

Project Overview

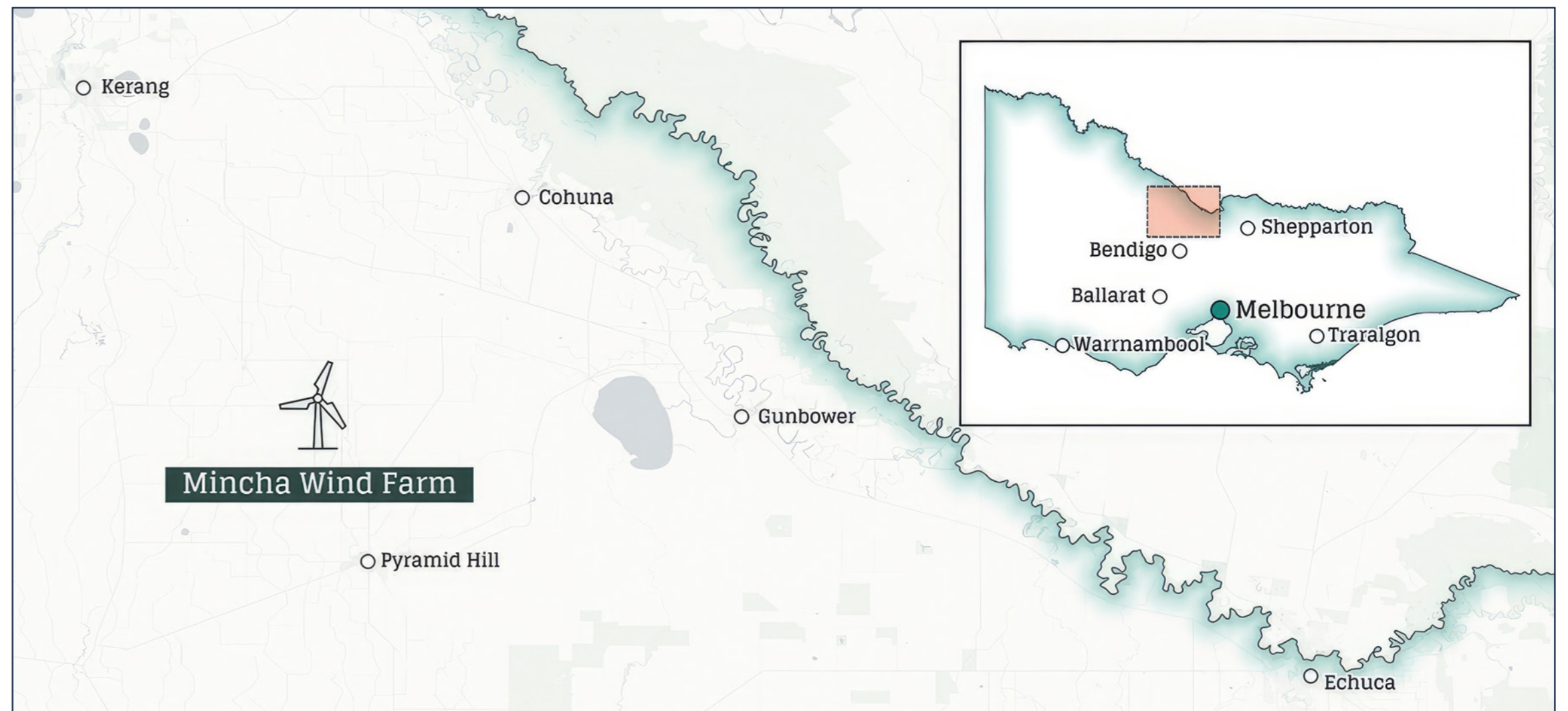
European Energy Australia is developing the Mincha Wind Farm project.



