

Darlington Wind Farm

**Global Power Generation Australia
Pty Ltd (GPG Australia)**

**Community update
August 2022**

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Darlington Wind Farm

Welcome to the Darlington Wind Farm Community update

The proposed Darlington Wind Farm is located approximately 4.6km south-west of Darlington and 6.5km northeast of Mortlake along the Hamilton Highway, within the Shire of Moyne.

Project overview

The proposed Darlington Wind Farm site covers an area of approximately 7,640 hectares of primarily agricultural land, used for grazing of sheep and cattle.

The site was chosen due to its consistent and strong winds, and the access to the high voltage transmission line bisecting it. Existing transmission lines will allow generated energy to be dispatched into the national network easily and efficiently.

The project would connect to the grid via a new onsite substation adjacent to the existing 500kV Haunted Gully-Tarrone Transmission Line. The size of the onsite Terminal Station would be comparable to the existing 132kV Tarrone Terminal Station. There may be minimal additional pylons to existing 500kV transmission line to divert one of its circuits into the proposed on-site Terminal Station, to be sited beside it - to be confirmed when AEMO advises connection point.

About GPG Australia

Global Power Generation Australia (GPG Australia), formerly known as Union Fenosa Wind Australia Pty Ltd, is the developer and wind farm operator and owner of the wind farm assets. This company is the local subsidiary of Global Power Generation (GPG), the international energy generation arm of the Spain based Naturgy Group.

GPG Australia is now preparing to continue environmental investigations and meet with community and other stakeholders to continue planning for the project, prior to seeking planning approvals within the next two years. An Environment Effects Statement referral will soon be submitted.

About the Project

Location	5km south-west of Darlington and 8km north-east of Mortlake
Ownership of the wind farm assets	GPG Australia, formerly known as Union Fenosa Wind Australia
Size	Up to 61 Wind Turbines
Capacity	Approximately 400MW
Blade tip height	Up to 240 metres
Grid Connection	A new onsite substation connecting to the existing 500KV Haunted Gully-Tarrone transmission line.
Status	• Environmental and planning studies have commenced. • Discussions with state and local authorities are underway to determine project approval process and timeframes. • An Environment Effects Statement referral will soon be submitted.

Stay informed Global Power Generation Australia Pty Ltd

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Project history

The key historical milestones for the Darlington Wind Farm are outlined below.

- **2006** – License agreements were negotiated with host landowners and preliminary discussions began with Moyne Shire Council.
- **2007** – An initial Environment Effect Statement (EES) referral was submitted to the former Minister for Planning to determine if an EES was required. This was for a maximum 150 turbine wind farm
- **2008** – Former Minister for Planning, issued the decision that no EES is required subject to the condition for additional Brolga surveys prior to proceeding through the planning process.
- **2014** – Project placed on hold whilst other projects were progressed throughout Australia.
- **2021** – Discussion with host landowners, Moyne Shire Council and Victorian Government recommenced and project parameters changed.

What's changed?

The Darlington Wind Farm project has evolved since 2007 following the advent of new technology and growth in the renewables sector.

Key changes include:

- 61 wind turbines proposed – which is less than half of the originally intended 150 wind turbines.
- Use of a different, taller turbines with three candidate models being considered. The new turbine models represent the most efficient wind turbine technology which in turn minimises the number of wind turbines needed.
- The project boundary has been amended, and the site area has decreased in size by 1,160 hectares.
- Adjustments to the siting of turbines to better avoid areas of environmental and cultural heritage significance.
- The project boundary has been adjusted to exclude the area closest to Lake Barnie Bolac and associated Brolga flocking 'no go' zone proposed by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP).
- All Victorian Planning Schemes have been amended to reduce the requirements relating to the separation distance between turbines and dwellings.

What's next?

Determining the planning approvals process required

As a result of the project changes since the initial EES referral in 2007, GPG Australia has committed to preparing and lodging a new EES referral request with DELWP based on the revised project. This new referral will be lodged in mid-2022 and will again be assessed by the Minister of Planning to determine if an EES is required.

- **If an EES is required:** detailed technical investigations will continue, and an Environment Effects Statement prepared and released for public exhibition and comment. The Minister for Planning will then assess if the project will or will not have an acceptable level of environmental effects and determine approval to proceed. A planning application will then be lodged for determination by the Minister for Planning.

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- **If an EES is not required:** detailed technical investigations will still be undertaken, and a planning permit planning application submitted to relevant state and local authorities to determine the projects approval to proceed.

Continuing detailed investigations

GPG Australia is working with specialists to conduct a series of technical investigations that will continue throughout project development and will inform project design. Activities will include:

- Installation of a new meteorological mast.
- Ecological investigations and seasonal flora and fauna surveys, including broilga surveys.
- Landscape and visual amenity surveys.
- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage investigations and preparation of a Cultural Heritage Management Plan.
- Detailed engineering and determining suitable turbine layout.

How can you be involved?

GPG Australia is committed to ongoing engagement with project stakeholders and building relationships with project communities throughout all stages of project development.

Your feedback will help shape the proposed wind farm development and inform decisions on how negative impacts can be managed and benefits shared across the community and region. It will help inform:

- Site design planning, such as turbine micro-sitting, access and landscaping.
- How we can best monitor and mitigate potential impacts.
- Community benefits and how these could be shared.
- Opportunities for local procurement.

We will keep you updated on the approvals process. In the coming months, there will be many opportunities to find out more information, provide feedback and meet with the project team.

Get in touch

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Proposed Project Site Boundary

