

Willatook Wind Farm

Project Update

JULY 2026

This newsletter provides an update on recent project developments and outlines opportunities to continue participating in the project process

Thank you to everyone who attended our community information sessions in April and for the feedback provided.

Since our last newsletter, the project has reached two milestones. In May, the amended planning permit application was submitted to the Victorian Government. The application reflects the project's refined design and incorporates the Minister for Planning's Environment Effects Statement (EES) assessment recommendations. The application documents and project design also apply the Handbook for the Development of Renewable Energy in Victoria. The project was also announced as successful in the Australian Government's Capacity Investment Scheme (CIS) Tender 7. This outcome provides long-term revenue certainty and reflects confidence in the project's potential contribution to Victoria's renewable energy future.

The planning permit application will undergo government review, including requests for any additional information that may be required, before being exhibited for public comment.

We will continue to engage with landholders and near neighbours, the local community, Traditional Owners, and Moyne Shire Council as the project progresses.

Wind Prospect respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land that the project is located on, being the Eastern Maar and Gunditjmara peoples, and wishes to pay respect to Elders, both past and present. We acknowledge the ongoing connection between the Traditional Owners with the land and waters.

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Project at a glance



Located around 20km north of Port Fairy and 30km northwest of Warrnambool in the Moyne Shire Council Local Government Area in south-western Victoria



Infrastructure

Wind turbines and supporting infrastructure including site office, on-site substation, on-site quarry and battery energy storage facility



Grid connection

Transmission line connecting to the Tarrone Terminal Station



Community benefit sharing

A \$20,000 annual Sponsorship Fund is currently in place to support local community projects



Economic benefits

\$120 million in direct regional benefits in construction

\$158 million in ongoing economic benefits for the life of operation



Project lifespan of more than 25 years from operation to decommissioning



Project Design Updates

Since completion of the Environment Effects Statement (EES), the project has undergone a detailed review in response to the Minister for Planning's assessment and recommendations. The updated design reflects additional environmental studies undertaken and a focus on further measures to minimise potential impacts to Brolga and the Southern Bent-wing Bat.

The table below shows the key changes from the 2022 EES design to the project being proposed.

Key changes to the project include:

- a reduction in the number of wind turbines from up to 59 turbines to up to 52 turbines;
- a reduction in the length of access tracks and trenches for underground electrical cabling;
- minor refinements to the project boundary and subject land;
- refinement of project infrastructure siting to respond to environmental constraints and detailed technical assessments; and
- changes to the turbine design envelope, including a reduction in the maximum rotor diameter from 190 metres to 175 metres, an increase in the minimum blade tip height from 40 metres to 60 metres above ground level, and an increase in the maximum turbine tip height from 250 metres to 254 metres.

The refined design forms the basis of the amended planning permit application submitted to the Victorian Government in May 2026.

Project Component	Current Assessed Action (2022 Variation)	Proposed Varied Action (2026)	Change
Project area	Approximately 4,154 ha	Approximately 3,645 ha ¹	509 ha reduction (decrease 12.3%)
Wind turbine locations	Up to 59 turbines	Up to 52 turbines	Reduction of 7 turbines (12% reduction)
Rotor Swept Zone	40 - 250 m	60 - 254 m	Min. tip 20 m increase (+50%) Max. tip 4 m increase (+1.5%)
Access tracks	Approximately 60 km	Approximately 46 km	Reduction of approximately 14.8 km (24% decrease)
Trenches for underground electrical cabling	Approximately 62 km	Approximately 56 km	Reduction of approximately 6.3 km (10% decrease)
Option for on-site quarry	Total area 30 ha	Total area 16.3 ha	Reduction of 13.7 ha (45.7% decrease)
Battery energy storage system	Total area of approximately 5 ha	Unchanged	No material change

¹ Includes removal and addition of a limited number of land parcels associated with ongoing project refinement and landholder agreements.

Capacity Investment Scheme

The Willatook Wind Farm was recently selected as a successful project under the Australian Government's Capacity Investment Scheme (CIS). The CIS is designed to encourage investment in new renewable energy projects by providing greater revenue certainty. Through a competitive tender process, projects bid a support price range, consisting of a floor price and a ceiling price. If market revenues fall below the agreed floor price, the CIS provides financial support to help maintain project viability. Conversely, if revenues exceed the ceiling price, a portion of those additional revenues is returned to government. This approach helps reduce investment risk while also providing value to consumers.

Selection under the CIS is an important milestone for the project. Importantly, the CIS does not provide planning approval or alter the project's assessment requirements. The Willatook Wind Farm must still complete all relevant State and Federal planning requirements, environmental and cultural heritage assessment processes and obtain the necessary approvals before any construction can commence.

April Community Information Sessions

Thank you to everyone who attended the community information sessions held in Orford and Port Fairy in April. The sessions provided an opportunity to share updates on the amended project design, planning permit application and the next steps for the project.

Community members raised a broad range of topics and questions during the sessions, including:



Fire management, emergency response and battery storage safety



Protection of Brolga and other environmental values



Visual changes to the local landscape



Community benefit sharing and local sponsorship opportunities



Construction traffic, road upgrades and local disruptions



Project approvals, timing and the pathway to construction



Construction noise and working hours



Local history and the long-term future of the district

Many attendees were particularly interested in understanding how the project design has changed since the EES process concluded and how those changes respond to the Minister for Planning's recommendations.

The amended planning permit application includes updated environmental assessments, a refined project design and detailed management measures to address issues raised by community members, government agencies and technical specialists.

These matters will continue to be considered as part of the planning permit assessment process.

We appreciate the time community members took to attend the sessions, ask questions and share their perspectives. Feedback received through information sessions, meetings, correspondence and discussions with local stakeholders continues to help inform the project's development.

We intend to hold further community information sessions later in 2026 to provide updates on the planning permit assessment process and project timeline, and to seek community input into the future Community Benefit Fund.



Community Sponsorship Fund



The Willatook Wind Farm Community Sponsorship Fund provides \$20,000 annually during the development and construction phase of the project to support local community groups, clubs and not-for-profit organisations delivering positive outcomes in the region surrounding the proposed wind farm.

Since launching in 2019, the fund has supported 29 local projects with contributions totalling more than \$121,000.

We have received a strong response from local organisations in the 2026 round and are pleased to confirm that the full allocation for 2026 has been awarded. Recipients of the 2026 fund include:

- Women On Farms - Hamilton 2026
- Orford and District Table Tennis Association
- Orford Sports Club Inc
- St Helens and District Landcare

A further round is planned in 2027, and we encourage local groups to get in touch if you have a project or event that benefits your community.

Stay informed

To stay informed with the latest updates, you can provide your contact information via the below details. We will continue to provide updates through in-person visits and local events.



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