

9 November 2023



Consultation and Engagement Report

Moreton Hill Wind Farm



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Contents

1	Introduction.....	1
2	Consultation and engagement summary.....	1
2.1	House visits	1
2.2	Newsletter.....	1
3	Consultation and engagement statistics	2
4	Conclusion	4

1 Introduction

Squadron Energy (SQE) is committed to genuine, proactive and meaningful engagement with the community, developing long-term relationships and maintaining open lines of communication. This report has been generated to support the Moreton Hill Wind Farm EES Referral submission. It presents a snapshot in time, engagement of the consultation to date with near neighbours to the project and the broader community.

Squadron Energy is developing the proposed Moreton Hill Wind Farm which is located approximately 5 kilometres east of Skipton and approximately 5 kilometres west of Linton Victoria. The proposed wind farm consists of 62 Wind Turbine Generators with a rotor diameter of 172 metre, maximum tip height of 252 metre.

2 Consultation and engagement summary

The community consultation and engagement program for the Moreton Hill Wind Farm commenced in October 2023, with information hand delivered to all neighbours (86) within 4 kilometres of a turbine.

Similar information was also posted to all landowners (404) within 4 - 10 kilometres of a turbine.

Since the initial information was provided the project has completed the following:

- Face to face meetings with 38 neighbours completed.
- Phone calls with 3 neighbours completed.
- Attempted to meet with a further 20 neighbours.
- Met with local businesses in the area.
- Newsletters distributed through local businesses.
- Briefings to Golden Plains and Corangamite Shires.
- Briefing to Australian Infrastructure Commissioners office.

2.1 House visits

In October, November and December 2023 door to door house visits were conducted at houses within 4 kilometres of the wind farm, and for those who contacted Squadron and requested a visit. These visits allowed local residents to raise questions about the wind farm on a one-to-one basis with the project team. Questions and concerns raised during house visits were addressed both in person at the time of the house visit and in via correspondence as required. Where the resident was not home a newsletter was left and contact details provided.

2.2 Newsletter

In October 2023 Squadron mailed a newsletter (click [here](#) to view) to all residents within a 10 km radius of the site. This newsletter included information about the proposed wind farm including its location, the total number of turbines, their total height, and information about the developer of the wind farm, Squadron. The newsletter also invited requests for house visits and provided contact details to enable residents to seek further information. A copy of this letter has been included below.

The Project's engagement program has also included:

- The project's website (click [here](#) to view) going live on the 9th of October 2023.

- A dedicated hotline.
- A media release distributed to local media outlets - click [here](#) to view release.
- Information distributed to involved Australian and Victorian Government representatives.
- The project has and continues to engage with the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation through the Cultural Heritage management plan process.

3 Consultation and engagement statistics

The following tables contain key statistics from the consultation and engagement undertaken to date.

Table 1: Website statistics

Views	Users	Views per user	Average engagement time	Event count – all events
600	351	1.71	43 s	1,572

Table 2: Event type from October 2023 to January 2024

Event Type	Occurrences	Distinct Stakeholders	Total Stakeholders
Meeting	42	55	59
Letterbox drop	27	73	101
Email	23	22	24
Call	9	7	9
Uncategorised email	5	8	12
SMS	4	3	4
Letter	1	1	1
Newsletter subscription request	1	1	1
Community Sponsorship Application	1	1	1
Total	113	171	212

Table 3: Event sentiment from October 2023 to January 2024

Event Sentiment	Occurrences	Distinct Stakeholders	Total Stakeholders
Neutral	34	39	40
Negative	13	11	13
Positive	10	19	19
Complex	2	4	4
Total	59	73	76

Table 4: Issues brought up by stakeholders from October 2023 to January 2024.

Issues	Occurrences	Distinct Stakeholders	Total Stakeholders
General Update	31	90	110
Visual	10	9	10
Property value/use	9	11	11
Biodiversity	8	6	8
Land use	7	9	9
Project layout/design	7	7	7
Noise	5	5	5
Physical and mental health	5	3	5
Community Sponsorship	5	14	14
Traffic and access	4	13	13
Agreement negotiation or discussion	4	6	6
Benefits of renewable energy	3	3	3
Land Access	2	2	2
Community Enhancement Fund / VPA	2	2	2
Stakeholder engagement approach	2	11	11
Other	8	10	10
Total	112	201	226

4 Conclusion

There were a range of matters raised during the various consultation activities.

Questions raised by residents were generally in relation to:

- Visual impact
- Noise
- Property values

Information has been provided about these matters; however, residents have been informed that they will see full information about the project in the planning application material, open days and further visits.

This will include photomontages of what the wind farm will look like from various vantage points as well as noise monitoring data.

Information was provided around the planning process and their ability to be part of this process moving forward.

The feedback from the community has been generally of support for the wind farm. There is a significantly high level of interest in the Community Benefit Program and the Neighbour Benefit program. There has also been positive feedback about the amount and quality of the consultation process to date.

Next Steps

Engagement activities will continue during the planning application period right through to beyond energisation of the facility should it be approved; these will be in line with the project's Stakeholder Engagement Plan.

Squadron Energy is Australia's leading renewable energy company. Proudly Australian owned, our mission is to be a driving force in Australia's transition to a clean energy future by providing green power to our customers.

We develop, operate and own renewable energy assets in Australia, with 1.1 gigawatts (GW) of renewable energy in operation and a development pipeline of 20GW.

With proven experience and expertise across the project lifecycle, we work with local communities and our customers to lead the transition to Australia's clean energy future.

Squadron Energy acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia. We pay our respects to Elders past, present, and emerging.

