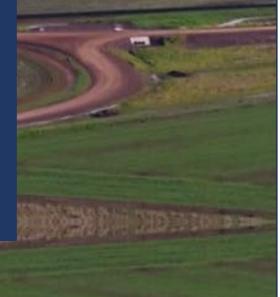
Darlington Wind Farm

EES Consultation Plan May 2024

There are an on



4



Contents

	1.	Introduction	4
	2.	Project Overview	4
	3.	Assessment Pathway	7
	4.	Project timeline	9
	5.	Engagement approach	. 10
	6.	Stakeholders	. 13
	7.	Overview of key project engagement phases	. 15
	8.	Stakeholder and community consultation undertaken to date	. 18
	9.	Engagement and communication tools and activities	. 22
	10.	Activity schedule	. 26
	Table S	9 Activity Schedule during EES process	. 26
	11.	Monitoring and evaluation	. 29
Appe	endix A:	Engagement completed prior to the EES Referral Phase	. 30
Appe	endix B:	Stakeholder list	. 32

Consultation Plan Versions:

Version No.	Date	Prepared by	
01	May 2023	GPG	
02	12 January 2024	GPG	
03	27 March 2024	GPG	
04	28 March 2024	GPG	
05	03 April 2024	GPG	
06	23 May 2024	GPG	



Definitions

Community

The term community refers to a group of people that has something in common such as identity, behaviours, interests or values. A community often share a sense of place in a given geographical area (e.g. a country, city, town, or neighbourhood) or in virtual space through communication platforms.

Stakeholder

The word stakeholder refers to individuals, groups or organisations with a stake or interest in the outcome of a decision. Stakeholders may also have the ability to influence the decision given their role or position.

Engagement

Engagement is defined as a planned process with the purpose of working with communities and stakeholders to inform decisions, share knowledge and strengthen relationships.

Acknowledgment of traditional owners

GPG Australia acknowledge the Eastern Maar peoples as the traditional Aboriginal owners of the Country on which our project sits. GPG Australia pay our respects to their culture and their Elders past, present and emerging.

Who is Global Power Generation Australia?

The project proponent is GPG Australia.

GPG Australia is the Australian entity of GPG which is the international energy generation arm of Spain-based Naturgy Group (Naturgy). GPG has accumulated extensive experience developing over 4GW of power generation projects in nine countries across the world and currently employs around 520 people worldwide.

GPG Australia was established to develop, construct and operate renewable assets in Australia based on the valuable experience and expertise of its mother company, GPG, and its mother group, Naturgy, in the renewable energy sector.

GPG Australia was formerly known as Union Fenosa Wind Australia. Prior to this, the project proponent was TME Australian Pty Ltd.



1. Introduction

1.1. Purpose of this document

This Consultation Plan outlines the communication and engagement activities and program that will be delivered by Global Power Generation (GPG) Australia as part of the Environment Effects Statement (EES) for the Darlington Wind Farm.

It is a requirement of the Ministerial Guidelines for Assessment of Environmental Effects under the Environmental Effects Act 1978 that a Consultation Plan is prepared for projects that trigger an EES.

Specifically, this plan outlines how GPG Australia will inform, consult and respond to the community, landowners, and occupiers during the EES application and assessment phases. As part of the EES process, there will be ongoing opportunities for community input into the project. This will allow iterative changes to certain aspects of the project design to reflect the community and stakeholder feedback heard.

As the project progresses, this Consultation Plan's activity schedules will adapt to address emerging issues and stakeholder needs.

This plan has been prepared in accordance with GPG Australia's commitment to stakeholders and communities, existing best practice guides and having consideration of the following key documents:

- Clean Energy Council, 2018, Community Engagement Guidelines for the Australian Wind Industry
- Department of Environment, Land Water and Planning, 2017, <u>Community Engagement and Benefit</u> <u>Sharing in Renewable Energy Development in Victoria A guide for renewable energy developers</u> <u>(updated July 2021)</u>
- Department of Environment, Land Water and Planning, 2018, <u>Environment Effects Act 1978, EES</u> <u>Consultation Plan Advisory Note</u>
- Department of Environment, Land Water and Planning, 2019, <u>Development of Wind Energy</u> <u>Facilities in Victoria Policy and Planning Guidelines</u>
- Victorian Auditor-General's Office, 2015. <u>Public Participation in Government Decision-making:</u> <u>Better Practice Guide</u>

It is noted that the Victorian Government's Department of Environment, Land Water and Planning (DELWP) was separated into the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) and the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) on 1 January 2023.

2. Project Overview

The proposed Darlington Wind Farm project boundary is located approximately 3.2 kilometres south-west of Darlington and 6.3 kilometers north-east of Mortlake along the Hamilton Highway, within Moyne Shire, and close to its easternmost boundary.

The proposed project site covers an area of approximately 5,645 hectares, where the current land use is primarily agricultural activities including grazing of sheep and cattle.

The site contains infrastructure including roads, power lines and fences. A 500kV transmission line crosses the site in an easterly direction north of the Hamilton Highway. The Highway itself also crosses the site in an east-west direction. Scattered around the project site are agricultural and residential buildings within a rural landscape setting. There are several homes within the site area and several more homes nearby.



Within the site boundary, there are several land parcels, which are owned by 9 landowners. Almost all the landowners run cropping or grazing operations on their land.

The proposed project also includes the use of an off-site quarry, Mt Shadwell, for the delivery of construction material to site. The quarry is located within a 10km radius of the proposed project site.

Figure 1 shows a context map of Darlington in relation to western Victoria and metropolitan Melbourne. The red triangle indicates the location of Darlington, and the blue lines indicate the Moyne and Corangamite Council boundaries. The map of the proposed Darlington Windfarm site boundary is shown over the page.

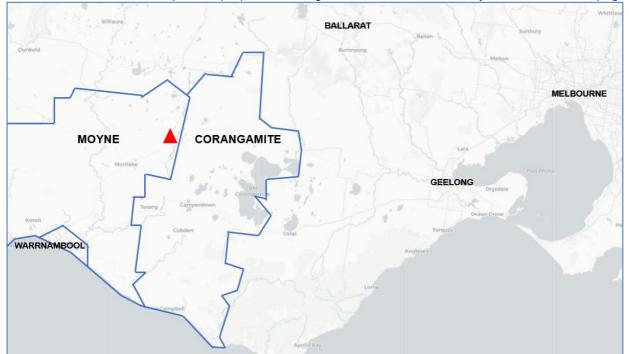


Figure 1 Context map of Darlington

2.1. Site selection

The site was chosen due to its consistent and strong winds, and the access to the high voltage transmission line bisecting it. Existing transmission lines will allow generated energy to be dispatched into the national network easily and efficiently.