Location
Mincha, Vic



Local Government Area
Gannawarra and Loddon Shires



Fast Facts



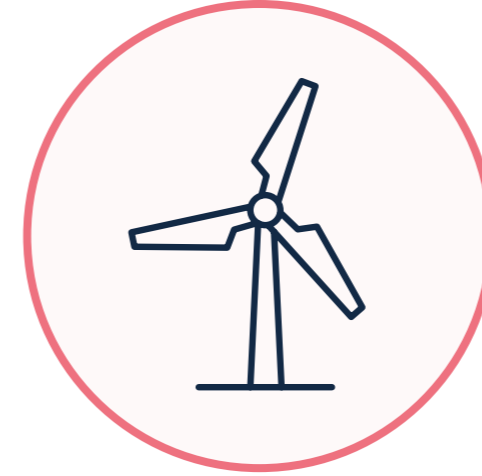
Amount of land

3,500 hectares of land is being investigated for project infrastructure. Less than 2% of total land area is anticipated to be impacted by project infrastructure during operation.



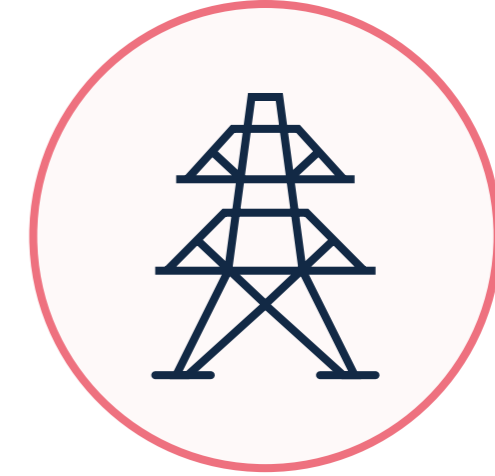
Electricity generated

If approved, enough annual energy generation to power up to 250,000 homes or approx. 280 megawatt.



Number of turbines

Approx 40 turbines totalling around 280 megawatt generating capacity.



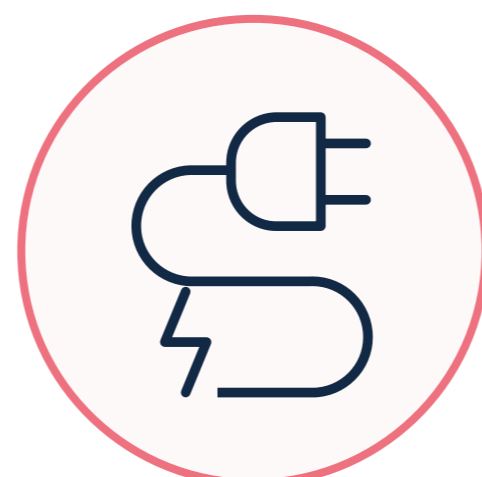
Transmission Lines

The existing 220 kilovolt Kerang-Bendigo transmission line runs through the proposed project site. We intend to build a new cut-in to this line, feeding power into the existing network.



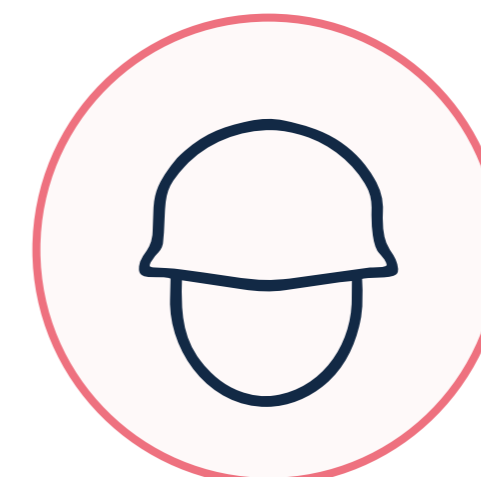
Supporting infrastructure

A collector and substation, power lines, battery energy storage system (BESS) and an operation and maintenance office.



