

# WOOLSTHORPE WIND FARM



## DISTRIBUTION LINE OVERVIEW

### 1 PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Woolsthorpe Wind Farm (WWF) is located 25 km inland from the coast, 4km west of Woolsthorpe and 10 km south-east of Hawkesdale in south-west Victoria, Australia.

The project has an existing permit for up to 20 wind turbine generators and associated equipment with a potential installed capacity of 73 MW. The estimated total capital cost is approximately AUD\$150 million.

The generation of wind power at Woolsthorpe will help meet Victoria's growing demand for green power as well as provide construction and ongoing jobs for Victorians.

### 2 ABOUT US

Enerfin promotes, develops, constructs and operates wind energy facilities globally. It is the wind arm of the Elecnor Group, a global leader in the energy and infrastructure sectors. Established in Spain over 60 years ago, Elecnor has a long history of stable growth, which today sees the company active in 55 countries with over 13,000 employees.

Enerfin currently owns and operates over 1,000 MW of wind energy generation across Spain, Canada and Brazil, and has gained worldwide recognition for its unique approach to the adoption of innovative technologies combined with the sensitive integration of projects into local environments.

*Boasting a long-term outlook, Enerfin designs distinctive projects which satisfy the needs and specifications of the places in which they are implemented. The company is especially committed to respecting the environment and integrating the area's historical, cultural and artistic values to its farms.*

### CONTENTS

- 1 - Project Overview**
- 2 - About Us**
- 3 - The Distribution Line**
- 4 - Planning Process**

### CONTACT US



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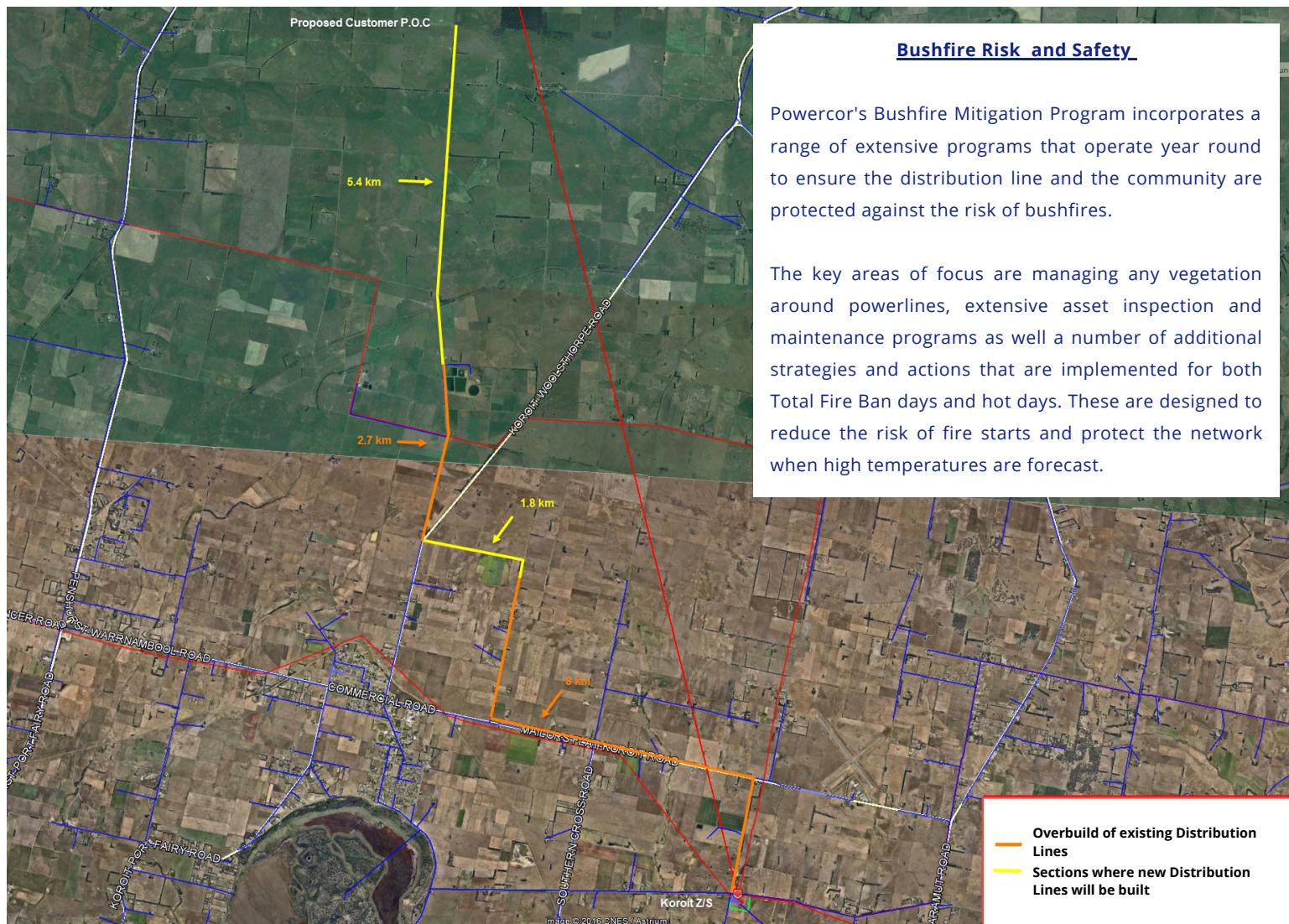
### 3 THE DISTRIBUTION LINE