2.2. Proposed Darlington Wind Farm

The proposed wind farm project would connect to the grid via a new onsite substation adjacent to the existing 500kV Haunted Gully-Tarrone Transmission Line. There is no intention to build external overhead transmission lines for this project.

The size of the onsite terminal Station would be comparable to the existing 132kV Tarrone Terminal Station in the west of Moyne Shire.



		_
 	Key project stats	1
	Size: Up to 45 Wind Turbines	Ì
1	Capacity: Up to approximately 325MW	
L		1

Proposed Site Boundary Map

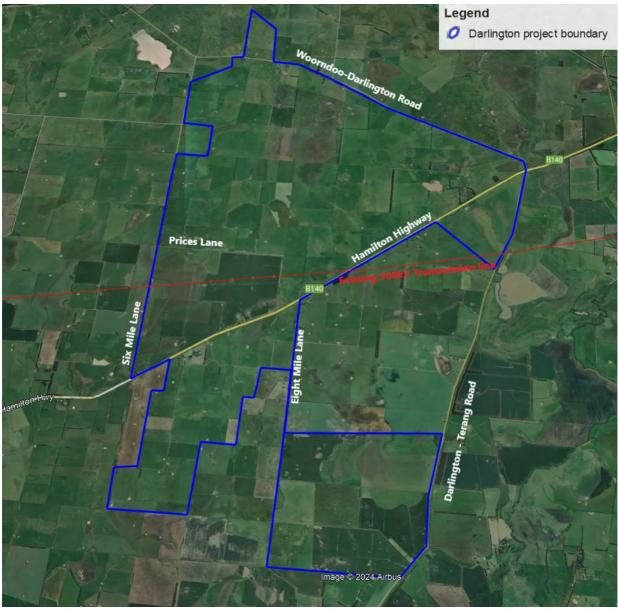


Figure 2 Proposed site boundary for Darlington Windfarm



3. Assessment Pathway

3.1. Environment Effects Act 1978

3.1.1.EES Decision (2023)

On 31 January 2023, the Victorian Minister for Planning assessed that an Environment Effects Statement (EES) is required under the *Environment Effects Act 1978*.

The decision reason included the need for studies to document the potential environmental effects and their relevant mitigations or management strategies for the following study areas:

- Biodiversity and ecological values, including native vegetation, listed flora, fauna and communities through loss, degradation or fragmentation of habitat, collision with turbines or other ecological effects
- Water environments and related beneficial uses, including as a result of changes to stream flows and discharge of sediment
- Effects on Aboriginal cultural values
- Effects on historic heritage values
- Effects on socioeconomic environment, at local and regional scales, including on traffic, agriculture and other direct and indirect effects
- Potential effects on geoheritage
- Cumulative effects of the project, given the proximity to other proposed, approved and operating windfarms.

A Technical Reference Group (TRG) convened by the Department of Transport and Planning. The TRG's membership is drawn from government agencies, regional authorities, municipal councils and registered Aboriginal parties (RAPs) that have a statutory, policy or technical interest in relation to the project. The TRG will meet regularly during the EES process to iteratively review the EES process and provide comment on technical studies.

Community and stakeholders will be provided opportunities to provide feedback on the project throughout the EES process. Their feedback will be considered in technical investigations informing the preparation of the EES and in the process of refining the project design.

On its completion the EES documents and supporting technical studies will be submitted for Ministerial consideration. The Minister then invites members of the public to comment on the EES, after which a public panel of inquiry is set up. The Minister takes into account the public submissions and panel report when preparing the final assessment of the environmental effects and will delivering recommendations to the statutory decision-makers for their consideration.

Further information on the EES process is available at the DTP website. <u>https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/environment-assessment/what-is-the-ees-process-in-victoria</u>

3.1.2 Previous EES Referral (2008)

The Darlington Windfarm has been under development since 2006. The project has, however, twice changed ownership in that time.

The project was originally proposed by TME Australia Pty Ltd in 2006 and was acquired by Union Fenosa



Wind Australia (UFWA) in 2008. At the time of the original Referral GPG Australia was called Union Fenosa Wind Australia. An EES Referral for the Darlington Windfarm project under the *Environment Effect Act 1978* was first submitted in November 2007. At this time, the Minister for Planning decided on 9 January 2008 that an EES was not required. Between 2014 and 2021 GPG Australia placed the project on hold to progress other windfarm projects in Australia. The company changed ownership for a second time in 2017 to GPG Australia. On recommencement of the project in 2021, a second EES referral was required.

3.2. Other Legislation & Approvals

3.2.1. Planning & Environment Act 1987

The proposed wind farm and associated infrastructure will require a planning permit pursuant to the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. The application for a planning permit will be assessed against the provisions of the Moyne Planning Scheme, however pursuant to the Clause 72 of the Scheme, the Minister for Planning will be the Responsible Authority as the wind farm will generate more than 1MW of electricity. Some buildings and works may require separate approval (Temporary Concrete Batching Plant) and should the project necessitate the removal of any native vegetation an application will be made pursuant to Clause 52.17 of the planning scheme. The planning permit decision will be informed by the Minister's assessment of the EES.

3.2.2. Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006

Where there is likely to be Aboriginal cultural heritage values within the project area, approval of a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) by the Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) pursuant to the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 will be required. When an EES is required under the Environment Effects Act 1978, preparation of a CHMP is mandatory. A CHMP is required for this project.

3.2.3. Environment Protection & Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999

EPBC Act listed species have been found within the study area including Hoary Sunray, Matted Flax-lily, Clover Glycine and Spiny Rice-flower. Additionally, three fauna species have been found including Southern Bent-wing Bat, Striped Legless Lizard and Growling Grass Frog. Impacts on these species can be avoided through careful siting of project components and infrastructure, particularly the access roads and underground power cabling that make up the largest component of the development footprint. Due to these listed EPBC Act species, referral to the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment is required under the Commonwealth EPBC Act. The Minister must then determine whether it is a 'controlled action'. The EPBC Referral (Application Number 01762) was submitted on 27 July 2023 and the referral fee paid on 21 September 2023. On 22 December 2023, the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW), determined that the proposed action (to construct and operate a wind farm consisting of up to 61 wind turbine generators and associated Infrastructure in Darlington, Victoria) is a controlled action, and therefore requires assessment and approval under the EPBC Act. The relevant controlling provisions are:

- Listed threatened species and communities (sections 18 & 18A)
- Listed migratory species (sections 20 & 20A)
- Ramsar wetlands (sections 16 and 17B).

