

FACT SHEET

Forest Wind visual impact



What can I expect to see?

Depending on where you live, you may see the top of a wind turbine, a wind turbine in the distance, or no wind turbines at all. The turbines will be located within thick pine forest spaced out over a large area and set back at least 3km from residents.

Key facts about visual impact

Wind farms must be developed sensitively and in accordance with the Queensland State Government's Code 23 for wind farm development. As part of these strict planning and approval processes, a visual assessment must be undertaken to understand and minimise the impact of a wind farm project on significant local landscapes.

A visual impact assessment report must also be produced that identifies proposed measures to avoid or minimise adverse impacts from the development on important landscape values and scenic amenity, including view corridors and viewpoints.

Research

According to the Clean Energy Council, research conducted around the world in the past decade has not identified any correlation between wind turbines and declining property values, with some studies citing positive impacts.*

The Council also indicates that wind farms in some areas in Australia (e.g. Codrington Wind Farm) have had a positive effect on tourism.*

The *Community Attitudes to Wind Farms in NSW* study found a little over half (53%) of the residents in the study considered that wind farms would have only a positive impact or no impact on landscape aesthetics.

* Visit the Clean Energy Council resources:
www.cleanenergycouncil.org.au/technologies/wind-energy.html

Forest Wind's approach

- Forest Wind's location has been carefully selected to avoid or largely mitigate potential community impacts from the wind farm, including on landscape. The project has been strictly planned in line with international best practice, the Queensland State code for wind farm development, and the Australian Wind Energy Best Practice Guideline.
- Internationally recognised landscape architect Viento has undertaken the landscape visual impact assessment for Forest Wind.
- The sensitive design of the proposed Forest Wind site is a priority, and a number of significant amendments have already been made to the site design during the planning phase. Ongoing community engagement will ensure locals understand the proposal and can provide valuable input and feedback.
- Forest Wind will implement industry leading 3km buffers between turbines and existing residences and other sensitive land uses—double the distance required under the Code.
- The thicket of pine needles on trees up to 30m tall will also act as a buffer from communities, absorbing sound and acting as a screen to soften the visual impact from many local viewpoints and roads.
- The turbines will be produced in a colour that helps them blend in as far as practicable with the surrounding landscape, and in some areas, visual impacts may be further mitigated through screening.
- The transmission line will be designed to minimise impacts on visual amenity and landowners.
- The full Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Report is available for viewing on our website: www.forestwind.com.au/



Photomontage of view to south east from Bruce Highway by Eight Mile Rd

For information about the project and opportunities, to keep in touch, or to have your say:

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