JANUARY 2026

Hexham Wind Farm

FACT SHEET

Bats

The proposed Hexham Wind Farm (the project) is located between Hexham, Caramut and Ellerslie in the Moyne Shire in south-west Victoria. If approved, the project would incorporate up to 106 wind turbines with an approximate height of up to 260 metres from ground to blade tip. The proposed project also includes an on-site terminal station and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and other associated infrastructure.

As part of the Victorian Government's planning and approvals process for major projects, Wind Prospect has prepared an Environment Effects Statement (EES) for the proposed Hexham Wind Farm. An EES is a requirement under the *Environment Effects Act 1978* and includes a detailed assessment of a wide range of environmental and social aspects such as biodiversity, ecology, historical heritage, Aboriginal cultural heritage, landscape and visual amenity, traffic and transport, noise, socioeconomic and surface and groundwater.

Extensive research and community and stakeholder consultation has been undertaken to avoid and mitigate any potential adverse effects on the social fabric of the community, including general wellbeing and community cohesion, and to neighbouring landowners during construction, operation and decommissioning of the project. Wind Prospect recognises the value of the natural and built environment in which the project is based and understands residents' desire to protect both the environmental and social landscape that has existed for many years.

Assessment

As part of the EES, Wind Prospect engaged Nature Advisory to carry out the Bat Assessment for the project. The assessment has been prepared in accordance with the Victorian Government Planning Minister's scoping requirements for the assessment of environmental effects, the *Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act), the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* (FFG Act), and other legislative and regulatory frameworks. Baseline data was collated to document the presence or absence of bat species, particularly species regarded as threatened, within the proposed project area. This information has been used to develop steps to avoid or, where avoidance is not possible, minimise or mitigate the impact of the project on bats.

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How the assessment was carried out

The potential risk to bats, particularly threatened species, is carefully considered through the rigorous environmental planning and assessment process.

Targeted surveys were undertaken to determine the presence, number and flight patterns of bat species. These included field surveys and acoustic monitoring.

Separate impact assessments have been undertaken to assess any potential effects of the project on the state-threatened Brolga and Flora and Fauna more broadly.

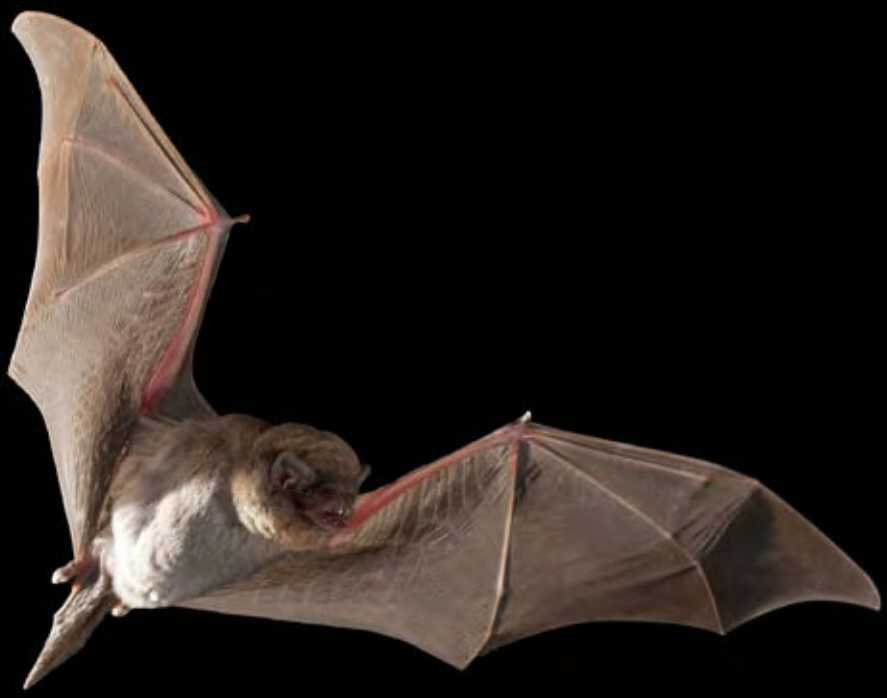
For more information, please visit: hexhamwindfarm.com.au/news-and-resources

The assessment

Best-practice survey techniques were deployed to detect which bat species occur across the project site and surrounding areas. Ultrasonic detectors that detect and record echolocation calls emitted by free-flying bat species were set up to identify the species occurring at the project site.

The assessment included a general bat detector survey and targeted Grey-Headed Flying Fox surveys.

- **16,104 hectares covered** using best-practice survey methods, including ultrasonic detectors, to identify bat species present.
- **4,418** bat detector nights were surveyed across the project and surrounding area. These surveys use acoustic recorders capture the bats' vocalisations during their active period.
- **80 sites** reviewed during various seasons over six years (between Autumn 2010 – Spring 2023).



Findings

The findings of the bat assessment found three bat species listed under the EPBC Act and FFG Act were present in and near to the project site area:

Southern Bent-wing Bat	**Critically Endangered**
Yellow-bellied Sheath-tail Bat	**Vulnerable**
Grey-headed Flying-fox	**Vulnerable**

The findings were:

- Of the nine species of bats recorded, seven are common species, and two are listed as threatened: the Southern Bent-wing Bat and Yellow-bellied Sheath-tail Bat.
- Four multi-species complexes were recorded, meaning the scientists carrying out the study were unable to distinguish the bat species.
- The majority of Southern Bent-wing Bat calls recorded were from tree and wetland habitats.
- A total of 218 Southern Bent-wing Bat calls were recorded across 33 of the 128 survey locations between 2010 and 2023. This equates to an average of 0.05 calls per night, indicating a low level of activity.
- The overall bat activity was consistently greater closer to the ground than at height.
- Across the bat detector surveys conducted between 2010 and 2023, a total of 610 Yellow-bellied Sheath-tail bat calls were recorded.
- The Grey-headed Flying-fox were recorded during targeted surveys in February and March 2022, as well as in March 2023, from a temporary camp in a pine forestry plantation east of the project area.
- The Grey-headed Flying-fox were highly active throughout March and early April 2023. Activity reduced after this time, and the species was detected after April 12, 2023 only once in a single observation.