DCCEEW confirmed that the proposed action will be assessed under a bilateral agreement under the Victorian Environment Effects Act 1978.



3.2.4. Flora & Fauna Guarantee Act 1988

Approval under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 (FFG Act) will be required if any listed species are proposed to be removed <u>on public land</u>. It is noted that the project site comprises privately owned land. A FFG Act permit may be required for works or impacts to road reserves in the broader project area (i.e. along haulage routes).

3.2.5. Environment Protection Act 2017

The Environment Protection Act 2017 (the EP Act) relates to the protection of the environment and human health from pollution and waste, within Victoria. The act stipulates a 'general environmental duty', which requires any person in Victoria (businesses, industry and the community) engaging in an activity that may risk harming human health and the environment from pollution and waste to minimise those risks, so far as reasonably practicable.

The Environment Reference Standard (ERS) is a new tool made under the EP Act, which identifies environmental values to be achieved and maintained, and how these values are to be assessed. The ERS replaces the State Environment Protection Policies, and contains values, indicators and objectives for ambient air, water, ambient sound and land environments.

The Environment Protection Amendment (Wind Turbine Noise) Regulations 2021, which were introduced under the EP Act, specify requirements relating to wind turbine noise from wind energy facilities, and outline measures to demonstrate compliance. EPA Victoria is now the primary regulator for operational wind turbine noise (for both new and existing wind farms), meaning that councils are no longer responsible for enforcing permit conditions relating to wind turbine noise.

3.2.6. Other legislation

Additional permits and approvals for the development may be required under the following acts:

- Water Act 1989 for any works within 20 metres of a designated waterway.
- Road Management Act 2004 for any works associated with new access to public roads.
- Civil Aviation Act 1988.
- Electrical Industry Act 2000.
- Electrical Safety Act 1988.

4. Project timeline

The proposed timeline for the project and the EES process are outlined below. Noting that this timing is a current estimate and subject to change.

Table 1 Project timeline

Timing	Project milestones	EES Process	Actions and outcomes	
Late 2022 - Early 2023	Planning	EES Referral	Referral documentation prepared by GPG	Ongoing engagen
	approvals	Ministerial decision - An EES is required	Minister prepares outline of assessment requirements	y nent



				
Early – Mid 2024		Scoping of EES	EES Scoping requirements issued by Minister setting out matters to be investigated	
Early 2024 – Mid2025		Preparing an EES	Consultation by GPG EES studies Quality assurance	
Late 2025		Public Review	Exhibition of EES	
			Submission considered	
			Inquiry options	
Early - Mid 2026 -		Assessment and approval	Minister's assessment Statutory decision makers consider Minister's assessment in determining statutory approvals	
Late 2026	Construction	Pending outcome of a	ssessment and approval process	
Late 2028 onwards	Operation			

5. Engagement approach

5.1. IAP2 Spectrum

The International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) uses the *Public Participation Spectrum* to determine appropriate levels of public participation in decision-making processes¹.

The spectrum is based on the premise that stakeholder groups have different levels of interest and influence in decision-making. Included within the spectrum are five levels which describe the influence the public has in a decision-making process. These are used consistently throughout this strategy to help convey the intention and level of engagement of each activity. The levels of engagement are:

- **Inform** to provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.
- **Consult** to obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.
- **Involve** to work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.
- **Collaborate** to partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.

¹ See <u>https://iap2.org.au/</u>



• **Empower** - to place final decision-making in the hands of the public².

This project will focus on the levels of **Inform**, **Consult** and **Involve**, tailored to the needs and interests of specific community and stakeholder groups.

5.2. Engagement Principles

In keeping with the Victorian Auditor-General's Office Public Participation in Government Decision-Making report, communication and engagement activities will be guided by the following principles in 3.

Principles	Description
Meaningful	Meaningful communication and engagement requires clearly articulating the purpose and objectives, as well as developing a shared understanding of project negotiables (can be influenced) and project non-negotiables (cannot be influenced).
Inclusive	Communication and engagement must be inclusive and accessible, both in terms of language and design/delivery. This is a proactive approach to considering and overcoming barriers to understanding and engagement. Asking an individual or group in how they would like to participate and designing the process accordingly demonstrates respect.
Transparent	This means sharing information about the project, its background and rationale. It also means explaining why elements are non-negotiable, and why other elements are negotiable from the outset.
Informed	This principle is particularly relevant to communication. Stakeholders need to receive relevant, tailored, and timely information about the project. They also need to understand their role in the decision-making process, where this is relevant. Community members need to be informed of the opportunities to take part in engagement. They need to understand how their contributions will be considered.
Accountable	This involves addressing concerns/requests; discussing how stakeholder input has affected/or did not affect a decision. This is known as 'closing the loop'.
Valuable	Value is delivered through the appropriate and efficient use of resources. Value also includes building social licence with the community and reducing financial and reputational risks to government. Value also applies to participants and their time – community members should always be treated respectfully.

Table 2 Victorian Auditor-General's Office Public Participation in Government Decision-making principles.

5.3. Engagement objectives

GPG Australia has identified the following engagement objectives for how the project will deliver engagement with stakeholders and community throughout the life of the project.

Objective 1: "Building community and stakeholder capacity to understand project drivers, impacts and how to be involved".

This objective with deliver engagement outcomes in the following ways:

- Clearly describe the project need including broader objectives driving a switch to renewable energy
- Clearly describe the relevant statutory approvals process and how communities can have meaningful involvement

² Reproduced from IAP2 2018 published resources: <u>https://iap2.org.au/resources/iap2-published-resources/</u>



- Enhance community awareness of project implications, including both benefits and impacts
- Increase a deeper understanding and appreciation technical constraints and limitations and establishing realistic project expectations
- Engage in and drive in meaningful conversations and provide productive feedback
- Establish and reinforce reasonable expectations about opportunities for and scope of involvement.

Objective 2: "Capturing feedback to inform decisions which respond to community and project needs"

This objective with deliver engagement outcomes in the following ways:

- Use feedback to support technical investigations and design decisions
- Respond to community concerns and needs
- Promote the fair and reasonable management/distribution of community impacts and benefits
- Use feedback to influence project negotiables
- Empower communities to make meaningful contributions where they can impact the project
 e.g., Community benefits
- Maintain clear, consistent source of information and opportunities for input
- Design and deliver a viable and appropriate project
- Support project approval pathway.

