

July 2026

WHYTE YARCOWIE WIND FARM

Transmission Line and Battery Energy Storage System

Summary of Draft Environmental Assessments and Objectives

The Whyte Yarcowie Wind Farm is a proposed renewable energy project located near the township of Whyte Yarcowie, approximately 180 kilometres (km) north of Adelaide.

To support the wind farm and connect it to the electricity network, the project will also include:

- a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), which stores electricity and helps maintain a reliable power supply
- an approximately 19.5-km overhead transmission line connecting the wind farm to ElectraNet's existing Belalie Substation
- an expansion of the Belalie Substation to accommodate the new connection.

Wind Prospect, on behalf of Whyte Yarcowie Wind Farm Pty Ltd, are seeking comment from interested stakeholders on the BESS, transmission line and substation expansion components of the project, to help inform the environmental assessment currently being undertaken as per South Australian legislation. The assessment considers potential impacts on the environment, communities, heritage, biodiversity, land use and other important values.

The assessment has informed the preparation of a draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and draft Statement of Environmental Objectives (SEO).

This summary document provides an overview of:

- the planning approval process
- community engagement undertaken to date
- key findings of the environmental studies
- proposed environmental objectives
- opportunities to provide feedback.

If you would like to find out more about the Whyte Yarcowie Wind Farm Transmission Line and BESS project, please visit the project website here

