MORTLAKE SOUTH WIND FARM

EDITION 21 | MARCH 2021

Welcome to the 21st 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. We're looking forward to continuing our positive and honest relationship with the local community as construction progresses. The project will produce 530Gwh of clean energy each year, which is enough to power about 117,000 homes annually. The construction phase of the project has created 100 local jobs, 10 of which will remain during the operational phase.

Project Update

It's a busy time for the Mortlake South Wind Farm. We're in the middle of assembling our 35 wind turbines, with four cranes and an average of 100 workers on site per day. Since our first turbine was assembled in early December 2020, the team has been working quickly and safely to assemble as many turbines as possible per week. If you've driven past the wind farm recently, you'll see we now have 19 turbines assembled.

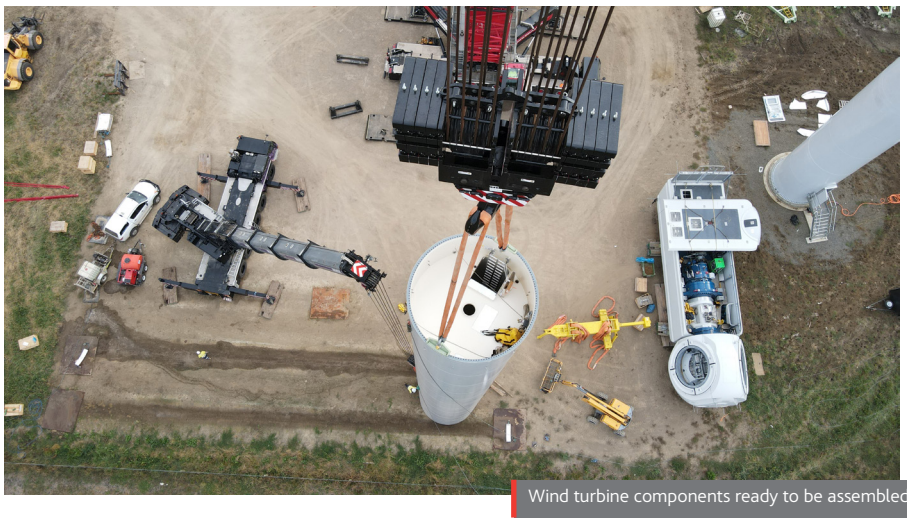
While the community has been impressed with the speed of the progress, the team on site have experienced a very windy start to the year which has slowed down our progress. Windy conditions make it unsafe to lift large turbine components with a crane, so the project assembly works will be completed a little later than planned – around June 2021.

The Australian-made steel towers we are using for our turbines are performing excellently. We're grateful for the great manufacturing work done by Keppel Prince in Portland and Haywards Steel in Tasmania. Our partnership with Keppel Prince has helped to support the manufacturing economy in south west Victoria.

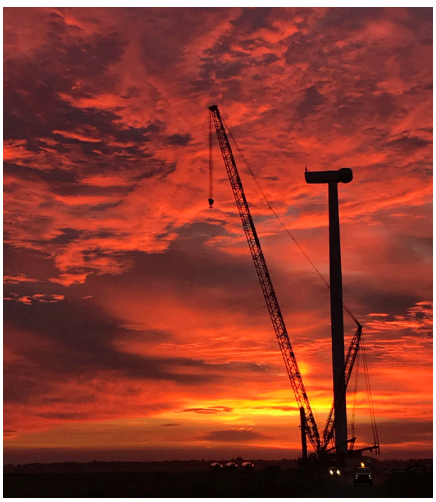
The underground connection that links the wind farm to the Terang Terminal Station is progressing well, with all jointing and backfill works now complete. This 220kV connection line will allow us to export clean, renewable energy to the grid when the wind farm is energized. Pre-commissioning works at the onsite electrical substation are ongoing.

Our Community Hub at 95 Dunlop Street, Mortlake re-opened on Thursday 4th February. The Community Hub will be open from 10am to 5:30pm on the last Thursday of every month, and by appointment all other times. Since COVID restrictions have lifted, it has been fantastic to spend some more time with local people in Mortlake, Noorat and Terang. Theo Carroll, ACCIONA's Community and Stakeholder Liaison is in the area on a weekly basis. You can contact him on 0417 150 967 or at theo.carroll@acciona.com to have a chat about the project and book an appointment at the Community Hub.