Objective 3: Strengthen relationships with stakeholders and community to foster trust, awareness, and understanding of the Project

This objective with deliver engagement outcomes in the following ways:

- Strive to support community cohesion
- Develop and maintain a social license to develop, construct and operate by ensuring stakeholder engagement outcomes are central to planning and decision making
- Act at all times to build trust with local communities and stakeholders through transparency
- Use feedback and engagement insights to assist and inform project decisions
- Work effectively with local Indigenous communities and Traditional Owners
- Maintain clear feedback loops with communities and stakeholders
- Establish confidence, trust and certainty for landowners and impacted communities
- Meet project and business objectives responsibly.



6. Stakeholders

An overview of key stakeholders is outlined in Table 1, along with their likely interests and concerns based on our understanding to date. Stakeholder groups were identified by consultation with relevant cadastral maps, Moyne Shire Council and other members of the community; and are as defined in Appendix B.

It is anticipated that stakeholder interests will continue to evolve over the course of the project and new stakeholders may emerge throughout the engagement process. As such, this Plan will be continually reviewed and updated to appropriately identify and target the stakeholder's interest, influence, and engagement in the project.

Stakeholder group	Likely engagement interests
Community	
Involved landowners and occupiers (Host Landowners and neighbouring landowners who have signed a neighbour agreement with the project)	 The planning approvals process and acquisition concerns (if required) Opportunities and avenues to seek compensation Impacts to property during construction and operation Health and safety concerns Amenity and environmental impacts Measures to mitigate, minimise and manage impacts
Neighbouring landowners and occupiers	 The planning approvals process Impacts to property during construction and operation Impacts to property values Health and safety concerns Amenity and environmental impacts Measures to mitigate, minimise and manage impacts
Landowners and occupiers with line- of-sight of wind farm	 The planning approvals process Impacts to property values Amenity and environmental impacts Measures to mitigate, minimise and manage impacts
Traditional owner/ Aboriginal groups (Eastern Maar RAP)	 Potential impacts to sites and areas with cultural & intangible heritage significance Economic and social benefits, particularly in relation to Aboriginal participation and employment opportunities
Community interest groups	 The planning approvals process Locally specific information about the Project, its progression and impacts Social and economic benefits arising from the project Local community benefits (and their equitable distribution) Disruptions from construction Amenity, landscape, and visual impacts Operational noise, vibration and/or related off-site impacts Environmental impacts, including impacts on Brolga communities, and general avifauna Measures to mitigate, minimise and manage impacts Community benefits including opportunities to leverage economic benefits of the Project. Potential impacts to sites and areas with identified historical heritage

Table 3 Project stakeholder summary



Stakeholder	Likely engagement interests
group	
9.000	aignificanae
Broader community	significance.The planning approvals process
Drodder community	 Locally specific information about the Project, its progression and impacts
	 Social and economic benefits
	 Local community benefits (and their equitable distribution)
	 Disruptions from construction
	 Reliability and security of network supply
	Health and safety concerns
	Amenity impacts
	Environmental impacts, including impacts on Brolga communities
	 Measures to mitigate, minimise and manage impacts
	Community benefits including opportunities to leverage economic benefits of
	the Project
	Potential impacts to sites and areas with identified historical heritage
	significance
Media	Community sentiment and concern
	Local community impacts and local jobs creation
	 Opportunities for communities and stakeholders to be involved in planning and approval processes
	and approval processes
	statutory bodies and politicians
Moyne Shire Council	Community sentiment and concern
	Local community impacts and local jobs creation
Corangamite Shire Council	Relevant permits and approvals processes including program and
Council	coordination
	 Opportunities for communities and stakeholders to be involved in planning and approval processes
	 Cumulative impacts of other wind farm projects occurring in the area
Members of	 Social and economic impacts
Parliament	 Environment and amenity impacts
	 Measures to mitigate, minimise and manage impacts and enhance
	community benefit
State (Department	Environmental and planning approvals processes
and Ministers)	 Social, economic and environmental impacts
	Measures to mitigate, minimise and manage impacts and enhance
	community benefit
Regulators and	Economic and technical aspects
policy-makers	Disruptions during construction and operation
Inductor and concein	Delivery and compliance with necessary approvals/standards
Industry and specia	
Industry Bodies/	Social, economic, and environmental impacts
Associations	Impacts on sector operations and land uses
Special interact	Disruptions during construction and operation
Special interest groups	 Environmental, social and economic impacts To be informed of approvals processes and opportunities for input
groups	I o be informed of approvals processes and opportunities for input



6.1. Community Profile Considerations

When considering the community profile, the following key demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of the population of Moyne Shire at the time of the 2021 Census are noted:

- The median age was 45 years.
- 49.5% of residents identified as male, and 50.5% identified as female.
- 62.1% of residents identified as being within the labour force, whilst 31.1% were not, and 6.8% did not respond.
- Of those within the labour force, 55% worked full-time; 33.9% worked part-time; 8.8% were away from work, and 2.3% were unemployed.

6.2. Potential barriers to engagement

We understand that some groups within the community face accessibility challenges which can create barriers to engagement. Within Moyne Shire, at the time of the 2021 Census³:

- 91.5% of residents speak English at home with Filipino being the most widely non-English language spoken (0.2%)
- 5.0% of residents have a need for assistance with core activities⁴
- 29.0% of residents have one or more long-term health conditions
- 2.3% of households do not own a motor vehicle
- 11.7% of dwellings had not had an internet connection (in 2016)
- Over one quarter (27.9%) of workers in Moyne work over 40 hours per week with 19.9% working over 49 hours per week.

7. Overview of key project engagement phases

Table 6 shows the key project engagement phases to deliver the Darlington Windfarm EES Consultation Plan. Engagement through all approval phases will include ongoing liaison with DTP.

Targeted engagement streams such as negotiation with directly affected involved landowners will run concurrently and will be subject to detailed planning and delivery by a dedicated team of land agents. Similarly, engagement with Traditional Owner groups will be led by the technical specialists undertaking the Cultural & Intangible Heritage investigations.

The engagement completed prior to the EES Referral is outlined in Appendix A.

³ REMPLAN COMMUNITY, 2023, Moyne Shire: Our Place - Our Community

Available at: <u>https://app.remplan.com.au/moyne/community/summary</u>

⁴ The 2021 Census collected information about a person's need for assistance with one or more of the core activities of self-care, communication, and mobility due to disability, long-term health conditions or the effects of old age.



