Wind Farm Facts

March 2026

About OX2

We develop and operate projects within onshore and offshore wind power, solar power, and energy storage. With our extensive experience, strong market position and efficient business model, we are powering the great shift towards a sustainable society, and we are well equipped to further strengthen our position in a growing market. We are present across Europe and in Australia.

We design and build sustainable projects and tailor them to meet our customers' needs. OX2 has a proven business model and in-house expertise at every step of the process – from project inception and financing to engineering and design, permitting, procurement, construction, and technical and commercial management.

Our mission is to accelerate access to renewable energy. We see ourselves becoming the leading provider of renewable energy solutions globally, thereby powering the great shift.

As signatories to the Clean Energy Council's Best Practice Charter, OX2 is dedicated to meaningful, transparent and respectful engagement with the regional communities where we operate. We focus on building enduring relationships, recognising and upholding environmental and cultural values and contributing to positive long-term value for local residents, Traditional Custodians and stakeholders.

What is the lifecycle of a wind farm?

1. **Development – assessments and approvals**
2–7 years

5. **Decommissioning and site rehabilitation**
1–3 years

2. **Construction and commissioning**
2–3 years

4. **Lifetime extension or repowering**

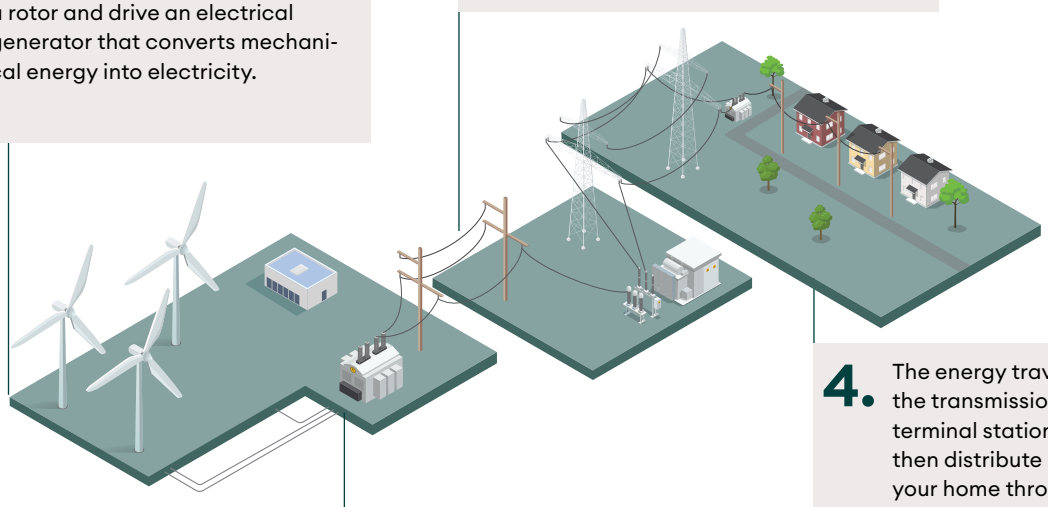
3. **Operation**
25–35 years

How does wind energy work?

Wind farms generate electricity from the power of the wind. Wind is an inexhaustible resource that is clean, reliable and affordable. In January 2026, 43.4% of Australia's total electricity generation was from renewable sources[1].

1. Turbines capture wind energy within the area swept by their blades. The spinning blades turn a rotor and drive an electrical generator that converts mechanical energy into electricity.

3. The energy generated joins all other forms of energy generation in the electricity grid system.



4. The energy travels through the transmission lines to terminal stations that then distribute power to your home through the distribution network.

2. The onsite substation collects the energy via a cable and sends it to an offsite substation via a transmission line.

[1] Source: https://openelectricity.org.au/

Development

Key activities in wind farm development include:

- Site identification
- Engagement and agreements with landowners
- Wind monitoring - energy modelling
- Grid connection studies
- Consultation with government, communities and industry
- Planning and environmental studies and approvals
- Detailed design of wind farm
- Design of road upgrades and transport route planning
- Investment decision and raising equity to fund the project
- Procurement of contractors and turbines

How is a wind farm designed?

A wind farm design evolves over time and is continuously refined as more information becomes available. Information is fed into the design as it emerges from site investigations, environmental assessments, community feedback and planning permit requirements. We consider a range of aspects:

- Local topography
- Wind resource and predominant direction
- Geotechnical (ground) conditions
- Proximity and connectivity to the grid
- Safety
- Constructability
- Relevant standards, guidelines and legislation
- Stakeholder and community feedback
- Transport routes and access to the site
- Potential environmental and heritage impacts
- Operations and maintenance requirements
- Project cost and value for money

What technical and environmental studies do you undertake to ensure impacts are identified and avoided or minimised?

Technical and environmental studies are undertaken by independent consultants who are experts in their field to identify baseline conditions and possible impacts. We use these studies to inform the project design, planning and construction and ongoing management.

