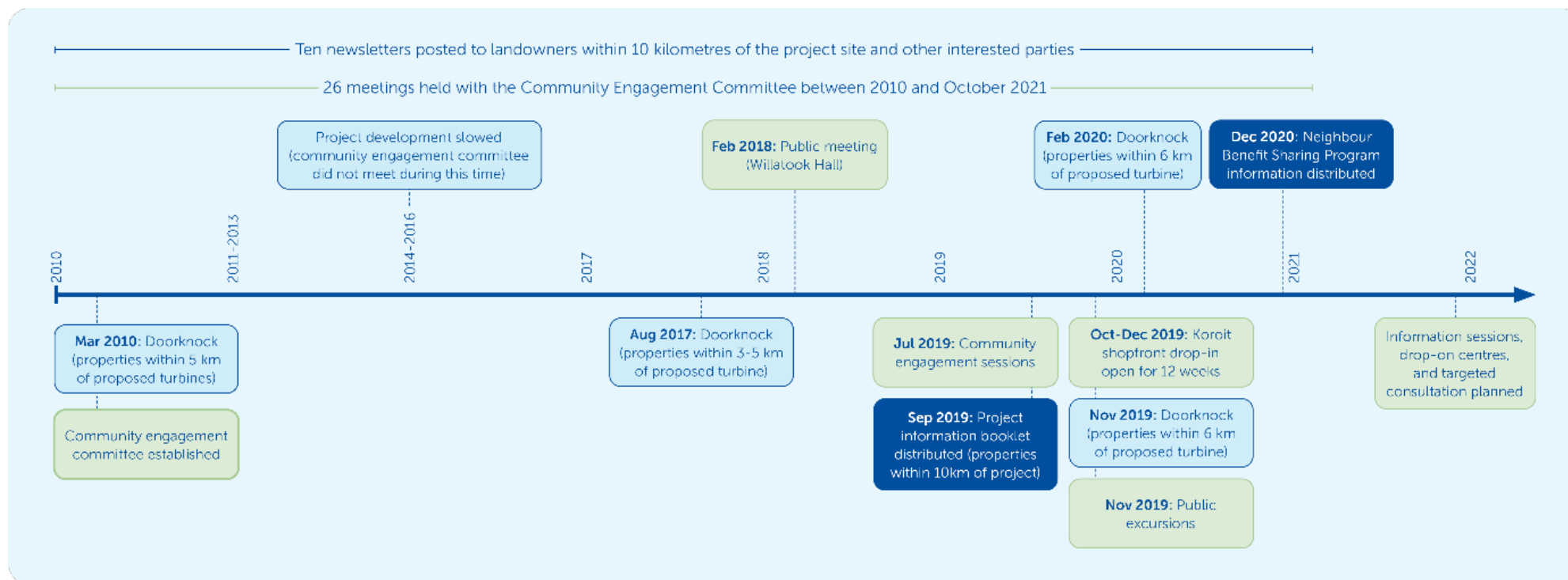


Figure 1.7 Timeline of specific engagement with affected parties

**ADVERTISED  
PLAN**

This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright



# ADVERTISED PLAN

## 1.5 Stakeholder engagement methods – Interested parties

Many of the methods, materials and tools designed for communicating with affected parties were also used to communicate with interested parties. For example, interested parties were sent newsletters and generally also invited to attend information sessions, the drop-in centre, and the Murra Warra Wind Farm tour. Communications specific to interested parties included meetings, phone calls and emails; specifically site visits were hosted for:

- DELWP and the National Wind Farm Commissioner (now the Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner) in June 2018 to visit key points of interest around the project site and to seek feedback on the approach to community engagement with the local community
- Technical Reference Group members at the first Technical Reference Group meeting on 10 April 2019 to visit key points of interest and provide an opportunity for Technical Reference Group members to view the project and its surrounds
- DELWP Barwon South West in July 2019 to visit an ephemeral wetland area with potential habitat for Brolga and vegetation communities
- the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment in March 2021 to visit representative locations of relevance to EPBC Act Matters of National Environmental Significance, for example, potential habitat for Growling Grass Frog.

### 1.5.1 Elected representatives

Project briefings were provided periodically to Moyne Shire councillors and local state and Commonwealth members of Parliament to introduce them to the project, seek their feedback and provide updates. Two councillors and a technical officer from Moyne Shire Council are also members in the project's community engagement committee.

### 1.5.2 Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner

The office of the Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner (formerly the National Wind Farm Commissioner) performs various roles including facilitating the referral and resolution of complaints received from residents about proposed or operating wind farms. In 2017, the Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner received 15 complaints about the project, all around the same time. Of those 15 complainants, nine agreed for the Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner to share the details of their complaint with Wind Prospect. Eight of those nine agreed to meet with Wind Prospect in person to discuss the issues raised in their complaints, and engagement with the other occurred on the phone. Two of those eight have since sold their land and moved away from the area. The issues raised and responses have been captured in Table 1.6 in Section 1.7.2.

### 1.5.3 Technical Reference Group

In accordance with the EES scoping requirements, DELWP convened an agency-based Technical Reference Group to advise the project team on:

- applicable policies, strategies and statutory provisions
- the scope and design of the technical studies
- the scoping requirements for the EES
- the project's consultation plan
- responses to issues arising from the EES assessments
- the technical adequacy of draft EES documentation
- coordination of statutory processes.

