

## Proposed Nyaninyuk Wind Farm: Community Information Sessions, August 2023

The proposed Nyaninyuk Wind Farm (located between Evansford, Clunes and Waubra) would generate enough energy to power over 210,000 homes annually, but it would also bring investment into the local community. The site has been chosen due to its wind resource, compatibility with the existing environment and good road access from the Sunraysia Highway. More information is available on our [community engagement hub](#).

### Summary of themes

Acciona Energia hosted three community drop-in sessions and an online information session during August 2023. These were publicised through a range of media:

- Direct neighbour engagement and visits during July 2023
- News update and media release shared online in the project community engagement hub
- Flyers posted to letterboxes within local postcode areas 3352, 3356, 3363, 3370, 3371 from w/c 24 July 2023
- Articles during August 2023 in the local press, including Pyrenees Advocate and Ballarat Courier
- Emails sent on 28 July 2023 to those subscribing to project updates, and also to key stakeholders such as local councils and the CFA
- Geo-targeted social media communications.

The sessions took place at the following locations. There were 83 attendees in total, with the number of attendees for each session given in brackets:

- Wednesday 16 August, 6:30-7:30pm: online community information session (17)
- Saturday 19 August, 10:30am-12:30pm: in-person community drop-in session, Esmond Gallery, Clunes (32)
- Tuesday 22 August, 10:00am-1:00pm, in-person community drop-in session, Waubra Football and Netball Club (10)
- Tuesday 22 August, 4:00-7:00pm in-person community drop-in session, Evansford Community Centre (24)

A range of themes were discussed, which have been summarised in the table\* on the following pages, along with our response, and if appropriate, next steps.

### Contact us

We are committed to continuous engagement with the local community surrounding the Nyaninyuk Wind Farm, and acknowledge the value of your feedback and questions. You can contact us via our free call community hotline, email or by post – or via our online community engagement hub.

**Post:** PO Box 24110, Melbourne VIC 3001.

**Community information hotline:** 1800 283 550

**Email:** [nyaninyuk@acciona.com](mailto:nyaninyuk@acciona.com)

**Community Hub:** [www.community.acciona.com.au/Nyaninyuk](http://www.community.acciona.com.au/Nyaninyuk)



Visit our Community Hub!

| Key theme                         | Questions and comments from community                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
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| <b>Environmental impacts</b>      | The possible consequences on the environment were raised, including the impact on wildlife, bats, habitats, and ecosystems, due to the presence of wind farms both currently and in the future.                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <p>Preliminary biodiversity studies have been conducted within the project area from late 2021 to 2023 which capture data through the different seasons. The surveys included Bird and Bat, Brolga, Wedge-tail Eagle, Barking Owl, Growling Grass Frog, Striped Legless Lizard, Golden Sun Moth, Spiny Rice Flower, Native vegetation, grassland and trees. More detailed surveys focussed on the data captured to date will continue to occur throughout 2024.</p> <p>The completed surveys and associated data collected help us to design around such constraints identified to minimise and mitigate impacts to local flora and fauna species.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Bushfire mitigation</b>        | CFA volunteers and other community members were concerned that wind farms may present an obstacle to tackling bushfires, and were generally concerned about project impact and planning around this.                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <p>Our neighbouring Waubra Wind Farm has a published <a href="#">Bushfire Mitigation Plan</a>, which is a good example of a plan comparable to one that would be in place for Nyaninyuk, should it go ahead. We are working closely with the CFA to understand the local requirements, and develop an approach to ensure the project can be built and operated safely, and that we can respond to emergencies, should they arise.</p> <p>As an example, wind turbines must be provided with automatic shut-down, and the ability to be completely disconnected from the power supply in the event of fire. Wind turbines are also considered a valuable asset by the government, so their presence would actually increase the priority of protecting the local area. The additional access tracks of the wind farm will create multiple fire breaks that would help slow down any potential fire. The improved infrastructure from the wind farm can create more accessibility to zones, clear lines of sight, allowing the CFA crews to coordinate air and ground crew actions.</p> |
| <b>Project impacts and layout</b> | Size and visibility of wind turbines within the landscape was raised, as well as the future impact of noise (noise from the current wind farm was also mentioned). Questions were asked about regulations and required setbacks. Attendees wanted to visualise how 58 turbines will fit in the project map – specifically if they were evenly spaced and how far apart they might be from dwellings, | <p>All of our projects are developed to comply with permit requirements – we do this in consultation with community. Victoria has a legislated setback of 1km between turbines and non-involved dwellings.</p> <p>We will continue to adhere to regulations whilst working with the community to identify and consider their requirements. There have been changes to the noise regulations in Victoria in 2021, and ACCIONA and its consultants will comply with all current noise legislation. Approval for a wind farm in Victoria requires a pre-</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

