AUSTRALIA FERA

Founded in 2001, Fera has over 20 years experience in developing, constructing and managing renewable energy plants. We pride ourselves on a 100% renewable focus, which means no coal, no oil and no gas, just clean renewable energy.

The Seymour wind project represents an opportunity for the local region in the transition to low carbon sustainable energy in accordance with Victoria's renewable energy targets of 40 % by 2025 and 50 % by 2030.

The project area was investigated due to its high wind resource and proximity to the main transmission line between Melbourne and Sydney.

OUR MISSION

To generate electricity from renewable sources, efficiently and sustainably, in perfect integration with the landscape and it's community

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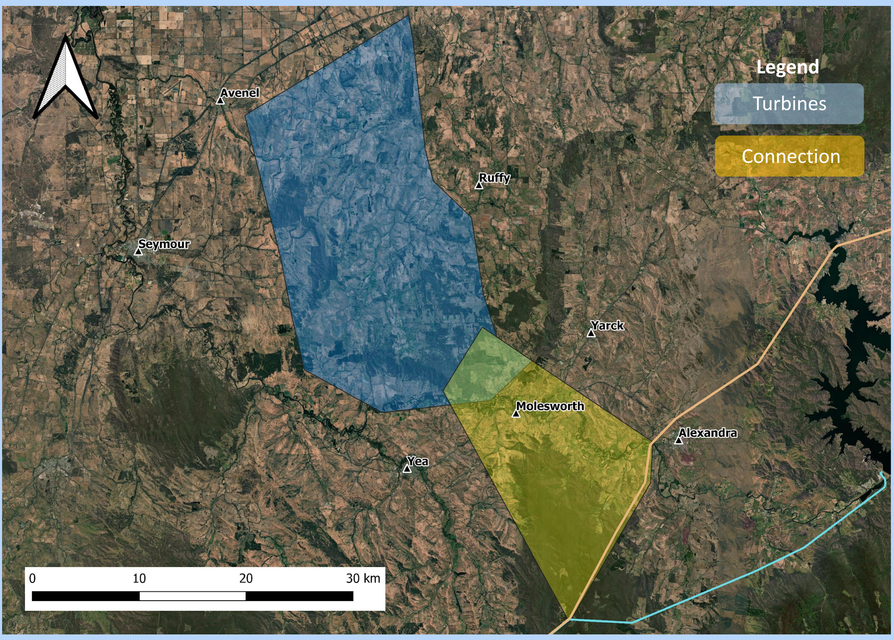
SEYMOUR WIND FARM

Initial Areas under Investigation for the Seymour Wind Farm



The wind farm investigation area is bound by Avenel, Longwood, Ruffy, Highlands and Tarcombe.

We are investigating this area based on its strong wind resource and its proximity to the main transmission line between Melbourne and Sydney, with care taken to minimise impacts to local community in the area.

Please make contact at seymour@feraaustralia.com.au or 0481 234 229

Phase 1: Preliminary Investigations (2020-2023)

Phase 2: Planning & Design (2023-2025)

Phase 3: Construction and commissioning (2025-2026)

Phase 4: Operation (2026-2056)

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GET INVOLVED

Fera places strong importance on an open and honest relationship with the local community.

We are looking for community members to establish a Community Consultative Committee (CCC). Part of the revenue generated by the project will be dedicated to a wide-ranging community fund, for plans determined by the community; projects that are important locally and create ongoing community value and legacy.

Local Involvement:
Fera's approach is to work with the community and all stakeholders to ensure we arrive at a project that is one we are proud of, a project that is understood and a project that provides strong benefits for the local community.

Including:

- Improved infrastructure (road, communications and electrical supply)
- Local jobs and investment
- Support for local legacy projects and programs
- Environmental programs to the area

We look forward to sitting down with all local landholders and community and discussing the project with you.

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SUSTAINABILITY BENEFITS

The Victorian Government has legislated the following renewable energy targets:
- 40 % by 2025
- 50 % by 2030

Renewable energy projects deliver positive impacts for the environment. They provide sustainable energy; taking advantage of resources such as wind and the sun. Importantly, they provide an alternative to high carbon intensive and finite sources of historic energy generation such as coal or oil. Importantly, wind farms produce their energy sustainably for 40 to 50 years and at the end of their life time, 100% of the turbines, towers and blades will be recycled.