<https://whyteyarcowiewindfarm.com.au/>



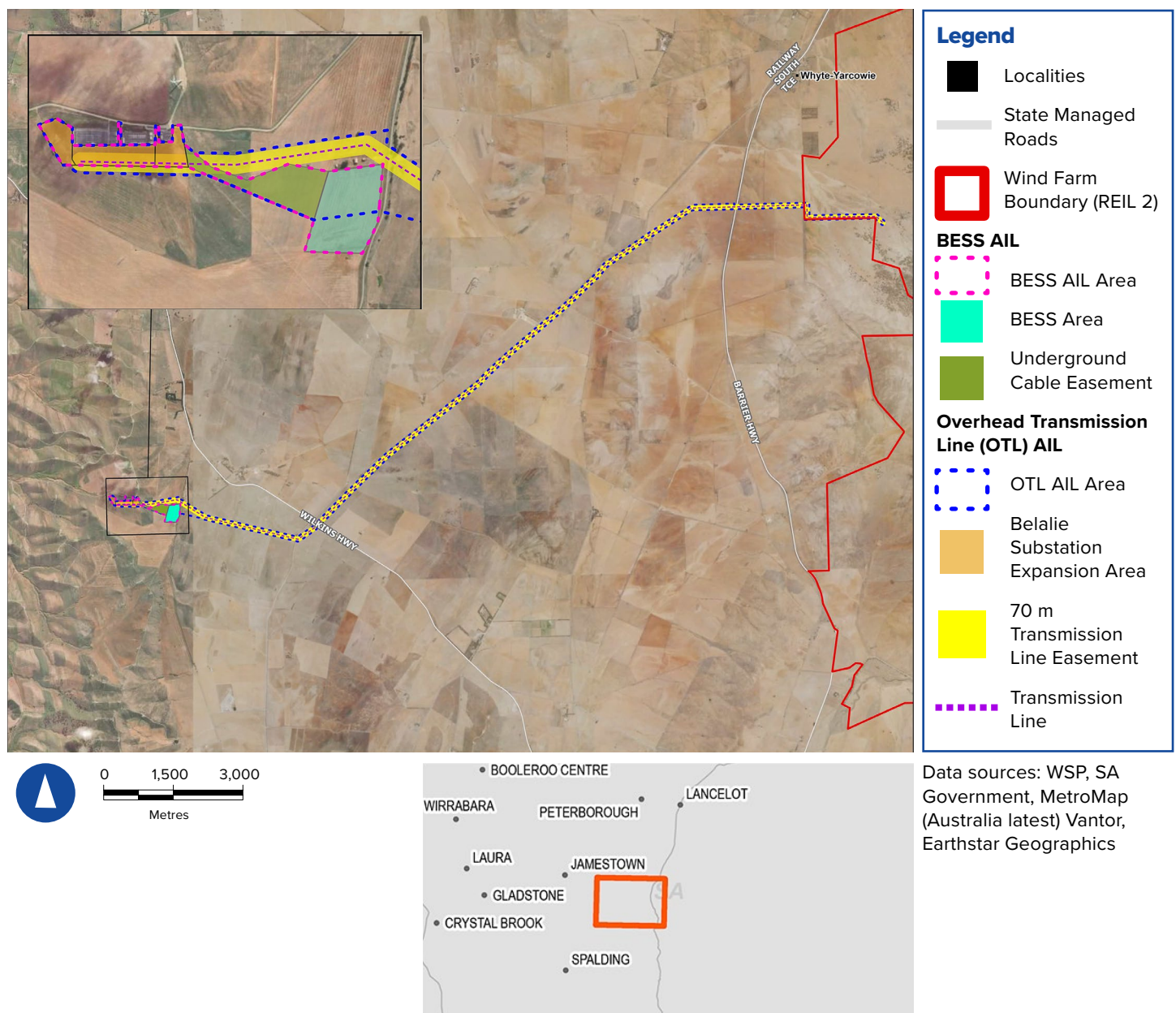
Planning and Approvals

The Whyte Yarcowie Wind Farm and its supporting infrastructure are being assessed under South Australia's Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Act 2023 (HRE Act). The Department for Energy and Mining (DEM) is responsible for administering the assessment process.

Wind Prospect lodged a Renewable Energy Infrastructure Licence (REIL) application for the wind farm in late 2024, which is currently being considered by DEM.

Wind Prospect will be seeking separate authorisations for the BESS, overhead transmission line and Belalie Substation components of the Project under Associated Infrastructure Licence (AIL) applications.

As part of the approval process for the AILs, environmental studies have been completed, and draft EIR and SEO documents have been prepared. Prior to lodgement of the EIR and SEO documents with DEM for assessment, Wind Prospect are required to seek comments from interested stakeholders, to support the finalisation of these documents.



Community Engagement

Community engagement for the broader Whyte Yarcowie Wind Farm has been ongoing since July 2022.

Engagement has included:

- one-on-one discussions with host, neighbouring and nearby landholders
- consultation with the Ngadjuri Nation Aboriginal Corporation
- engagement with local councils, government agencies and elected representatives
- a project website, newsletters and community updates
- investment in local initiatives through a community sponsorship fund
- twelve community information sessions held in Hallett, Terowie and Whyte Yarcowie.

Community feedback has covered topics including biodiversity, visual amenity, noise, roads and traffic, construction impacts, cultural heritage, agriculture, fire management and community benefit sharing. Feedback has been used to inform project planning and environmental assessment.

What happens next?

Wind Prospect are seeking comment from interested stakeholders on the draft EIR and SEO for the proposed BESS, transmission line and Belalie Substation components of the Whyte Yarcowie Wind Farm.

Once comments are received, Wind Prospect will review all comments provided, and where relevant, will update the EIR and SEO to address these comments. The documents will then be lodged with DEM for assessment, in support of the AIL applications.

As part of DEMs assessment process, they will undertake further community consultation on the final EIR and SEO, to help inform their assessment and decision on the project.

Wind Prospect prepares draft EIR and SEO

WE ARE HERE

Community feedback sought on draft EIR and SEO

Community Consultation

Consultation Report and the final EIR and SEO lodged to DEM

DEM-led 30-day public consultation on EIR and SEO

Community Consultation

Revised EIR and SEO lodged to DEM

KEY ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES

The EIR considers a range of environmental and social topics for the proposed BESS, transmission line and Belalie Substation components of the Whyte Yarcowie Wind Farm. Key findings are summarised below.

Native vegetation, flora and fauna

- Most of the project area is located within existing cropping and grazing land, with only small areas of native vegetation present.
- Approximately 0.99 hectares of native vegetation may need to be cleared to support the project; comprised of open grassland species in poor to moderate condition, including *Austrostipa* spp. / *Rytidosperma* spp. Very Open Grassland and *Enneapogon nigricans* Grassland. No threatened flora species of Threatened Ecological Communities will be cleared for the works.
- Studies identified nine native and one introduced fauna species within the project area, including the Commonwealth endangered Pygmy Blue-tongue Lizard (PBTL). As a result, the project design has been amended to avoid impacts to PBTL and their habitat as far as possible; along with broader impacts to native vegetation and fauna.
- Remaining impacts will be managed through vegetation clearance controls, pre-construction surveys, rehabilitation and ongoing monitoring, including lodgement of a native vegetation clearance application to the Native Vegetation Council.
- Impacts on matters protected under Commonwealth legislation are being assessed separately by the Australian Government.