Table 4 Key engagement phases

EES consultation phase	Engagement purpose	How engagement feedback will inform the Project
EES Referral GPG prepares documentation and technical studies required for the EES Referral. Late 2022 – Early 2023	 To build and maintain ongoing genuine relationships with community and stakeholders. To build targeted community and stakeholder awareness of the project proposal and of the intention to submit an EES Referral. To understand community and stakeholder perspectives on the proposed project. To address and mitigate early feedback. To prepare internal systems and processes for launch of wider public engagement. 	 Early identification of stakeholder issues, ideas and opportunities to inform engagement approach and investigations. Early analysis of project risks and mitigation measures.
EES Draft Scoping Requirements Draft scoping requirements are prepared by DTP and released for public comment. Early – Mid 2024	 To build and maintain ongoing genuine relationships with community and stakeholders. To build community awareness of the EES process and scoping requirements. To report back on previous engagement and respond to issues and concerns raised. To promote the opportunity to make a submission to the EES Scoping Requirements and provide information on the process To promote ongoing opportunities to be involved To seek feedback about how community and stakeholders would like to engage 	 Community and stakeholders can make a submission to DTP to be considered in the final scoping requirements. Community and stakeholder feedback informs continual improvement of engagement program.
Prepare EES Prepare the detailed Technical Investigations required for the EES application and other relevant planning approvals. Seek agreement on the project proposal plan. Early 2024- Mid 2025	 To build and maintain ongoing genuine relationships with community and stakeholders. To build community awareness of the EES process and opportunities to provide feedback To share feedback/findings of consultation and technical investigations to date To report back on previous engagement and respond to issues and concerns raised. To notify community and stakeholders of on-site investigations/activity To promote ongoing opportunities to be 	 Community and stakeholders understand the needs for the project and how they can be involved. Community engagement and stakeholder feedback informs the Community Engagement reports and EES chapter. Community and stakeholder feedback may be considered in technical investigations.



EES consultation phase	Engagement purpose	How engagement feedback will inform the Project
	 involved Continue to build understanding of technical investigations and constraints To seek further feedback on impacts and mitigations To seek feedback on approach and opportunities for benefit sharing To seek feedback about how community and stakeholders would like to engage to ensure continual improvement 	Community and stakeholder feedback informs the finalisation of the project design.
Public Review GPG Australia lodge the EES Submission and supporting approval documents to DTP for assessment. Late 2025	 To build and maintain ongoing genuine relationships with community and stakeholders. To present outcomes of investigations To share the technical and engagement process undertaken to arrive at this point To report back on previous engagement and respond to issues and concerns raised. To promote opportunities to view final documents To provide guidance on how to make a submission or how to participate in the Inquiry process 	Community and stakeholder feedback is incorporated into final report and documentation
Assessment Early – Mid 2026 –	 To share the outcome of the Ministerial EES Assessment. To promote and build awareness of next steps. To maintain and continue to build relationships with stakeholders and communities involved in subsequent project stages. 	Outcomes of the EES assessment will inform approval decisions and requirements (i.e. planning permit etc)



8. Stakeholder and community consultation undertaken to date

GPG Australia has been consulting with community and stakeholders and undertaking technical studies for the proposed project since 2006. GPG Australia are committed to ongoing engagement with project stakeholders, and to building relationships with project communities throughout all stages of project development.

Details of our consultation approach with stakeholders and community to date are outlined in this section.

8.1. Moyne Shire Council

GPG Australia has maintained communications with Moyne Shire Council **s**ince the project was first announced in 2006. See *Table 5* for an overview of previous interactions with Moyne Shire Council.

Table 5 Previous interactions with Moyne Shire Council

Timing	Description
2006	The Moyne Shire Council was made aware of the proposed Darlington Wind Farm through engagement delivered by TME relating to the first EES Referral. Where the original EES Referral determined that an EES was not required.
2008	The project was acquired by Union Fenosa Wind Australia (UFWA) from TME.
2014 to 2021	The project was placed on hold whilst other projects were progressed.
2014 to 2021	GPG Australia maintained communication with Moyne Shire Council via its delegated officers and Councillors as needed during this time.
2017	The UFWA company name was changed to GPG Australia.
2021	GPG Australia and Tract invited Moyne Shire Council to be kept informed of the project via a Councillor briefing on 14 September 2021. This briefing provided an overview of the project, revisions to the site boundary, the status of preliminary investigations, and proposed timeframes.
2022	GPG Australia continued to engage with Moyne Shire through meetings and briefings to provide updates on the project status, planning approval processes and to seek guidance on local community engagement requirements.
	GPG Australia hosted a Council briefing on 19 July 2022 to inform Council of GPG's intention to submit new EES referral.
	In August 2022, Moyne Shire Council and Corangamite Council sent a printed Darlington Windfarm project update to community members within 5km buffer of project boundary on behalf of GPG Australia. This document provided an overview of the project, information about GPG Australia, the project history, next steps in the planning approval process and information on how to provide feedback or contact the team.
	In November 2022, GPG Australia engaged with Moyne Shire Council to provide an update regarding the EES referral submission and planning provisions for new development approvals in the local area.



8.2. Traditional Owners

See 6 for an overview of GPG Australia's interactions with the Eastern Maar Traditional Owners regard the Cultural Heritage Management Plan.

Table 6 Previous interactions with Eastern Maar Traditional Owners

Timing	Description
2021	In December 2021 GPG Australia and Tract met with Eastern Maar. This meeting provided an introduction to the developer, an overview of the project, revisions to the site boundary, the status of preliminary investigations, and proposed timeframes. Also discussed standard assessment survey for the Cultural Heritage Management Plan for the project.
2022	In February 2022, a second meeting was held with the Eastern Maar to discuss the standard assessment results for Cultural Heritage Management Plan.
2023	In January 2023, GPG Australia met with Eastern Maar to discuss further steps for the Complex assessment survey required for Cultural Heritage Management Plan.

8.3. Involved Landowners

Involved Landowners are either Host Landowners (including any occupiers of those properties) and neighbouring landowners who have signed a neighbour agreement with the project. Since the project was first announced in 2006, GPG Australia has maintained ongoing communication and consultation with all the involved landowners via email and telephone. This ongoing engagement relates to various matters, including organising technical surveys, reviewing draft agreements, and discussing any concerns arising through the project development phase. See *Table 3* for an overview of previous interactions with involved landowners.

