

Bendenine Wind Farm

FACT SHEET Scoping Report

SEPTEMBER 2026

What is a Scoping Report?

The Scoping Report is an early planning document. It sets out the key issues that will be investigated through the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), including matters raised by community members and stakeholders to date. There will be further opportunities to provide feedback as the project progresses.

It generally describes:

- ▲ the proposed project and its strategic context;
- ▲ alternatives being considered;
- ▲ potential environmental, social and economic impacts;
- ▲ key issues requiring further assessment;
- ▲ community and stakeholder feedback received to date; and,
- ▲ proposed community and government engagement during preparation of the EIS.

Key issues requiring further assessment include biodiversity, Aboriginal and historic cultural heritage, noise, traffic, landscape and visual impacts, hydrological impacts, bushfire risk, agricultural impacts, social impacts and cumulative impacts.

What it does NOT do:

The Scoping Report:

- ✗ does not necessarily represent the final project design;
- ✗ does not approve the project;
- ✗ does not determine whether the project will proceed;
- ✗ is not the final environmental assessment;
- ✗ does not replace the EIS; and
- ✗ does not mean that all potential impacts have been fully investigated.

Its purpose is to establish the scope and requirements for the detailed assessment.

The Planning Process



Scoping Report



Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) issued



Detailed technical studies, engagement and project refinement



Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prepared and lodged



Public exhibition and submissions received



Response to submissions



DPHI assessment



Decision by the consent authority



If approved – conditions, construction and compliance



When does the Independent Planning Commission (IPC) become involved?

Some State Significant Development applications are determined by the Independent Planning Commission rather than the Department.

This can occur where particular statutory criteria are met, including where a project receives numerous public objections. Where the IPC is the consent authority, it considers the Department's assessment and may undertake its own public engagement before determining whether the project should be approved and, if so, subject to what conditions.

What happens after the Scoping Report is submitted?

The Scoping Report is published on the NSW Planning Portal while the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) prepares the SEARs.

The Department consults with relevant government agencies and the local council to identify the matters that should be addressed during the assessment process. The Department may also undertake a site visit or request additional information.

Following this process, the Planning Secretary issues the SEARs, which set out the matters the proponent must address in future assessment and project development.

Is the project design final at the Scoping Report stage?

No. The Scoping Report describes the project as it is understood at this early stage. The design may continue to be refined as environmental investigations, engineering studies and community and stakeholder engagement progresses.

Any changes to the project will be reflected in the EIS, which will assess the project ultimately proposed for approval.



The Scoping Report does not assess project impacts or determine whether the project should proceed. Instead, it identifies the key issues that require further investigation.

Summary

The Scoping Report is where the scope of the environmental assessment starts to take shape.

For a State Significant Development such as a wind farm, it is an important early step in the NSW planning assessment process.



Find project information

Scoping Reports and other documents for State Significant projects are published on the NSW Planning Portal.

www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects

The community will be informed when the Scoping Report is available for public exhibition on the NSW Planning Portal.

Contact

For more information, contact our team.

If you need an interpreter, please call 13 14 50. If you are deaf and/or find hearing or speaking with people on the phone difficult, please contact the National Relay Service on voice relay number 1300 555 727, TTY number 133 677 or SMS relay number 0423 677 767.



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