Surface water

- The project area contains minor drainage lines but no major rivers, lakes or water bodies.
- Flood modelling identified no significant flood risks within the project area.
- Infrastructure has been designed to avoid impacts on natural drainage patterns where possible, to avoid impacts to the wider drainage catchment.
- Erosion, sediment and stormwater controls will be implemented during construction.
- A Water Supply Options Assessment will be undertaken to determine water required to support construction of the project. The assessment will involve:
 - developing a list of potential options and completing a high-level go/no-go assessment
 - detailed assessments of options to be further considered/progressed, to include both technical and approval feasibility
 - site investigations to “prove up” a potential source and inform an impact assessment and any approval/licensing requirements.

A key outcome of the assessment will be to determine the sustainability of expected water volume requirements on the various supply options. Any water required for construction will be sourced through approved arrangements, and any groundwater extraction will require separate approvals and will be appropriately monitored.



Aboriginal cultural heritage

- The project is located on Ngadjuri Country.
- Desktop heritage assessments found no known Aboriginal heritage sites within the project area, and indicated a low likelihood of impacts on Aboriginal cultural heritage.
- Ongoing engagement with the Ngadjuri Nation Aboriginal Corporation will continue throughout project development.
- Cultural heritage surveys will be undertaken before construction begins.

Historic heritage

- No listed non-Aboriginal heritage places have been identified within the project area.
- Two areas containing historic stone structures were identified in close proximity to the transmission line corridor. The project design will avoid all direct impacts to these structures. Construction management measures, such as exclusion zones, will be implemented to avoid damage to these features.

Planning and land use

- The project is located within land zoned for rural uses. Renewable energy infrastructure is an envisaged land use within the planning framework.
- The project has been designed to support ongoing agricultural activities where possible. It is anticipated that surrounding agricultural land uses directly adjacent to the project area will continue throughout the construction and operation of the project. In particular, Wind Prospect and its contractors will adhere to biosecurity measures to avoid and minimise risk to neighbouring agricultural activities.

Visual amenity

- Visual impacts are expected to be most noticeable close to the project, and will primarily relate to the transmission line component, as the BESS will be mostly screened by surrounding landforms while the Belalie Substation expansion will be collocated and partially screened by existing substation infrastructure.
- Visual impacts from the project are expected to reduce significantly with distance and become negligible beyond 10 km
- Infrastructure design and siting have considered opportunities to reduce visual effects, where practicable.

Noise

- Detailed noise modelling has been undertaken in accordance with South Australian requirements.
- The assessment found the BESS is expected to comply with relevant operational noise criteria at all nearby sensitive receivers.
- Temporary construction noise will be managed through standard construction controls and communication with nearby landholders.

Traffic and access

- Construction will increase traffic on local roads, particularly during peak construction periods.
- Due to the low existing traffic volumes, some roads will experience a noticeable increase in vehicle movements.
- Traffic assessments found these impacts can be managed safely.
- Some intersection upgrades may be required to safely accommodate oversized construction vehicles.
- Traffic management measures will be implemented to maintain road safety and minimise disruption.
- Traffic associated with ongoing operation of the project is expected to be low.

Aviation

- The project has been assessed for potential aviation impacts.
- The primary consideration relates to aerial agricultural operations and nearby aviation activities.
- A private airstrip located adjacent to the transmission line corridor has been identified and options are being considered to minimise aviation safety risks.
- Consultation will continue with affected stakeholders and relevant authorities.
- Appropriate safety measures will be implemented where required.



Air quality

- The main air quality impact is expected to be temporary dust generated during construction.
- Dust suppression and site management measures will be implemented to minimise impacts on nearby properties and road users.
- No ongoing air quality impacts are expected during normal operation of the project.

Battery safety and bushfire

- The project includes a BESS designed in accordance with relevant Australian and international standards.
- Potential risks, including thermal runaway events and fire, have been assessed.
- The assessment found these risks can be reduced to a low level through appropriate design, fire protection systems and operational controls.
- Emergency response procedures, fire protection systems and a Bushfire Management Plan will be implemented and will be developed in consultation with the CFS.
- Ongoing monitoring and maintenance will support the safe operation of the facility.

