

Hexham Wind Farm

Newsletter

EDITION 13 | JANUARY 2026

Welcome to the latest edition of the Hexham Wind Farm project newsletter.

The proposed Hexham Wind Farm has reached a major development milestone, with the submission of the Environment Effects Statement (EES) and Planning Permit Application (PPA) to the Victorian Minister for Planning.

This is the culmination of years of work with landowners and regulators and numerous conversations with surrounding community members and other stakeholders.

We would like to thank everyone who has provided feedback and shared insights about the local area and surrounding region. The valuable input we've received from the community has shaped the project design and informed the preparation of the various technical studies that form part of the EES.

The Victorian Government will place the EES on public exhibition from Tuesday 27 January to Wednesday 11 March (inclusive) 2026. During this time you'll have the opportunity to view the EES documents and make a formal submission to the Victorian Government via Engage Victoria. The project team and some of our technical specialists will be available to answer any questions during the formal exhibition period at community information sessions (see page 3 for details). We also encourage you to visit the Hexham Wind Farm website to view the EES documentation and fact sheets, including one that explains how to navigate the EES and make a formal submission.

In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to the project team on 1800 934 322 or at info@hexhamwindfarm.com.au.

Rory McManus
Hexham Wind Farm
Senior Development Manager

hexhamwindfarm.com.au



Project at a glance



Located approximately 15 km west of Mortlake and 15 km north-east of Woolsthorpe. Hexham is the nearest community, approximately 3 km north-east of the project area.



Up to 106 wind turbines, subject to approvals.



Generate enough renewable energy to power up to 515,000 homes each year.



360 jobs during construction and 24 ongoing jobs during operation.



Community benefit sharing: A sponsorship fund of \$20,000 per year which is currently active. Once operational, the sponsorship fund will transition into a Community Benefit Fund, which would provide ongoing annual funds of up to \$106,000 to the community for the life of the project.



Grid connection: An on-site terminal would be built next to the existing 500 kV transmission line within the project site, meaning new transmission lines are not required.



Project lifespan of 25+ years.



Environment Effects Statement

The Environment Effects Statement (EES) has now been submitted for the proposed Hexham Wind Farm, marking an important milestone in the development of the project.

There were 18 studies plus two peer reviews, a quarry blast impact assessment, and a noise impact verification report prepared by independent technical specialists for the EES and planning permit applications.

Community and stakeholder consultation was carried out throughout the development of the EES to inform the preparation of the studies and understand key issues. Some of the key issues raised by the community include potential noise and visual impacts, concerns about the suitability of the existing roads to carry additional construction traffic and heavy loads, the potential impact on property values, cumulative impacts from neighbouring renewable energy projects, fire risk, and potential impacts to local flora and fauna.

This feedback resulted in further assessment by technical specialists as well as additional recommendations to mitigate and manage potential impacts.

The Technical Reference Group, appointed to provide advice to the Department of Transport and Planning during the preparation of the EES, included representatives from state planning and environment departments, local water and catchment management authorities, Moyne Shire Council, and First Nations representatives. The Technical Reference Group sought to ensure stakeholder concerns were addressed within the EES.

Updates and recommendations to the EES made in response to community feedback are summarised in Chapter 7 – Stakeholder Consultation.

Planning Permit Application

The Hexham Wind Farm also requires a Planning Permit Application (PPA) due to its location in a Farming Zone and the nature of the proposed development activities. The PPA will be reviewed by the Inquiry and Advisory Committee appointed for the EES who will provide advice to the Minister for Planning. The PPA is also subject to approval by the Minister for Planning.

Details of the permit application can be found at www.planning.vic.gov.au/planning-approvals/ministerial-permits-register.

The EES will be exhibited from 27 January to 11 March 2026. During this time the documents will be publicly accessible and open to formal submissions. The project team will hold five information sessions to help the community navigate the reports and make a submission, as well as answer questions about the project design, benefits and impact mitigation measures.

Speak to a specialist

Technical specialists will be available to provide information and answer questions on specific EES studies during the exhibition period. Contact the Hexham Wind Farm phone line or email to find out more.

 1800 934 322

 info@hexhamwindfarm.com.au

EES chapters

For each of the 18 studies prepared for the EES, the chapters include an analysis of the existing conditions, an examination of any potential issues resulting from the project, and measures to mitigate and manage them.



Aboriginal cultural heritage



Air quality



Aviation



Bats



Biodiversity



Brolgas



Economic and social



Electromagnetic interference



Fire risk



Greenhouse gas



Historical heritage



Hydrology



Land use



Landscape and visual amenity



Noise and vibration



Shadow flicker



Surface water and groundwater



Traffic and transport

EES Exhibition Community Information Sessions

windprospect.com.au

 **Hexham School Hall**
Thursday 29 January
3pm - 6pm
Saturday 14 February
10am - 2pm

 **Ellerslie Hall**
Thursday 12 February
3pm - 6pm

 **Mortlake Market**
Sunday 15 February
9am - 1pm

 **Caramut Hall**
Friday 30 January
2pm - 5pm



How to view the EES and PPA

The EES documentation will be on public exhibition for 30 business days.

