



Newsletter | Edition 4 | September 2024

WHYTE YARCOWIE

Wind Farm

PROJECT UPDATE

The development of the Whyte Yarcowie Wind Farm project continues in 2024, with the project team working towards a Renewable Energy Infrastructure Licence application for the project later in the year. This licence is required under the new Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Act 2023 (HRE Act), replacing the need for a planning permit under the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016.

Key progress has been made in the development of a project layout with input from our environmental consultants and stakeholder feedback. The environmental assessments are all nearing completion and the results will be incorporated into the project's Environmental Impact Report.

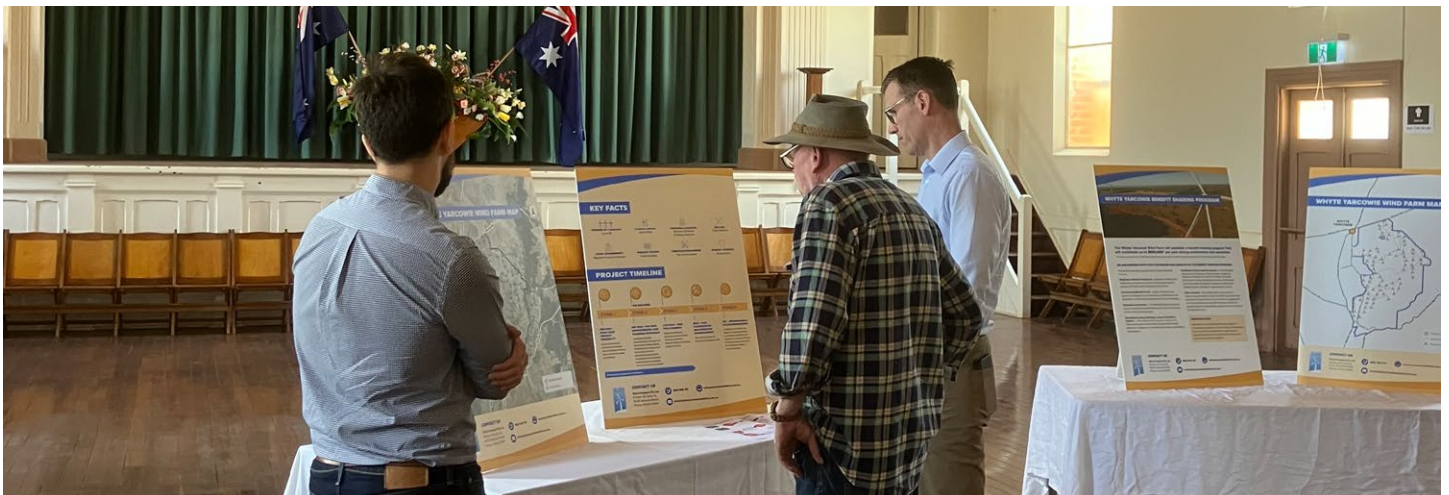
Design development

Our engineers have developed a wind farm layout in consultation with our specialist consultants and key stakeholders.

The design seeks to balance the engineering requirements of developing a world class wind farm with the minimisation of impacts to community and the local environment.

This project layout is being assessed by our environmental consultants for impacts on the environment, heritage and community, and these assessments will inform the licence application documentation.

The design will be subject to further changes based on regulator and other stakeholder feedback during the approvals process, and to a lesser extent, once a construction contractor is engaged (e.g., through final positing for optimal placement of wind turbines).



KEY FACTS

Number of turbines:

Up to 83

Turbine height:

Up to 250m

Proposal location:

East and south east of
Whyte Yarcowie

Site size:

9,944 hectares

Local government:

Regional Council of Goyder

Project status:

Feasibility stage

Construction period:

Two to three years

Project lifespan:

25 years plus

Meeting with government agencies

In recent months the project team has met with State and Commonwealth Government departments to discuss the proposed Whyte Yarcowie Wind Farm.

These meetings provided a valuable opportunity for the project team to receive feedback from each of the agencies about key issues that they wanted to see the environmental impact assessments address, and to provide feedback on the ongoing development of key project components.

These meetings have involved representatives from Department for Trade and Investment – Planning and Land Use (DTI-PLUS), the Regional Council of Goyder, Environment Protection Agency (SA EPA), Department of Environment and Water (DEW), Department of Infrastructure and Transport (DIT), the Department for Energy and Mining (DEM) and the Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW).

Feedback from these agencies has informed updates to our environmental assessments.

Wind monitoring

The project's wind monitoring regime continues, with 18 months of data now having been recorded from the two 130m masts installed in November 2022. The two masts are providing key data on wind speeds and directions that will be used in the selection of wind turbine models and final positioning of turbine locations. The data from these masts is being supported by the recent acquisition of two LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) wind monitoring units. These units will support the wind model that is used in the detailed design of the wind farm, and the final investment decision for the project, which would follow the project approvals processes if successful.