Table 7 Previous interactions with involved landowners

Timing	Description
2006	As of 2006, seven landowners were proposed to be involved by TME Australia (the original project proposal proponent). At that time, TME worked with the landowners to place two wind monitoring masts were on site to determine the suitability of the wind resource.
2008	The project was acquired by Union Fenosa Wind Australia (UFWA) from TME.
2008	All seven involved landowners were informed about the change of company. Deed of assignment of license agreement to UFWA were signed by the landowners.
2009	In July 2009, the first newsletter for the project was published by UFWA. This newsletter was delivered during door knocks in the area. The door knocking activity sought to gather information from the nearby landowners, and to inform them about the wind farm design process required for the planning application.
	UFWA issued Test Notices to all involved landowners to inform them that the wind resource is suitable in their property.



Timing	Description	
2012	In early 2012, UFWA consulted with five other landowners and signed license agreements with these landowners.	
2013	A meeting was held in Mortlake with involved landowners organised by UFWA to discuss the status of license agreements, the progress of the project, and future prospects for the project.	
2014 to 2021	The project was placed on hold whilst other projects were progressed.	
2017	The UFWA company name was changed to GPG Australia.	
2021	In January 2021, GPG Australia contacted all previously involved landowners to notify them that the project was being reactivated. The purpose of these calls was to introduce new project team members and to confirm whether the landowners were still interested in being involved with the project.	
	On the 3rd and 4th of March 2021, GPG Australia organised a site visit to meet all the interested landowners to inform them of the intention to proceed with this project again.	
	From May 2021 to June 2021, GPG Australia circulated the preliminary wind turbine layouts to all involved landowners relating to their specific properties, for feedback and comments.	
	In September 2021, GPG Australia started sending all new Option of Deed and Lease agreements for Landowners to review.	
	In December 2021, GPG Australia prepared a newsletter for the involved landowners describing project history and plans over the coming months. This newsletter was distributed during the site visit organised by GPG Australia on 13 th to 15 th December 2021 to host landowners.	
	During this time, GPG Australia had communications with a couple of adjacent neighbours to discuss the project and share maps of turbines in proximity to their property.	
2022	GPG Australia has continued to consult with all the host landowners via email and phone for various matters including arranging access for on-site surveys, negotiating agreements, and discussing their concerns.	
	In early 2022, a dedicated Darlington Wind farm project webpage was launched. This webpage provides publicly available information for the project in the one location.	
	This includes the project description, frequently asked questions, information on community engagement and benefit sharing plan, a document library and information on upcoming community engagement events.	
	Webpage available at: www.darlingtonwindfarm.globalpower-generation.com.au	
	A printed landowner update was distributed in August 2022. This document shared an overview of the project plan including a status update and the planning approval key steps. It introduced the Land, Community and Stakeholder Engagement Officer and gave responses to frequently asked questions.	



Timing	Description
2023	GPG Australia has continued to consult with all the host landowners via email and phone for various matters including arranging access for on-site surveys, negotiating agreements, and discussing their concerns.
	Project website is being updated ongoing basis.

8.4. Understanding of community and stakeholder issues to date

Consultation to date, along with a review of comparable projects within the region and previous experience, has identified a range of key interests and issues that we anticipate will be of interest to communities and stakeholders throughout the life of this project. These are summarised below.

- Project drivers and need, and the site selection process
- Cumulative impacts of other wind farm projects occurring in the area and community benefits
- The planning and approval process, timelines and project progress
- The design process including relevant industry standards, and technical investigations being undertaken
- The equitable distribution of impacts and benefits to local communities including opportunities to leverage economic benefits of the Project
- Opportunities for communities and stakeholders to be involved in planning and approval processes
- Any identified social and economic benefits arising from the project including local job creation or training opportunities including those relating to Aboriginal participation and employment
- Impacts to property and land uses including acquisition, avenues to seek compensation and impacts to land use and property values throughout all project stages
- Health and safety concerns including bushfire threat and management
- Environmental impacts including impacts to flora and fauna such as local Brolga communities and how these will be minimised or managed
- Impacts to local amenity including landscape and visual amenity, noise, vibration, local transport an access and other related off-site impacts
- Identification and potential impacts to sites and areas of historic and Aboriginal cultural heritage significance
- Assurance regarding the reliability and security of network supply including disruptions during construction and operation.
- Restrictions on building new dwelling due to planning provision in place of 1km buffer from wind farm project boundary.



9. Engagement and communication tools and activities

9.1. Engagement and communication tools

The following table outlines a number of engagement and communication tools and methods for online and in-person engagement with groups and individuals.

The engagement program will use a mix of tools and activities determined by the purpose and content of engagement at various stages throughout the project, the stakeholder needs and issues and the relevant access and inclusion requirements. Additional engagement and communication tools or methods may be implemented should stakeholder interest or project needs require.

Throughout all phases of engagement, we will continue to seek feedback from stakeholders and communities about how they would like to engage with the project and advice about any other community groups or cohorts that may require additional support. Within Moyne Shire this may include households without access to internet or vehicle transport, those working long hours or people requiring assistance as well as Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) residents, those with low literacy, or those who do not have the confidence or access to technology to engage remotely. We can provide materials in other languages, hard copy or mail-out materials to assist as required or engage interpreters for phone calls to guide people through information and engagement tools.

The following engagement methods and stakeholder and community engagement program will be delivered alongside ongoing specialised engagement streams including ongoing liaison with directly impacted landowners and occupiers, statutory process relating to approval pathways and engagement supporting technical studies and Aboriginal Cultural Heritage assessments.

Tool	Description	Stakeholders	Level
ONLINE ENGAGEMEN	NT		/el
Online engagement hub (Website)	Designed to provide a central hub of project information with potential for interactive opportunities to participate through use of digital engagement tools such as digital maps, contact and feedback form.	All	Inform / Consult
	Written materials such as e-updates and printed communication materials and advertising will direct people to the online engagement hub as a central project resource. All project materials will be saved onto the website library.		ılt
	The website provides answers to frequently asked questions, upcoming community engagement event information, opportunity to sign up to the digital mailing list and a portal for community feedback and suggestions.		