Managing adverse effects

As part of the preparation of the Bat Assessment, a Bat and Avifauna Management Plan (BAM Plan) has been developed for the proposed Hexham Wind Farm in consultation with the State Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) and the Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW).

The BAM Plan applies evidence-based industry best-practice monitoring and mitigation methods to reduce any potential impacts to bat species. Mitigation measures consider using current knowledge of the ecology and behaviour of threatened bat species.

Key management measures include:

The location with the highest Southern Bent-wing Bat activity observed is no longer within the project site following a boundary revision to avoid or limit impacts to the species

A minimum rotor swept height of 40m above ground level

Buffer zones around areas with high Southern Bent-wing Bat activity

Careful and considered placement of turbines (known as micrositing) to avoid sensitive habitats

Increasing cut-in wind speeds (minimum wind speed at which a wind turbine begins to generate electricity) at higher-risk turbines, particularly during periods of peak bat movement

Blade feathering (angling turbine blades edge-on to the wind to slow or stop rotation) during high-risk periods to reduce turbine rotation and minimise potential impacts

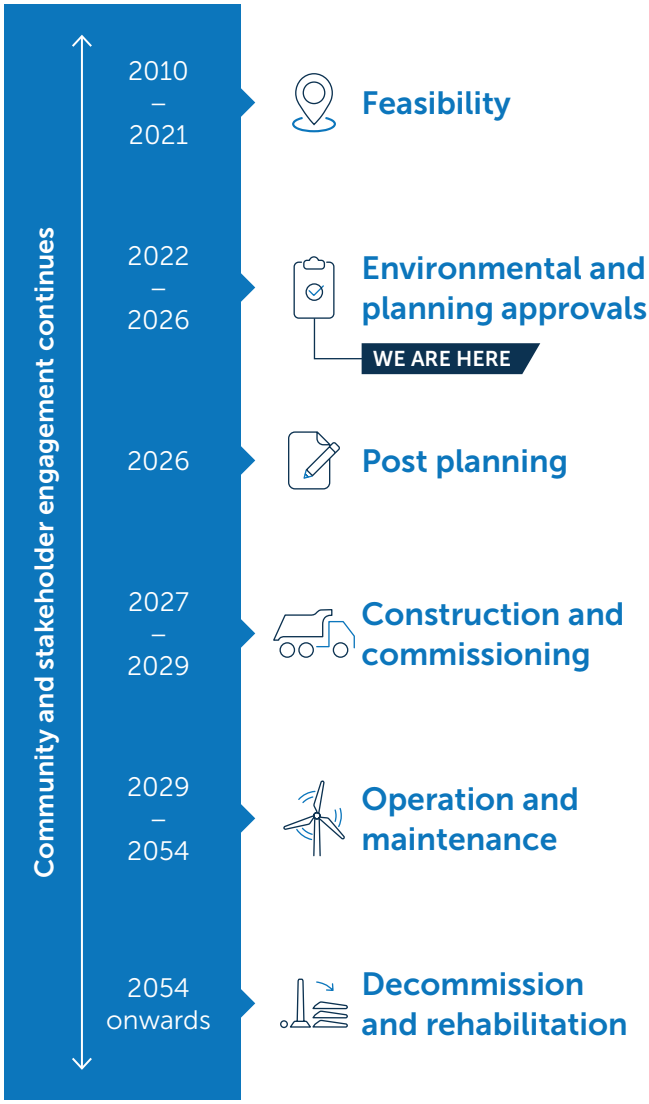
Investigating the feasibility of acoustic deterrents to discourage bats from approaching turbines

Ongoing assessment of residual impacts, with enhanced mitigation if needed

Offset residual impacts and explore opportunities to contribute to bat research and conservation efforts

Ongoing monitoring of bat activity, including:

- Regular surveys at an agreed percentage of randomly selected turbines
- Intensive surveys at higher-risk turbines
- Acoustic monitoring to collect additional data



Next steps

The final Bat Assessment has been submitted as part of the EES documentation for review and assessment by the Planning Minister. The EES and all technical assessments will be placed on public exhibition for a period of 30 days. You can review the EES and technical reports on the Hexham Wind Farm website at: hexhamwindfarm.com.au/ees.

Formal submissions received from the community during the public exhibition period will be summarised in a Submissions Report and considered as part of the Minister's Assessment of the project.

Have your say

During the public exhibition period, you have the opportunity to provide a formal submission on the proposed Hexham Wind Farm. There will be opportunities to meet the project team and hear from technical experts about the project, the EES and technical studies.

Visit the Community page (hexhamwindfarm.com.au/community) of the website for more information on our upcoming in-region engagement activities and ways to get in touch.

Wind Prospect respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land on which our office and each of our projects are located. We also acknowledge and uphold their continuing relationship to the land and pay our respect to their Elders past, present and emerging

Contact

If you need an interpreter, please call 13 14 50. If you are deaf and/or find hearing or speaking with people on the phone difficult, please contact the National Relay Service on voice relay number 1300 555 727, TTY number 133 677 or SMS relay number 0423 677 767.

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