**This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright**

Members of the Technical Reference Group represent Government agencies and regional authorities that have a statutory or policy interest in the project, as well as Moyne Shire Council. Representatives on the Technical Reference Group are:

- DELWP – Impact Assessment
- DELWP – Planning

- DELWP – Barwon South West
- First Peoples – State Relations Group (formerly Aboriginal Victoria)
- Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions – Earth Resources Regulation
- Environment Protection Authority Victoria
- Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority
- Heritage Victoria
- Moyne Shire Council
- Southern Rural Water
- Regional Roads Victoria.

## ADVERTISED PLAN

The Technical Reference Group meetings have provided an opportunity for the project team to present key findings from the various technical assessments and to discuss matters of interest to the Technical Reference Group members. Draft technical reports and EES chapters were provided to the Technical Reference Group members for comment before the EES being finalised. While Technical Reference Group members were consulted during EES preparation, there have also been many other discussions held with Technical Reference Group member organisations since 2009.

Thirteen meetings of the Technical Reference Group, organised by DELWP, were held between October 2019 and March 2022. These meetings provided an opportunity to present the work that had been prepared for the EES and allowed the Technical Reference Group to review the work being done to address the EES scoping requirements and provide feedback to consider in preparing the EES documentation.

### 1.5.4 Government organisations

Numerous government organisations, as listed in Table 1.2, were engaged about the project. Some, but not all, of these government organisations were represented on the Technical Reference Group. Those that were not represented on the Technical Reference Group were engaged in relation to relevant impact assessments as indicated in Table 1.5 in Section 1.6.

### 1.5.5 Moyne Shire Council motions

Moyne Shire Council is a key project stakeholder that represents the population of the wider Moyne Shire. With several wind farm projects having previously been developed in the shire, and more in development, Moyne Shire Council has sought to ensure the interests of the community are reflected in the development of the projects, and that the community benefits from this development. Wind Prospect has monitored the resolutions passed by Moyne Shire Council and has sought to work with Council to address the concerns they and their constituents have raised.

Moyne Shire Council has passed several resolutions in relation to the development and operation of wind farms in Moyne Shire, as detailed in Table 1.4. Many of these resolutions have been considered through the project design process, with several actions taken to address these issues (see Table 1.6 in Section 1.7.2).

**Table 1-4 Moyne Shire Council resolutions relating to wind farms**

Theme	Key issues	Meeting date
Transmission Lines	Council resolved to advocate on behalf of Moyne Shire residents to the Victorian Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate and the Minister of Planning to implement the recommendations from the 2017 National Wind Farm Commissioners Annual Report to ensure transmission lines, substations and other related electrical infrastructure be subject to appropriate and detailed planning permit requirements, as part of the overall planning permit of wind farm projects. Council then requested that works be halted on any new and proposed transmission lines until planning permit requirements were implemented.	24 April 2018
	Council resolved to request the Minister for Planning to ensure the State Government make immediate planning reforms to safeguard future planning and development of wind farm transmission lines, specifically the Victorian Regulatory and Planning Framework. After a workshop with key representatives, key concerns raised involved the lack of planning	26 June 2018

This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright

Theme	Key issues	Meeting date
	framework for wind farm transmission lines that may negatively impact local communities.	
	Council adopted the position to write to the Minister for Planning to consider their request that, given the significant number of wind farms that may be constructed in Moyne Shire in the future, underground transmission lines be mandatory for all future wind farm projects in the Shire.	23 April 2019
<b>Cumulative impact of wind farms</b>	Council resolved to oppose any further developments of wind farms in the Shire until recommendations from the 2017 National Wind Farm Commissioner's Annual Report to Parliament are implemented.  Council also wrote to local members requesting an urgent meeting with the Minister for Planning and concerned residents from Mortlake/Hawkesdale to discuss the cumulative impact of wind farms in the Shire and issues with transmission lines.	27 November 2018
	Council resolved to reaffirm its existing position (from 27 November 2018 Council Meeting) regarding new wind farms in Moyne Shire and to seek further discussion with State Government to implement the recommendations of the National Wind Farm Commissioner's report.	5 August 2020
<b>Setbacks</b>	Council resolved to request that the Minister for Planning consider amending Clause 52.32 of the Planning Scheme in support of setback distances detailed in the 2018 Annual Report by the Office of the National Wind Farm Commissioner. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a minimum setback of 1.5 kilometres from residents to the nearest turbine to support a consistent noise limit</li> <li>for turbines with a tip height greater than 200 metres, to have a 2-kilometre setback to reduce visual and amenity impacts</li> <li>a 5-kilometre setback between wind farms and townships/city boundary to preserve amenity and provide flexibility for future planning growth.</li> </ul> Council also resolved to write to the Minister for Planning asking consideration of amending the setback distances to a wind turbine and the host property's boundary.	24 Sept 2019
	Council resolved to request the Minister for Planning that a 5 kilometre setback from the Hawkesdale town boundary be considered as part of the planning permit for the Hawkesdale Wind Farm. The Hawkesdale and District Development Action committee were concerned about the proximity of the turbines to the Hawkesdale township and requested that Moyne Shire oppose the Hawkesdale Wind Farm, especially in its current form.	28 July 2020
<b>Community Benefits</b>	Council provided facilitation of combined discussions between Global Power Generation, Woolnorth Wind Farms and Wind Prospect towards a more holistic approach to community funding and benefits from wind farms in the Moyne Shire.	23 July 2019

## ADVERTISED PLAN

**This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright**

## 1.6 Engagement in relation to technical studies

Each of the technical studies carried out for the EES and planning permit application has included engagement with key stakeholders. The Technical Reference Group reviewed the draft reports prepared by technical specialists which included the consultation performed and advised on the adequacy of the studies in terms of consistency with good practice standards of methodology and analysis. Table 1.5 summarises the engagement carried out to help inform the technical studies.

