Newsletter | Edition 1 | July 2022

WHYTE YARCOWIE
Wind Farm

INTRODUCING THE PROPOSED WHYTE YARCOWIE WIND FARM

Wind Prospect is undertaking feasibility studies for the development of a wind farm with up to 85 wind turbines near Whyte Yarcowie, within the Regional Council of Goyder local government area. The site is east of Whyte Yarcowie, north of Hallett and south of Terowie. The proposed project will be known as the Whyte Yarcowie Wind Farm.

The project site has been chosen due to its high wind resource and location near existing transmission infrastructure.

Wind Prospect has been undertaking wind monitoring at the site for some time, with a wind monitoring tower erected in 2012. We plan to undertake more extensive wind monitoring over the next few years.

Wind farms are the product of a collaborative process between developers, landholders, local communities, Aboriginal custodians, technicians, data analysts, engineers, biologists, sociologists, local and state government, elected members, administrators and planners, manufacturers, small business and volunteers. It is a long journey from concept to reality and there is a rigorous process that all proposals must be tested against.

Consultation with key stakeholders for the Whyte Yarcowie Wind Farm is now underway. We will be meeting with people near the project, as well as the Regional Council of Goyder, State and Federal Government bodies and other interested individuals and groups. Community information sessions are being planned for late August 2022. This will be a great opportunity for the community to meet the project team and learn more about the project. Further details will be advertised prior to the event. We are also seeking applications for our Community Sponsorship Fund and your input into the Benefit Sharing Program. See the back page for more details.

A key next step for the project is to install two new 130m tall temporary wind monitoring masts. A development application for these masts has recently been submitted to the Mid North Regional Assessment Panel. If approved and installed, the wind data received from the masts will help us to refine the project's design. The revised design, construction, operation and eventual decommissioning activities can then undergo various environmental and social impact assessments to inform the development application for the wind farm.

ABOUT US

Wind Prospect has been developing renewable energy projects in Australia since 2000.

We have achieved planning approval for 22 wind farms and two solar farms, totalling more than 3,000 megawatts of electricity generating capacity. Of these projects, more than 2,100 megawatts are either operating or under construction.

Wind Prospect uses this experience to identify, design and develop projects that minimise long-term generation costs while working closely with the local community to optimise the project design and minimise local impacts.

We have substantial development pipeline of Australian projects, including the proposed Willatook and Hexham wind farms.

We are passionate about creating a better future for Australians by developing clean, green energy projects and engaging with local communities to ensure they are involved in every step of the journey.

Further information about Wind Prospect can be found at www.windprospect.com.au.

KEY FACTS

Number of turbines:
Up to 85

Turbine height:
Up to 250m

Proposal location:
4km south-east of Whyte Yarcowie

Site size:
5,422 hectares

Local government:
Regional Council of Goyder

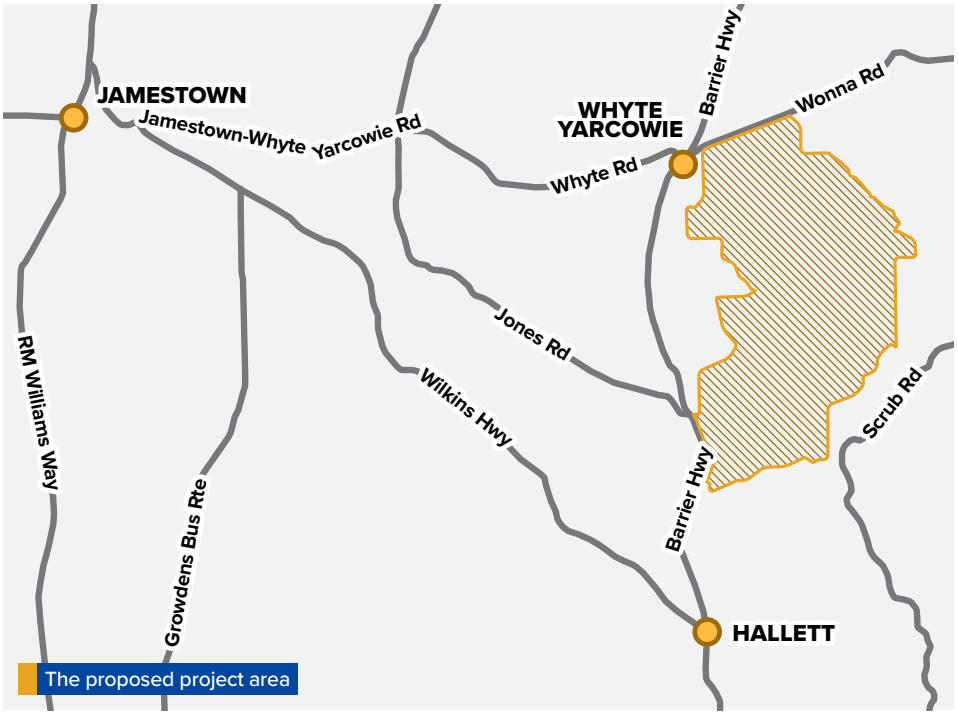
Project status:
Feasibility stage

Construction period:
Two to three years

Project lifespan:
25 years plus

PROPOSED PROJECT SITE

The proposed project area is located east of the Barrier Highway, north of Hallett and south of Terowie.



