Hexham
Wind Farm

Chapter 1

Introduction

WIND PROSPECT

1.1 Introduction

The Hexham Wind Farm (the project) is a wind farm development in Moyne Shire in south-western Victoria that would consist of up to 106 wind turbines and supporting infrastructure. The wind farm would operate for a period of at least 25 years following a two-year construction period it would supply around 2,559 gigawatt-hours of renewable electricity to the National Electricity Market each year, equivalent to the average electricity usage of around 515,000 Victorian households.

The project has been in development for several years and has undergone continual refinement to avoid and minimise potential environmental and social impacts. These potential impacts have been identified through engagement with project stakeholders and via studies by subject matter experts.

The project was referred to the Minister for Planning (the Minister) in March 2022 under the *Environment Effects Act 1978*. On 19 April 2022, the Minister determined an Environment Effects Statement (EES) was required for the project due to the potential for the project to have significant effects on environmental and social values.

The EES consists of a main report of 29 chapters (this report) and 18 supporting technical studies (plus two peer reviews, a Draft Quarry Work Plan and a verification report) provided as appendices. The EES first introduces the project and its rationale, and then summarises the context in terms of the regulatory environment, stakeholder involvement and the assessment framework. The EES then details the environmental effects of the project, including both impacts and benefits. It also outlines the avoidance, mitigation and management measures that have been adopted. The EES captures a wide range of information to inform all stakeholders and will help the Minister's assessment of the acceptability of the project's environmental effects.