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/projects/mortlake-south-wind-farm/



Wind turbine components ready to be assembled



Assembling The Turbines

Since the first wind turbine at Mortlake South Wind Farm was assembled in December 2020, you may have been surprised at how quickly you've seen more and more turbines pop up. At the time of publishing, 19 turbines have been assembled.

Assembling the turbines is an impressive feat of engineering. It involves lifting 552 tonnes of material over a 24 hour period, which is equivalent to 22 fully-loaded cattle trucks. We use two 750 tonne cranes on site, reaching 128m at their highest point. They are assisted by two smaller cranes.

To begin assembly, the first of four steel tower pieces are lifted and bolted into the foundation. Next, the second, third and fourth tower pieces are each lifted and bolted onto the previous section by a team of workers who are suspended on a platform inside the tower. This kind of work requires detailed planning, an expert crane driver and pinpoint precision.

Once the tower is assembled, the nacelle and hub that contain the mechanical parts of the wind turbine (like the drive shaft, gearbox and generator) are lifted and bolted onto the top of the tower – a height of 95m and weighing in at 220 tonnes.

One by one, the 72m long blades are carefully lifted into place by a specialised spreader beam attached to the main crane. They are bolted into place by a team working inside the hub, almost 105m off the ground.

Once the turbine has been assembled, it can take up to 24 hours to disassemble the crane, move it to the next lift site and build it again.

Once all the turbines are successfully assembled, a team of specialists works inside the turbine ensuring that the electrical and mechanical equipment is correctly installed, ready for commissioning when the wind farm is complete.

Wind Turbine being assembled

Looking Ahead To Commissioning

Once we have finished assembly, we will start 'commissioning' the turbines to get them ready to start producing electricity.

This is a crucial step in building a wind farm. Commissioning verifies that the manufacturing and installation of the wind farm equipment meets our requirements and will operate safely.

The commissioning process takes about four months and involves testing the turbines and transmission elements to make sure all controls and components are prepared for when they begin operating. Every element of the wind farm is tested against a rigorous set of specifications and operating criteria to confirm each part is performing properly.

This testing is separated into two main components. First, we focus on the wind turbines and electrical equipment. This includes testing the turbines, the network of 33kV underground cables that connect the turbines to the substation, the substation that converts low voltage at the wind turbines to high voltage required for the grid, our 220kV underground cable and our fibre optic communication system.

Next, the wind turbines go through a sequence of tests to make sure they meet the requirements of the electrical grid code.

During commissioning, the turbines will be 'energised' so that they can be tested properly. This means you might see some of the turbines start and stop turning.

The commissioning process is carried out by a portion of our Construction team, about 40 workers made up of specialised turbine technicians, engineers and electricians.

The design of the Mortlake South Wind Farm has mechanical, electrical, civil and control elements that that will seamlessly integrate during commissioning to become one functioning machine. The engineering and manufacture behind the wind farm is cutting edge and of very high quality.

To find out more about what's involved in keeping a turbine up and running once it's commissioned, watch our 'Day in the Life of a Turbine Technician' video: https://bit.ly/38zOl5k

Construction Timeline

March 2019 - September 2019
Public Road Upgrades

July 2019 - February 2020
Civil Balance of Plant (BoP) Construction

December 2019 – February 2021
Electrical Balance of Plant and Substation Construction

February 2020 – March 2021
Underground Transmission Line Construction

April 2020 – December 2020
Construction of Operations and Maintenance Building

September 2020 – June 2021
Delivery and Installation of Main Turbine Components

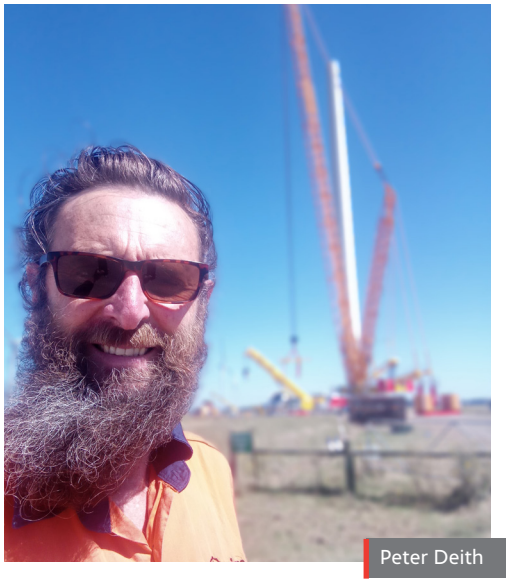
January 2022 – April 2022
Commence Testing and Commissioning of Turbines

June 2022
Project Completion

Meet The Team

Peter Deith

Peter joined the ACCIONA team in late 2020 as the Site Manager. He will oversee the daily running of the site when the construction phase of the project has finished, including commissioning the turbines and maintaining the wind farm. Peter is a qualified electrical engineer and electrician who has worked around Australia and overseas, including in Jakarta (Indonesia) and Florence (Italy). He also spent six years living in Antarctica and Sub-Antarctic Macquarie Island, working for the Australian Antarctic Division. Peter is looking forward to doing his bit for the climate change solution – keeping the turbines running and supplying renewable energy to 117,000 homes every year.