First energy

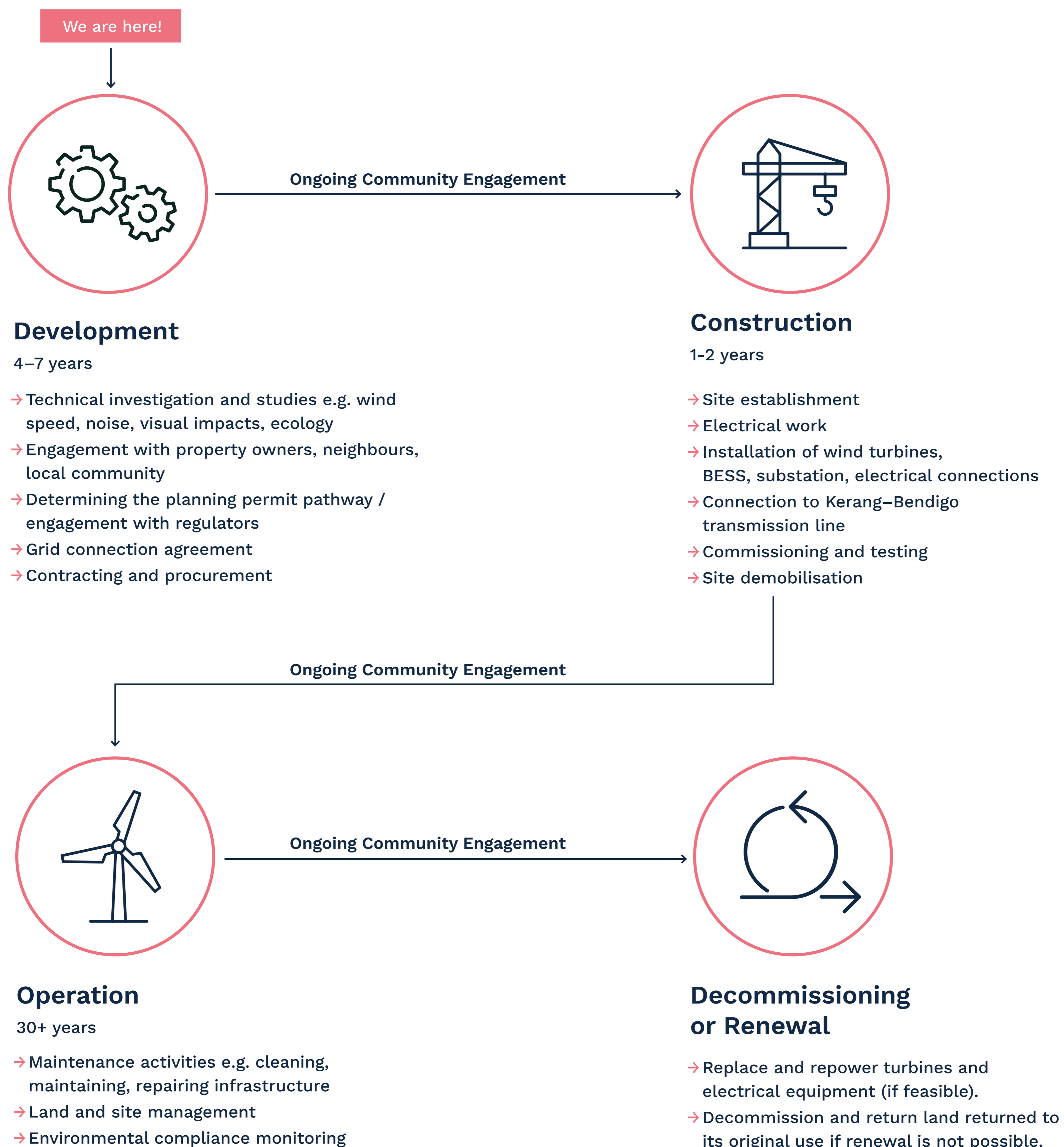
First energy could be delivered in 2030.



Local employment

Opportunities for local workers and suppliers.

Project Stages



About 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 and approach is grounded in collaboration, transparency, and respect for communities.

Planning approval pathway

Planning approvals ensure wind farms are responsibly designed, environmentally sound and compatible with local communities.

The Mincha Wind Farm will require a planning permit under *Planning and Environment Act 1987 (Vic)*.

The project may also require assessment under:

→ *Environment Effects Act 1978 (Vic) (EE Act)*

→ *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) (Commonwealth)*

Estimated approval steps and timing

Approval Stages

Activities

Investigations / assessments

We are here



- Ongoing environmental assessments and preliminary impact investigations to inform early design.
- Plan approval pathway and prepare documentation for EE/EPBC Act referrals.