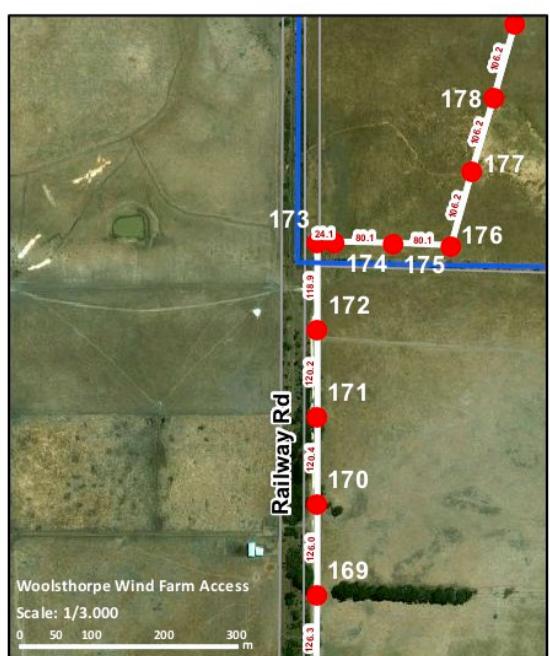
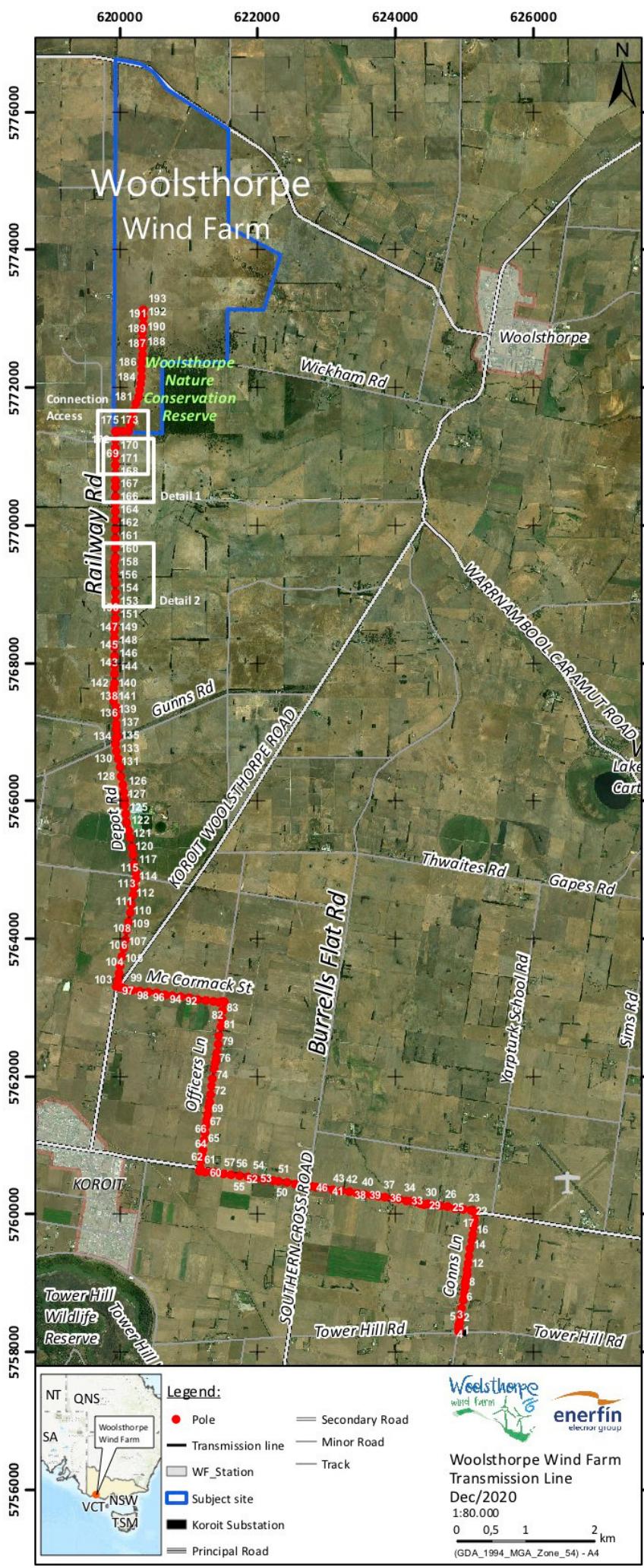
The Woolsthorpe Wind Farm distribution line will be a 66kV (66,000 volt) overhead powerline that runs from the wind farm to the Koroit Zone Substation. The difference between distribution and transmission lines is that transmission lines are for large distances, their voltage is higher, and they can transport more electricity, while distribution lines are for short distances, their voltage is lower, and they transport electricity locally. This distribution line will make it possible for the energy generated by the Woolsthorpe Wind Farm to be distributed through the wider electricity network.

