



EUROPEAN
ENERGY
AUSTRALIA

Mincha Wind Farm

Community Update

March 2026



About the project

European Energy Australia is developing the proposed Mincha Wind Farm project within the Gannawarra and Loddon Shires.

Fast facts

If the project is approved, it will deliver:



About
40 turbines



Opportunities for local
workers and suppliers



Battery energy storage
system (BESS)



New connection to the
existing 220 kilovolt Kerang–
Bendigo transmission line



Power up to 250,000
homes or approx.
280 megawatt

Our are of investigation is about 3,500 hectares however, we expect less than two per cent of this to be impacted by project infrastructure once operational.

What we've heard

Thanks to those that attended our community drop-in Sessions in 2025 or have been in contact with the project team.

We've heard lots of questions about the impact the project will have on the local community, landscape, wildlife and health of those living nearby.

As we are in the early stages of the project, not all the information is available, but we have summarised what we currently know below and will continue to update this information as we progress.

Type of Survey	Survey Description
Planning approvals / impact assessments	<p>We are currently working through the planning approval timeline.</p> <p>We know that we will need a planning permit under <i>Planning and Environment Act 1987 (Vic) (P&E Act)</i> and depending on the final project scope, further assessment may be required under:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → <i>Environment Effects Act 1978 (Vic) (EE Act)</i> → <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) (Commonwealth)</i>. <p>We are now preparing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → EE referrals for the Minister for Planning to consider if an Environmental Effects Statement is required → EBPC referrals for the Federal Minister for Environment to make a decision on if the project is a 'controlled action'. The community will be able to provide comment on this referral. <p>We plan to lodge our planning application later this year. All technical assessments and studies will form part of the application. The information will be publicly available for at least 28 days.</p> <p>Once released we will let you know how you can provide feedback.</p>
Cumulative impacts	<p>The <i>Guidelines for the development of wind energy facilities in Victoria</i> outlines the information we need to provide on addressing cumulative impacts as part of our planning application. More information can be found at: https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/guides-and-resources/guides/all-guides/renewable-energy-facilities/wind-energy-facilities/planning-guidelines-for-development-of-wind-energy-facilities</p>
Flora and Fauna impacts	<p>Since autumn last year we have completed four bird utilisation surveys, three bat utilisation surveys, targeted Black Falcon and Wedge-tailed Eagle nest surveys and a flora survey.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Most commonly observed birds: Common Starling, Galah, Australian Magpie, Long-billed Corella, and Crested Pigeon. <p>We are currently compiling the results of these surveys that will support the referrals under EE and EPBC Acts.</p>

<p>Operational impacts (e.g. shedding, light, noise, shadow flickering)</p>	<p>Light</p> <p>The responsible authority (Victorian Minister for Planning) for the planning permit will determine the need for wind turbine lighting with input from referral authorities (like Civil Aviation Safety Authority and Local Government) and public submissions.</p> <p>Shadow flicker</p> <p>We will need to do a shadow flicker assessment as part of our planning approval. We will provide more information when it becomes available.</p> <p>Shedding</p> <p>Blade shedding does occur on onshore wind farms. Current evidence shows that blade erosion is minor due to the environmental footprint being localised and low intensity compared to other continuous sources of microplastics (like tyre wear). Nevertheless, continued monitoring, improved measurement methods, and ongoing enhancements in blade protection and materials are recommended. We encourage you to do your own research but if you would like us to provide links to research articles on this topic, please let us know.</p> <p>Noise</p> <p>Planning permit conditions typically require the wind farm developer to publish of a suite of operational plans and audits. We will know more about what is required once the planning permit determination is made.</p> <p>New residential builds</p> <p>Changes to the Victorian Planning Provisions to the Farming Zone in 2021, means that certain types of accommodation (e.g. bed and breakfast, dwelling, rural worker accommodation and small second dwellings) require a planning permit under clause 35.07 of the Victorian Planning Provisions if sited within 1km from the nearest title boundary of land subject to a permit/permit application/incorporated document/EES for a wind energy facility.</p> <p>Many of the accommodation types are subject to other planning permit requirements and distance to wind energy facilities isn't always the sole reason for a permit being required.</p> <p>National Vendor Declaration and wind farms</p> <p>There is no requirement to declare renewable energy infrastructure on the National Vendor Declaration (NVD or eNVD) when selling livestock. The Livestock Production Assurance Assessment Guidance for Property Risk Assessments does not prohibit having renewable energy infrastructure e.g., transmission lines, solar panels, wind turbines, on accredited properties. LPA-accredited producers must consider the risks associated with all property infrastructure degradation and end of-life management, maintenance, and animal welfare when grazing.</p> <p>More information: https://www.integritysystems.com.au/globalassets/isc/pdf-listing-block/renewable-energy-infrastructure-on-livestock-properties.pdf</p>
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Health impacts	<p>We understand that there is concern about the potential health effects of living near the proposed wind farm, including issues such as noise, vibration and shadow flicker.</p> <p>Key industry bodies, the Victorian and Federal Governments have taken the impacts of wind farms seriously by completing extensive research and establishing regulatory safeguards. To date there has been no conclusive evidence to suggest that wind farms are harmful to people's health and regulations are in place to ensure that the impacts are minimised/mitigated.</p> <p>We encourage you to do your own research. Here are some helpful links to information from other sources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">→ www.nhmrc.gov.au/health-advice/environmental-health/wind-farms→ www.epa.vic.gov.au/wind-turbine-noise→ www.dcceew.gov.au/energy/renewable/independent-scientific-committee-wind-turbines→ www.cleanenergycouncil.org.au/for-consumers/fact-sheets/impacts-and-benefits-to-consumers-get-the-facts/wind-turbines-and-health
Farming impacts (e.g. crop spraying)	<p>Civil Aviation Safety Regulation 137.140 stipulates distances and protocols for flying around obstacles for aerial spray operators, who are certified to fly at low heights.</p>

Project update

We are in the development stage of the Mincha Wind Farm and hope to lodge a planning approval application later this year.

We are currently working on:

- Site and technical investigations and studies e.g. wind speed, noise, visual impacts and ecology
- Determining the planning permit pathway / engagement with regulators
- A grid connection application.

Engagement with property owners, neighbours and the local community will be ongoing throughout all these activities.

More community drop-in sessions will be held later this year, before we lodge the planning permit application.

Who is European Energy Australia

European Energy was founded in Denmark in 2004 and has grown into a global leader in renewable energy development. We opened our Melbourne office in 2022, and our staff and list of projects have consistently grown since then.

We develop, build, and operate our renewable energy projects and our approach is grounded in collaboration, transparency, and respect for local communities.