Estimated production of the Seymour wind Farm:

2 Million MWh per year

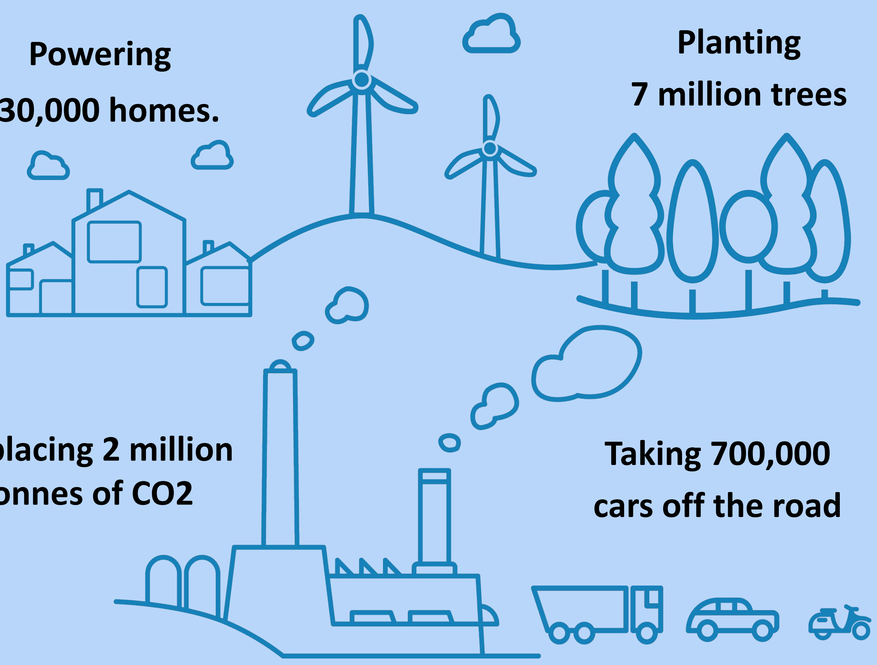
This is equivalent to:

Powering 430,000 homes.

Planting 7 million trees

Displacing 2 million tonnes of CO2

Taking 700,000 cars off the road



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JOBS

Fera is committed to sourcing jobs within the local community. We look forward to partnering with local business and services on the project.

Studies

Noise
Aviation
Shadow Flicker
Ecology (flora and fauna)
Traffic and transport
Cultural Heritage
Geotech

Roads and Access

Quarry Materials
Concrete Supply
Road construction
Electricians, fabricators
Apprentices, labourers
Crane operators
Project managers
Engineers

Maintenance

Fencing
Ongoing Ecology (bird and vegetation)
Turbine maintenance (trade)
Road maintenance
Local Fera Office staff

Indirect local jobs

Fencing
Local services
Real estate / housing
Sport and entertainment
Medical, education. services
Food and local retail

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STAKEHOLDERS

Get Involved:

Fera is committed to working with the community and all stakeholders to ensure we deliver a project that is one that we are proud of, a project that is understood and a project that provides strong benefits for the local community. This includes:

- Community
- Taungurung people
- Landowners
- Landcare
- Local Businesses and Services
- Local Employees
- Local Government
- State Government and departments
- Federal Government and departments
- Utilities
- Emergency Services
- Environmental Consultants
- Planning Consultants
- AEMO
- Equipment manufacturers
- Energy customers
- …

We look forward to sitting down with all local landholders and community and discussing the project with you.

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MOVING FORWARD

Extensive technical investigations are currently being undertaken to inform the project. The purpose of these studies is to identify environmental, cultural and social values as well as any potential amenity impacts. The studies will inform the detailed design of the project, and where necessary, recommend mitigation measures.

Subject to the results of these investigations, and engagement with the community and landowners, the design and siting of the wind farm will be established.

Following this, the planning stage will include referral to State Government for assessment and statutory public consultation. The planning phase of the project will continue over the next three years.

