

Flat Rocks Wind Farm



Stage 1.

Frequently Asked Questions.

Project Overview

What is the project?

The Flat Rocks Wind Farm Stage 1 will consist of the construction and operation of 18 Vestas wind turbines and the related civil and electrical infrastructure.

Where is it located?

The Flat Rocks Wind Farm site is in the Great Southern region and spans the shires of Kojonup and Broomehill-Tambellup. The site is located approximately 35km southeast from Kojonup.

Why was this location chosen?

The location of the approved project area has excellent wind resource, good proximity to an existing transmission line (with allowable capacity to feed into the line), and land available through long-term land lease agreements with local landowners. The exact location of wind turbines within the project area are determined by a number of factors, including setback requirements under the relevant permits, topography, geotechnical considerations, and adequate spacing to minimise wake impacts, amongst other considerations.

What the investment value of the project?

The construction of the Flat Rock Wind Farm Stage 1 has an investment value of over \$200 million.

What's the status of the project?

The construction of Flat Rocks Wind Farm Stage 1 project is underway. Enel Green Power has engaged several main contractors to undertake

the related construction works. Temporary site infrastructure, including offices and concrete batching plant is established on site. Excavations and construction, including concrete pours, of the wind turbine foundations is ongoing. Installation of underground cabling, including trenching is underway.

Project Ownership

Who owns the project?

Enel Green Power (EGP) is the owner of Flat Rocks Wind Farm Stage 1.

Who is Enel Green Power?

Enel Green Power, within the Enel Group, is the world's largest renewable private player, with around 59 Gigawatt (GW) of wind, solar, geothermal and hydro plants installed in Europe, the Americas, Africa, Asia, and Oceania.

In Australia, EGP operates the 275 MW Bungala solar farm in South Australia and the 34 MW Cohuna solar farm in Victoria and has a pipeline of wind and solar projects under development.

Who developed the project?

The project was developed by Moonies Hill Energy (MHE), a WA based integrated renewable energy developer.

This included undertaking relevant assessments, obtaining relevant development approvals and securing relevant land lease agreements.

What is EGP's relationship with MHE?

MHE and EGP had a commercial agreement in place for the joint development of the Flat Rocks

Wind Farm Stage One. Upon completion of the project development phase, EGP fully acquired the project from MHE in early 2022.

Who owns Stage 2 of the project?

In late 2022, the WA Government announced that Water Corporation had acquired the Development Rights to Flat Rocks Wind Farm Stage 2.

Who owns the land where the project is situated?

The land is owned by local landowners. Long term leases are in place for the construction and operation of wind turbines on the land. The landowners will continue their general farming activities alongside the project infrastructure.

What is BHP's role in relation to the project?

Enel Green Power and BHP have a Power Purchase Agreement to supply of 100% of the energy generated from the project, plus Large Scale Generation Certificates (LGCs) for a 12 year period. The renewable energy provided under the agreement will support BHP's decarbonisation of its nickel operations and enable the supply of low carbon intensity nickel to its customers in the Electric Vehicles and battery storage markets.

Project Planning and Approvals

Who approved the project?

As the project site spans the shires of Kojonup and Broomehill-Tambellup, both Councils are consent authorities for the project and relevant approvals have been obtained from both Councils. The project was originally approved by the Kojonup Council in 2011 and the Broomehill-Tambellup Council in 2013.

Several amendments to the original approvals have been approved by the relevant consent authorities since that time. The most recent approvals were received by Kojonup and Broomehill-Tambellup Councils in late 2022.

Why were amendments undertaken to the Approval?

Considering the length of the project development phase (over 10 years), amendments were required to accommodate optimised wind turbine models, reflecting technological advancements in Wind Turbine Generators. The most recent amendments were required to

correct ambiguous terminology within the Approvals.

Does the project require WA State Government approval?

The consent authorities for the Flat Rocks Wind Farm project are the Kojonup Council and the Broomehill-Tambellup Council.

Consultation with relevant State Government Departments has been undertaken throughout the development process and is ongoing as required. Some related matters to the project, such as limited native vegetation clearing, require approvals under the relevant state legislation.

Does the project require Federal Government approval?