**Table 1-5 Engagement in relation to technical studies**

Technical study	Stakeholders	Form of engagement
<b>Flora and fauna</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Birdlife Australia</li> <li>Brolga Recovery Group</li> <li>Friends of Pallisters Reserve Inc</li> <li>Landowners and near neighbours</li> <li>Local community</li> <li>DELWP</li> <li>Technical Reference Group</li> <li>Australian Bluegum Plantation</li> <li>Basalt to Bay Landcare Network</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All landowners and near neighbours (including absentee landowners) and the local community, which includes the owners of land within 10 kilometres of a proposed wind turbine, were invited to share local knowledge (particularly in relation to Brolga) through an interview and survey carried out by ecologists.</li> <li>Flora and fauna consultation interviews and surveys took place at the Willatook Hall between 3 and 7 December 2018 and were attended by 26 local community members. Follow-up calls were made on 4 and 6 Feb 2019 to capture 11 other local community members. Friends of Pallisters Reserve Inc and the Australian Bluegum Plantation also took part in this interview process.</li> <li>DELWP (Barwon South West) was engaged intensively throughout the development of the project, particularly between 2019 to 2021.</li> <li>Basalt to Bay Landcare Network engaged in a survey during the Orford information session on 24 July 2019.</li> <li>Birdlife Australia were consulted as part of the specialist assessment for the project.</li> <li>The Brolga Recovery Group are a key interest group and have been provided with project updates.</li> </ul>
<b>Geoheritage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Geological Society of Australia</li> <li>Victorian Speleological Association</li> <li>La Trobe University</li> <li>Melbourne University</li> <li>Landowners</li> <li>Technical Reference Group</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussed the nature of the terrain of the project site and the geoheritage and cave potential with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr. Susan White (La Trobe University) who is a geoheritage and cave specialist and long-time member of the Victorian Speleological Association</li> <li>Professor Bernie Joyce (Melbourne University), volcanic and geoheritage specialist.</li> <li>Ken Grimes (late) geologist and speleologist with specialised knowledge of caves in western Victoria.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Landscape and visual</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DELWP</li> <li>Moyne Shire Council</li> <li>Near neighbours</li> <li>Technical Reference Group</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feedback from Moyne Shire was provided about the landscape and visual assessment, particularly about cumulative effects.</li> <li>Neighbouring landowners that have been identified as potentially having visual impacts from their dwellings have been contacted and offered an in-person visual impact and mitigation options assessment, which were completed in March 2022.</li> </ul>

This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright

**ADVERTISED  
PLAN**

Technical study	Stakeholders	Form of engagement
<b>Noise</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environment Protection Authority Victoria</li> <li>Near neighbours</li> <li>Moyne Shire Council</li> <li>Technical Reference Group</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Background noise monitoring locations arranged in consultation with neighbouring residents with preference being given to locations with the highest predicted noise levels.</li> <li>Consultation with near neighbour and local community attendees at the information sessions, where a demonstration was set up to provide an opportunity to hear wind farm sound levels at different distances from a wind farm.</li> </ul>
<b>Aboriginal cultural heritage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First Peoples – State Relations Group (formerly Aboriginal Victoria)</li> <li>Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation / Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation Registered Aboriginal Parties</li> <li>Unsuccessful Registered Aboriginal Party applicants: Framlingham Aboriginal Trust, Ella Maar Aboriginal Corporation</li> <li>Technical Reference Group</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Background review (desktop assessment), field surveys (standard assessment) and subsurface excavations (complex assessment).</li> <li>The most intensive subsurface work was conducted in 2010 with additional testing conducted in August and November 2017.</li> <li>Further investigations were conducted with the Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation at the proposed on-site quarry location during April and June 2021.</li> </ul>
<b>Historic heritage (non-Aboriginal)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Heritage Victoria</li> <li>Moyne Shire Council</li> <li>Landowners</li> <li>Technical Reference Group</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Notice of Intention to survey was submitted to Heritage Victoria in 2009, with the site being surveyed in 2010.</li> <li>An additional historical heritage survey was completed in February 2020.</li> <li>Heritage Victoria and Moyne Shire Council have also been consulted through the Technical Reference Group.</li> <li>Historic heritage identified within the project site has been discussed during the survey process with the relevant landowners on whose land the heritage is located.</li> </ul>
<b>Traffic</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Landowners and near neighbours</li> <li>Moyne Shire Council</li> <li>Regional Roads Victoria</li> <li>Department of Transport</li> <li>Technical Reference Group</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consultation and feedback from the Department of Transport about the proposed wind turbine component haulage route in August 2021.</li> <li>Consultation from Regional Roads Victoria about traffic generation profiles and suggested measures for the Traffic Management Plan in August 2021.</li> <li>Feedback from Moyne Shire was provided about the traffic and transport assessment focussing on the use of local roads, road upgrades and recommended management measures.</li> <li>Information on school bus and regional bus routes provided by the Department of Transport in August 2021.</li> </ul>

