

MORTLAKE SOUTH WIND FARM

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Welcome to the 22nd edition of the Mortlake South Wind Farm Newsletter. This newsletter provides information and updates about the project. The Mortlake South Wind Farm is located approximately 5kms south of Mortlake and 7kms north of Terang, within Moyne Shire.

The project will produce 530Gwh of clean energy each year, which is enough to power about 115,000 homes annually. The construction phase of the project has created 120 local jobs, 10 of which will remain during the operational phase.

Project Update

After an intensive six months of crane movements, all 35 wind turbines at Mortlake South Wind Farm have now been assembled. It has taken almost 500,000 hours of hard work from the local workforce to reach this important milestone, with no lost-time injuries.

But assembling the turbines is only part of the story. Although the cranes are gone, there's still plenty of work left to do during the final months of the construction phase. A core construction team remains on site to continue quality inspections and reinstatement works.

In the coming months, you will begin to see what the wind farm will look like during its operational life. The construction compound and warehouse hardstand on Tapps Lane is scheduled to be removed by the end of September and these areas will be reinstated to their original condition. Over-dimensional access tracks on Chammallak Lane and Grinters Lane have now been reinstated, and the widening of the intersection of Tapps Lane and Terang-Mortlake Road will be reinstated when the weather permits. The existing turning lanes into Tapps Lane from Terang-Mortlake Road will remain. The ACCIONA team will be working from the Operations and Maintenance building on Tapps Lane from September onwards.

You might be wondering when you'll see the turbines start turning. At the moment, each turbine completes a slow revolution every 24-hours. This releases pressure on the internal brake that stops the turbines spinning freely until they are properly configured.

More consistent revolutions will occur once the wind farm is connected to the electricity network. All new projects that generate electricity go through a connection approval process with the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) before connecting to the grid. Mortlake South Wind Farm is well progressed in this process. New generators in Western Victoria are also facing some additional requirements to connect to the electricity network, which involve adapting renewable energy technology and the electricity network to make sure they can work together over the long-term.

ACCIONA has a strong working relationship with AEMO and we are working in collaboration with them to connect the project to the electricity network as soon as feasible.

Due to COVID restrictions, our Community Hub at 95 Dunlop Street is currently closed. The Operations and Maintenance building on Tapps Lane is now operational, so the office on Dunlop Street will be closing permanently before the end of the year. You can still contact Theo Carroll, ACCIONA's Community and Stakeholder Liaison on 0417 150 967 or theo.carroll@acciona.com to have a chat about the project, or drop past the building on Tapps Lane once COVID restrictions lift.

We would like to take this opportunity to once again thank the local community for your patience during our construction works. For additional information on the project, please visit our website: www.acciona.com.au/mortlake



Wind turbines are now assembled

Neighbourhood Benefit Program

The Neighbourhood Benefit Program has helped neighbours of the Mortlake South Wind Farm inject more than \$80,000 into the local economy.

The Neighbourhood Benefit Program was developed to share the economic benefits of the wind farm with neighbouring residents. Anyone living within 4kms of a wind turbine can apply to receive EFTPOS cards to be used at more than 40 participating businesses in Mortlake, Terang and Noorat. This means the cash flow from the wind farm stays close to home, supporting local businesses and their families.

Since it began in October 2019, the Program has contributed \$84,000 to the local economy. The majority of spending (36%) took place in retail shops, including home furnishing and appliances. Almost one third (29%) of this total was spent in supermarkets and smaller grocery shops, and twenty per cent was spent in farming supply businesses.

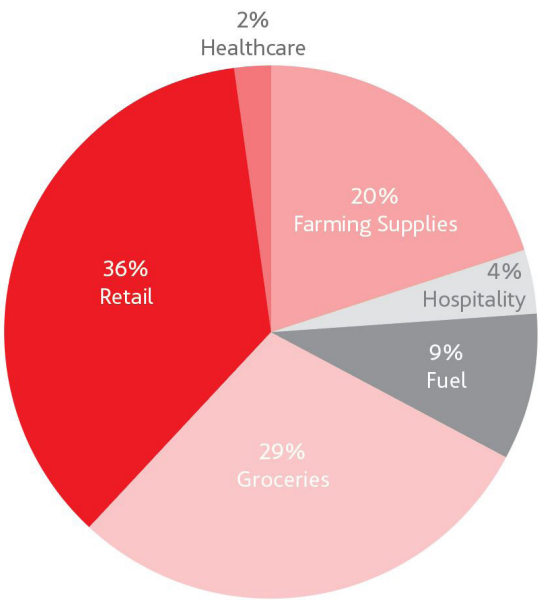
The Program ran throughout 2020, a year that proved difficult for the business community due to the COVID-19 pandemic. During this period, the Program helped neighbours contribute almost \$50,000 to businesses in Terang, Noorat and Mortlake. The Neighbourhood Benefit Cards are predominantly being used to access necessities and are providing practical help to families with home maintenance, farming and grocery shopping.