The assessments undertaken for a wind farm project typically include:

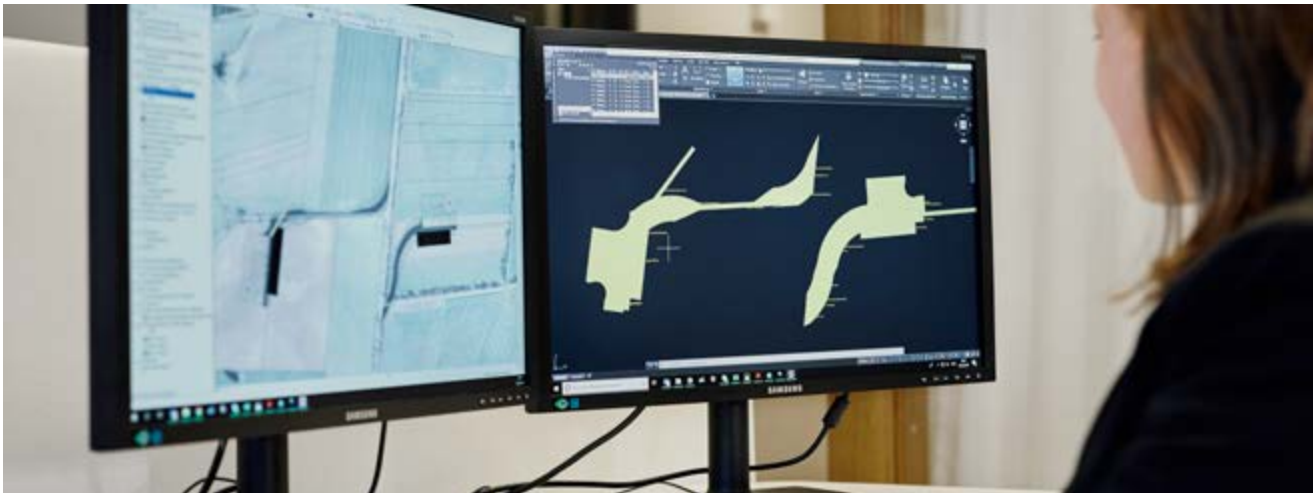
- Noise
- Biodiversity
- Cultural heritage (aboriginal and historic)
- Landscape and visual
- Aviation
- Electromagnetic interference (EMI)
- Shadow flicker
- Traffic and transport
- Hydrology
- Social impact assessment
- Economic impact assessment

Construction and Commissioning

A wind farm is a major project, and like any major infrastructure project, construction can be disruptive at certain times. To minimise this, we work with the project landowners, neighbours, contractors, local councils and wider community to plan construction responsibly and manage any impacts effectively and efficiently. Some of the ways we do this include:

- Meeting requirements set out in planning permit conditions, legislation, industry standards and guidelines – this includes preparing and complying with construction environmental management plans and traffic management plans
- Implementing a responsive complaints management procedure
- Developing a workforce accommodation strategy
- Regular communication with neighbours and the community
- Listening to feedback about how impacts could be minimised
- Working during standard construction hours wherever possible
- Scheduling disruptive or noisy work at times when it will have the least impact
- Monitoring and actively managing construction activities
- Using well-maintained equipment and implementing procedures to reduce their noise emissions (for example, avoiding reversing and triggering the reverse alarm where possible)

Each stage of construction can pose different challenges, such as traffic movements during the initial road construction phase or over-dimensional vehicle movements as turbine components are delivered to the site. Adequate stakeholder engagement and early planning will allow those movements to occur safely for the workforce and the community, with any planned disruptions communicated to relevant stakeholders (including the community). Depending on the size of the wind farm and weather conditions, construction generally takes about 2-3 years. Management Plans are required to outline how potential impacts are managed, and to ensure that all management and mitigation measures are understood and followed by the project partners.



What should I be aware of during construction?

Safety
To reduce and manage risk, Health and Safety Management Plans are developed to ensure safe construction practices and potential risks are identified, mitigated and communicated to workers. All staff and contractors undertake mandatory training in safety and emergency procedures before starting work on-site.

Fire Safety
The relevant fire safety authorities are consulted during the development stage of the project to ensure that the design of the wind farm meets fire safety requirements and that management and mitigation measures are accounted for. As access tracks are constructed within the wind farm site, fire safety within the site and the surrounding area will increase because access tracks act as fire breaks within the area.

Firefighting infrastructure will be made available on-site during construction and operation of the wind farm and safe access for emergency responders in and around the facility will be provided. The infrastructure will be provided in consultation with the relevant fire safety authorities and will comply with agreed fire safety and emergency response management measures. Vegetation will be managed to avoid increased bushfire and grassfire risk.

Fire safety regulations will be complied with during construction. For example, no hot works will be undertaken during total fire ban days.

Traffic and roads
The construction of a wind farm generates traffic when materials, machinery and turbines are being delivered to the site. Prior to the commencement of construction, a Traffic Management Plan (TMP) is developed in consultation with road authorities and local councils to ensure that construction traffic is appropriately managed and adheres to the use of approved roads only. School bus routes are taken into account.

Local roads may be upgraded before works begin so they are suitable for the loads from trucks and oversized vehicles. We work closely with our contractors and councils to plan deliveries, coordinate with other road users and provide advance notice of any disruption. Oversize items are often moved at night to reduce traffic disruption.

Any road construction works (including upgrades) required to facilitate the construction of the wind farm will be undertaken at our cost.

Working hours
Standard construction hours are outlined by The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) in each state. The hours are approximately 7am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, and 8am to 1pm on Saturdays.

