

Hexham Wind Farm

FACT SHEET

Historic Heritage

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, historic heritage, Aboriginal cultural heritage, landscape and visual amenity, traffic and transport, noise, socioeconomic and surface and groundwater.

To complete the assessments, considerable research and consultation has been undertaken to avoid and mitigate any potential adverse effects on the environment and the social fabric of the community 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 and respects the community's desire to protect both the environmental and social landscape that has existed for many years.

Assessment

As part of the EES, a Historic Heritage Impact Assessment (HHIA) has been prepared by Tardis Archaeology Heritage Advisors in accordance with the Victorian Government Planning Minister's scoping requirements for the assessment of environmental effects, the *Heritage Act 2017*, the *Planning and Environment Act 2017*, and other relevant government approvals and statutory processes. The aim of the HHIA is to identify, assess, preserve and manage historic heritage and historic archaeology, if present, at the project site.



How the assessment was carried out

Extensive studies and fieldwork assessments have been undertaken to identify potential historic heritage or historical archaeological sites within and adjacent to the project area.

Desktop research has been used to develop a model to predict the likelihood of historic heritage values being present from different historical periods from the 1840s up to the 1960s. Three fieldwork assessments have been completed, including:

- An initial site visit on 19 May 2011 to assess the area in terms of prior disturbance and archaeological potential for historic places and historic archaeological sites.
- A ground surface survey of the study area from 24 June to 18 July 2019, in accordance with Heritage Victoria's *Guidelines for Conducting Historical Archaeological Surveys*.
- A ground survey of the study area in 2025, to investigate parts of the project site not surveyed in 2019.



Historical survey investigation area



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



Findings

Findings from research and fieldwork assessments indicate that no known historic heritage or historic archaeological sites will be impacted by the project. Key findings from the HHIA include:

- No historic heritage places or historic archaeological sites were identified within the project site boundary.
- Two of the identified Stone Mileposts at the northeast intersection of Warrnambool – Carramut Road and Keillors Road, and Keillors Road (near the reserve) are within the project activity area, but would not be impacted.
- There are a number of registered historic heritage places outside of the project site boundary and along nominated access roads which were identified, including Stone Mileposts, Merrang Homestead, Burchett Creek Bridge, Youl's Creek Bridge, and Former Temperance Hall. The project is not expected to impact any of these places.
- No unknown historic sites were discovered during the background review, site visit and field work surveys. While this does not mean that there are no unknown historic sites, the lack of evidence to date means that the likelihood of discovery is low. Management measures have been developed to protect unknown sites if they are found in future site investigations or during the construction phase, should the project be approved.



▲ Merrang Homestead Entrance Lodge, 1830 Woolsthorpe, Hexham Road. Construction started 1859. (Image courtesy of Tardis Archaeology Pty Ltd).

Managing adverse effects

Based on the assessment findings, mitigation measures are recommended to protect known and unknown historic cultural heritage sites from adverse effects. Mitigation measures include:



Preparation and adherence to a *Heritage Management Plan* to avoid or minimise any potential adverse effects on registered historic places and unidentified historic archaeological sites.



Monitoring the project's potential to impact registered historic sites in the vicinity of the activity area and undertaking ongoing consultation with Heritage Victoria to ensure the appropriate approvals are met if there is potential for adverse effects.



Developing an *Unexpected Finds Protocol* for new historic archaeological material if discovered. The project team would also consult with Heritage Victoria to ensure the site is appropriately protected, examined and recorded.



▲ Burchett Creek Bridge (H1856, HO35) on the old Hamilton Highway 2.1 km east of Carramut over the Burchett Creek. Bridge dates to the late 1870s. (Image courtesy of Tardis Archaeology Pty Ltd).



Next steps

The final Historical Heritage Impact 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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