Figure 1 Wind Prospect staff member installing the mobile wind monitoring unit

COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIP FUND

The sponsorship fund is open and accepting proposals. \$10,000 is available each year, and we have some funds available for suitable projects.

So far this year, the project team is proud to have provided support for:

- the Burra Booborowie Hallett Football and Netball Club,
- the Terowie Citizens Association Community with a purchase of a defibrillator, and
- the Hallett Community and Sports Association for upgrade works to the Hallett memorial gardens.

If you have a community group, a project or event that is having a positive impact in your community, but could use financial support, please submit an application form via our website: whyteyarcowiewindfarm.com.au/community/ or call us to discuss on **1800 595 197**.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSIONS

The Wind Prospect team will be running another series of community information sessions to coincide with the finalisation of the project's Environmental Impact Report.

The sessions are yet to be scheduled and postcard invitations will be sent out to all newsletter recipients confirming the time and date of these sessions.

At these sessions we will provide community with key updates on the project, its design and the results of the assessments that are being completed for the project's licence application documents.

We will also provide information about how community members can participate in the approvals process and have your say.



Figure 2 Wind Prospect staff member with community member at a Community Information Session

THE HYDROGEN AND RENEWABLE ENERGY ACT

On the 11th of July the Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Act 2023 (HRE Act), was brought into operation. This legislation will regulate all large-scale hydrogen and renewable energy projects across South Australia.

The project team has met with the Department of Energy and Mining (DEM) who are responsible for managing the HRE Act, to understand the requirements of the new approvals process.

The team will be working closely with DEM to develop an Environment Impact Report and Statement of Environmental Objectives that responds to the environmental and community aspects that are relevant to our project.

More information about the HRE Act, the supporting regulations and guidelines can be found at www.energymining.sa.gov.au/industry/hydrogen-and-renewable-energy/hydrogen-and-renewable-energy-act

The project team will communicate with community and key stakeholders about opportunities to provide feedback on the project throughout the licence application process.

Assessments being prepared

- Ecology (flora and fauna)
- Noise
- Traffic impact and transport route
- Landscape and visual impact
- Aviation
- Flooding
- Planning
- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage
- Non-Aboriginal heritage
- Shadow flicker
- Electromagnetic interference
- Fire risk

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:

EPBC REFERRAL

The project has recently lodged a referral to the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act). The project team and our consultant ecologists have been working on the ecology assessments of the project site since 2019.

This referral identifies the potential impacts to Matters of National Environmental Significance, protected under the Environment Protection and Biosecurity Conservation Act 1999. The outcome of the Federal Government's assessment of the referral will confirm the assessment pathway required for the project under the EPBC Act.

BENEFITS SHARING PROPOSAL

Based on the current design of the Whyte Yarcowie Wind Farm, the project will establish a benefit sharing program that will contribute up to \$500,000* per year during construction and operation.

**This amount is based on an 83-turbine wind farm being constructed. A smaller sized project would see this amount adjusted accordingly.*

The design and make-up of the benefit sharing program needs community input on which programs should be prioritised and how the funds should be shared. Possible components include:

Subsidised electricity – The benefits sharing program could include discounted electricity for the community in the vicinity of the project, for the life of the project.

Neighbour benefits payments – Annual cash payments made to the neighbours nearest the project to recognise that the project will impact the landscape around them.

Community benefit fund – A pool of money that would be managed by a community committee and be allocated to community projects, events and initiatives.

If you have any questions, feedback or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to the project via our contact details below.



1800 595 197



info@whyteyarcowiewindfarm.com.au



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

Construction period payments – Noting that a number of the impacts on the local community occur during the construction period, a once-off construction payment could be appropriate, acknowledging the impacts on the project’s neighbours during this time.

Traditional Owner benefits sharing – Wind Prospect recognises the Ngadjuri People as the Traditional Owners of the land on which the Whyte Yarcowie Wind Farm is being developed and we look forward to working with the Ngadjuri People to protect and celebrate their heritage for generations to come.

The project team is also keen to explore opportunities for non-financial benefits that the project can provide to the community. If you have any suggestions of how the project can support the local community beyond financial contributions, please let us know what is important to you.

Important note: Participation in the benefit sharing program is completely voluntary and non-binding. Participation does not prevent anyone from opposing the project throughout the development process or during the project’s operation. The governance of the benefit sharing programs will be developed following the project approval process in consultation with council representatives and community members.



If you are after more information, please don’t hesitate to get in touch. Wind Prospect have established the following lines of communication and encourage you to contact us with any questions or comments.



CONTACT US

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