1.2 Project overview

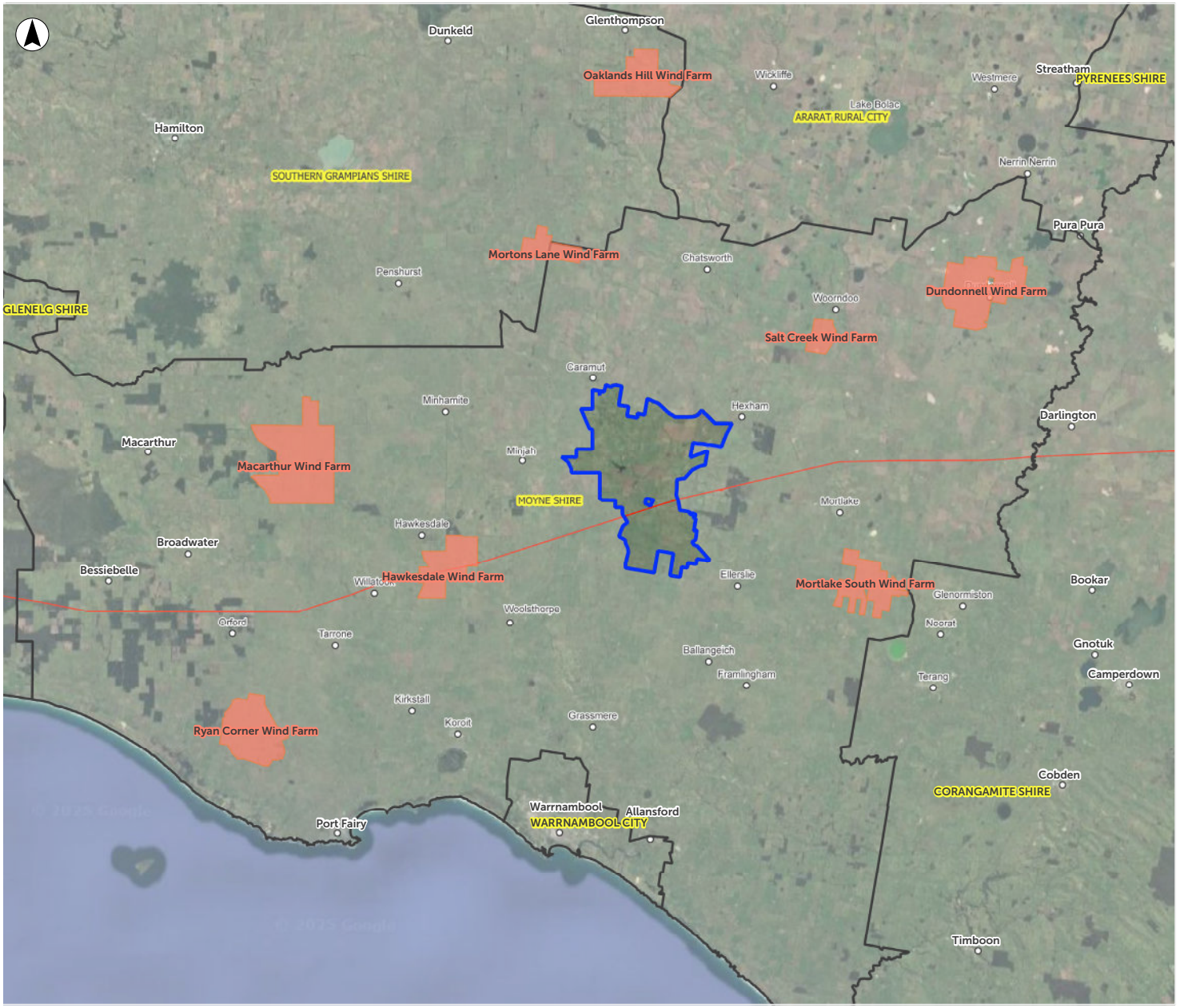
1.2.1 Location, components and duration

The project is located about 15 kilometres west of Mortlake and 15 kilometres north-east of Woolsthorpe. Locally, it is situated about three kilometres south-west of the town of Hexham, three kilometres north-west of Ellerslie and four kilometres south-east of Caramut (Figure 1.1).

The project is bordered to the north by the Hamilton Highway and lies between Woolsthorpe-Hexham Road and Hexham-Ballangeich Road to the east, Warrnambool-Caramut Road to the west and Gordons Lane to the south. The project site, defined as the area within the project boundary, covers approximately 16,000 hectares of mostly private land used for agriculture (predominantly sheep and cattle grazing as well as some cropping). As a result of past clearing for agriculture, native vegetation within the project site is largely restricted to roadside reserves and along watercourses, with small, isolated areas on private land.

The area is highly suited to wind farm development, with strong prevailing winds. The project site is located within the proposed South West Renewable Energy Zone, which is one of the six renewable energy zones proposed by the Victorian State Government to identify areas with the greatest potential for renewable energy generation. The South West Renewable Energy Zone is centred on the existing Moorabool to Heywood 500-kilovolt transmission line, which passes through the project site as shown in Figure 1.2. An on-site terminal station proposed to be constructed next to that transmission line means all new overhead powerlines lines would be contained within the project site.

The area has a relatively low density of dwellings (compared to other parts of Victoria) and contains an open and unobstructed landscape with good road access.



Data: State of Victoria (DECCA/Land Use Victoria), Commonwealth of Australia, Wind Prospect, and specialist studies/reports. Data is indicative only; accuracy and completeness are not guaranteed.

Figure 1.1 Project location

Figure 1.2
500-kilovolt transmission line transecting the project site (looking north-east from Woolsthorpe-Hexham Road)

Figure 1.3
Typical project site landscape (looking north-west from Gordons Lane)

Key components of the project, explained in greater detail in Chapter 6 – ***Project description***, include:

- up to 106 wind turbines consisting of a hardstand area, foundations, tower, three rotor blades (with a maximum tip height of 260 metres) and nacelle
- about 147 kilometres of new access tracks and upgrades to around 16.5 kilometres of existing access tracks within the project site to provide access to each wind turbine and supporting infrastructure from the public road network
- about 139 kilometres of underground electricity cables laid in approximately 86 kilometres of trenches about one metre below the ground
- about 42 kilometres of overhead powerlines to connect wind turbines to the new on-site terminal station, located along an 18-kilometre route
- an on-site terminal station
- an on-site battery energy storage system of up to 200 megawatts
- operations and maintenance buildings and yard, next to the on-site terminal station
- up to five meteorological masts installed for the life of the project – towers with meteorological monitoring equipment, including wind measurement, thermometer and pressure sensors
- temporary construction infrastructure including a construction compound (comprising vehicle parking, office facilities and amenities), seven concrete batching plants (to supply concrete for the wind turbine foundations) and laydown hardstand areas (for the storage of wind turbine components and other equipment).