On occasions we may need to work outside these standard hours. If this is required, we will provide as much advance notice as possible and put measures in place to minimise any disruption. Any required approvals to work outside of the standard construction hours would be sought.

Noise
Construction noise limits are regulated by the EPA and, in some cases, local councils. If construction activities on one of our projects are expected to exceed the noise targets at any time, we notify the local Council and put mitigation measures in place to limit the impact on local residents as much as possible.

Dust
Spraying water is the most effective way to reduce dust during construction. Water trucks are used to wet down work areas and unsealed roads when required.

Historic and Aboriginal cultural heritage
Prior to the commencement of construction, our contractors will be inducted on any measures required to be complied with to manage and protect historic and Aboriginal cultural heritage. Any culturally significant places will be identified during the development stage of the project and the required management measures will be agreed with the relevant authorities and local Aboriginal groups.

Social and economic
During construction, employees and contractors will be present in the local town and on the roads.

Temporary accommodation such as motels and pubs may be busier than normal. We develop workforce accommodation strategies in consultation with councils and work with local communities and our contractors to reduce any inconvenience caused. We seek to ensure local towns and the local economy benefit from additional spending on accommodation, food and local goods and services. We will seek to create local employment opportunities and advertise them to benefit the local workforce.

Complaints Management Procedure
OX2 will manage and respond to complaints during construction in accordance with our grievance mechanism. The mechanism to submit complaints and follow up on them will be communicated to the local council and the community; it will also be made available on the project website.

Read more about the grievance and complaint investigation process. Your privacy is very important to us, and your personal information will be kept confidential in line with our privacy policy.

These documents are available on the OX2 Australia website www.ox2.com/australia

Do wind farms affect water security and how is water accessed for construction?

We understand that water supply and quality is a key concern for landholders and regional communities. Water required during construction (e.g., for concrete batching, dust suppression, and workforce needs) will likely be sourced through a combination of approved, off-site supplies. Primary supply will typically come from licensed water suppliers, delivered to site by tanker trucks. Where feasible and subject to regulatory approval, non-potable/non-drinkable water may also be obtained from permitted surface water sources or temporary abstraction points.

Water use is managed efficiently, with measures such as water recycling, use of non-potable water for dust control, and scheduling works to minimise demand during dry periods. No long-term groundwater extraction is anticipated, and all water sourcing will comply with relevant permits, environmental regulations, and local water management plans to avoid impacts on existing users or sensitive ecosystems.

How are waterways protected from construction run-off?

During construction of wind farms and battery energy projects, strict government approval conditions apply to ensure groundwater, bores and farm dams are protected.

Groundwater and Bores

Wind and battery projects do not involve drilling into aquifers or injecting chemicals underground.

To protect groundwater:

- Excavation depths are limited and assessed in advance.
- Groundwater conditions are investigated before construction.
- Works avoid known bores wherever possible.
- Any unexpected groundwater encounter triggers immediate investigation and management.
- These requirements help ensure there is no impact on bore water quality or availability.

Farm Dams and Surface Water

Construction activities are managed to prevent sediment or pollutants entering dams and waterways:

- Buffer distances are maintained around dams, creeks and drainage lines.
- Erosion and sediment controls (such as sediment fences and diversion drains) are installed before earthworks begin.
- Disturbed areas are minimised and stabilised as soon as possible.
- These controls prevent muddy runoff from entering dams, particularly after rainfall.

Fuel, Oil and Spill Management

Strict controls apply to all fuels and oils used during construction:

- Refuelling occurs in designated areas away from water.
- Fuels and chemicals are stored in bunded, sealed containers.
- Spill kits are kept on site at all times.
- Any spill must be contained, cleaned up and reported immediately.

How is biosecurity managed during construction?

Recognising the risk that construction vehicles and equipment can introduce biosecurity threats, including fire ants or other invasive pests, strict biosecurity measures are implemented throughout construction. These include equipment wash-down and inspection procedures, controls on the movement of machinery and materials, and compliance with relevant state biosecurity requirements and planning permit conditions.

Contractors and workers are trained to identify and report potential pest or weed incursions so they can be managed promptly. Detailed management plans are required to clearly outline how potential impacts, including amenity, traffic, biosecurity and environmental risks, will be managed, and to ensure all mitigation measures are clearly understood and consistently applied by project partners.

Monitoring and Compliance

Before construction starts, an Environmental Management Plan will be required to be prepared and approved as a condition of the development approval.

This plan requires:

- Regular site inspections and monitoring.
- Trained environmental personnel on site.
- Clear incident reporting and response procedures.
- Compliance audits and regulator oversight where required.

Non-compliance can result in stop-work directions or penalties. Overall, while renewable energy projects are not a significant source of water contamination compared to other infrastructure or industrial activities, these preventative measures ensure that risks to surface water and groundwater are minimised and well managed. For further information visit: Soil and water contamination from renewable energy | Fact sheets | Clean Energy Council

Construction and Commissioning

1. Site Induction

Contractors undertake health and safety inductions in addition to environmental and cultural management inductions.