**ADVERTISED  
PLAN**

**This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright**

Technical study	Stakeholders	Form of engagement
<b>Aviation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aerial Agricultural Association of Australia</li> <li>• Air Services Australia</li> <li>• Department of Defence</li> <li>• Country Fire Authority</li> <li>• Civil Aviation Safety Authority</li> <li>• DELWP</li> <li>• Landowners and near neighbours</li> <li>• Royal Australian Air Force</li> <li>• Warrnambool Airport and Warrnambool Regional Airport Reference Group</li> <li>• Technical Reference Group</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wind Prospect has met with the owner of Warrnambool Airport (Warrnambool City Council) and the Airport's Reference Group to provide feedback on, and discuss the potential aviation impacts of, the project and suggested mitigation measures.</li> <li>• Landowners and near neighbours with local airstrips have been consulted in relation to the project and the potential impact on aerial applications.</li> <li>• As part of the aviation assessment (Appendix O), the technical consultant consulted with government, private and community stakeholders with an interest in aviation and aviation-related safety.</li> </ul>
<b>Surface water and groundwater</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landowners</li> <li>• Moyne Shire Council</li> <li>• DELWP</li> <li>• Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority</li> <li>• Southern Rural Water</li> <li>• Technical Reference Group</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wind Prospect and the technical consultant met with Moyne Shire Council and Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority to discuss the potential impacts of the project on surface water and groundwater.</li> <li>• Southern Rural Water were contacted by telephone on several occasions to discuss the potential impacts of the project on groundwater, with specific reference to the proposed on-site quarry, which is likely to encounter groundwater.</li> </ul>
<b>Social and economic</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landowners</li> <li>• Near neighbours</li> <li>• Businesses</li> <li>• Moyne Shire Council</li> <li>• DELWP</li> <li>• Technical Reference Group</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engagement with landowners and near neighbours, planned and run by a local independent consultant, has provided feedback relating to the social and economic issues, concerns and benefits associated with the project.</li> <li>• Feedback has led to the development of the Neighbour Benefit Sharing Program, which has been put in place to provide neighbouring residents with an ongoing, annual financial benefit from the project.</li> </ul>
<b>Electromagnetic interference</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AusNet Services</li> <li>• Aussie Broadband</li> <li>• Australian Communications and Media Authority</li> <li>• BAI Communications</li> <li>• Emergency Services</li> <li>• Optus Networks</li> <li>• NBN</li> <li>• Powercor</li> <li>• Telstra</li> <li>• Technical Reference Group</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emails and letters were sent to communications providers and emergency services seeking feedback about potential electromagnetic interference impacts from the project.</li> <li>• BAI Communications provided a report on the potential impacts on their services.</li> <li>• The technical consultant reviewed the Australian Communications and Media Authority database of communication infrastructure and services in the area as part of their electromagnetic interference (Appendix M).</li> </ul>

**ADVERTISED  
PLAN**

**This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright**



## 1.7 Engagement outcomes

### 1.7.1 Neighbour opinion poll

As part of the 2019/2020 doorknock of all dwellings within 6 kilometres of a project wind turbine, neighbours were asked for their opinions about the proposed project. The doorknock recorded 143 opinions of the owners of habitable dwellings within this area, with 94 respondents either supportive or neutral towards the project, and 49 objecting to the project. There were 21 landowners who were not able to be contacted during the doorknock, so their opinions are unknown.

Not all respondents provided reasons for their opinion about the proposed project. However, where they did provide a response, their comments were noted and the results of the survey identifying the key concerns of neighbouring landowners are presented in Figure 1.6. The most commonly reported concerns related to noise, visual, cumulative and traffic impacts and to impacts on property values.