A temporary on-site quarry is being investigated for the purposes of providing aggregate materials for construction of the project and minimising traffic movements on local roads. during construction. A work authority will be sought, and a ***Preliminary draft Quarry Work Plan*** (provided in Attachment II) has been prepared in accordance with the *Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990* (refer to Chapter 3 – ***Legislation and policy framework*** for information about the quarry approval process).

The quarry would operate for up to 24 months to extract around one million cubic metres of basalt for use in the construction of access tracks and hardstand areas. It would also be used for foundations at each wind turbine location if the material is of suitable quality. The total quarry extraction area is 21.5 hectares and would have a maximum design depth of 14 metres.

If an on-site quarry is not deemed viable, aggregate material would be sourced from one or more nearby existing quarries (i.e., Mt Shadwell Quarry, Mt Napier Quarry, Tarrone Quarry, Gillear Sand and Limestone Quarry and/or Camperdown quarries). This alternative sourcing of aggregate material has also been assessed as part of the EES process. Refer to Chapter 5 – ***Project alternatives and design development*** and Chapter 25 – ***Traffic and transport*** for more information about the quarry options assessment.

The Port of Portland is proposed to be the primary port of entry for major imported components. Two over-dimensional vehicle transport routes and associated swept paths have been identified between the Port of Portland and the project site based on the largest potential wind turbine component (being a wind turbine blade). Local roads are generally well-made but narrow, and some local roads and intersections would require upgrades to enable access for large vehicles during construction. The Port of Geelong has been identified as a secondary port of entry and a single route from the port to the project site has been considered as part of the impact assessment process.

Project construction is anticipated to take approximately two years, commencing in 2027 subject to planning permits and project financing being obtained. The project would be decommissioned at the end of its operational life, at least 25 years from the start of operation.

Swept paths

Analysis of how different parts of a vehicle moves in a steering path. This analysis is used to determine if there is enough room for vehicles to safely make turns.

See Chapter 25 – ***Traffic and transport*** for more details.

The project, including decommissioning, is described in further detail in Chapter 6 – ***Project description***.

1.2.2 Project objectives

The proponent has identified several objectives for the project that relate to its purpose and how it is intended to be delivered. These objectives are different to the 'evaluation objectives' set out in the EES scoping requirements. The objectives of the project are to:

- deliver affordable and reliable electricity to the grid
- support Victoria's Renewable Energy Target
- support the Commonwealth Government's greenhouse gas emissions reduction target
- improve network strength through the development of a firmed power supply
- minimise negative effects and maximise positive effects on the surrounding environment and communities
- support the local community and the local economy
- support participating and neighbouring landowners
- engage and work with community and other stakeholders to identify any potential environmental impacts and implement appropriate mitigation and management measures.

The project objectives succinctly describe why is this project needed and what it proposes to achieve. Chapter 2 – ***Project rationale and benefits*** provides a description of how the project aims to achieve these objectives and the rationale for its development.

1.2.3 Project history and design evolution

The project has been in planning and development since 2011 and considerable activity occurred between then and the submission of the EES referral in 2022 including landowner negotiations, consultation with neighbouring landowners and other stakeholders, environment and heritage surveys, and on-site wind monitoring.

The project site was selected after an extensive selection process across the entire state of Victoria. A strong wind resource, proximity to the transmission network, good road access, relatively low population density, and anticipated manageable environmental impacts were key factors in selecting the area for development.