It will involve the construction of approximately 18 kilometres of 66kV circuit where 10.7 kilometres will be an overbuild of the already existing distribution line (the poles and the wires). Every attempt has been made to keep new distribution lines to a minimum, however by necessity there are sections where there is currently no existing line and therefore we require new poles and wires in those locations (notably the northern section of Railway Road as well as a section along McCormack Street). Details of these corridors can be seen in the pictures below.

The distribution line corridor and general design was determined in an effort to minimise the environmental and visual impact and maximise the utilisation of already existing infrastructure. This final and optimised design was determined after considering many factors like, and not limited to:

- Availability of land access (both public and private);
- Infrastructure constraints (line length, spans between poles, changes in direction and topography);
- Structural load due to the weight, wind, earthquake, ground water and other factors;
- Electrical safety requirements;
- Native vegetation, planning requirements, areas of cultural heritage significance, property configurations and dwelling locations;
- Road and traffic safety and Fire safety.





## 4 PLANNING PROCESS

In March 2019, the Minister for Planning announced Amendment VC157 to the Victoria Planning Provisions (VPP) and all planning schemes which introduces new requirements for developers to obtain a planning permit for power lines and substations to connect new energy generation facilities to the electricity network. Previously there was no requirement for a planning permit to construct power lines that operate at less than 220kV. Since the Woolsthorpe Wind Farm has a permit that was issued by the Minister for Planning in 2008 and later amended in 2017, which precedes the mentioned amendment, the 66kV distribution line does not require a separate planning permit for its construction.

Due to the poles and wires being erected predominately in road reserves, Powercor will be required to apply to the Coordinating Road Authority, which in this case is the Moyne Shire Council, for a Work Within Road Reserve consent and must be in line with the *Roads Management Act 2004* and the *Road Safety Act 1986*. This consent will be sought when there is a clear timeline to start construction.

Whilst there was no planning permit required through the Moyne Planning Scheme or Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), Powercor still had to address certain aspects of the line route and the potential impact on Cultural Heritage and native flora and fauna.

- Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) - this is a management plan which is governed by the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 with a purpose to identify areas of aboriginal cultural significance and put a process in place to manage and protect Aboriginal Cultural Heritage. The CHMP is prepared in consultation with the Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP), which in this case is the Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation, and is assessed through Aboriginal Victoria. Field assessments have been completed and the CHMP will shortly be submitted to Aboriginal Victoria for final approval.
- Native Vegetation Permit - the only planning permit required is for native vegetation removal. The Native Vegetation Permit was issued by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, and the Minister for Planning on 9th June 2020. The line route design was able to greatly reduce the impact on native vegetation. Prior to the approval of the permit, a number of preliminary studies, reports and discussions took place including:
  - Arborist review and report
  - Ecologist review and report
  - Landcare consultation
  - Moyne Shire consultation

High strength wooden poles, up to 15.5 metres in height will be used for the new distribution lines. These poles are different to the large galvanised metal poles used in other local projects that reach up to 28 metres in height and have a greater visual impact. New poles will replace existing poles in the 10.7km section of overbuild. These poles will accommodate both the existing 22kV circuit and the 66kV circuit from the wind farm. The following image is an indication of the poles that will be constructed