The consent authorities for the Flat Rocks Wind Farm project are the Kojonup Council and the Broomehill-Tambellup Council.

Consultation with relevant State Government Departments has been undertaken throughout the development process as required. The project was assessed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)*.

What is an SDAU and why has it been proposed for the Project?

In early 2023, Enel Green Power submitted an application for the Flat Rocks Wind Farm Stage 1 project to the Western Australian (WA) Government State Development Assessment Unit (SDAU). The purpose of the application is to transfer authority for administration and management of conditions of approval to the Western Australian Planning Commission. Establishing the Western Australian Planning Commission as the determining authority, is consistent with planning reform currently underway in the State.

How is the SDAU Application different from the existing Development Approvals?

The application has no differences to what has previously been approved by the Shire of Kojonup and the Regional Joint Development Assessment Panel on behalf of the Shire of Broomehill-Tambellup.

What is an SCA and why has it been proposed for the Project?

In early 2024, EGP lodged a proposed introduction of a Special Control Area (SCA) around the Flat Rocks Wind Farm (Stages 1 and 2).

SCAs form part of the Local Planning Schemes and guide the use and development of land in designated areas. SCAs are an overlay that sit above the underlying Rural or Farming Zone of the Local Planning Scheme. The proposed SCA would act as a mechanism to enable the Shires to assess whether a development proximate to the wind farm is compatible. Through a planning assessment process, it would aim to minimise amenity impacts, especially noise, on new sensitive land uses by promoting engagement and information sharing between the wind farm operators and landholders/applicants of sensitive land uses. The proposed SCA boundary is based on noise modelling that was assessed as part of the Flat Rocks Wind Farm development approvals.

What are the impacts of an SCA?

The predominant use of the land within the proposed SCA area is broad acre farming or cropping. There would be no impact to these activities under the proposed SCA. Other development within the proposed SCA boundary would require relevant development approvals.

How does the SCA process work?

SCAs are introduced via an amendment to the Local Planning Schemes. Amendments follow a statutory approval process governed by the Planning and Development Act 2005 (Planning Act) and its subsidiary Regulations. This process includes an extensive public advertising period, governed by the legislation.

How can I provide feedback on the proposed SCA?

EGP recommends interested stakeholders provide relevant feedback via submission during the formal public advertising period, this will be undertaken in accordance with the Planning Act and Regulations. EGP will provide updates on the status of the SCA application to this website, including key milestones such as dates for public advertising period.

Project Construction

Who is constructing the project?

EGP will manage construction phase of the project and has engaged main construction contractors to undertake the construction works, this includes:

- Vestas – engaged for the wind turbine generator supply and installation.
- Westforce Construction – engaged for the construction of civil infrastructure such as roads between wind turbines and wind turbine foundations.
- RJE – engaged for the supply and construction of electrical infrastructure.

How much will the construction cost?

The approximate capital investment is over \$200 million.

How many jobs will be created during construction?

Approximately 120 construction staff are anticipated to be on site during construction peaks.

EGP will work closely with the main construction contractors to identify local capability and capacity for construction roles and prioritise local engagement where possible.

Will there be apprenticeships and traineeships available during the construction phase?

EGP will work closely with the main construction contractors to identify on site trainee and apprenticeship opportunities where possible.

When did construction start?

Construction of the project started in Q3 2022.

How long will construction take?

The approximate timeframe for the construction is 18 months.

What will be built on the project site?

For Flat Rocks Wind Farm Stage 1, 18 wind turbines will be installed on site with a maximum tip height of 200 metres, around 15km of unsealed internal access roads will be installed between turbine locations. Transmission infrastructure will be installed on site, as well as a substation. A site office, including small carpark will also be installed.

What turbines will be installed?

In accordance with the project approvals, the wind turbine to be installed is a Vestas V150 4.2-Megawatt (MW) wind turbine generator with serrated trailing edges mounted on the blades and a tip height of 200 metres.

How high will the wind turbines be?

In accordance with the project approvals, the turbines will have a maximum tip height of 200 metres.

Where do the wind turbines come from?

Vestas wind turbine components are generally manufactured in China and/or India. Components will then be shipped to Australia, arriving at the Port of Bunbury. Oversize road transportation will be used to transport the wind turbine components to the project site.