When the project was made public, the project design was based on 125 wind turbines, with a maximum blade tip height of 250 metres and an associated total capacity of up to 700 megawatts. The project evolved to comprise up to 108 wind turbines. This was the concept design referred under the Victorian *Environment Effects Act 1978* and Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) in 2022. Following referral, the current design was refined (up to 106 wind turbines) in response to extensive engagement with landowners, the incorporation of environmental and social sensitivities, and constraints from specialist studies, and due to advances in wind turbine technology.

More detailed and extensive environmental, social, cultural and engineering studies were commissioned after the Minister decided that an EES was required. These studies resulted in further refinement of the project design.

The final project layout has been designed to avoid and minimise impacts to key environmental and social values. Key values to which avoidance measures were applied include:

- dwellings and townships of Caramut, Ellerslie and Hexham
- areas of Aboriginal cultural heritage sensitivity, including areas containing known Aboriginal cultural heritage places or sites
- sites listed on the Victorian Heritage Register
- Brolga breeding and roosting habitat
- Wedge-tailed eagle nests
- Grey-headed Flying-fox and Southern Bent-wing Bat foraging habitat
- mapped EPBC Act-listed ecological communities and areas of native vegetation
- wetlands, watercourses and drainage channels
- terrestrial and aquatic groundwater dependent ecosystems
- areas with a high probability of acid sulfate soils
- existing public roads, access tracks on Crown land and transmission lines.

Ecologists and cultural heritage specialists have surveyed the project site to determine areas to avoid and confirm other areas as suitable (from ecology and heritage perspectives).

The evolution of the design is described in detail in Chapter 5 – ***Project alternatives and design development***.

1.3 Project proponent

Hexham Wind Farm Pty Ltd, owned by Wind Prospect Pty Ltd (Wind Prospect), is the project proponent. Two planning permit applications have been submitted by Hexham Wind Farm Pty Ltd.

Wind Prospect is an independently owned renewable energy project developer that has operated in Australia since 2000. During that time, Wind Prospect has gained planning approval for 22 wind farms and three solar farms within Australia, totalling more than 3,700 megawatts of electricity generating capacity, of which more than 2,500 megawatts is operational. Wind Prospect does not build, own, or operate wind or solar farms. Recent projects designed by Wind Prospect that have gained planning approval and have then been successfully developed and operated by other companies include:

- Bulgana Wind Farm (owned by HMC Capital), north-east of Stawell in Victoria
- Yandin Wind Farm (owned by Alinta Energy), south of Dandaragan in Western Australia
- Willogoleche Wind Farm (owned by Engie), near Hallett in South Australia.

Wind Prospect is focused on compliance with relevant legislative and regulatory requirements as well as strong stakeholder engagement. The company maintains a commitment to deliver long-term benefits to the local Hexham, Caramut, Ellerslie and surrounding communities, as well as helping to achieve policy objectives at all levels of government.

1.4 Environment Effects Statement

1.4.1 Requirement for an EES

On 19 April 2022, the Minister assessed the EES referral for the project and determined an EES was required because of the potential for the project to have significant effects on the local community and the environment. The reasons for this decision were due to potentially significant effects to:

- *"biodiversity values, including threatened species and communities listed under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 and the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999."*
- *native vegetation and ecology of the area's terrestrial environments and freshwater environments, including wetlands and creeks*
- *Aboriginal cultural heritage*
- *landscape and visual amenity."*

The Minister's decision also noted that further assessment regarding potential effects on historic heritage, traffic, shadow flicker, soils, groundwater, electromagnetic interference, aviation, amenity and socio-economic values is required. Additionally, the Minister determined the project has the potential for cumulative adverse effects (particularly on local and regional biodiversity, social, and landscape values) due to other proposed, approved and operating wind farms in the vicinity of the project.

1.4.2 EES purpose

The *Environment Effects Act 1978* provides for the assessment of projects that are capable of having a significant adverse effect on the environment, which is taken to encompass "*the physical, biological, heritage, cultural, social health, safety and economic aspects of human surroundings including the wider ecological and physical systems within which humans live*".