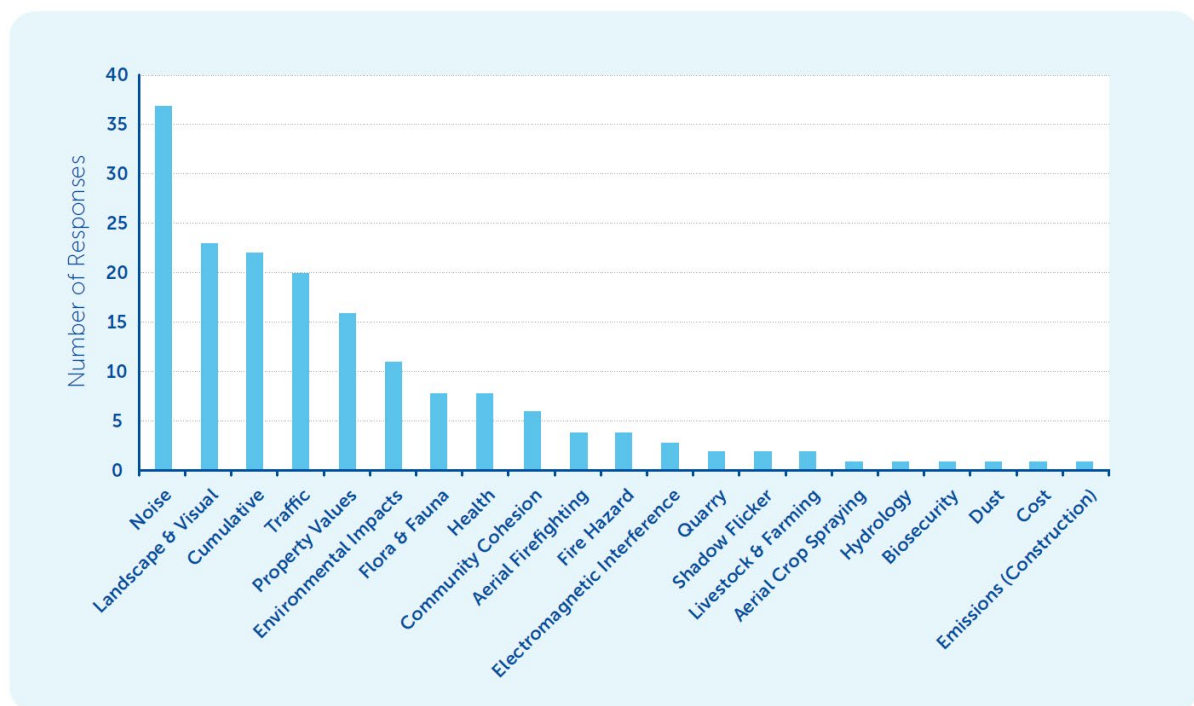


Figure 1.8 Concerns raised by survey respondents

This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright

**ADVERTISED  
PLAN**

## 1.7.2 Issue identification

Responses to the key issues and concerns raised by stakeholders during the engagement activities (outlined in Table 1.3) are summarised in Table 1.6.

**Table 1-6 Summary of responses to key issues and concerns raised by stakeholders**

Key issues raised	Response
<b>Noise</b>	
Concerns about noise associated with the operation of the project, including cumulative impacts from the Macarthur Wind Farm.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The project has been designed to a maximum sound level of 40dB<sub>A90</sub>, measured at neighbouring dwellings and allowing for the existing nearby Macarthur Wind Farm, in compliance with the New Zealand Standard <i>NZ6808:2010. Acoustics – Wind Farm Noise</i> as required by Victoria Planning Provisions.</li> <li>Modelling has been completed and compliance is achieved using both the CONCAWE and ISO 9613 modelling methods. Both methods were used to determine the most conservative noise predictions (see Chapter 13 – <i>Noise and vibration</i>).</li> <li>A noise and vibration impact assessment (Appendix J) was prepared by acoustic specialists Sonus as part of the EES process to assess potential construction and operational noise and vibration impacts, including cumulative effects, and to identify measures to manage potential impacts at sensitive receptors. The results of these assessments are summarised in Chapter 13 – <i>Noise and vibration</i>.</li> <li>Information sessions were held on 23 and 24 July 2019 at the Willatook and Orford halls, respectively. During these sessions, the technical acoustic specialist was present to answer questions from the local community relating to noise and vibration. Maps were available to enable attendees to identify the location of their dwelling and the distance from proposed wind turbine locations. Outside the halls, a wind farm noise simulation was set up to enable attendees to experience wind farm noise from different distances from a wind farm and level of sound that could be expected to be heard.</li> <li>An information sheet and presentation on noise is available on the project website. This provides answers to frequently asked questions about potential noise impacts. Posters displayed at the 2019 information sessions were also bound into a booklet and mailed out to the local community (i.e., the owners of land within 10 kilometres of a proposed wind turbine location). This comprehensive information booklet is also available online.</li> <li>An independent peer review of the noise and vibration impact assessment was conducted by an independent acoustic specialist (Resonate) (Appendix J) to assess whether the methodology and assessment conducted in the acoustic impact assessment is a complete assessment of the potential impacts of the project.</li> <li>A detailed Operational Noise and Vibration Management Plan would be prepared for the project in addition to the pre- and post-construction noise assessments. This Plan, which would be approved and endorsed by the responsible authority, would detail procedures to be followed if any noise complaints are received (as required by the Environment Protection Regulations 2021).</li> </ul>