How do the wind turbines get to the project site?

Following arrival at the Port of Bunbury, the wind turbines will be transported approximately 250km via trucks to the project site.

The general route intended for the road transportation of wind turbine components is via Leschenault Dr, Estuary Dr, Koombana Dr, Robertson Dr, S Western Hwy, Coalfields Hwy, Albany Hwy, Warrenup Road to the site entrance for the project.

Each turbine is made of approximately 11 oversize loads (6 tower sections, a hub, nacelle and three blades). For 18 wind turbines, this will require approximately 198 oversize component loads to site.

When will the oversize turbine components be transported on local roads?

Oversize wind turbine components will be transported to the project site around quarter three 2023.

What roads will be built for the project?

Around 15km of unsealed internal access roads (approximately 5.5 metres in wide) will be constructed in the project area between the 18 approved turbine locations.

What transmission infrastructure will be built for the project?

A substation will be constructed on the project site, alongside a new interconnection facility to be built and operated by Western Power.

Electrical infrastructure between approved turbine locations (cabling) will be underground. This will generally be alongside the internal access roads.

Project Operation

Who will operate the project?

EGP will manage the operational phase of the project and engage a main contractor to manage the operations and maintenance activities on site.

When will the project start operating?

Operation of the project is targeted to commence in 2024, approximately 18 months following the start of construction.

How long will the project operate for?

The approximate timeframe for the operational life of the project is 30 years.

Where will the power generated from the turbines go?

Electricity generated from wind turbines will be transported via underground cabling to the onsite substation. Here, electricity produced by the turbines is converted to high-voltage electricity, then fed into the existing 132kV Kojonup – Albany transmission line for distribution into the Western Australian electricity grid.

How many jobs will be created during operations?

A small number of operational and maintenance staff will be required for the operational phase.

EGP will work closely with the contractor to identify local capability and capacity for operations and maintenance roles and prioritise local engagement where possible.

In addition, where there is capability and capacity in the local area, it's anticipated for the local operations and maintenance team to be supported by local contractors and suppliers.

Will there be apprenticeships and traineeships available during operations?

EGP will work closely with the contractor to identify on site trainee and apprenticeship opportunities where possible.

Will the wind turbines have lights on when operating at night?

The wind turbines will be installed with necessary aviation lighting. Lighting will be undertaken in accordance with Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) requirements.

Project Benefits and Impacts

What benefits will there be for the local community from the project?

EGP is committed to a Creating Shared Value (CSV) approach during construction and operation of the project. CSV means EGP intends to work closely with the local community to enhance the economic and social conditions in the local area to the project and proactively share benefits within the local community.

EGP's overall objective is for the project to be considered as an integrated and valued component of the social and economic fabric of the local community.

EGP is committed to local sourcing where feasible. It's anticipated the project will create significant local employment and supply opportunities during construction peaks, with approximately 120 construction staff anticipated to be on site during construction peaks and a small operational and maintenance team for the operational phase.

Will there be ongoing direct benefit to the local community?

EGP has committed to establish a Sustainable Communities Fund. This fund will comprise of \$75,000 per year, allocated to local community initiatives within Kojonup Shire and Broomehill Tambellup Shire Local Government Areas, for the life of the project. EGP is currently in the process of designing the governance and administrative structure for the Sustainable Communities Fund with input from relevant local stakeholders.

Will the project generate tourism in the local area?

The project may generate some tourism in the local area. The wind turbines will be installed on private land and direct access to the wind turbines will be limited. As the project will be an operating power plant, health and safety will be the key consideration when determining access to the project site.

If there is sufficient interest in the local area, EGP will explore the opportunity to arrange for site tours and the potential to establish an appropriate turbine viewing area e.g., viewing platform with interpretive signage.

What impacts will the project have on the local community and environment during construction?

The project will have some impacts on the local area during the construction period, including an increase to local traffic in the area and movement of oversize turbine components on local roads to the project site.

Environmental, noise and construction impacts have been assessed by the relevant regulators during the planning phase of the project. The planning approvals sets out conditions for the project, including management plans. Management systems will be in place to ensure compliance with all conditions.