The EES aims to provide sufficient information to enable the Minister to prepare a final assessment report of the effects a project. The Minister's assessment is then provided to relevant decision-makers to enable them to make decisions about a proposal based on the Minister's advice about whether the likely environmental effects are acceptable. The information required within an EES includes:

- a description of the proposed activities
- assessment of relevant project alternatives
- the process and results of consultation undertaken during the preparation of the EES, including issues raised by stakeholders or the public and how these issues have been addressed
- a detailed assessment and description of the potential effects of the project to the existing environment including social and economic aspects, considering the significance of these potential effects
- measures proposed to avoid, mitigate and/or offset a range of potential effects
- a framework for managing the environmental effects and risks of the project, including proposed environmental management measures and program for evaluating environmental outcomes.

All the above information can be found within this EES. Refer to Table 1.2 for the structure of the EES and where specific information is covered.

1.4.3 Scoping requirements and EES evaluation objectives

The final Scoping Requirements for Hexham Wind Farm Environment Effects Statement (EES scoping requirements) were issued by the Minister in September 2024 after consideration of the EES referral and public submissions on the draft scoping requirements. The EES scoping requirements specify the matters to be investigated and documented within the EES and include evaluation objectives for each of the topics to be addressed. These topics and evaluation objectives are summarised in Table 1.1. This table also outlines the relevant EES chapter(s) where the evaluation objectives are addressed.

Table 1.1 Topics and evaluation objectives for the project EES

Matter	Evaluation objective	Relevant chapter (see Table 1.2 for further information)	Relevant specialist study (see Table 1.3 for further information)
Biodiversity and habitat	To avoid, and where avoidance is not possible, minimise potential adverse effects on biodiversity values within and near the site including native vegetation, listed threatened species and ecological communities, and habitat for these species. Where relevant, offset requirements are to be addressed consistent with state and Commonwealth policies.	Chapter 8 – ***Biodiversity and habitat*** Chapter 9 – ***Bats*** Chapter 10 – ***Brolga*** Chapter 26 – ***Cumulative effects*** Chapter 27 – ***Matters of National Environmental Significance***	Appendix D – ***Flora and Fauna Assessment*** Appendix C2 – ***Bat Assessment*** Appendix C1 – ***Brolga Impact Assessment***
Catchment values and hydrology	To maintain the functions and values of aquatic environments, surface water and groundwater quality and stream flows and avoid adverse effects on protected environmental values.	Chapter 11 – ***Groundwater*** Chapter 12 – ***Surface water*** Chapter 13 – ***Landform and soils***	Appendix B – ***Surface Water and Ground Water Impact Assessment*** Appendix A – ***Soil and Landform Assessment***

Matter	Evaluation objective	Relevant chapter (see Table 1.2 for further information)	Relevant specialist study (see Table 1.3 for further information)
Landscape and visual	Avoid and, where avoidance is not possible, minimise and manage potential adverse effects on landscape and visual amenity.	Chapter 14 – ***Landscape and visual*** Chapter 15 – ***Shadow flicker and blade glint*** Chapter 26 – ***Cumulative effects***	Appendix F1 – ***Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment*** Appendix M – ***Shadow Flicker and Blade Glint Impact Assessment***
Amenity	To minimise and manage adverse air quality and noise and vibration effects on residents and local communities as far as practicable during construction, operation and decommissioning having regard to applicable limits, targets or standards.	Chapter 16 – ***Air quality and greenhouse gas*** Chapter 17 – ***Noise and vibration*** Chapter 26 – ***Cumulative effects***	Appendix L1 – ***Air Quality Impact Assessment*** Appendix L2 – ***Greenhouse Gas Impact Assessment*** Appendix E1 – ***Environmental Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment***
Cultural heritage	Protect, avoid, or minimise where avoidance is not possible, adverse effects on historic heritage values, and tangible and intangible Aboriginal cultural heritage values, in partnership with Traditional Owners.	Chapter 18 – ***Aboriginal cultural heritage*** Chapter 19 – ***Historical cultural heritage***	Appendix J – ***Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment*** Appendix K – ***Historical Heritage Impact Assessment***
Land use and socioeconomic	To avoid and minimise adverse effects on land use (including agricultural and residential), social fabric of the community (with regard to wellbeing and community cohesion), local infrastructure, electromagnetic interference, aviation safety and to neighbouring landowners during construction, operation and decommissioning of the project.	Chapter 20 – ***Land use and planning*** Chapter 21 – ***Socio-economic*** Chapter 22 – ***Aviation*** Chapter 23 – ***Fire risk*** Chapter 24 – ***Electromagnetic interference*** Chapter 26 – ***Cumulative effects***	Appendix H – ***Land Use and Planning Report*** Appendix I – ***Social and Economic Impact Assessment*** Appendix O – ***Aviation Impact Assessment*** Appendix N – ***Electromagnetic Interference Impact Assessment***
Traffic and roads	To avoid and minimise adverse effects on roads and road users during construction, operation and decommissioning of the project.	Chapter 25 – ***Traffic and transport***	Appendix G – ***Traffic and Transport Impact Assessment***