**ADVERTISED  
PLAN**

**This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright**

Key issues raised	Response
<b>Visual and landscape impacts</b>	
Some local residents, particularly around the north-east area of the project site, raised concerns that with existing and proposed neighbouring wind farms, there will be too many wind turbines and overhead powerlines visible in the local area that could change the character of the area, making it more of an industrial landscape.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The project is undergrounding the internal cabling routes in response to concerns raised by local residents and Moyne Shire that overhead powerlines would cause significant visual impacts and potential safety risks.</li> <li>The approximately 5 kilometres of previously proposed overhead transmission line, connecting the on-site substation to the Tarrone Terminal Station, has been reduced to about 300 metres. This is partly in response to Moyne Shire Council's motion that transmission lines be undergrounded for all future wind farm projects in the Shire (March 2019), and concerns from local residents and other stakeholders about the visual impact and potential safety risks associated with overhead powerlines.</li> <li>Four wind turbines were removed from the south-west section of the project site to provide a larger buffer of the Orford township as a proactive design measure, creating a 3-kilometre buffer. The project has also reduced the maximum number of wind turbines from 99 in 2017 to 59 in this EES.</li> <li>The Hawkesdale township is more than 10 kilometres from the closest project wind turbine.</li> <li>A 1.5-kilometre turbine-free buffer of neighbouring landowner dwellings has been proactively put in place, in excess of the 1-kilometre buffer required under the Victoria Planning Provisions. A 2-kilometre turbine-free buffer has been put in place at some non-involved landowner dwellings in direct response to feedback from those neighbouring residents.</li> <li>The opportunity to have potential visual impacts assessed was available to the owners of all near neighbour properties and was specifically offered to any near neighbour that raised concerns about potential visual impacts.</li> <li>Photomontages depicting what the project would look like once constructed were prepared for eight near neighbours in 2010 and 2011, and for two near neighbours in 2017, from locations of their choosing. The intent was that the photomontages would aid consideration of potential visual impacts and inform further discussion. Photomontages depicting what the project would look like from publicly accessible locations in the local area were displayed at information sessions in July 2019.</li> <li>A landscape and visual impact assessment (provided in Appendix K) was conducted by specialists as a part of the EES process to assess potential landscape and visual impacts (including via new photomontages), and to identify measures to manage potential impacts at sensitive receptors. The findings of this assessment are presented in Chapter 14 – <i>Landscape and visual</i>.</li> </ul>
<b>Damage to roads</b>	
Some local residents and Moyne Shire Council raised concerns that construction of the project could damage roads and create safety risks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A temporary on-site quarry has been incorporated into the project design to internalise traffic and reduce the number of vehicles travelling between external quarries and the project site.</li> <li>A traffic and transport impact assessment (provided in Appendix F) was conducted by specialists as a part of the EES process to assess potential impacts on the local road network, including an assessment of the existing road conditions. The results of this assessment are summarised in Chapter 15 – <i>Traffic and transport</i>. The assessment identified roads requiring upgrading to allow for the construction of the project, and developed management measures to ensure the project leaves the local road network in an equivalent or improved state than before construction starts.</li> <li>A condition assessment of the road network would be done before construction starts and again after construction is completed to ensure the road network is remediated as agreed with Regional Roads Victoria and Moyne Shire Council.</li> <li>A detailed Traffic Management Plan would be developed in consultation with, and endorsed by, the responsible authority before the start of construction.</li> </ul>

**ADVERTISED  
PLAN**

Key issues raised	Response
<b>Property values</b>	
Some local residents are concerned the project will devalue their properties and consider their properties to be 'their super'. That is, the sale of their properties would fund their retirement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wind Prospect offered to provide available research about the potential impact of wind farms on property values to local residents and offered to discuss options for benefit sharing. A summary of research available was displayed at the information sessions in July 2019 and included in the booklet posted to landowners within 10 kilometres of proposed wind turbine locations.</li> <li>• Anecdotally, numerous sales have occurred of landowner and near neighbour properties in recent years, including properties adjoining or very close to the project site as well as many properties within the project site. There has been no indication the project has impacted the contract price or level of interest in any of those properties. While the project has not yet received planning approval, it has been publicly known for more than a decade. Sales have occurred when there has been active communication about the project.</li> <li>• An economic and social impact assessment (provided in Appendix E) was conducted by specialists as part of the EES process to assess potential social and economic impacts and identify management measures to reduce potential negative impacts and capture positive effects.</li> <li>• A substantial Neighbour Benefit Sharing Program has been developed that aligns with DELWP's <i>Community Engagement and Benefit Sharing in Renewable Energy Development: A Guide for Renewable Energy Developers</i> (2021). An initial draft of the Neighbour Benefit Sharing Program was refined in response to feedback from the local community and other stakeholders.</li> </ul>
<b>Cumulative impacts</b>	
Some members of the local community are concerned about potential cumulative impacts from the development of the project and existing and approved wind farm projects in Moyne Shire.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The potential cumulative impacts of the project and nearby existing and approved wind farm projects have been addressed by specialists in their impact assessments, where appropriate. Potential cumulative impacts have been assessed in relation to noise, biodiversity, landscape and visual, and traffic (from other wind farms under construction and the neighbouring blue gum plantation operations).</li> <li>• The project has been designed to comply with regulated noise limits taking into account other existing and proposed wind farms, including the nearby Macarthur Wind Farm.</li> <li>• Potential cumulative landscape and visual impacts have been assessed at key locations, between the project and the existing Macarthur Wind Farm and from the townships of Orford and Hawkesdale.</li> <li>• A larger buffer of 2 kilometres was incorporated into the design in response to specific concerns raised by the owners of some near neighbour dwellings about potential cumulative impacts of the project with the nearby Macarthur Wind Farm.</li> </ul>