Some of the technical studies include

Ecological

-Biodiversity Assessment
-Bird and bat studies
-Vegetation assessment
-Waterways
-Bushfire risk and management
-Targheted environmental program

Social

-Shadow Flicker
-Acoustic
-Land scape & visual impact
-Photomontages
-Aviation
-Traffic

Cultural

-Consultation with the traditional owners of the land: the Taungurung people
-Cultural heritage studies and management plans

Project Design

-Turbine Selection with aim to minimise turbine density (currently circa 1 turbine per 500 – 700 acres)
-Siting of substation, control building, maintenance facilities
-Turbine layout
-Track Route

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PROJECT TIMELINE

2020 / 2021

- Desktop Studies and Initial Landowner Discussions

2022

- Wind Monitoring: Mast and SODAR
- Ongoing Community and Stakeholder consultation

2023

- Ongoing Studies and Investigations
- Site potential substation location and connection route

2024

- Finalise Studies
- Civil and Infrastructure Planning

2025

- Planning Permit

2026

- Construction and commissioning

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Frequently Asked Questions

Do wind farms have an impact on property values?

- Several studies have been completed to determine whether wind farms impact property values. There is a limited number of studies and the findings in the studies are not definitive.
- A report that summarises several studies is “Review of the Impact of Wind Farms on Property Values” written by Urbis and commissioned by NSW Government in 2016. the report stated:
  - *“In our professional opinion, appropriately located wind farms within rural areas, removed from higher density residential areas, are unlikely to have a measurable negative impact on surrounding land values.”*
- The report references several case studies and is further referenced on the project website.

Victorian renewable energy zones – why were they created and why is the project outside the renewable energy zones?

- The renewable energy zones were created three years ago to highlight areas where there is capacity in the local grid to connect renewable energy projects.
- With the Seymour Wind project located very close to the main grid transmission lines between Melbourne and Sydney, an entirely new link will be created for the project.
- The project submitted a preliminary request to the Australian Energy Market regulator (AEMO). AEMO provided feedback on the project and supported the proposed connection to the grid.

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Frequently Asked Questions

What are the estimated total carbon emissions and payback period for the construction and ongoing operation of the project?

- Based on research conducted by Vestas, a leading global manufacturer of wind turbines, we have estimated that the CO_2 emissions will be 450 tonnes per MW. So, for a 600MW project this equates to 270,000 tonnes of CO_2.
- At 600MW the project is estimated to reduce 2,000,000 tonnes of CO_2 per annum, thus the carbon payback will be 3 – 4 months of operation.

What is the estimated project life time and what is planned for the end of the project?

- Manufacturer warranty for turbines is circa 30 years. Industry expectations, however, are that turbines will be operational for more than 40 years.
- Contracts with all landowners and the planning proposal for the project ensures that provisions are made for the turbines and associated infrastructure to be removed to a level of 0.5m below ground. Money is placed in a fund to ensure turbine and tower removal, importantly 100% of the turbines and towers will be recycled at the end of their productive life.

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Frequently Asked Questions

How will the project function in the event of a bushfire?

- In the case of a fire, wind turbines are halted, reducing the likelihood of collisions with flying vehicles and increasing the feasibility of aerial firefighting. Each wind turbine will be in open space, aerial firefighting will not be performed near the turbines.
- Recent Example: Following analysis of bushfire response in the area of the Waterloo wind farm, the South Australian Country Fire Service (CFS) stated that the wind farm posed no hinderance in containing the fire. Highlighting that with access roads acting as fire breaks, the fire zone was contained and did not grow by passing several ridges, preventing a much larger incident.
- The CFS also commented that with the turbine blades halted, and strong wind conditions, the turbines were easily identified and did not pose a flight risk, siting, however, that guy-wires on met masts should include aerial friendly identification as they were more difficult to identify.
- The improvement of local roads access will increase accessibility for emergency vehicles for fire management and increase evacuation efficiency. Improved telecommunications will further improve the response to bushfires and any emergency within the area.

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Frequently Asked Questions

How will the impact on flora and fauna of the wind farm be measured?

- The impact of the project on any species in the area is protected by the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 and the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.
- In addition to inhouse experts, Fera have contracted Biosis, a leading Australian firm, to perform detailed studies to ensure that all activities minimal or no impacts on flora and fauna. All findings will be made public to ensure total transparency.
- Roadside vegetation will be studied in detail, route specialists have been engaged to ensure routes chosen for the transport of turbine blades do not require any major disruption to the roadside flora and fauna.
- Fera is committed to the project achieving a net benefit for Flora and Fauna.

Are there any additional rate payments by landowners as a results of the wind farm?

- No, farm rates will continue to be rated as agricultural land.
- Fera will pay rates to each council based on the leased land used for energy production.

Is the project reliant on tax payer grants or loans?

- Fera is funding all studies and works associated with the Seymour wind project. The project is not reliant on government funding to proceed.