1.4.4 EES process

The EES process is managed by the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) on behalf of the Minister. DTP convened a Technical Reference Group, consisting of representatives from Victorian Government agencies and regional authorities, as well as the Moyne Shire Council and Representative Aboriginal Party. All these organisations have an interest in matters affected by the project. In conjunction with the Technical Reference Group, DTP provided advice throughout the assessment process, including on the adequacy of the EES in responding to the scoping requirements.

Chapter 4 – ***Assessment framework*** includes more details about how the EES has been prepared. This chapter also includes a description of the approval requirements and associated processes, including the planning permit, Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) and Quarry Work Plan.

1.4.5 Structure of the EES

This EES consists of the following documents:

- Summary document – Provides a brief overview of the project and outlines key findings of the EES and opportunities for public participation.
- Main report (this report) – Describes the project and summarises the findings of the supporting specialist studies, proposed management measures and stakeholder consultation. It also includes a glossary of key terms and list of documents referenced within the EES chapters.
- Technical appendices – Specialist study reports provided as appendices to the main report, which informed the EES and present an assessment of specific potential effects of the project.
- Attachments (related documents) – Supporting documents attached to the main report.

The structure of the EES is outlined in Table 1.2.

Table 1.2 Structure of the EES

Document		Summary of content
Glossary		Defines terms and acronyms used throughout the EES chapters.
Executive summary		Provides a concise summary of the project and key issues. Includes details of the EES exhibition and public submission process.
Chapter 1	*Introduction*	Introduces the project and outlines the purpose and structure of the EES.
Chapter 2	*Project rationale and benefits*	Sets out the rationale for the project and explains the benefits for context.
Chapter 3	*Legislation and policy framework*	Describes the approvals framework and legislation relevant to the project.
Chapter 4	*Assessment framework*	Describes the framework used to assess potential impacts.
Chapter 5	*Project alternatives and design development*	Describes the various design alternatives considered in developing the project presented in this EES.
Chapter 6	*Project description*	Provides details of the project including construction, operation and decommissioning activities.
Chapter 7	*Stakeholder consultation*	Outlines the approach to stakeholder consultation and responses to issues raised during consultation.
Chapter 8	*Biodiversity and habitat*	Chapters 8 to 25 describe the discipline-specific environmental and social values relating to the project, and the potential impacts of construction, operation and decommissioning on those values. It explores avoidance, mitigation and management measures for these impacts, and the residual environmental effects.
Chapter 9	*Bats*	
Chapter 10	*Brolga*	
Chapter 11	*Groundwater*	
Chapter 12	*Surface water*	
Chapter 13	*Landforms and soils*	
Chapter 14	*Landscape and visual*	
Chapter 15	*Shadow flicker and blade glint*	
Chapter 16	*Air quality and greenhouse gas*	
Chapter 17	*Noise and vibration*	
Chapter 18	*Aboriginal cultural heritage*	
Chapter 19	*Historical cultural heritage*	
Chapter 20	*Land use and planning*	
Chapter 21	*Socio-economic*	
Chapter 22	*Aviation*	
Chapter 23	*Fire risk*	
Chapter 24	*Electromagnetic interference*	