**ADVERTISED  
PLAN**

**This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright**

Key issues raised	Response
<b>Aviation</b>	
Some local residents are concerned about the potential impact of the project on their ability to apply fertiliser and weed and pest control via aerial application, and also the potential impact on aerial firefighting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engagement with local residents who raised these concerns has sought to assess potential impacts on their aerial operations and the options available to address these impacts in their specific circumstances.</li> <li>An aviation impact assessment (provided in Appendix O) was conducted by specialists as a part of the EES to assess potential impacts on aviation activities, and to identify measures to manage potential impacts. The assessment findings are summarised in Chapter 23 – <i>Aviation</i>.</li> <li>Meteorological monitoring masts are more difficult to see than wind turbines. To address this risk, it is proposed that all meteorological monitoring masts would be marked in accordance with the National Airports Safeguarding Framework (2012) <i>Guideline D: Managing the risk to aviation safety of wind turbine installations (wind farms)/wind monitoring towers</i>, except for the strobe light, and the base around the outer guy wires would be marked in a contrasting colour to the ground.</li> <li>The CFA Design <i>Guidelines and Model Requirements for Renewable Energy Facilities</i> state that as long as wind turbines are no less than 300 metres apart there is adequate distance for aircraft to operate around a wind energy facility given the appropriate weather and terrain conditions. Fire suppression aircraft operate under visual flight rules and as such, fire suppression aircraft would only operate in areas where there is no smoke and can operate during the day or night. Wind turbines would be at least 300 metres apart.</li> </ul>
<b>Other matters raised by stakeholders</b>	
Noise and disruption during construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Temporary construction noise is to be expected for a wind farm project with large plant and equipment needed to construct the project and to operate the temporary quarry. To minimise the impact of construction noise on the local community, construction activities would generally occur during normal working hours of Monday to Friday, 7 am to 6 pm and Saturday, 7 am to 1 pm.</li> <li>Works outside of these normal hours could be required throughout construction and these occurrences would be communicated in advance with local residents.</li> </ul>
Impact on TV reception and telecommunications links	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An electromagnetic interference impact assessment (provided in Appendix M) was conducted by specialists as a part of the EES process to assess the potential for impacts to TV reception and other telecommunication services, and to identify management measures to address any potential impacts.</li> </ul>
Impacts on Brolga	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A buffer has been designed to largely avoid impacts on nesting and foraging Brolga. No wind turbines or other infrastructure would be within the buffer.</li> </ul>
Impacts on flora and fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A biodiversity impact assessment (provided in Appendix P) was conducted by specialists as part of the EES process to assess potential biodiversity impacts, and to identify management measures to avoid and minimise any potential impacts.</li> </ul>
Impacts on health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Several health and medical organisations have carried out studies and investigations to assess whether wind farms can directly cause health issues. These organisations include the Australian Medical Association (2014), the National Health and Medical Research Council (2015) and the Victorian Department of Health (2013), none of whom have found a direct causal link between wind farms and human health. The Commonwealth government Independent Scientific Committee on Wind Turbines reached a similar conclusion (Davy et al., 2020). For more information, refer to the Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner's observations and recommendations, available at: <a href="https://www.aeic.gov.au/observations-and-recommendations/health-matters">https://www.aeic.gov.au/observations-and-recommendations/health-matters</a>.</li> </ul>

**ADVERTISED  
PLAN**

**This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright**

Key issues raised	Response
Increased fire risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The project has contacted the Country Fire Authority, notifying them of the project and providing an opportunity for the local Country Fire Authority branch to provide comment on any risks associated with their operations. No concerns were raised by the Country Fire Authority about the project in response to the consultation.</li> <li>A member of the Country Fire Authority raised a concern at a public meeting about the potential impact of the project on night aerial firefighting activities. The specialist consultant assessing potential aviation impacts of the project has advised the use of aerial firefighting helicopters in the past has been very limited due to limited approval being granted, while no fixed-wing firefighting aircraft are approved for night operations as these aircraft need specific avionics equipment, night vision equipment, modified instrument panel lighting and two suitably endorsed pilots to fly the aircraft at night.</li> <li>The Country Fire Authority's <i>Guidelines for Renewable Energy Installations</i> (2021) provide details about standard measures and processes in relation to fire safety, risk and emergency management that should be considered when designing, constructing, operating and upgrading renewable energy facilities in Victoria. The project has been designed and would continue to be developed in accordance with the requirements in these guidelines.</li> <li>The Country Fire Authority's <i>Guidelines for Renewable Energy Installations</i> (2021) state that as long as wind turbines are located no less than 300 metres apart there is adequate distance for aircraft to operate around a wind energy facility, given the appropriate weather and terrain conditions. Fire suppression aircraft operate under visual flight rules. As such fire suppression aircraft only operate in areas where there is no smoke and can operate during the day.</li> <li>The project includes the development of around 60.4 kilometres of access tracks (new and existing) in accordance with the Country Fire Authority guidelines that would provide increased firefighting access through the stony rises country across the project site, should this be needed. The project design also includes water tanks in strategic positions around the project site that would be designed to meet the requirements of the Country Fire Authority.</li> <li>Wind turbines are fitted with comprehensive lightning protection systems that safely transfer any high voltages or currents directly to the earth in the event of a lightning strike. They are also fitted with automatic shutdown systems enabling shut down if temperatures reach a set level.</li> <li>In the event of a fire the wind farm would be shut down and this can be done remotely in a matter of minutes.</li> </ul>
The project could be divisive in the local community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The sixteen landowners involved are supportive of the project proceeding, want to avoid any conflict with neighbouring landowners and within the local community generally, and are keen for any concerns about the project to be addressed. Best endeavours have and would continue to be used to manage potential conflict by putting in place best practice stakeholder engagement practices, developing the project in an open and transparent manner, and proactively seeking resolution of any issues or concerns raised.</li> <li>In response to concerns about the equity of financial benefits in the community (i.e., not just landowners receiving financial benefit), the project team consulted widely with the local community through doorknocks, information sessions, a drop-in shopfront in Koroit and mail outs to understand the community's preferences for the design of the Neighbour Benefit Sharing Program.</li> <li>The community feedback was used to shape the proposed Neighbour Benefit Sharing Program, which was then provided to community in December 2020.</li> </ul>

**ADVERTISED  
PLAN**

**This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright**



## 1.8 Engagement during EES exhibition

The EES is made available to the public for review to allow informed submissions to be made. These submissions are then considered by the Minister and the independent Inquiry and Planning Panel during their assessments. The EES is expected to be on exhibition for a minimum of 30 to 40 business days.