2. Site Prep

Access tracks, intersection upgrades, quarry and batch plant, cable trenches. Turbine foundations - A foundation is built for each wind turbine. Generally, these foundations are approximately 25 metres in diameter and 3 metres deep. A crane pad and assembly area, known as a hardstand, is also constructed next to each foundation. The foundations are made of concrete and steel reinforcement and are backfilled with excavation materials, leaving only the central bolt assembly above ground level.

3. Turbine assembly

A wind turbine consists of a number of components, a tower (in a number of sections), a nacelle (the container at the top of the tower which houses the generator), a hub (nose cone) and three blades. These parts are delivered individually, laid out in the assembly area, then lifted into place by a crane. Installation of each turbine requires 4 to 5 days of light winds.

4. Supporting infrastructure

Substations, monitoring masts, operations buildings and transmission lines are built to allow the wind farm to operate and export electricity to the network. Electrical connections – Underground or overhead electrical and fibre optic cables are installed to connect the wind turbines and carry electricity and data to the substation.

5. Commissioning

After each wind turbine has been tested through a number of stages, called Hold Points, they can begin to supply electricity.

Any temporary construction buildings are removed and the ground is rehabilitated.

Operation

Wind farms have an operational life of approximately 30 years. A small team of electrical engineers based on-site, or at a central point for a number of projects, will undertake regular maintenance and monitoring. At the end of the life of the wind farm, OX2 may seek to extend the life of the wind farm or to repower the facility with newer technologies. Should this be the case, relevant assessments will be undertaken and approvals sought.

Do wind turbines create audible noise?

Wind turbines do create sound and may be heard. The predominant noise is a swishing sound as the blades rotate through the air. Noise is also emitted from associated infrastructure, such as electricity substations and electricity transmission infrastructure.

Noise emitted from large-scale wind energy projects are regulated by state government agencies (such as the EPA in most states).

Detailed noise assessments are undertaken by specialist consultants during the development stage of the project to inform project design and during operations to assess the compliance of the wind farm with noise limits. The relevant environmental noise guidelines are used to measure baseline conditions prior to the construction of the wind farm and assess potential noise impacts on sensitive receptors during operations.

The final layout of turbines must remain below the noise limits within relevant legislation throughout the entire operational life of a project when assessed at each individual potentially impacted sensitive receptors. The predictive noise assessment achieves this by considering the predicted noise output of each turbine, the cumulative effect of multiple turbines, their location in relation to sensitive receptors and the topographical and meteorological conditions, to arrive at a layout which is compliant with the noise limits. Predictive noise assessments also consider the cumulative impacts of surrounding noise-emitting uses, including other wind energy generation facilities. If the predictive noise levels exceed noise limits at particular sensitive receptors, we may enter into an agreement with the relevant landowner.

Compliance is confirmed by noise monitoring assessments during operations. In some States, an accredited auditor must be appointed to verify the methodology of the predictive noise assessment and the results of the compliance assessment.

Wind turbines generally produce more sound when wind speeds are higher. Higher wind speeds can also make sounds from the surrounding environment (also known as background noise) , which can mask wind turbine noise. This makes measuring wind turbine noise more complex than other types of environmental noise.

Noise may also be due to some form of fault with the turbine. However, these noise impacts are considered temporary as we endeavour to rectify these matters as quickly as possible.

To manage impacts from noise at sensitive receptors:

- Wind farms are generally sited in rural areas and as far away from local towns and clusters of sensitive receptors as possible,
- A predictive noise impact assessment can be prepared to inform wind farm design,
- The operator must ensure regular maintenance of turbines takes place,
- Ongoing monitoring of noise levels must take place over the life of a wind farm,
- Wind turbine configuration and operating modes can be adjusted.

Detailed noise assessments are undertaken by specialist consultants during the development stage of the project to inform project design and during operations to assess the compliance of the wind farm with noise limits.

Do wind farms have a visual impact on landscape amenity?