What are the noise impacts from the project?

Wind turbines produce noise while operating. The noise impacts from the project have been modelled and assessed by the relevant regulators during the planning and assessment phase for the project. The planning approvals sets out noise limits for the wind turbines whilst operating, this will ensure minimal impact to the amenity of the local area.

What visual impact will there be from the project?

Visual impacts have been assessed by the relevant regulators during the planning phase of the project. 18 wind turbines will be installed on site with a maximum tip height of 200 metres, this will have some impact on the visual amenity in the local area.

What impacts will there be on local flora and fauna from the project?

The project site area generally consists of previously cleared broadacre agricultural land. Some native vegetation is present within the project site, EGP will work with the main contractors to minimise and avoid clearly of native vegetation where possible.

The project's environmental management plans will set management and monitoring procedures to ensure that flora and fauna impact is mitigated during the project's construction and operation phases.

What impacts will there be on local roads and traffic?

The project will have some impacts on the local area during the construction phase, including an increase to 'light construction' traffic in the local area and movement of oversize turbine components on local roads to the project site. Local roads will be maintained as required in consultation with the relevant Council.

How long does it take for a wind turbine to be carbon neutral?

A life cycle assessment (LCA) evaluates a wind farm during its lifetime, including raw materials, manufacture, transport, service and operation, and end-of-life (including measurement of CO₂-equivalent emissions).

An LCA indicates the environmental performance of a wind farm in terms of return-on-energy over the life cycle of the project. This provides an indication of the energy balance of project, showing the relationship between the energy requirement over the whole life cycle of the wind farm (i.e., to manufacture, operate, service and end-of-life) versus the electrical energy output from the wind farm. This energy payback period is measured in 'months to achieve payback', where the energy requirement for the life cycle of the power plant equals the energy, it has produced. At this 'breakeven' point, wind turbines become energy neutral. Based on a LCA for the wind turbine type to be installed at Flat Rocks Wind Farm Stage 1 (with comparable plant parameters), the payback period is approximately between 7 – 9 months.

Project Community Engagement

What community engagement has been undertaken for the project to date?

MHE facilitated community engagement throughout the project development phase.

Following acquisition of the project, EGP has developed a Stakeholder and Community Engagement Plan, it includes activities such as:

- Recruitment of a local Community Liaison Officer
- Establishment of a local Community Information Centre in Kojonup.
- Targeted engagement with neighbours within the vicinity of the project area.
- Targeted engagement with broader local community groups and schools within the Kojonup and Broomehill Tambellup Shires.
- Sharing monthly project construction updates via local community newsletters and email distribution list.
- Establishment of a project webpage.

What is the role of a Community Liaison Officer?

This role will be responsible for managing all local stakeholder and community engagement activities for the project during its construction phase. This role will be supported by the EGP team that is based in EGP's head office in Sydney, as well as the locally based site team for project.

EGP has appointed Olivia Thorn as the locally based Community Liaison Officer. Olivia can be contacted on 0459 359 399.

What are the details for the local Community Information Centre

The local Community Information Centre is located at 105 Albany Street, Kojonup and is open 10am – 2pm Tuesdays or by appointment. Local Community members are encouraged to drop into the information centre to learn more about the project and ask questions.

Can local community members visit the project?

The wind turbines will be installed on private land and direct access to the wind turbines will be limited. As the project will be an operating power plant, health and safety will be the key

consideration when determining access to the project area. If there is sufficient interest in the local area, EGP will explore opportunities to arrange for site tours for interested community members, local school groups etc.

Complaints

How can I make a complaint about the project?

Complaints about the project can be made to EGP via the information channels listed in 'further information' section of this document.

Are there further avenues to complain?

If the response from EGP is deemed unsatisfactory, EGP recommends contacting the Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner.

Further Information

Where can I find more information on the project?

The following channels are available to find out more information on the project:

- Visit the Community Information Centre in Kojonup.
- Visit the project webpage:
<https://www.enelgreenpower.com/our-projects/in-development/flat-rocks-wind-project>
- Chat with our Community Liaison Officer:
Olivia Thorn - 0459 359 399
- Email: flatrockswindfarm@enel.com