| Key theme                 | Questions and comments from community                                                                                                                                                                             | Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
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|                           | boundaries or each other. They were keen to be informed about the layout and understand when it will be made available.                                                                                           | <p>construction noise assessment. This assessment must comply with the New Zealand Standard NZS6808:2010, Acoustics – Wind Farm Noise.</p> <p>We are planning to provide information about the wind farm layout during October 2023 – this will be published online and provided actively to those closest to the project, and to other key stakeholders. We are also preparing visuals to show what the project would look like from key locations.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Decommissioning</b>    | There was interest in the expected service life for the wind turbines and plans for their end of life. Specifically, some stakeholders wanted to know protocols for removal and disposal of the expired turbines. | <p>At the end of a wind farm's lease, we would discuss with landowners if they'd like to renew the lease, and if the project is still viable, we'd go through the process to re-permit with planning and environmental regulators and re-power the site for another 30 years. Properly maintained turbine lifespans can last 40-50 years. In the event that a wind farm is decommissioned, as part of our lease agreements and development approvals, we return the land to its original state.</p> <p>About 90% of a turbine's weight can be recycled already. As part of our commitment to recycling and a circular economy, our colleagues in Europe have been working with partners to develop technologies to recycle blades, turning them into frames for solar panels. We're also looking at other industrial uses for blades to be used as an input in concrete manufacturing.</p>                                                              |
| <b>Transmission lines</b> | Community asked whether the project relies on connecting transmission lines to the Western Renewables Link (WRL), a project which many community members were concerned about.                                    | <p>We provide AusNet (who are delivering WRL) with information about the proposed Nyaninyuk Wind Farm, particularly where WRL's proposed alignment and the project footprint overlap. Our aim here is to minimise impact for the local community and work with AusNet as a key stakeholder in the area (both for the existing Waubra Wind Farm and the proposed Nyaninyuk Wind Farm).</p> <p>The proposed WRL would bolster the existing transmission network and as a result provide opportunities for a range of renewable energy projects in Victoria to connect to the network and is key to assisting Victoria in transitioning to a more focussed renewable energy supply mix.</p> <p>Nyaninyuk is one of a range of proposed projects that would benefit from the WRL upgrades. It is possible that the proposed Nyaninyuk Wind Farm will either connect directly into the WRL, or we may need to connect back into Waubra terminal station.</p> |

| Key theme                                | Questions and comments from community                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
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| <b>Construction and traffic</b>          | The construction phase of a wind farm would require heavy machinery and increased traffic in the area, potentially impacting local infrastructure and road safety. Community members were concerned about the impact on surrounding roads - specifically potholes and damage from construction vehicles not just on the adjacent roads but on the town, roads used to transport the materials from port or city to regional areas. | <p>Road upgrades would be required and carried out - the extent of these will depend on the traffic impact assessment results and through further consultation, especially as the project detail becomes clearer and we know more about delivery routes for the major components.</p> <p>We acknowledge roads are a significant concern for community and have effectively worked with local stakeholders on our recent Victorian developments to ensure local roads are upgraded prior, maintained during construction and returned to at least the pre-condition standard once construction is complete.</p>                                                                                       |
| <b>Project benefits and alternatives</b> | Support for renewable energy sources was expressed. Some community members mentioned a preference for alternatives such as nuclear energy, and considering alternative locations e.g. offshore wind.                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | None.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Community benefits</b>                | Community members were keen to understand and explore benefit sharing opportunities, and where these might be delivered (in relationship for example to local townships). They were also interested in the proposed model – to what extent community members would be involved in distribution of funds, and whether it would be linked to Waubra Wind Farm.                                                                       | The benefits sharing package for the proposed project is in development, and the local community will be consulted on its contents. It will also be informed by a Social Impact Assessment study which would be likely to start during 2024. It is certain that the delivery of benefits would focus on the communities most local to this proposed wind farm, and consider their views in the best way of involving community in decision-making on distributing funds. We are looking at options to benefit near neighbours, the broader community through a fund which offers both small grants and legacy investment, and also support for local students.                                       |
| <b>Procurement and employment</b>        | There was an interest in local business and employment opportunities resulting from the wind farm.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | We hire as extensively as possible from the local community. We don't use FIFO (fly in, fly out) teams during construction, instead preferring to use local workforces and suppliers. Everything that we can source from the local area takes priority before looking at suppliers from other parts of Australia. We are keen to provide local employment opportunities and support for local businesses and will work closely with local chambers, councils and other relevant organisations to publicise opportunities and, where appropriate, provide training and upskilling (for example through our support for APRETC - (Asia Pacific Renewable Energy Training Centre) now open in Ballarat. |

| Key theme     | Questions and comments from community                                                                                                                    | Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
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| Energy market | Concerns were expressed about the paradox of rising energy prices and the local impact of wind farms, which send energy out of the local area to cities. | <p>The wind turbines need a lot of consistent wind to operate effectively. These sites are quite rare and a project will often have to be located in wind zones which means that an area could see quite a lot of wind farms. There are no good wind zones near the capital cities and we have not identified any in other cities.</p> <p>We are looking at ways of providing benefits to support those closest to the project, given the undeniable rising cost of energy.</p> |