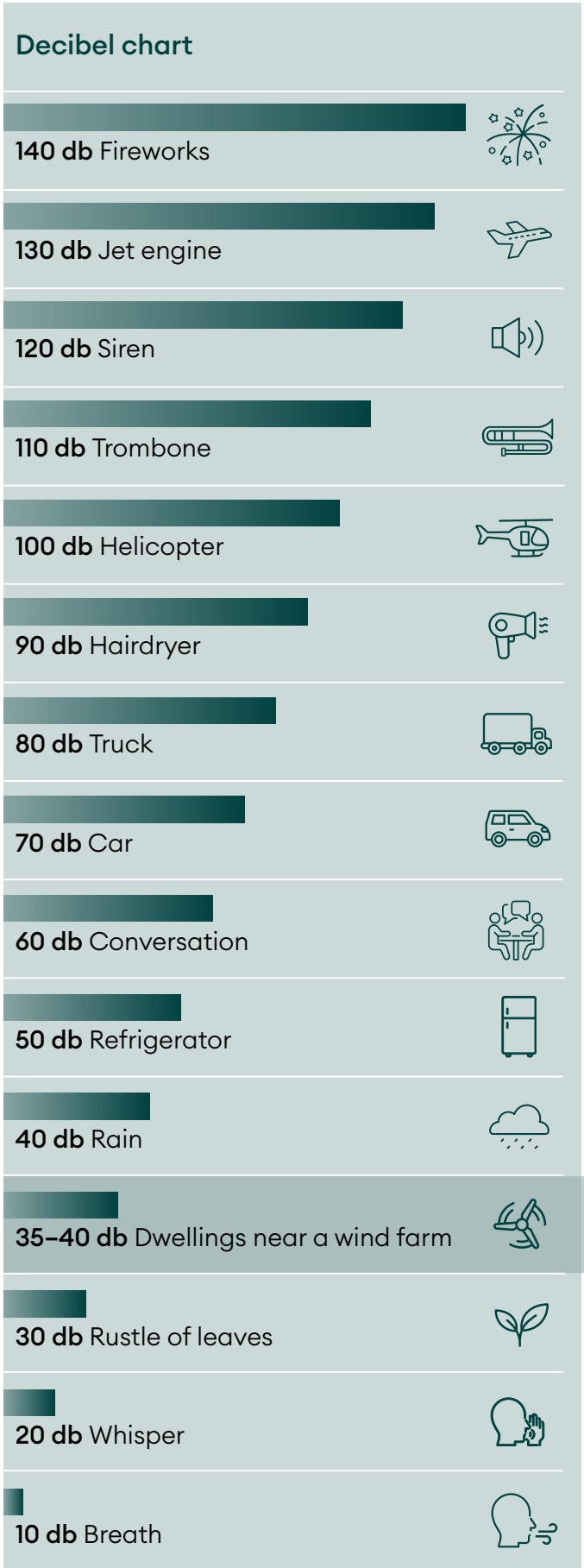
Wind turbines are typically 200 metres to 280 metres tall (from the ground to the tip height of the blade) and may modify the landscape or have a visual impact, particularly if they are part of a wind energy facility that is the first to be introduced to the landscape.

During the development stage of a project, a visual impact and landscape character assessment is undertaken to understand the potential amenity impacts of the project. This assessment informs the wind farm layout design to reduce impacts where possible.

The likely impacts of a wind farm are determined by understanding the sensitivity of an area to a landscape change and the magnitude of the proposal.

In some states, landowners enter into an agreement with the developer to accept the visual impacts of the wind energy facilities. Some states also require developers to offer an off-site landscape screening program to affected sensitive receptors within a certain radius.

The intention of the off-site landscape screening program is to offer receptors affected by the visual impacts of a wind farm landscape screening solutions which are at the cost of the developer.



Will the electromagnetic interference (EMI) affect my TV reception?

Digital TV signals are generally much less susceptible to interference from wind farms than analogue signals but it is possible in areas of low signal strength. In Australia televisions are now digital so any impact will be reduced.

Before construction, we undertake a pre-construction television and radio reception strength assessment of neighbouring properties who wish to take part, or alternatively at representative locations. If a concern is raised once the wind farm is operational, we can assess whether the wind farm is causing any issues.

Residents who experience TV reception issues caused by the operation of the wind farm will receive assistance to rectify those issues.

Do wind farms cause health problems?

The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Statement: Evidence on Wind Farms and Human Health was released on 11 February 2015.

The Statement provides advice on this issue. NHMRC concluded that there is currently no consistent evidence that wind farms cause adverse health effects in humans.

What if a wind turbine catches fire?

There is a low fire risk at wind farms due to:

- Being surrounded by a cleared area which reduces the available fuel load;
- Lightning protection devices being installed on every turbine, which reduces ground strikes that might otherwise have started fires;
- Turbine monitoring systems to detect temperature increases which automatically slows or shut down the turbine if the temperature or wind speed exceeds an assigned limit; and
- Any flammable substances are located high above the ground.

What type of fire suppressants do wind farms use?

Modern wind turbines and associated BESS are designed to prevent fires and minimise environmental risk. Fire detection systems provide early warning, allowing electrical isolation and shutdown to occur before a fire can escalate. Wind turbines do not use firefighting foams. Internal fire suppression systems typically rely on inert gases (such as nitrogen) that extinguish fire by displacing oxygen. These systems do not contain PFAS, leave no residue, and generate no run-off.

In the unlikely event of a turbine fire, incidents are generally contained within the turbine enclosure and are managed through isolation and controlled burn-out rather than active firefighting using water or foam. Emergency response and fire management procedures are developed in consultation with relevant authorities and are designed to avoid off-site impacts. As a result, the risk of PFAS contamination or run-off to surrounding land or water supplies is considered negligible.

Could wind farms cause a bushfire?

Wind farms are not considered to increase fire risk. In fact, in most cases wind farms benefit the community via their large access track network, which also act as fire breaks, additional personnel on site during construction and operation, additional water access points and tanks, and the fire mitigation measures required by the responsible authority. Wind farms are planned and constructed in consultation with the appropriate fire authorities. Furthermore, wind farms are not considered to pose any hazards for fighting bushfires from the air as turbine coordinates are logged with airspace authorities. Pilots view turbines as no different to other tall structures and hazards such as power lines, transmission towers, radio masts, mountains and valleys.

Wind farms are just another piece of infrastructure in the environment that need to be managed on a risk basis when fighting fires. Wind turbines are not expected to pose increased risks due to wind turbulence or moving blades.

Does electricity from wind farms cost more than other sources?

