

Newsletter | July 2026

WHYTE YARCOWIE

Wind Farm

Hello, we're writing to update you on progress with the Whyte Yarcowie Wind Farm since our last newsletter and community information sessions in 2025, and to outline what is coming up over the next few months.

PROJECT UPDATE

Since our last update, the project team has been focused on:

Renewable Energy Infrastructure Licence (REIL)

Following the public exhibition of our REIL application in April–June 2025, we received submissions from community members and government agencies.

We've reviewed this feedback carefully and have carried out additional environmental surveys to address the issues raised and completed a comprehensive design review and update

This has taken some time, but as a result the updated project design reduces impacts on protected grasslands, the Pygmy Blue-tongue Lizard, and other environmental values.

This new project design has moved access tracks into less impactful locations, and we have reduced the overall scale of the wind farm from up-to-83 wind turbines, to now be up-to-47 wind turbines.

This revised project design acknowledges the ecological values of our project site, and also the realities of the South Australian energy market.

We will soon be submitting our formal responses to public submissions made on the REIL application last year to inform the Minister's decision-making process in late 2026.

The response document will be provided to the Department for Energy and Mining with an updated Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and Statement of Environmental Objectives (SEO) in the coming months.

The updated project design has sought to address issues raised by submissions and the project has made additional commitments to avoid, reduce and manage project impacts.

Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and wind farm transmission line

We have undertaken feasibility assessment for a BESS as part of the broader Whyte Yarcowie Wind Farm project. Feasibility studies confirm a large-scale battery can be integrated at a site near the Belalie substation. The battery and wind farm would each have their own grid connection at the Belalie substation and operate independently.

We have also completed assessments on the proposed transmission line route from the proposed wind farm to Belalie substation and have been engaging with ElectraNet to facilitate the connection.

Capacity Investment Scheme

We welcome the recent announcement from the Hon Chris Bowen MP, Minister for Climate Change and Energy that the proposed Whyte Yarcowie Wind Farm has been successful in the Australian Commonwealth Government's Tender 7 of the Capacity Investment Scheme (CIS).

The CIS is an Australian Government initiative aimed at accelerating investment in renewable energy generation and dispatchable storage. The scheme provides a long-term revenue safety net that decreases financial risk for investors, ensuring more renewable energy projects get built.

The success of our CIS application does not guarantee project success, and the project still needs to secure our licences and approvals, but it is an important milestone for the project, taking it a step closer to fruition in the competitive South Australian energy market.



Targeted ecology surveys

Our ecologists have completed targeted surveys for species listed under the *Environment Protection & Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act), including the Plains Wanderer, Flinders Ranges Worm Lizard, Pygmy Blue-tongue Lizard. Regional assessments have been completed for the Blue-winged Parrot and Southern Whiteface to understand the potential for these bird species to utilise the project area and be impacted by the project.

These surveys and assessments have informed how we design the project to minimise impacts on local biodiversity.



Community Sponsorship Fund

Thank you to everyone who applied to our Community Sponsorship Fund. Due to the strong response, we've increased our annual budget from \$10,000 to \$15,000.

The \$15,000 budget applies from 2026 and if the project is approved, we aim to expand support further during construction.

We appreciate all the initiatives put forward and the effort behind each application. While we're not able to fund every project at this stage, we value the important work being done across the community.

This year we have been pleased to support:

- North East Isolated Children's Parents' Association (NEICPA) Conference, held in Burra
- Jamestown Bowling Club – facility upgrades
- Whyte Yarcowie Public Hall – Event support

We look forward to continuing to support local community organisations as the project progresses.

WHAT'S COMING UP

Community information sessions

We are hosting another round of community drop-in sessions in July and look forward to providing the community with a project update.

We welcome community members to come and chat with our project team, and learn about the updated wind farm design, and the findings from key technical studies that went into the applications for the transmission line and BESS.

These sessions will also provide an opportunity to discuss the community benefits sharing proposal with members of the community.

If you cannot attend these sessions but would like more information, we encourage you to get in touch with our team via our contact on the back page.

Details of our updated project design, as well as information about our BESS and high voltage transmission line will also be uploaded to our project website.

The information sessions will be held at:

Whyte Yarcowie Public Hall

Wednesday 15 July
12pm - 3pm

Terowie Institute Supper Room

Wednesday 15 July
5pm - 7.30pm

Hallett Hall

Thursday 16 July
12pm - 3pm

Associated Infrastructure Licence (AIL) applications

Following the community information sessions and other consultation activities being conducted with project stakeholders, application documents for the BESS and transmission line will be finalised and submitted to the Department for Energy and Mining, and released for public consultation soon afterwards.

Renewable Energy Infrastructure Licence (REIL) response to submissions

We will be submitting our formal responses to public submissions made on the REIL application last year to inform the Minister's decision-making process in the coming months. The response document will be provided with an updated EIR and SEO and the updated wind farm design.

The updated project design has sought to address issues raised by submissions and the project has made additional commitments to avoid, reduce and manage impacts of the project.

EPBC preliminary documentation

We are also preparing documentation for the Commonwealth Government's environmental assessment process under the EPBC Act.

This report will be made available later in the year, giving the community an opportunity to review and provide feedback on the project as it relates to the Commonwealth's Matters of National Environmental Significance.

Heritage and geotechnical surveys

Later this year we are anticipating the completion of geotechnical investigations and Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Surveys. These surveys will help project engineers make minor refinements to the project design before construction contractors are engaged.



COMMUNITY BENEFITS PROPOSAL

Following a reduction in project size through the design review process, we are pleased to confirm that we will retain the full value of the original community benefits package.

If constructed, the project will contribute up to \$500,000 per year to the community during operation, for the life of the project.

The draft benefits package includes:

- A Community Benefits Fund for local initiatives
- Subsidised electricity for project neighbours
- Near-neighbour benefit sharing payments
- Contribution to the Ngadjuri Nation Aboriginal Corporation for cultural and community priorities

This is a draft proposal, and we welcome your input on how it could be structured to best benefit the community. We encourage you to share your thoughts at our upcoming information sessions or via our contact details below.

INDICATIVE PROJECT TIMELINE

2019–2024

Feasibility

Environmental studies and layout optimisation

2024–2027

Approvals

State and Commonwealth licence applications (we are here)

2027–2028

Post-planning

Detailed design, financing and pre-construction approvals

2028–2031

Construction

Procurement, grid connection, construction and commissioning

2031–2055

Operation

At least 25 years of operation and maintenance

End of life

Decommission

Site decommissioning and rehabilitation

KEY PROJECT FACTS

Wind turbine height:

Up to 250m

BESS capacity:

~270 MW / 2,160 MWh

Transmission line length:

~ 19 km

Project lifespan:

30 years+

Status:

Planning & approvals

Construction:

2–3 years

Location:

East/south-east of Whyte Yarcowie

Local government:

Regional Council of Goyder +
Northern Areas Council



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