EE/EPBC Act referrals

Mid 2026q



We will send:

- EE referrals to the Minister for Planning to consider whether an EES is required
- EPBC referrals to the Federal Minister for Environment to make decisions on whether the project is a 'controlled action'. The community can provide comment on this referral.

Regulator determinations

Mid 2026



Referrals will determine either:

- no further assessment
- no further assessment, subject to specific conditions.
- further assessment is required under EE or EPBC Acts.

Detailed investigations

Mid to late 2026



Assessments prepared to support the planning permit application: ecology, landscape and visual, shadow flicker, aviation, noise and noise peer review, surface water and groundwater, transport, bushfire. Other assessments may be required depending on the outcome of the referrals process.

Planning permit application

Late 2026



- Lodge planning permits with Victorian Department of Transport and Planning.
- The application will include project description, site context, design response as well as assessments above.

Public advertisement

Late 2026 / early 2027



Information will be publicly available for at least 28 days.
We will provide information closer to the time on how you can access and provide feedback.

Regulator determinations

Mid 2027



Victorian Minister for Planning makes decision and, if the project be approved, we start to prepare for construction.

Depending on the outcome of the referrals, the timeline may extend for 6 months – 18 months or more.

How you can be involved:

- Attend community drop-in sessions to get updates.
- Ask questions, provide feedback via email or project contact points.
- Provide feedback during public exhibition of the planning permit.

Ecology assessments

About the surveys

Ecology assessments include both flora and fauna surveys.

Flora surveys focus on identifying vegetation communities, plant species and habitat values across the proposed site. Fauna surveys are underway to investigate species living in and using habitat in the area. These studies are done to identify if there may be impacts on species or communities from the wind farm during construction and operation.

The surveys inform:

- Turbine layout and mitigation measures
- Construction footprint minimisation including habitat protection and rehabilitation plans
- Planning permit applications
- Displacement or disturbance impacts (fauna)
- Species at risk of turbine collision (fauna)
- Compliance with planning and biodiversity legislation.



Surveys commenced

Survey type	Overview/high level findings	Commenced
Bird utilisation surveys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Eight fixed point seasonal surveys to identify bird species, flight behaviour and habitat use. → 89 bird species recorded including 11 raptor and five threatened species. → Most commonly observed species: Common Starling, Galah, Australian Magpie, Long-billed Corella, and Crested Pigeon. → More surveys are underway or will be commenced this year for Plains Wanderer, Brolga waterbirds and migratory shorebirds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May 2025 July 2025 October 2025 January 2026
Bat utilisation surveys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Song meters (a small sound recorder) installed to identify bat species and how they use surrounding farmland, creeks, or tree lines. → 13 species of micro-bat identified from calls recorded in the area. → Further surveys will be conducted in each season of 2026. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May 2025 July 2025 October 2025 (Jan 2026 analysis underway)
Black Falcon & Wedge-tailed Eagle nest surveys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Aim to record if species and their nests are present in the area. → Three Wedge-tailed Eagle nests have been identified so far. Turbines will be placed away from these sites to ensure ongoing breeding. → Low numbers and no breeding Black Falcons were observed. More surveys will be conducted to understand behaviour and breeding in the area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> October 2025
Flora surveys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Aim to identify areas of native vegetation, assess their quality, and if any endangered ecological communities are present. → More than 40 native plant species recorded with most common being grasses (e.g. Spider-grass, Rigid Panic). Common native shrubs include Short-leaf Bluebush, Blackseed Glasswort, and Tangled Lignum. → EPBC (nationally) listed community was also identified: Natural Grasslands of the Murray Valley Plains. → Targeted surveys will be undertaken in spring to identify if there are more threatened communities or threatened plant species in the area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> February 2026

Next steps

Studies will be ongoing throughout the development phase. Information from these surveys will inform an ecology report for referrals under *Environment Effects Act 1978 (Vic)* and *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Commonwealth)*.