Table 1 Summary of engagement and communication tools



Tool	Description	Stakeholders	Level
ONLINE ENGAGEMENT			
Dedicated project telephone hotline and email	Providing a direct contact point for the community and stakeholders to ask questions and seek support to participate in the process. All public information and collateral can be made available to people via the project hotline and	All community stakeholders	Inform / Consult
	dedicated project email. Project Hotline: 1800 457 181 and +61 2 6274 3200		ılt
	Project E-mail: darlingtonwindfarm@globalpower- generation.com.au		
	All public enquiries received via hotline or project email will be acknowledged. As required, a personalised response will be provided withing an appropriate timeframe.		
Online interactive sessions	Webinars and on-line forums where community can receive project updates and share feedback with key members of the project team and with technical specialists. Webinars to be widely promoted and deployed at key stages during the planning, approvals and construction process.	All community stakeholders	Inform / Consult / Involve
DIRECT/TARGETED E	ENGAGEMENT METHODS		
Targeted meetings/workshops (online or face-to- face)	Delivered online or face-to-face, meetings will be targeted to key stakeholder groups requiring focused and tailored information such as special interest groups, consumer representatives and industry groups, local councils, and Registered Aboriginal Parties/Traditional Owner Groups.	Involved and neighbouring landowners (existing and newly impacted) Councils DTP	Consult / Involve
	These opportunities allow for targeted conversations on specific interests or issues with technical experts.	Eastern Maar RAP Community and	
	Meetings and workshops can be held online or face-to-face (where possible), as required.	special interest groups Industry Bodies/ Associations	
Drop-in information sessions and pop- ups	"Drop-in" information sessions to provide interested community members and stakeholders the opportunity to engage with technical content and experts, inspect relevant material, plans or project updates.	All community stakeholders	Inform / Consult
	"Pop-ups" are a scaled down drop-in session which can be incorporated into local events such		It



Tool	Description	Stakeholders	Level
ONLINE ENGAGEME	NT	1	vel
	as farmers markets or can be established in high activity areas to capture local interest.		
Site tours	Designed for interested individual and groups, guided site tours would provide on-ground context to wind farm designs. Tours can be targeted to address concerns of specific individuals or groups, or themed to reflect technical areas.	All community stakeholders (by appointment)	Inform
Reference or Working Groups	Established to provide a feedback loop and further opportunities for in-depth insight sharing between the project team and stakeholders, reference or working groups may be established to provide a diverse local perspective on project matters and seek input to support planning and development. Such groups may be independently chaired to maximise exchange of ideas, inputs and insights of use to in project development.	Community representatives Key stakeholders	Consult / Involve
COMMUNICATIONS			
Project e-updates	Project e-updates distributed to anybody who subscribes via specific engagement sessions or the online engagement hub. Sent at regular intervals and key project milestones, updates will keep people informed and highlight opportunities to get involved. Where requested, postal updates can also be distributed to individual households.	All	Inform
Printed communication materials	 Project factsheets, posters and postcards will be distributed to key locations and to involved and neighbouring landowners and occupiers to raise awareness of the project and opportunities to be involved. Printed communication materials will be prepared and distributed to support planned engagement activities or as required in response to emerging project issues. To ensure equitable access, all material and content available on the online engagement hub will also be made available in hard copy for collection from Council office. Such material can be provided in community languages as required. 	Local community stakeholders	Inform
Project signage	Located in local activity nodes and public site boundaries, highly visible static signage will promote the project and opportunities to be involved via QR codes or links to the project website, email, and phone hotline.	Local community stakeholders	Inform



Tool	Description	Stakeholders	Level
ONLINE ENGAGEMEN	NT		/el
Newspaper and radio advertising	Using key local newspaper and radio advertisements to provide project updates and raise awareness of opportunities to participate in upcoming engagement. Advertising will also seek to investigate opportunities through existing community communication channels where appropriate.	All	Inform



10. Activity schedule

Table 9 Activity Schedule during EES process

EES consultation phases	Engagement purpose	Target stakeholder groups	Engagement activities
EES Referral GPG prepares documentation and technical studies required for the EES Referral. Late 2022- Early 2023	 To build and maintain ongoing genuine relationships with community and stakeholders. To build targeted community and stakeholder awareness of the project proposal and of the intention to submit an EES Referral. To understand community and stakeholder perspectives on the proposed project. To address and mitigate early feedback. To prepare internal systems and processes for launch of wider public engagement. 	 Councils Ongoing targeted landowner engagement Neighbouring landowners Landowners with line-of-sight of wind farm 	 Establish webpage Project update – printed mail out
EES Draft Scoping Requirements Draft scoping requirements are prepared by DTP and released for public comment. Early to Mid 2024	 To build and maintain ongoing genuine relationships with community and stakeholders. To build community awareness of the EES process and scoping requirements. To report back on previous engagement and respond to issues and concerns raised. To promote the opportunity to make a submission to the EES Scoping Requirements and provide information on the process To promote ongoing opportunities to be involved To seek feedback about how community and stakeholders would like to engage 	 Ongoing targeted landowner engagement Neighbouring landowners Landowners with line-of-sight of wind farm Community interest groups Special interest groups Broader community members Media Councils Industry Bodies/ Associations Members of parliament State Government Department and Minsters 	 Ongoing activities: Maintain and ongoing update to online engagement hub and printed materials Dedicated project hotline and email Project e-update Dedicated landowner engagement



EES consultation phases	Engagement purpose	Target stakeholder groups	Engagement activities
Prepare EES Prepare the detailed Technical Investigations required for the EES application and other relevant planning approvals. Seek agreement on the project proposal plan. Early 2024 – Mid 2025	 To build and maintain ongoing genuine relationships with community and stakeholders. To build community awareness of the EES process and opportunities to provide feedback To share feedback/findings of consultation and technical investigations to date To report back on previous engagement and respond to issues and concerns raised. To notify community and stakeholders of onsite investigations/activity To promote ongoing opportunities to be involved Continue to build understanding of technical investigations and constraints To seek further feedback on impacts and mitigations To seek feedback about how community and stakeholders would like to engage to ensure continual improvement 	 Landowner engagement Neighbouring landowners Landowners with line-of-sight of wind farm EES Technical Reference Group (TRG) Community interest groups Special interest groups Broader community members Media Councils Industry Bodies/ Associations Members of parliament State Government Department and Minsters 	 Ongoing activities: Maintain and ongoing update to online engagement hub and printed materials. Dedicated project hotline and email Project signage TRG meetings Project e-update At project milestones: Targeted meetings/workshops (online or face-to-face) Drop-in information sessions and pop-ups Site tours Media and advertising Project e-update Dedicated landowner engagement is ongoing.