Document		Summary of content
Chapter 25	*Traffic and transport*	
Chapter 26	*Cumulative effects*	Describes the potential cumulative effects (in terms of threatened flora and fauna and amenity) at sensitive receivers, along with the potential cumulative impacts from other existing and approved projects in the region. Amenity covers noise, air quality and visual impacts.
Chapter 27	*Matters of National Environmental Significance*	Presents the assessment of potential impacts on matters of national environmental significance, as set out in the EPBC Act.
Chapter 28	*Environmental management framework*	Provides details of the measures to be put in place to manage the potential impacts presented in the EES and sets out the environmental management framework to be implemented during detailed design, construction, operation and decommissioning of the project.
Chapter 29	*Conclusion*	Summarises the key findings of the EES.
References		Lists the source documents used in addition to the environmental impact assessments and legislation to inform this EES.
Technical appendices		The technical appendices, outlined in Table 1.3 below, provide the specialist studies carried out by environmental subject matter experts that have informed EES Chapters 8–25.
Attachments		The attachments, outlined in Table 1.4 below, provide related project documents, including the quarry works approval application.

Specialist studies underpinning the main report are presented in the appendices. These studies explore:

- key issues associated with (or risks posed by) the project
- aspects of the existing environment that could be impacted by the project
- avoidance and management measures that would mitigate the potential for environmental impacts in the design
- the likely effects of the project before and after the mitigation and management of impacts and evaluation of their significance.

Table 1.3 lists the appendices, their author and where they have been summarised within the EES main report.

Table 1.3 Specialist studies

Appendix number	Study	Author/organisation	Relevant EES chapter
Appendix A	*Soil and Landform Assessment*	WSP	Chapter 13 – *Landform and soils*
Appendix B	*Surface Water and Groundwater Impact Assessment*	Water Technology	Chapter 11 – *Groundwater* Chapter 12 – *Surface water*
Appendix C1	*Brolga Impact Assessment*	Nature Advisory	Chapter 10 – *Brolga*
Appendix C2	*Bats Assessment*	Nature Advisory	Chapter 9 – *Bats*
Appendix D	*Flora and Fauna Assessment*	Nature Advisory	Chapter 8 – *Biodiversity and habitat*
Appendix E1	*Environmental Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment*	Marshall Day Acoustics	Chapter 17 – *Noise and vibration*
Appendix E2	*Pre-construction noise assessment report verification*	Tonkin & Taylor	Chapter 17 – *Noise and vibration*
Appendix E3	*Noise and vibration independent peer review*	Resonate	Chapter 17 – *Noise and vibration*
Appendix E4	*Quarry blasting*	BCA Consulting	Chapter 17 – *Noise and vibration*
Appendix F1	*Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment*	Moir Landscape Architecture	Chapter 14 – *Landscape and visual*
Appendix F2	*Landscape and visual independent peer review*	Hansen International	Chapter 14 – *Landscape and visual*
Appendix G	*Traffic and Transport Impact Assessment*	Ratio Consultants	Chapter 25 – *Traffic and transport*
Appendix H	*Land Use and Planning Report*	Bunjil Planning	Chapter 20 – *Land use and planning*
Appendix I	*Social and Economic Impact Assessment*	Umwelt	Chapter 21 – *Socio-economic*
Appendix J	*Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment*	Archaeology at Tardis	Chapter 18 – *Aboriginal cultural heritage*
Appendix K	*Historical Heritage Impact Assessment*	Archaeology at Tardis	Chapter 19 – *Historical cultural heritage*
Appendix L1	*Air Quality Impact Assessment*	Jacobs	Chapter 16 – *Air quality and greenhouse gas*
Appendix L2	*Greenhouse Gas Impact Assessment*	Jacobs	Chapter 16 – *Air quality and greenhouse gas*
Appendix M	*Shadow Flicker and Blade Glint Impact Assessment*	Entura	Chapter 15 – *Shadow flicker and blade glint*
Appendix N	*Electromagnetic Interference Impact Assessment*	DNV Consulting	Chapter 24 – *Electromagnetic interference*
Appendix O	*Aviation Impact Assessment*	Chiron Aviation Consultants	Chapter 22 – *Aviation*
Appendix P	*Fire Risk Impact Assessment*	Fire Risk Consultants	Chapter 20 – *Land use and planning* Chapter 23 – *Fire risk*

