

## Environmental Monitoring Information Sheet

November 2019

Once constructed, the ACCIONA will undertake a range of ongoing environmental monitoring programs at the Mortlake South Wind Farm.

### 1. Native Vegetation

As the Mortlake South Wind Farm is being constructed on farmland, very little remnant native vegetation will be disturbed or removed by the construction of the wind farm. Some small areas of roadside native vegetation will be removed to facilitate the widening of Tapps Lane, Chamallak Lane and Grinters Lane.

In accordance with Victorian Government policy, ACCIONA has acquired native vegetation offsets. An offset compensates for biodiversity loss, by securing land and managing to improve native vegetation and biodiversity conditions.

More information about native vegetation offsetting can be found on the DELWP website <https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/native-vegetation/native-vegetation/offsets-for-the-removal-of-native-vegetation>

### 2. Native Fauna

Ecological assessments undertaken during the planning phase of the Mortlake South Wind Farm identified that the primary impact of wind turbines on bird and bat species is expected to be on common farmland species. These species have a conservation value of 'least concern' and are not threatened or endangered bird species.

ACCIONA will undertake a five-year monitoring study to understand how the turbines are impacting birds and bats. The monitoring program will be managed by a qualified ecologist and include:

- Monthly searches of turbines for bird and bat carcasses and incidental reporting of bird and bat carcasses discovered by onsite staff;
- Trials to determine how scavengers are removing birds and bat carcasses in between searches; and
- Trials to determine how accurate turbine searches are.

The monitoring will commence once all turbines are fully operational. The data collected during these searches will be statistically analysed to determine the impact of the wind farm on birds and bats, and whether mitigation measures are required.

Every twelve months, ACCIONA will provide DELWP and Moyne Shire Council with an annual report and publish a summary of the results on its website to update the community.

### 3. Noise Impacts

ACCIONA's planning permit requires noise from the wind turbines at the Mortlake South Wind Farm to comply with New Zealand Standard 6808:2010 Acoustics – Wind Farm Noise. Specifically, this requires noise levels at houses near the wind farm to not exceed 40dBa or, if background (ambient noise) at the house exceeds 35dBa, then the background noise level plus 5dba.

During the planning phase of the project, ACCIONA prepared predictive noise modelling for the Mortlake South Wind Farm to aid in locating turbines.

ACCIONA undertook selective background noise monitoring at several locations surrounding the wind farm in 2018.

Once all turbines are fully operational, ACCIONA will undertake noise monitoring at all houses where noise modelling predicts volumes will exceed 35dBA.

The results of the noise monitoring will be provided to the Minister for Planning and Moyne Shire Council. Further information on noise at Mortlake South Wind Farm is provided in ACCIONA's Noise Compliance Information Sheet.

### 4. Need more information?

We invite you to contact ACCIONA to discuss the environmental management at Mortlake South Wind Farm if you have further questions.

Please call (free call) 1800 283 550 or email [mortlake@acciona.com](mailto:mortlake@acciona.com)