Peter Deith

Theo Carroll

You might have seen Theo around town in Mortlake, Noorat or Terang. He joined the team in January 2021 as the Community and Stakeholder Liaison. Theo is your first point of contact for the wind farm. He's always happy to chat about the project and answer any of your questions. Theo will be spending plenty of time out and about at community meetings and events, so it won't be long until you bump into him. Before joining ACCIONA, Theo worked on several important infrastructure projects including Inland Rail and the West Gate Tunnel project. He also founded a not-for-profit organisation that has put on more than 150 live music gigs and art exhibitions.

Theo Carroll

Neighbourhood Benefit Program

Local residents and businesses can also apply for the Neighbourhood Benefit Program. The long-term program shares the benefits of the wind farm with the people who live closest to it. Residents within 4km of a wind turbine can apply to receive a pre-loaded EFTPOS card – known as a Neighbourhood Benefits Card – that can be spent at participating businesses in Mortlake, Noorat and Terang.

It's a great help to have a little bit of extra cash in your pocket, and the program has been a good boost for local businesses.

Mac's Hotel is one of 41 participating businesses supported by the Program. Jodie Beeck, the pub's owner, said "It's been fantastic for locals and for the pub."

"It's a great idea because it encourages people to get out and about and spend money in town."

"People come into the pub and use their card to pay for a drink or a meal – they really appreciate that ACCIONA is running the Program."

Applications for the second round of the Neighbourhood Benefit Program are open until June 2021. If you live within 4km of a wind turbine (own or rent the dwelling) and have not yet applied, visit www.acciona.com.au/mortlake to download an application form. This program will continue annually for the next 10 years.

Small Grants & Sponsorship Program

Our work doesn't end at the gates of the wind farm. We're committed to supporting local communities by sharing the benefits of the project.

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

The application period for the 2021 Small Grants and Sponsorship Program closed on 26 March . We received some fantastic applications from local community groups and we're looking forward to working with locals to see their ideas come to life.

One of the 27 groups funded by the Program last year was the Terang RSL. The group used their funding to restore a retired Melbourne tram and convert it into a community education hub.

Terry Fidge, President of the RSL, explained the connection between the town's RSL and the Melbourne tram. "We've named the tram Len's Tram after Len Pomeroy, a Second World War veteran who is still active with our RSL. During the Second World War, fuel rationing meant that trams were relied on to cart munitions and troops around Melbourne.

"They were also used as recruitment centres, so in one end of the tram we've recreated what it would have looked like for a young Len Pomeroy when he travelled down to Melbourne to enlist."

The tram is on permanent display outside the RSL Hall and has become a well-known meeting place for the local community.

"We've turned it into an active centre for people from across the Terang community. People come from all over to have a look at it. It's also a great attraction for people passing through our town."

As one of a handful of RSLs in Victoria who still own their hall outright, the Terang RSL operates largely on community funding. Fidge explains,

"We're a group that depends on grants to keep serving our community, so we're really grateful for Acciona's support."

Terry Fidge and Bruce Moore, Terang RSL

To see the stories of other groups that have benefited from our Small Grants and Sponsorship Program, follow us on socials.

Landscaping Program

Landscaping work, including the planting of trees to provide a visual screen from the Mortlake South Wind Farm, is on offer to owners of residences within 4km of a wind turbine. So far, almost 50 neighbours have taken up the offer of landscaping to help reduce the visual impact of the wind farm.

The landscaping plans are designed in a collaboration between the 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.acciona.com.au/projects/mortlake-south-wind-farm/ to download an Expression of Interest form.


Pollen Studio conducting landscaping meetings

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@acciona.com. Visit our website for more information about our other projects www.acciona.com.au

ACCIONA HEAD OFFICE

Level 38, 360 Elizabeth Street,
Melbourne VIC 3000

PO BOX 24110
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

(03) 9027 1000

www.acciona.com.au