PROJECT STAGES

Developing a wind farm is a long, complicated, and time-consuming process. It takes several years and a lot of work to understand the potential social, economic and environmental impacts and benefits of a proposed project. This work is guided by a rigorous approvals process and considerable amounts of consultation. We are currently in the first stage of the approvals process and will be engaging closely with the local community from now through to decommissioning in 25 years' time (if we are successful in obtaining a development approval).

STAGE 1 (Current) — PROJECT FEASIBILITY

- Initial planning and environment studies are undertaken and the new monitoring masts are installed. The proposed wind farm design is optimised.
- Community engagement commences.

STAGE 2 (Late 2023) — ENVIRONMENTAL AND PLANNING APPROVALS

- Submission of State and Commonwealth referral forms to determine the suitable planning pathway and application process.
- Lodgement of certification from the Office of the Technical Regulator (OTR) to demonstrate that the project will contribute to the stability and security of the state's energy grid.
- Preparation and lodgement of the wind farm development application. Including referral of the project to relevant state agencies, public notification process and decision by the relevant authority.
- Community engagement continues.

STAGE 3 (Late 2024) — POST PLANNING

- Obtain pre-construction approvals, complete detailed design and finalise project financing.
- Community engagement continues.

STAGE 4 (TBC) — CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION COMMENCEMENT

- Civil and electrical works, followed by installation and commissioning of wind turbines.
- Community engagement continues.

STAGE 5 (TBC) — DECOMMISSIONING

- Infrastructure removed and land returned to previous state. Community engagement will continue during this stage.

ASSESSMENT WORKS TO DATE

Wind monitoring

A 60m wind monitoring mast was erected in 2012 and has been collecting wind data at the project site. The data collected indicates an excellent wind resource exists at the site, however that mast was too short to accurately measure wind speeds at the height of modern wind turbines, so it has recently been decommissioned.

A development application for two new 130m wind monitoring masts has been submitted and, if approved, it is anticipated they will be erected in late 2022.

Ecology

Flora and fauna surveys have been undertaken since late 2019. These surveys have mapped the vegetation associations and identified and mapped ecological constraints across the project site including Commonwealth and state threatened flora and fauna species, threatened ecological communities, raptor nests and significant weeds.

Surveys conducted November 2021 and throughout 2022 have helped identify two locations for the new wind monitoring masts which avoid impacts to threatened species.

The ecology assessments conducted to date show that the ecological impacts of the project could likely be managed by avoiding most potential impacts to threatened flora, fauna and ecological communities and minimising others. A detailed assessment of potential impacts will be completed once a revised design is ready. The project design will then undergo further updates to mitigate impacts.

Heritage

A desktop cultural heritage assessment has been undertaken for the preparation of the development application for the two wind monitoring masts finding a low likelihood of any impacts to cultural heritage values. While this assessment was focussed on the two discrete mast locations and the associated access routes, the assessment provides an early insight into the potential occurrence of cultural heritage values that may be present across the broader wind farm site.

Other assessments

Further detailed impact assessments will be undertaken including noise, traffic and transport, aviation, landscape and visual, hydrology and hydrogeology, electromagnetic interference, and shadow flicker as part of future assessment processes.

HAVE YOUR SAY

Community and stakeholder engagement will be ongoing throughout the project. Your input, feedback and views on the proposed Whyte Yarcowie Wind Farm are important. We genuinely want to hear what you have to say, as your opinions can lead to improvements to the project design. If you are after more information, please don't hesitate to get in touch. We have established the following lines of communication and encourage you to contact us with any questions or comments:

1800 595 197

info@whyteyarcowiewindfarm.com.au

Information sessions: Project information sessions will be planned. Further details will be advertised prior to the event.

BENEFIT SHARING PROGRAM

We hope to find ways to benefit and help the local communities prosper through the development. If the proposed Whyte Yarcowie Wind Farm is constructed, a benefit sharing program will be implemented that will operate for the lifetime of the project.

The benefit sharing program will be further refined but currently is proposed to include:

Neighbour Benefit Program: A one-off construction payment, and a separate annual benefit payment will be available for eligible neighbouring dwellings during operation of the wind farm.

Energy Cost Offset Plan: A benefit payment designed to help the occupants of neighbouring dwellings with the cost of electricity.

Community Benefit Fund: Once planning approval is received, this is an annual grant-based fund of $1,000 per wind turbine, to be used for community initiatives and administered by a committee comprised of community members, other stakeholders and the wind farm owner.

Community Sponsorship Fund – Applications now open:
While most of the benefit sharing programs will not commence until the wind farm has been approved, the annual Community Sponsorship Fund is already in operation and applications are welcome. The fund provides an annual fund of $10,000 per year to assist community groups and organisations that operate in the vicinity of the proposed wind farm to improve their services, programs, initiatives and/or facilities. Please contact us to learn more.

We are seeking your feedback on the proposed benefit sharing program and will use this feedback to develop the details for each benefit sharing initiative.

CONTACT US

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