Attachments provided with the EES are listed in Table 1.4.

Table 1.4 Attachments to the EES

EES Attachment	Report/document	Author/organisation	Relevant EES chapter
Attachment I	*Stakeholder Engagement Plan*	Wind Prospect	Chapter 7 – ***Stakeholder consultation***
Attachment II	*Preliminary draft Quarry Work Plan*	BCA	All chapters (if required)
Attachment III	*Project Map Book*	Wind Prospect	Large versions of key maps and figures found within this EES main document and supporting documents
Attachment IV	*Neighbour Benefit Sharing Program flyer*	Wind Prospect	Chapter 2 – ***Project rationale and benefits*** Chapter 7 – ***Stakeholder consultation***

1.4.6 Accessing the EES and making a submission

As required by the *Environment Effects Act 1978* and the decision by the Minister, the EES and planning permit applications will be placed on public exhibition. During this time, the public are invited to review the EES documents and planning permit applications and make written submissions.

The complete EES documentation and planning permit applications can be downloaded from the project website: https://www.hexhamwindfarm.com.au/.

During exhibition, hard copies of the EES and planning permit applications will be available at the following locations during normal opening hours:

- Mortlake Moyne Shire Council Office – 1 Jamieson Avenue, Mortlake
- Port Fairy Moyne Shire Council Office – Princes Street, Port Fairy VIC 3284
- State Library Victoria – 328 Swanston Street, Melbourne VIC 3000
- Department of Transport and Planning – 1 Spring Street, Melbourne VIC 3000

A USB flash drive will be sent to any stakeholder at any time during the public exhibition period upon request.

Hard copies of the EES and planning permit application can be obtained from Hexham Wind Farm Pty Ltd at cost by contacting:

Tel: 1800 934 322
Email: info@hexhamwindfarm.com.au

Submissions on the EES

- Submissions on the EES must be made in writing and be received by 11.59pm on 11th March 2026.
- Online submissions are preferred and can be lodged via an online form on the Victorian Government's engagement website: https://engage.vic.gov.auHexham-IAC/

Hard copy written submissions on the EES must be accompanied by a coversheet, which is only available by calling Planning Panels Victoria on 136 186 (select option 6). Hard copy written submissions on the EES will not be processed unless accompanied by a completed coversheet for privacy reasons.

For more information about the EES submission process, contact Planning Panels Victoria:

- Online: https://engage.vic.gov.au/Hexham-IAC
- Tel: 136 186 (select option 6)
- Email: development.assessment@transport.vic.gov.au

Submissions on the planning permit applications

Objections and submissions for the planning permit applications are being collected by the Minister for Planning who is the responsible authority. Any person who may be affected by the granting of the permits may object or make other submissions at either:

- Post: The Minister for Planning, C/- Department of Transport and Planning, GPO Box 2392, Melbourne VIC 3001
- Email: development.assessment@transport.vic.gov.au

An objection or submission must be made to the responsible authority in writing, include the reasons for the objection or submission, and state how the objector or submitter would be affected. Any person who makes an objection or submission on the planning permit applications will be contacted by Planning Panels Victoria and offered the opportunity to make a request to be heard at the public Hearing to speak in support of their submission.