



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WOOLSTHORPE WIND FARM PERMIT AMENDMENT - FAQs

1. What has previously been proposed?

The current planning permit allows for 20 turbines to be constructed with a maximum height of 168 metres. The minimum clearance of the turbine blades from ground level is 35 metres. The permit was issued by the Minister for Planning.

2. Why is an amendment to the planning permit required?

An amendment to the planning permit is required due to the change in turbines. The previously approved turbines are no longer available by the supplier.

As such, the project has been reviewed to find new turbines which would be suitable for the land.

Through advances in technology, current available turbines are larger than what was previously approved. Larger turbines are however more efficient at producing power hence less turbines are required to generate the same amount of energy overall.

3. What is now proposed?

It is proposed to construct 13 turbines with a maximum height of 230 metres. The minimum clearance of the turbine blades from ground level is 66 metres. The Minister for Planning will be considering and assessing the application.

4. What is being considered and assessed in the amendment planning application?

As a permit has already been granted, it has already been deemed reasonable for the land to be developed as a wind farm.

What is now being considered and assessed, is the difference in impact as a result of changes proposed.

5. If the turbines are bigger, won't they generate more noise?

Pre-construction acoustic modelling has been undertaken based on the proposed turbines. Although the turbines are larger, there are less turbines proposed overall and they include improved insulation to minimise noise impacts. The modelling provided confirms that the noise generated complies with the specified standards.

6. How close is the nearest turbine to the Woolsthorpe township?

The closest turbine to the township is approximately 3.5 kilometres, as the crow-flies.

7. Why are there turbines within 5km of the township?

The Victorian planning framework does not specify a minimum distance for a turbine to be setback from a township. There are however, mandatory setbacks of a turbine from a dwelling – being 1 kilometre.

Moyne Shire Council has formed its own position for all new wind farms which stipulates a requirement for turbines to be setback 5 kilometres. We note that this is for new wind farm proposals as distinct from amendments to existing permitted proposals.

8. How has bushfire risk been addressed?

The risk of bushfire has been mitigated through the following measures;

- Dedicated 45,000 litres of static water supply available at the site entry solely for fire fighting purposes.
- All internal access tracks are a minimum 5 metres in width and are graded for use by emergency vehicles.
- Clearing of grass from the base of turbines to minimise the risk of grass fire.
- Wind turbines are also required to be located no less than 300 metres apart. This ensures adequate distance for aircraft to operate around a wind energy facility.

9. What is the impact on any vegetation?

No vegetation within the site boundaries is proposed to be removed to accommodate the proposed works.

Some native vegetation is required to be removed within the road reserve adjacent to the main site entry. This vegetation removal is unavoidable as the access is required to be widened to cater for vehicle movements into the site.

10. Are the changes better or worse for wildlife in the area?

Critically, the proposal provides less turbines than what already has approval. This in itself will reduce any impacts on wildlife from what has already been approved.

More specifically, the increase in the ground level clearance from the bottom of the blade are considered to be a positive outcome. This clearance will minimise potential conflict with avifauna.

11. Will the project impact my property values?

Property values are speculative and there has been no clear evidence supporting the notion that wind farms devalue property.

Relevant background reports and studies into this matter can be found below;

- <https://www.woolsthorpewindfarm.com/about-the-windfarm>
- Look under *Useful Links* Section

Property values are not a planning matter given they do not relate to the merits of an application. This is confirmed through various decisions of the Victorian Civil Administrative Tribunal (VCAT).

12. What does the community get out of the project?

A community benefit fund (for \$60,000 p.a.) will be established upon commencement of the construction and be in place throughout operation of the wind farm.

It will benefit the community and residents by funding programs, projects and initiatives that contribute to economic, environmental and social sustainability, and education advancement.

13. Where can I get more information?

Further information regarding the specifics of the proposal can be sourced from;

- Department of Environment Land Water and Planning (Victorian Government)
 - <https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/permits-and-applications/ministerial-permits/browse-ministerial-permits>
 - Search application number 20060220-3
- Woolsthorpe Wind Farm website
 - <https://www.woolsthorpewindfarm.com>

Any email enquiries can also be sent directly to the proponent team at:
contactus.woolsthorpe@elecnor.com.



CONTACT US



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