

# FACT SHEET

## Forest Wind and the environment



By carefully designing and locating Forest Wind within the pine plantation, potential environmental impacts have been largely avoided.

### What the wind farm State Code says:

The State Code 23 requires an ecological assessment to be undertaken. This identifies and assesses any risk to flora, fauna and associated ecological processes. It also looks at how this risk may be mitigated or managed through the location and design of the wind farm.

The ecological assessment must specifically address:

- bird and bat flight paths
- fauna habitat and corridors
- onsite vegetation and corridors including worst case scenario impacts to regulated vegetation and locally significant vegetation.

Where the ecological assessment identifies potential risks to flora, fauna and associated ecological processes, the proponent should evaluate and consider alternative locations for wind turbine locations or demonstrate appropriate mitigation measures.

The proponent must also prepare a preliminary vegetation management plan, a fauna management plan, and a bird and bat management plan.

### The Forest Wind experience:

The wind farm will be located in an existing exotic pine plantation in Tuan, Toolara and Neerdie State Forests.

A range of flora and fauna, specifically microbats, frogs, birds and flying fox surveys have been conducted over a three-year period.

Results from these surveys and the preliminary management plans are available on the Forest Wind website. Key findings from the assessments are:

- the environmental impact of the project is considered to be low
- the project is located within a pine plantation with low ecological value
- native vegetation within the plantation will be avoided
- there is the opportunity to micro-site the wind turbines to minimise the Project's environmental impact
- electrical cabling will mostly be underground along existing access tracks
- the project will not impact the Ramsar wetland.



### Further information

More information about what is required under the State code 23: Wind farm development is available at:

<http://www.dlgrma.qld.gov.au/resources/guideline/planning/wind-farm-state-code-planning-guideline.pdf>

The ecology assessments are available at:  
<https://www.forestwind.com.au/planning-documentation>

For information about Forest Wind, to keep in touch, or to have your say:

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Proposed mitigation measures to **minimise** the environmental impact of the project include:

### Avoidance

- Construction of the wind turbines and construction facilities will avoid native vegetation
- access in the project area will use existing tracks
- electrical cables will mostly be underground.

### Micro-siting

- Micro-siting of individual wind turbines during detailed design and construction to further minimise the impact on the mosaic of native vegetation within the pine plantations.

### Management plans

- A Fauna Management Plan will address issues arising from any bird and bat strike at turbines and overhead powerlines
- adaptive management monitoring program which sets out key impact management strategies for birds and bats
- erosion and sediment control plan to minimise erosion around the disturbance area and control sediment runoff
- Fire Management Plan
- Weed Management Plan.

### Construction management

- Undertake weed assessments prior to ground disturbance
- undertake pre-clearance surveys prior to commencing clearing
- rehabilitate areas of plantation required only during the construction period, to the same structure and function level as pre-clearing.