Public health and safety

- Potential risks to the public include traffic incidents, fire, electric shock, hazardous substances, dust and noise.
- The project will be designed, constructed and operated in accordance with relevant safety requirements and standards.
- Site security measures, emergency response procedures and operational management plans will be implemented to protect workers, landholders and the wider community.
- Risks to public health and safety are considered manageable through the proposed mitigation measures.

Social impacts and community benefits

- The project is expected to provide economic benefits through local spending, employment and contracting opportunities.
- Construction is expected to support up to 150 full-time equivalent jobs, with a smaller workforce required during operation.
- Local businesses may benefit from increased demand for goods, services and accommodation.
- Temporary construction impacts may include increased traffic, noise, dust and pressure on accommodation and local services.
- Community concerns raised during consultation include traffic, visual impacts, noise, fire management and impacts on agricultural activities.
- A community benefit sharing program is proposed as part of the wider wind farm project.
- Community engagement will continue throughout construction and operation, with processes in place for community members to raise questions, concerns and feedback.



PROPOSED ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES

The SEO sets out the environmental outcomes the project must achieve during construction, operation and decommissioning. If approved, these objectives will guide how the project is managed and monitored throughout its life.

Biodiversity and land management

- No unauthorised disturbance to native vegetation and fauna, with impacts avoided or minimised wherever possible.
- Land disturbed by the project is appropriately rehabilitated following construction and decommissioning.
- No introduction or spread of pest plants, pest animals or plant and soil pathogens.

Water, soil and environmental protection

- No unacceptable impacts on surface water, drainage lines, watercourses or waterbodies.
- No adverse impacts on groundwater quality or groundwater resources.
- No unacceptable exposure of people, the environment or groundwater to contaminated materials or hazardous substances.

Heritage protection

- No unauthorised disturbance to Aboriginal cultural heritage sites, objects or remains.
- No unauthorised disturbance to non-Aboriginal heritage places.

Amenity and community

- No unacceptable noise impacts during construction, operation or decommissioning.
- No unacceptable disruption to the surrounding road network as a result of project traffic.
- No unacceptable disturbance to landholders, neighbouring communities or other stakeholders.

Visual amenity and air quality

- No unacceptable impacts on visual amenity.
- No unacceptable air quality impacts, including dust generated during construction.

Safety and emergency management

- Maintain aviation safety.
- No uncontrolled fires as a result of project activities.
- Maintain the health and safety of workers, the public and other third parties.

Each objective is supported by assessment criteria and performance measures that will be used to monitor compliance and environmental performance throughout the life of the project. The operations and maintenance contractor will also be required to report incidents and demonstrate compliance with the requirements of the SEO and the HRE Act.

Detailed assessment criteria, monitoring requirements and reporting obligations for each objective are contained within the full SEO.

HAVE YOUR SAY

The draft EIR and SEO are now available for review.

Consultation period: 6 July 2026 – 31 July 2026

We encourage community members, landholders, stakeholders and interested organisations to read the documents and provide feedback. Feedback helps identify any issues that may not have been considered and assists in refining the project and its environmental management measures.

We are particularly interested in feedback on:

- the environmental values that are important to community
- potential impacts that should be considered
- the proposed environmental objectives and management measures
- any opportunities to further avoid, reduce or manage impacts.

Where can I view the documents?

The full draft EIR and SEO can be viewed and downloaded at:



whyteyarcowiewindfarm.com.au

How can I provide feedback?

Feedback can be provided via:

Email



info@whyteyarcowiewindfarm.com.au

Mail



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What Happens Next?

Once the consultation period closes, all submissions will be reviewed by the project team and considered alongside the findings of the environmental studies.

Where appropriate, feedback will be used to update the EIR and SEO before they are submitted to the Department for Energy and Mining.

A consultation summary report will be prepared following the consultation period. This report will summarise the feedback received and explain how key issues and comments have been considered.

Community will have further opportunity to comment on the AILs through the DEM led consultation.

Once the timing of the DEM led consultation is known, stakeholders on our email and mailing list will be notified about how to access the final documents for review. Please reach out if you would like to be added to receive project updates.