Renewable energy is the cheapest form of new electricity generation. The CSIRO GenCost Report 2024-2025, published in July 2025, confirms that wind and solar are the cheapest source of electricity generation in Australia, even when considering additional integration costs arising due to the variable output of renewables, such as energy storage and transmission[1].

Do wind farms require Government subsidies to be built?

OX2 does not require government subsidies to finance its projects. Projects are financed through a combination of equity and long-term bank loans. However, we may enter into agreements to sell the power produced by the projects, such as a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA).

What is the carbon payback period for a wind farm?

The carbon payback period is the length of time it takes a turbine to produce enough clean electricity to make up for the carbon pollution generated during manufacture. There are numerous studies that state that the payback time is between six and twelve months.

Do large-scale renewable energy projects affect nearby property values?

Studies show that impacts of large-scale renewable energy projects are small and temporary, generally limited to the construction phase. Any negative effects typically recover within 3–5 years after project operation begins and some areas even see increased property values due to improved local infrastructure and economic growth.

Do wind farms affect local rates?

Property rates are set by the local Council and are generally based on:

- Your property's valuation (land and/or capital value), and
- The Council's overall budget and rating structure, which applies across the municipality

Renewable energy projects typically:

- Do not change the valuation of surrounding private properties simply by being nearby.
- Are rated separately as commercial or industrial developments, meaning the project itself contributes to council rates.
- Can increase council revenue, which may help fund local services and infrastructure and, in some cases, reduce pressure to raise rates elsewhere.

Your rates would only change if there were unrelated factors, such as a general revaluation across the council area or changes to council policy, events that occur regardless of the project.

Will a clean energy project near my home impact my ability to get public liability insurance?

The Insurance Council of Australia (ICA) has stated that insurers do not have specific concerns related to neighbouring clean energy infrastructure. At the time of writing, the ICA is not aware of any instances where its members have been unable to provide insurance, or have increased premiums as a result of a farm (or a neighbouring property) hosting energy infrastructure.

Will a clean energy project increase my insurance premiums?

Increases to premiums are unlikely to be related to clean energy projects. Wherever you live in Australia – whether you're directly exposed to extreme weather impacts or not – insurance premiums are rising because of the escalating costs of natural disasters, increasing value of homes and vehicles, inflation pushing up building and vehicle repair costs and the increasing cost of doing business for insurers.

1. https://www.csiro.au/en/news/All/News/2025/July/2024-25-GenCost-Final-Report

Do wind turbines shed micro-plastics?

Turbine blades may degrade slightly over time, especially when exposed to heavy rain or hail. This wear is minor, with annual losses estimated at 30 to 540 grams per blade. Wind turbine blades' protective coatings are non-toxic and contain negligible amounts of bisphenol A (BPA), and the blades are specifically designed to have high weather resistance.

Degradation in wind turbines is small in comparison to other sources, such as car and truck tyres, road markings, washing, paint, astroturf and car brakes. Manufacturers are working to reduce this as blade damage impacts turbine performance and efficiency.

Do wind turbines contain asbestos?

In November 2025, it was revealed that three renewable energy companies operating in Australia - Goldwind Australia, Vestas, and Beijing Jingeng Energy International (Australia) - had confirmed the use of access lift brake pads supplied by 3S Industry that were found to contain white asbestos. The discovery of asbestos in wind turbine components has prompted urgent safety measures and regulatory investigations to protect workers and ensure compliance with health and safety requirements.

As investigations continue, ongoing assessments will determine the full extent of the issue and identify the actions required to mitigate any potential risks associated with asbestos exposure within the renewable energy sector.

OX2 maintains a zero-tolerance approach to the use of asbestos and will work closely with suppliers to ensure there is no risk of asbestos exposure across any of its Australian projects.

Are wind turbines cyclone-rated?

Modern wind turbines are designed to withstand extreme weather, including cyclones, when they are built for cyclone-prone areas. Turbines are engineered to international design standards that account for very high wind speeds and extreme gusts. In cyclone regions, developers select high-wind or cyclone-rated turbine models specifically suited to local conditions. Even if a wind farm project is not located in a cyclone-rated area, OX2 takes a cautious approach and undertakes a cyclone assessment to ensure turbines are designed appropriately.

What happens during a cyclone?

- Turbines will automatically shut down well before winds reach damaging levels.
- Blades turn to a safe position to reduce wind pressure.
- Braking and locking systems engage to protect the structure.
- Towers and foundations are designed to withstand worst-case wind loads, even when the turbine is not operating.

In Australia, wind farms must demonstrate that turbines are suitable for local extreme wind conditions and comply with Australian and state planning and engineering standards.

Do wind farms impact koalas/koala habitat?

Koala habitat is defined by the Australian Government as any eucalypt woodland or forest within the species' range that contains suitable food and shelter trees.

This includes roadside and rail corridor vegetation, riparian corridors, paddock trees, the safe ground matrix between habitat patches, and larger areas of intact forest and woodland. As part of a project's environmental assessments, ecological surveys are conducted by qualified ecologists. If koalas or koala habitat is identified the project design will include buffers for habitat areas, and avoid high-quality foraging habitat where possible.

