



VOYAGER
RENEWABLES

By Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners

BLACK RANGE WIND FARM

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT FACTSHEET



Voyager Renewables is investigating the feasibility of a wind farm and battery energy storage system (BESS) near Willalooka, South Australia.

This factsheet outlines the environment assessment and primary planning approvals required to build and operate a wind farm in South Australia.

ENVIRONMENT ASSESSMENT AND APPROVAL REQUIREMENTS

Before construction can begin, we'll seek relevant State and Federal approvals, including under the *Hydrogen Renewable Energy Act 2023* and *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

Hydrogen Renewable Energy Act (2023)

In South Australia, the *Hydrogen Renewable Energy Act (2023)* (HRE Act) regulates and licences large-scale hydrogen and renewable energy projects across South Australia and is the responsibility of the Department of Energy and Mining (DEM).

Under the HRE Act, we'll apply for permits and licenses for the renewable energy project.

Renewable Energy Feasibility Permit (REFP)

An REFP authorises the construction, operation and decommissioning of infrastructure needed to assess the feasibility of renewable energy projects.

For the Black Range Wind Farm, an REFP is needed to build a meteorological mast to capture detailed wind and weather data.

Renewable Energy Infrastructure License (REIL)

An REIL must be granted to construct, install, operate, maintain and decommission renewable energy infrastructure.

Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act (1999)

The project will also be referred under the Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act).

The EPBC Act regulates how nationally and internationally important species and their habitat, wetlands and marine parks and historic and cultural places are protected and managed. It is operated by the Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water (DCCEEW).

Early desktop studies have identified the potential for presence of nationally protected bat species within the investigation area, which means the project must be referred and assessed under the EPBC Act.

When submitted and before a decision is made, the EPBC Act referral will go on public display, and community will be able to review the documentation and make a submission.

The Minister for the Environment will consider the referral and decide what kind of assessment is required before any approval can be granted.



To apply for permits and licenses under the HRE Act Voyager will need to prepare the following documentation:

1

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIR)

– a detailed report identifying the project's potential impacts on local social, amenity, heritage and ecological values and outline how these will be avoided, mitigated or managed.

2

Statement of Environmental Objectives (SEO)

– outlines measurable outcomes or targets for environmental protection to mitigate or manage impacts identified in the EIR. The SEO must be reviewed every five years of operation.

3

Consultation Plan – outlines when formal consultation on the EIR and SEO will commence, including who will be consulted, how and when. The Consultation Plan must be submitted to DEM at least 10 days before consultation is due to commence.

Voyager has already started consulting with relevant stakeholders and will continue to do so as the EIA and SEO documents are prepared and finalised.

4

Operational Management Plan (OMP)

– construction activities must not commence unless an approved OMP is in place for the licence. The OMP must set out the policies that address how construction and operations will be managed, including the systems and controls to ensure ongoing compliance.

Prior to any approval being granted, the final documents will go on public display. Community and stakeholders will have the opportunity to have their say on the final documents and make a submission to be considered by decision makers.

Environment Impact Assessment

Our Environment Impact Assessment will assess the potential impacts of the project on local social, amenity, heritage and ecological values.

STUDY	WHAT IS INVOLVED	
Aviation		Assess potential impacts or changes to aviation operations and safety for aviation routes and nearby aerodromes.
Bushfire, hazard and risk		Conduct a hazard and bushfire assessment to inform a draft risk management plan which incorporates South Australian Country Fire Service Renewable Energy Facilities Guidelines. It will outline expectations for safe design and operation, and ensure the project can be safely accessed and managed during an emergency.
Cultural and historic heritage		Field surveys will map places of Aboriginal cultural and historic heritage importance and identify way to avoid or manage potential impacts. Traditional Owners will be involved in the field survey process.
Ecology		Assess the potential impacts of the project on ecological values. Specialist ecologists will complete desktop and field surveys to identify flora and fauna, native vegetation and bird and bat species and way to avoid, minimise or manage potential impacts.
Electromagnetic interference (EMI)		Assess potential EMI as a result of the project, including potential impacts to the operation of navigation, mobile and communication systems.
Geotechnical and contamination		Undertake a desktop geotechnical assessment of the project area to inform the design and layout of wind turbines. More detailed ground testing and investigations will also be required to inform wind turbine foundation design and construction methodology. A review of past and present on-site and off-site activities, EPA Site Contamination Index and Dangerous Substances licence to understand any potential contamination impacts.
Landscape and visual impact		Prepare photo montages to visualise what the project will look like from different viewpoints around the project area, including at neighbouring properties, and assess the potential impact and change to the landscape.
Noise		Model daytime and nighttime noise levels as a result of the project to determine potential impacts at noise sensitive receiver such as dwellings. The project must be designed to meet stringent noise limits and requirements.
Stormwater, flooding and hydrology		Review rainfall, groundwater, catchment and meteorological data to undertake a catchment and groundwater analysis and simulate a range of design storm events. Identify potential hydrology risks and how the should be managed.
Traffic and transport		Review the existing road conditions and traffic volumes to plan how oversize deliveries would be transported to site and what road upgrades may be required. Any upgrades to the road network would be paid for by Voyager.
Shadow flicker and blade glint		Assess the potential for shadow flicker and glint impacts to nearby dwellings, roads and other receptors and identify any mitigation measures that could reduce potential impacts.

Early investigations to identify important species

We've started desktop studies and field surveys to understand what bird and bat species may be present around the project area.

We need to collect at least 2 years of survey data to understand bird and bat movements across different seasons, inform project design and layout, and meet Federal and State assessment requirements.

Specialist ecologists have already completed 1 year of bird and bat surveys.

So far, our field survey activities have involved:

- Visual surveys to identify species and understand potential for habitat around the site.
- Recording sounds of bird and bats to understand their location and movements across the investigation area.

Designing the project around environmental features

Designing a wind farm is an iterative process.

Data from desktop and field investigations helps us to understand more about what may be present in the investigation area so that we can design the project to minimise impacts on local social, amenity, heritage and ecological values and features.

This might involve:

- Establishing setbacks from nearby dwellings or farm operations.
- Locating wind turbines away from areas of established vegetation.
- Using existing roads and access tracks to limit ground disturbance.
- Establishing buffer areas around important cultural and historic areas.



VOYAGER
RENEWABLES

By Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners

WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU

For more information regarding the project or for any questions please reach out.

Head Office Newcastle:

Level 2, 26 Honeysuckle Drive, Newcastle NSW 2300

Email: info@voyager.energy

Phone: 1300 020 735

www.voyager.energy