

# Willatook Wind Farm

## Project Update

APRIL 2026



Over the past year the Willatook Wind Farm project team has been working through the recommendations made in the Victorian Minister for Planning's assessment of the project.

During this time, the Victorian Government released new guidelines for onshore wind farm development through the Handbook for the Development of Renewable Energy in Victoria. Importantly, this includes updated guidance relating to key issues raised in the Minister's assessment, including Brolga and the Southern Bent-wing Bat.

Using the updated guidance in the Handbook, the wind farm layout has been refined to strengthen alignment with biodiversity considerations, particularly in relation to Brolga and the Southern Bent-wing Bat.

As part of this process, turbine exclusion areas and habitat buffers have been refined, several turbine locations have been adjusted, and the overall number of proposed wind turbines has been reduced. In addition, the project team has been updating a range of environmental and technical studies, including further field surveys across the project area. These include updated biodiversity, cultural heritage, noise, traffic, shadow flicker, water, aviation and bushfire assessments.

These studies are now being finalised to support submission of an amended planning permit application, expected in the second quarter of 2026.

*Wind Prospect respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land that the project is located on, being the Eastern Maar and Gunditjmarra 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.*

[willatookwindfarm.com.au](http://willatookwindfarm.com.au)

### 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



## Next steps

### Planning and approvals

The Victorian Minister for Planning's assessment of the Willatook Wind Farm concluded that the project could proceed, subject to certain issues being addressed, particularly in relation to biodiversity.

As outlined above, the project team has been refining the wind farm layout and updating environmental assessments to respond to this guidance. The next step is to submit an amended planning permit application to the Victorian Government, which is currently expected in the second quarter of 2026.

The project team is also progressing the preparation of the Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) together with the RAPs to get to an approved CHMP in a similar timeframe.

### Grid connection

In parallel, the project team will continue progressing the grid connection process. This involves a series of technical studies and approvals undertaken with VicGrid, the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) and AusNet, the transmission network service provider (TNSP).

This process is expected to continue throughout 2026, with a decision on grid connection anticipated in 2027.

### Procurement and project preparation

Alongside these approvals processes, the project team will continue to work on preparing for the potential construction of the wind farm. This includes procurement activities such as engaging key contractors, local suppliers, evaluating equipment suppliers and planning the logistics required to build and operate the project.

The indicative timeline shown outlines the project's targeted pathway toward construction, noting that these dates remain subject to change as approvals and external processes progress.

## Indicative Timeline

Mid  
2026



Lodge  
Planning Permit  
Application

Late  
2026



Submit Grid  
Application and  
Development  
Application &  
EPBC Act decision

Mid  
2027



Grid  
Connection  
Application  
decision

Late  
2027



Start of  
construction

Early  
2030



Start of  
operation  
(~30 to 35 years)

Introducing... 

ENGIE is committed to contribute to Australia's journey towards Net Zero carbon emissions with **82% renewable electricity by 2030**

Wind Prospect has led the development of Willatook Wind Farm since the beginning of the Project. In 2021, ENGIE secured the rights to acquire the Project and has been involved in its co development since then. ENGIE is a French energy company operating in Australia since 1996, now comprising over 400 employees, and supplying 620,000 customers with electricity. Operating 1 GW of renewable and low carbon capacity generation and has 3 GW of new projects under development, ENGIE is committed to contribute

to Australia's journey towards Net Zero carbon emissions with 82% renewable electricity by 2030.

If the Project receives planning and environmental approvals, ENGIE would progress the Project to construction, as the owner, builder and long term operator of the wind farm. As the project progresses, ENGIE and Wind Prospect will continue working together and engage with the Council, First Nation groups, local landholders, neighbours and the wider community.

# Renewable Energy Zones

You may have heard about VicGrid’s plans to establish Renewable Energy Zones (REZs) across Victoria, including in the south-west of the state.

Renewable Energy Zones are areas identified by governments to help coordinate new investment in wind, solar and battery projects alongside the transmission infrastructure needed to connect them to the electricity grid. By focusing development in areas with strong renewable energy resources and access to existing or planned transmission, REZs aim to support more efficient delivery of new renewable energy projects.

In Victoria, REZs are being developed by VicGrid on behalf of the Victorian Government. Draft locations for several zones have been released, with the final REZ declarations expected in mid-2026.

The proposed Willatook Wind Farm project is located within the proposed South West Renewable Energy Zone. The draft South West REZ includes two areas: one south-east of Hamilton between Macarthur and Darlington, and another north-west of Hamilton near Coleraine, between Casterton and Balmoral (see below map).

For more information about Renewable Energy Zones in Victoria, visit VicGrid at [www.vicgrid.vic.gov.au](http://www.vicgrid.vic.gov.au)

## Map of the draft South West Renewable Energy Zone



## Upcoming April Community Information Sessions

The project team is planning to hold Community Information Sessions in April to provide an update on the Willatook Wind Farm project.

These sessions will provide an opportunity to present the updated wind farm design, outline the changes made in response to the Minister for Planning's assessment and the updated renewable energy guidance, and explain the next steps in the planning process.

Importantly, the project will still require an amended planning permit application to be assessed and approved by the Victorian Government before any development could proceed.

The sessions will also provide an opportunity for community members to ask questions about the project, discuss the updated studies and timelines, and provide input on initiatives such as the community benefit fund.

Catering will be available, and the project team looks forward to meeting with local residents and discussing the project in person.

### Community Information Sessions:

**15 April 7.00pm - 8.30pm**  
Orford Hall  
High St, Orford

**16 April 7.00pm - 8.30pm**  
Port Fairy Community House  
5 Railway Place, Port Fairy

For further information please email [info@willatookwindfarm.com.au](mailto:info@willatookwindfarm.com.au) or phone 1800 934 313.

## Community Sponsorship Fund



The Willatook Wind Farm 2026 Community Sponsorship Fund is open for applications.

***The fund provides \$20,000 annually during development and construction phase 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 more than 26 local projects with contributions totalling more than \$100,000. Since the publication of the last newsletter in August 2025, several community organisations have been supported by this fund including:


- Macarthur Cemetary Trust for construction of a new entrance
- Orford Recreation & Public Hall Reserve Inc. to install a new shade pavilion
- Orford and District Table Tennis Association for new equipment
- Women on Farms gathering
- Orford Sports Club Inc for installation of a firefighting Water Tank



We encourage local organisations to apply. Full details, including eligibility and application process, are available on the Project website or by scanning the QR code.

## 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.

 1800 934 313

 [info@willatookwindfarm.com.au](mailto:info@willatookwindfarm.com.au)

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