An Environmental Management Plan is prepared as part of the project's environmental assessment. This plan will outline measures to reduce the risk of impacts during construction, such as using sequential vegetation clearing techniques to minimise direct interactions between fauna and construction personnel,

engaging qualified fauna spotter-catchers to support clearing activities, enforcing speed limits on project access roads, and implementing biosecurity protocols to prevent the introduction or spread of weeds, pests or pathogens that could affect koalas.

Depending on the final design and regulatory requirements, the project may also be required to provide offsets for any unavoidable clearing of koala habitat under relevant State and Commonwealth legislation.

Can renewable energy companies clear trees?

Detailed environmental assessments are conducted to identify ecologically sensitive areas. These areas and vegetation removal are avoided where possible through design optimisation. Where vegetation removal cannot be avoided, it is managed in strict accordance with regulatory requirements. Proponents must apply for state government approval to remove clearly-identified, specific vegetation (proponents do not have automatic rights to clear all trees on the site) and must demonstrate application of the mitigation hierarchy in the approvals documentation > avoid, minimise, mitigation, rehabilitate and, as a last resort, offset. A range of management plans must be prepared as part of this application process which will be reviewed and conditioned by the Government – these may include a Vegetation and Fauna Management Plan, a Cleared Vegetation Plan, a Preliminary Rehabilitation Plan and an Offsets Plan where relevant. Projects may also require offsets under Federal legislation if the vegetation cleared is considered a matter of national environmental significance (for example, koala habitat).

Depending on the ecological characteristics of the vegetation to be cleared, offsets may be required at a ratio of between 3:1 up to 10:1. OX2 would be required to manage the offset site to achieve a conservation gain over the lifetime of Project. These offset obligations represent a significant cost and reflect the seriousness with which environmental impacts are considered and mitigated.

Are renewable energy companies subject to the same robust legislative framework as the mining industry?

Planning guidelines for wind farms commonly include requirements for technical assessments relating to agricultural land, ecology, noise, shadow flicker, EMI, water quality and erosion, natural hazards, transport, aviation, landscape and visual impacts, and social impacts. In Queensland, projects are also required to prepare a Rehabilitation Management Plan and a Decommissioning Security Report (i.e. evidence of financial security to ensure that decommissioning occurs with minimal impacts to landowners and government), similar to those required for mining projects.

What happens to community commitments if a project changes hands?

If there is a change of owner, any financial or regulatory commitments to the community that are formalised in the development of the project will transfer as obligations to a new project owner. Community Benefit Agreements, Neighbour Agreements, decommissioning and property costs are built into the financial model of a project, meaning these agreements will be maintained irrespective of the project owner.

Decommissioning and Rehabilitation

What happens to wind turbines at the end of their life?

In August 2025, The Clean Energy Council released a fact sheet demonstrating that 90% of a wind turbine is recyclable. Read more

When a wind farm is no longer running efficiently, it can be decommissioned, restoring the impacted area to its original condition. To decommission a wind farm, it is required to:

- Dismantle the components and remove the wind turbines;
- Remove any related infrastructure, such as buildings and overhead power lines;
- Rehabilitate the land; and
- Reinstate and revegetate roads and foundations.

Landowners may request that certain aspects of the wind farm remain in situ for their continued farming practices, such as certain buildings or hard stand areas.

The wind farm owner is responsible for decommissioning and rehabilitation and all requirements are outlined in agreements with landowners and as part of the planning approval.

In the unlikely event a project owner ceases to operate an alternative which is occurring currently on some projects overseas is re-powering. This is where the equipment and turbines are upgraded and replaced (typically with newer technology) to allow the project to continue to operate. This would require additional environmental assessments and approvals.

> **Approximately 85% to 100% of the materials used in wind farms, such as steel, copper and concrete are recyclable and can be recycled in Australia. This recovery rate exceeds the National Waste Policy Action Plan target of 80 per cent average resource recovery rate from all waste streams by 2030.**
>
> **The biggest opportunity to further reduce waste is to find new ways to recycle the turbine blades. Wind turbine blades are made of materials such as fibreglass or carbon fibre, as they are designed to be lightweight but highly durable. Composite materials are currently difficult to recycle, however wind turbine manufacturers are developing new blades that can be recycled as part of their commitment to zero-waste turbines by 2040.**

Clean Energy Council, Recycling the future - sustainable solutions for renewable energy technologies

Employment

Do wind farms create employment during construction?

During construction a wind farm creates hundreds of direct jobs on the wind farm site. These include:

- Health and safety officers
- Environmental compliance officers
- Electricians
- Apprentices/ Trades assistants
- Semi skilled labourers
- Unskilled Labourers
- Machine operators
- Transport operators
- Crane operators
- Civil and Electrical Supervisors
- Turbine assembly
- Water truck drivers
- Catering
- Cleaning

In addition, hundreds of jobs may be created in businesses that supply the project. These include:

- Quarry suppliers
- Material suppliers
- Concrete businesses
- Electrical equipment suppliers

Construction can also provide a boost for regional communities by increasing demand for local goods and services, such as accommodation, hotels, grocers, restaurants and cafes.

Do wind farms create employment during operation?

The level of employment depends on the size and location of the wind farm. A small team will be based on-site or in the region to manage the site and provide regular maintenance.

How can I find employment or my business benefit from the wind farm?