Online

During the exhibition period, the EES and supporting documentation can be downloaded from the project website: www.hexhamwindfarm.com.au/ees

Details of the permit application can be found at www.planning.vic.gov.au/planning-approvals/ministerial-permits-register

In person

Hard copies of the EES will be available during the community sessions outlined above as well as at the following locations during normal opening hours:

 **Mortlake Moyne Shire Council Office**
1 Jamieson Avenue, Mortlake
Monday to Friday from 9am - 3pm (Closed 1pm - 1.30pm)

 **Port Fairy Moyne Shire Council Office**
Princes Street, Port Fairy VIC 3284
Monday to Friday from 8.45am to 4.45pm

 **State Library Victoria**
328 Swanston Street, Melbourne
Monday to Sunday from 10am - 6pm

 **Department of Transport and Planning**
1 Spring Street, Melbourne VIC 3000
Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm

Hard copy and USB

A USB flash drive loaded with the EES documentation can be sent at any time during the public exhibition period upon request. If you'd like a printed copy of the EES, we're here to help.

The EES is a comprehensive set of documents. Please contact the project team – we'll guide you through the EES and technical papers and arrange the most suitable print option for your needs.

To request a USB or hard copy, contact the Wind Prospect team at:

 1800 934 322

 info@hexhamwindfarm.com.au

How to make a submission

Submissions to the EES

Submissions to the EES must be made via the Engage Victoria website to ensure they're considered by the Inquiry and Advisory Committee. Submissions can be lodged via an online form on the Victorian Government's Engage Victoria website: engage.vic.gov.au/Hexham-IAC

Submissions to the PPA

Details of the permit application can be found at www.planning.vic.gov.au/planning-approvals/ministerial-permits-register

Objections and submissions for the PPA are being collected by the Minister for Planning. Any person who may be affected by the granting of a permit may object or make other submissions at either:

 The Minister for Planning,
C/- Department of Transport
and Planning
GPO Box 2392, Melbourne 3001

 development.assessment@transport.vic.gov.au



For more information
see our How To Navigate
the EES Factsheet.

To download, scan the QR code
or visit www.hexhamwindfarm.com.au/news-and-resources

Joint Inquiry and Advisory Committee hearing and next steps

Following the public exhibition, community members have an additional opportunity to present their submissions during a public hearing process, if they have nominated a preference to do so in their formal submission.

The Minister for Planning will appoint an independent Inquiry and Advisory Committee (IAC) to facilitate the Public Hearing process. The IAC will hold a Directions Hearing on 31 March 2026 to consider the arrangements and timetable for the Public Hearing. The IAC then will conduct a public hearing commencing in the week beginning 27 April 2026, which is expected to run for three to four weeks (as required).

Following conclusion of the hearing, the IAC will submit its report to the Minister to inform their assessment of the project. It is expected that a determination of the project (i.e., whether to approve or reject) will be made by the Minister for Planning in quarter three, 2026.

Renewable Energy Zone guidelines

VicGrid has released three guidelines for public consultation to help progress renewable energy development within Victorian Renewable Energy Zones: the Draft Community Engagement and Social Value Guidelines for Renewable Energy and Transmission projects, the Access and Connections Consultation Paper, and the Draft Grid Impact Assessment Guidelines.

Wind Prospect supports Moyne Shire Council's submission to VicGrid in response to the three guidelines, and we reinforce our commitment best practice engagement with Council, community, landowners and near neighbours. Once the new guidelines have been published, our future approach to engagement, including how the project will bring social and economic benefits in the region, will be updated to align with the requirements set out in the final guidelines.

Hexham sponsorship fund update

The Hexham Wind Farm is proud to continue to support local initiatives through the Community Sponsorship Program. This program is currently open for applications from community organisations, schools and clubs that are seeking funding for initiatives that contribute to the well-being and development of the local community.



Application guidelines

Eligibility

Applications are open to local community groups, not-for-profit organisations, schools and clubs in the surrounding areas.

Project types

We are looking to support initiatives that promote community engagement, education, health and local infrastructure improvements.

Funding amounts

Grants of up to \$5,000 are available per project.

All applications will be reviewed by the Hexham Wind Farm team, with successful applicants notified within four weeks of submission.