The Terang Co-op were among the first businesses to participate in the Program. Kevin Ford, CEO of the Terang Co-op, says “The cards are a great way to encourage people to support their local business, rather than travelling out of town to go to a chain store”

“The Terang Co-operative is proud to be a part of the Neighbourhood Benefit Program. It’s another way to keep people shopping local, which is the lifeblood of small communities like ours”

“Customers use the cards in all Co-op businesses, often buying their weekly groceries in our IGA + Liquor, farm supplies at the rural store and their home improvement needs from Mitre 10. It’s great to see the cards used things that really matter for local families.

“In the last 18 months we have invested \$1.2m back into our businesses, raising our standards and improving the business. The Neighbourhood Benefit Program is one of the positive initiatives that gave the Board confidence to approve these fantastic changes for the business and our community.”



Neighbourhood Benefit Card spending by industry



Funding for Community Projects



Celebrating Mortlake area's sponsored organisations

ACCIONA recently announced \$40,000 in funding across 14 community organisations as part of our annual Sponsorship Program.

We set up the Program to fund community groups and organisations to do the work that will make a difference in their community.

Representatives from the successful community organisations across Mortlake, Noorat and Terang came together to celebrate their new initiatives at a morning tea on the 5th August, at Mortlake Soldiers Memorial Hall.

The event provided an opportunity for the groups to share information about their initiatives and discuss ideas for long-term projects that will continue to add value to the community.

This year's funding included almost \$14,000 for local schools and repeat funding for multi-year projects that are creating long-term impacts for the community.

COMMUNITY GROUP	PROJECT	AMOUNT COMMITTED
Terang College	Terang College Energy Breakthrough Program	\$ 1,500.00
Crank It Racing	Pedal Prix Race Series	\$ 1,000.00
Terang and District Historical Society	Preserving and sharing the cultural history of Terang & district people and places	\$ 879.00
Noorat & District Residents Association	Stage 3 walking / footpath, Glenormiston Rd, Noorat	\$ 4,000.00
Mortlake College	Sparkfun Arduino Kits for STEM Innovation	\$ 1,950.00
Camperdown Toy Library	Hands on learning	\$ 1,548.16
Mortlake College	Community Health, Fitness and Wellbeing Centre Development: Stage 2	\$ 5,423.00
Athletics South West Vic Inc	Ongoing event participation and attendance.	\$ 1,625.00
Turbines		
Noorat & District A&P Society Inc	2021 Noorat Show	\$ 2,500.00
Terang RSL	Install & improve lighting for memorabilia displays.	\$ 1,240.00
WestVic Dairy	South West Dairy Ladies Luncheon	\$ 2,500.00
Terang Uniting Church	Terang Art Show	\$ 5,000.00
Terang Bridge Club	Card dealing machine	\$ 2,000.00
Terang Mortlake FNC	Replacement of change room floor coverings	\$ 2,000.00
Mortlake Men's Shed	Replacement electric stove for Men's Shed kitchen	\$ 3,000.00
Terang and District Indoor Sports and Recreation Centre	LED lighting upgrade	\$ 2,894.00



Terang Art Show

Meet The Team

Sara is one of ten workers who will oversee the ongoing operation of Mortlake South Wind Farm. Sara grew up in Terang, and never considered a career in renewable energy until a local job became available.

"This role has come about at a really good time for me and it's been a good opportunity to learn and grow," she says.

"I have a keen interest in the way that renewable energy will work for future generations. I have young children at school in Mortlake, so anything that gives them a brighter future is worth investing in."

"One of the most exciting things about being part of the project is watching the development through the final stages of construction and the crossover into operations."

"The Mortlake South wind Farm has given me a chance to work within my local community in a role I can be proud of. The flexibility and family support offered by ACCIONA is really important to me. It provides a work life balance that works for my family and I."



Sara Church

Landscaping Program

Tree-planting for neighbours of the wind farm will kick off this Spring after a detailed process of planning each plantation and preparing the ground for planting.

This Landscaping work is offered to neighbours within 4km of a turbine to provide a visual screen from the Mortlake South Wind

Farm. So far, almost 70 neighbours have taken up the offer of landscaping to help reduce the visual impact of the wind farm.

The landscaping plans are designed together by each landowner and a landscape architect. ACCIONA arranges all meetings required to develop the plans and covers

the costs involved in the planning, tree planting and maintenance for 3 years.

It's not too late to get involved in the program. If you own an eligible dwelling within 4km of a turbine and want to apply, visit www.accionacom.au/mortlake to download an Expression of Interest form.

Clean Energy Open Day

Mortlake South Wind Farm will be open to visitors on Saturday 31 October as part of Clean Energy Open Day.

Join the ACCIONA team for a closer look at the recently constructed turbines. ACCIONA will be running bus tours from Mortlake and Terang, which will take you right underneath the turbines.

After the tour, spend some time getting stuck into food and drinks supplied by local community groups, performances from local musicians and kid's activities. There will also be plenty of renewable energy experts on hand to answer your questions. Keep an eye out in early October for more information on how to register. Keep an eye out in early October for more information on how to register.



Open day at Mt Gellibrand Wind Farm

Follow us on social media...



CONTACT US

We welcome your contact for information or feedback about any of our activities. Please call the free-call number 1800 283 550 or email mortlake@accionacom.au. Visit our website for more information about our other projects www.accionacom.au

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