To register your interest in employment or supply local goods and services, please contact us via the project website or using the details in this document. One of our team will be in touch with further information.

Working with communities

It is crucial for us to involve and respect those who live and work where we establish renewable energy projects. Local knowledge of the area's culture and environment is valuable in planning the layout of the wind or solar farm.

What benefits can a wind farm create for the local community?

Local community benefits can include:

- Boost to the local and regional economy and local businesses
- Jobs during construction and operation
- Training, skills development and education programs
- Creation of community funds for local initiatives, including for local Aboriginal communities
- Direct payments to landowners
- Provision of a drought-proof and post-retirement income stream for farmers.
- Neighbour benefit programs

OX2 has a clear ambition to provide local jobs wherever possible. Maintaining a close dialogue with local communities is therefore important, not just for anchoring the project but also for engaging the services of local businesses for accommodation, catering, cleaning, earthmoving, transportation and haulage and similar activities.

We may develop a community engagement and benefit sharing plan for each project in consultation with local Council and continue to evolve it as we receive feedback from the community.

How do you keep people informed about development and construction activities?

Depending on the wind farm location, community and community preferences, we use a range of different tools to keep people up to date.

These include:

- Phone calls, emails and/or letters to anyone directly affected
- Meetings with direct neighbours
- Website
- Email updates
- Regular newsletters
- Information displays in nearby towns
- Presentations to community groups and organisations
- Through the local Council.

How do I report a concern about the wind farm or OX2?

Our grievance mechanism is targeted towards individuals, communities and companies who have feedback or concerns regarding our projects.

OX2 takes all complaints seriously and aims to acknowledge and resolve complaints promptly. A complaint is a formal expression of dissatisfaction made to or about OX2, related to its project development, construction, operation, or a staff member.

We acknowledge that anyone has a right to lodge a complaint and we will ensure that all the complaints we receive will be managed respectfully, objectively, and efficiently.

To lodge a complaint please contact us directly or complete the Grievance Mechanism form on our website.

Read more about the grievance and complaint investigation process. Your privacy is very important to us, and your personal information will be kept confidential in line with our privacy policy.

These documents are available on the OX2 Australia website www.ox2.com/australia

Transmission line

A transmission line is essential for an energy generation project such as a wind farm as it transports the electricity generated to where it is needed. Electricity is generated, used in each region and traded across regions.

High voltage transmission lines transport electricity from generators to electricity distributors, who deliver it to homes and businesses on lower voltage 'poles and wires'.

How is a transmission line developed and designed?

There are many factors which are required to be considered when designing a transmission line for a wind farm. While a project is being developed a number of different transmission line routes may be assessed. Each option will be considered against potential impacts and other requirements.

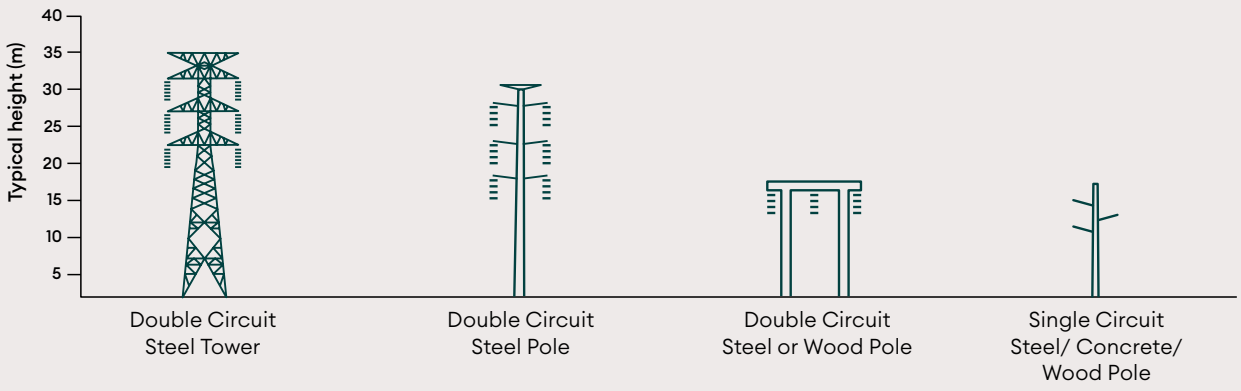
These include:

- Voltage (e.g. 66kV, 132kV, 220kV)
- Existing easements
- Line length, spans between poles, changes in direction of the line
- Topography
- Structural loads due to the weight, wind, earthquake risk, groundwater and other environmental factors
- Electrical safety requirements
- Communication and earthing requirements
- Temperature limits and fluctuations
- Existing infrastructure constraints
- Land ownership and access (both public and private)
- Native vegetation
- Planning requirements
- Areas of cultural historic and Aboriginal heritage significance
- Property configurations and dwelling locations
- Road and traffic safety
- Drainage
- Fire safety

What do transmission towers and power poles look like?

The type and size of the structure used depend on the voltage being used. Transmission towers are large steel structures (lattice or monopoles) used to carry high-voltage power lines. Power poles are single steel-reinforced concrete or wooden poles used to carry lower-voltage power lines.

Indicative image of transmission lines can be seen below



In Victoria, AusNet provide some additional information on their website at:
www.ausnetservices.com.au/electricity/transmission-network

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