Apply now for community sponsorship

To find out more and to apply, scan the QR code or visit: www.hexhamwindfarm.com.au/community

We're proud to have recently supported more local initiatives in the second half of 2025, including:

\$5,000
New flooring for Caramut War Memorial Hall

\$10,000
Aberlea Aged Care Mortlake Courtyard Paving project



Proposed Hexham Wind Farm Project Map



Legend

- Project boundary
- Wind turbine location
- Battery Energy Storage System
- Temporary quarry
- O&M facility and carpark
- Electrical terminal station
- Wind monitoring mast
- Site access
- Access tracks
- Overhead powerlines
- Existing 500kV powerline
- 2km
- 4km
- 6km

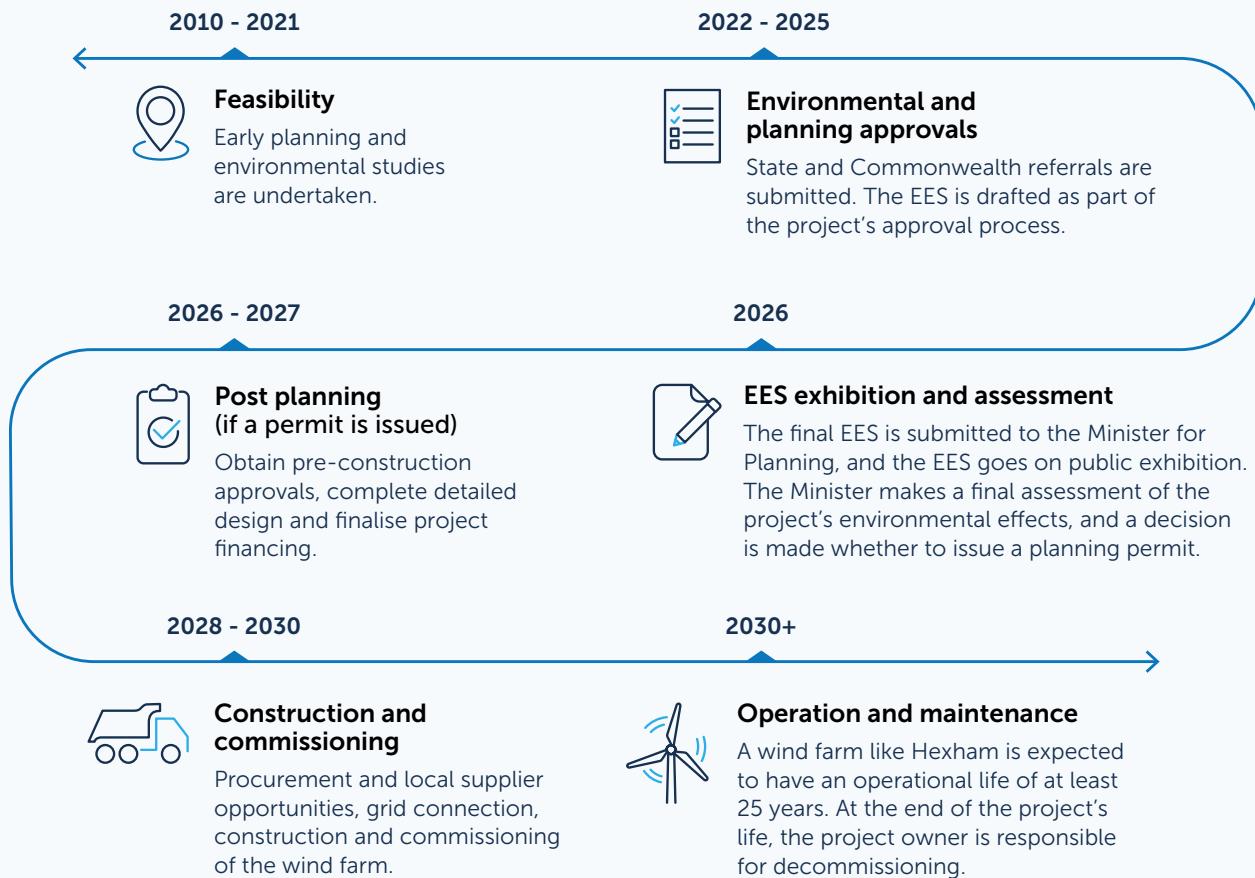
0 1 4km



The proposed Hexham Wind Farm would include 106 wind turbines with access tracks and overhead powerlines that will carry electricity to a new onsite terminal station. This terminal station would transmit the electricity generated by the wind farm to the electricity network via the existing 500 kV transmission line which traverses the project site. A Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) to help store energy and support the grid would be located near to the terminal station. A temporary quarry is proposed in the north-west of the site to provide materials needed during construction, reducing truck movements and local traffic impacts.

Project Timeline

Ongoing community engagement is a key focus throughout each stage and the across the life of the project.



Find out more

The team has published a range of fact sheets on key topics about the Hexham Wind Farm project and the Environment Effects Statement.

Scan the QR code to access these resources or visit the project website: www.hexhamwindfarm.com.au/news-and-resources



Wind Prospect respectfully acknowledges the Eastern Maar people as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which the Hexham Wind Farm is proposed. We honour their ongoing connection to the land and waters, and we are committed to fostering respectful, collaborative relationships with Indigenous communities across all our projects.

Stay informed

To stay informed with the latest updates, you can provide your contact information via the below details.

1800 934 322

info@hexhamwindfarm.com.au

hexhamwindfarm.com.au