EES consultation phases	Engagement purpose	Target stakeholder groups	Engagement activities
Public Review GPG Australia lodge the EES Submission and supporting approval documents to DTP for assessment. Late 2025	 To build and maintain ongoing genuine relationships with community and stakeholders. To present outcomes of investigations To share the technical and engagement process undertaken to arrive at this point To report back on previous engagement and respond to issues and concerns raised. To promote opportunities to view final documents To provide guidance on how to make a submission or how to participate in the Inquiry process 	 Landowner engagement Neighbouring landowners Landowners with line-of-sight of wind farm EES Technical Reference Group (TRG) Community interest groups Special interest groups Broader community members Media Councils Industry Bodies/ Associations Members of parliament State Government Department and Minsters 	 Deliver ongoing activities from previous phase. EES Exhibition (20 – 30 business days, TBC on Ministerial decision) Inquiry Period (TBC – expected to involve a public hearing)
Assessment Early 2026 – Mid 2026	 To share the outcome of the Ministerial Assessment. To promote and build awareness of next steps. To maintain and continue to build relationships with stakeholders and communities involved in subsequent project stages. 	 Landowner engagement Neighbouring landowners Landowners with line-of-sight of wind farm EES Technical Reference Group (TRG) Community interest groups Special interest groups Broader community members Media Councils Industry Bodies/ Associations Members of parliament State Government Department and Minsters 	 Media release Project e-update Update online engagement hub



11. Monitoring and evaluation

GPG Australia is committed to continuous improvement of stakeholder and community engagement throughout the life of the Project. Monitoring the effectiveness and success of this plan will occur at regular intervals.

GPG Australia maintains stakeholder communication folder and holds record of specific incoming phone calls, incoming and outgoing letters related to the project. Formal feedback and complaints register will be regularly maintained. All these data will be stored in line with relevant privacy acts and regulations.

Project objectives and outcomes provide a frame for the monitoring and evaluation. Table 10 provides a summary of some of the ways GPG Australia will monitor our activities. The monitoring and evaluation key performance indicators will be finalised after the planning approval pathway is determined.

Engagement objectives	What to measure	How to measure
 Building community and stakeholder capacity to understand project drivers, impacts and how to be involved 	 Level of understanding of the project and why it is needed Level of awareness of the project and EES process 	 Participant feedback captured during engagement activities Monitoring issues/complaints recorded through stakeholder interactions Site visits and downloads of information documents
 Capturing feedback to inform decisions which respond to community and project needs 	 Where community feedback has influenced the project designs and EES process Effectiveness of methods used to distribute communications. 	 Participant feedback captured during engagement activities. (i.e. survey of communication methods and preferences). Feedback from the project team on how community and stakeholder input was used Demonstrated consideration of community and stakeholder input in project development/decision- making Report back to the community and stakeholders
3. Strengthen relationships with stakeholders and community to foster trust, awareness, and understanding of the Project		 Monitoring issues/complaints recorded through stakeholder interactions Media sentiment Documentation of how continual improvement of approach is occurring Participant feedback captured during engagement activities Tracking of deliverables against the Plan

Table 10 How GPG Australia will measure the effectiveness of our approach



Appendix A: Engagement completed prior to and during the EES Referral Phase

Project phase	Project approval process	Engagement purpose	Engagement outcomes	Stakeholders	Engagement Activities
Pre-lodgement 2021 - Mid- 2022	Technical studies in preparation for EES Referral.	 Establish landowner contact Introduce revised project to landowners Build public awareness of the project and upcoming stages Present general update, process to date and next steps Obtain indication of willingness to grant access for investigations Record individual concerns Seek advice from existing landowners regarding mitigation 	 Landowner survey access arrangements secured Agreement on how landowners would like to be engaged Contact established and key stakeholders are aware of the project 	 Involved landowners Councils Traditional owners (Eastern Maar RAP) State Government Department of Transport and Planning 	 Direct landowner contact - Email/direct mail, Phone call from land agent Project phone number and email
EES Referral Late 2022	Prepare and lodge EES Referral with DELWP (now DTP).	 Present update, process to date and next steps Introduce revised project to broader community Promote public project description, narrative, information collected to date Present consultation approach highlighting opportunities to be involved Present possible approval process and opportunities to influence outcomes 	Community understand process and how they can be involved	 Involved landowners Neighbouring landowners Landowners with line-of-sight of wind farm Community interest groups Special interest groups Broader community members Media 	 Launch online engagement hub (project description, frequently asked questions and project documents) Printed host landowner project update Printed community project update Dedicated project hotline and email



Project phase	Project approval process	Engagement purpose	Engagement outcomes	Stakeholders	Engagement Activities
		Present clear negotiables, assumptions and constraints		 Councils Industry Bodies/ Associations Government and other statutory bodies. Department of Transport and Planning 	 Targeted stakeholder meetings (online or face-to-face) Dedicated landowner engagement is ongoing.



Appendix B: Stakeholder list

Table 12 Stakeholder list

Key members				
Community				
Landowners and occupiers within the project proposal boundary as well as neighbouring landowners who have signed a neighbour agreement with the project				
 Landowners and occupiers within 5km distance of the project proposal boundary Landowners and occupiers with line-of-sight of wind farm Landowners located adjacent to the haulage route to the off-site quarry. 				
 Eastern Maar Registered Aboriginal Party First People State Relations 				
 Local wind farm opposition groups such as: Mortlake and District Wind Farm Action Group, Stopthesethings.com, Mt Fyans Action Group, Wind Farm Living Community Environmental and conservation groups such as: Landcare groups, Brolga recovery group, Mt Noorat Management Committee, Nature in Nature Bus, Bird Life Australia Community organisations and clubs such as: Terang Mortlake Football Netball Club, Kolora-Noorat Football Netball Club, Mortlake college, St Coleman's Primary School, Mortlake and District Community Notice Board, Music Homestead Incorporated 				
Transport businesses. Moyne Shire and Corangamite Shire communities				



Stakeholder group	Key members			
Media	Terang Express			
	Mortlake Dispatch			
Warrnambool Standard Government, other statutory bodies and politicians				
Local	Moyne Shire Council			
	Corangamite Shire Council			
State	Department of Transport and Planning			
	Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action			
	State Members for Western Victoria			
	Minister for Planning			
	Minister for Energy and Resources			
	Environment Protection Authority Victoria			
	Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority			
	Invest Victoria			
	Wannon Water			
Federal	Federal Member for Wannon			
	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water			
Other Agencies				
Industry Bodies/ Associations	Victorian Farmers Federation			
	Clean Energy Council			
	Re-Alliance			
Special interest groups	Shooter and Fisher's parties			
	Environmental Justice Australia			



Global Power Generation Australia Pty Ltd

1800 457 181 darlingtonwindfarm@globalpowergeneration.com.au

www.darlingtonwindfarm.globalpowergeneration.com.au