The public are informed about the availability of the EES documents in the lead up to, and during, the exhibition period via:

- notification letters and community updates to all landowners within 10 kilometres of a proposed wind turbine location
- up-to-date information on the project website including access to the EES documents
- print advertising in local newspapers informing the community of where they can access the EES documents and make written submissions
- provision of the EES on USB drives, upon request
- public information days in nominated locations local to the project.

## 1.9 Planned engagement post-EES exhibition

The final stage of the EES process is the Minister's assessment, which considers the EES documents, public submissions and the proponent's response to those submissions. The assessment also considers the inquiry report to determine whether the potential environmental effects of the project are acceptable, unacceptable or that the project needs major changes and/or further assessment to achieve acceptable environmental effects.

The Minister's assessment would be placed on both DELWP's website and the project website for public review. The outcome of the decision will also be included in a newsletter sent to the local community and key stakeholders.

If the project proceeds, it would be developed while maintaining the open approach to stakeholder engagement that has been followed throughout its development to date. The project Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan would guide the project's ongoing community and stakeholder engagement throughout the development and operation of the project. This would be a live document and be updated before construction started in consultation with Moyne Shire Council and state agencies. The draft of this plan can be found in Attachment I – *Stakeholder engagement plan*.

Ongoing stakeholder engagement would involve:

- maintaining the project website, providing both up-to-date information on the status of the project during construction and operation as well as provide a means for the community to contact the project team
- periodic meetings of the community engagement committee (or similar agreed group) would continue throughout construction and operation to provide an ongoing pathway for Moyne Shire Council and the local community to receive the latest project information and communicate any issues identified in the community
- maintaining a direct avenue for stakeholders (including members of the local community) to submit complaints, raise issues and ask questions with the project team through a free dial phone number and email
- maintaining a communication database throughout the life of the project to help in identifying and resolving any project issues experienced by stakeholders
- notifying affected landowners about any specific issues with direct impacts on properties (e.g., access changes, out-of-hours work) during construction.

Eligibility for the Neighbour Benefit Sharing Program would be confirmed with community members after project approvals and once the project's design is completed. The details of who is eligible and how the program would operate would be confirmed before construction is completed.

**This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright**

**ADVERTISED  
PLAN**

The environmental management framework also establishes a framework for the proponent to engage with the community and other stakeholders in relation to the environmental performance of the project. To this end, the environmental management framework (contained in Appendix H – *Environmental management framework*) requires procedures for:

- recording complaints and their resolution
- auditing and reporting of performance, including compliance with relevant statutory conditions and standards
- reviewing the effectiveness of the environmental management framework for continuous improvement.

These procedures would cover the requirements of all laws and regulations, including (for example) the Environment Protection Regulations 2021.

## ADVERTISED PLAN

**This copied document to be made available  
for the sole purpose of enabling  
its consideration and review as  
part of a planning process under the  
Planning and Environment Act 1987.  
The document must not be used for any  
purpose which may breach any  
copyright**

# References

- Australian Medical Association (2014) *Wind farms and health. AMA Position Statement*. Accessed 1 September 2021. <<https://www.ama.com.au/position-statement/wind-farms-and-health-2014>>.
- Clean Energy Council (2021) *Best practice charter for Renewable Energy Developments*. Clean Energy Council, Melbourne.
- Clean Energy Council (2018) *Community Engagement Guidelines for the Australian Wind Industry*. Clean Energy Council, Melbourne.
- Country Fire Authority (2021) *Guidelines for Renewable Energy Installations*, Community Infrastructure Department, Specialist Risk and Fire Safety Unit, Country Fire Authority, March 2021.
- DELWP (2017) *Community Engagement and Benefit Sharing in Renewable Energy Development: A Guide for Renewable Energy Developers*, updated July 2021, State of Victoria Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Melbourne VIC.
- DELWP (2018) *Environment Effects Act 1978: EES Consultation Plan Advisory Note*. Published by the Victorian Government Department of Environment, Land Water and Planning, October 2018.
- DELWP (2021) *Development of Wind Energy Facilities in Victoria: Policy and Planning Guidelines*. Published by Victorian Government, Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning, Melbourne 3000.
- Department of Health (2013) *Wind farms, sound and health: Technical information*. Department of Health & Human Services. Published April 2013. Melbourne VIC.
- Department of Sustainability and Environment (2006) *Ministerial Guidelines for Assessment of Environmental Effects under the Environment Effects Act 1978*. Published by the Victorian Government Department of Sustainability and Environment, Melbourne, June 2006.
- National Airports Safeguarding Framework (2012) *Guideline D: Managing the risk to aviation safety of wind turbine installations (wind farms)/wind monitoring towers*
- National Health and Medical Research Council (2015) *Information Paper: Evidence on Wind Farms and Human Health*. Canberra, National Health and Medical Research Council, 2015.
- Office of the National Wind Farm Commissioner (2018) *Annual Report to the Parliament of Australia*, year ending 31 December 2017. National Wind Farm Commissioner, Melbourne VIC.
- Davy, J. L., Burgemeister, K., Hillman, D., & Carlile, S. (2020). *A Review of the Potential Impacts of Wind Turbine Noise in the Australian Context*. Acoustics Australia, 1-17.

**This copied document to be made available  
for the sole purpose of enabling  
its consideration and review as  
part of a planning process under the  
Planning and Environment Act 1987.  
The document must not be used for any  
purpose which may breach any  
copyright**

**ADVERTISED  
PLAN**