

# Lotus Creek Wind Farm



A photomontage of what the Lotus Creek Wind Farm would look like from St Lawrence Croydon Rd, facing north-east from about 1.2 km away.

## New project owner

The Lotus Creek Wind Farm, developed by Ark Energy (formerly Epuron), has secured State and Federal approvals and been acquired by Vestas Development A/S. Leading wind turbine manufacturer Vestas has commenced pre-construction planning for the project and is targeting commencement of construction during 2023.

## Development consent granted in May

Following submission of the development application and required technical reports in December 2021, the project was granted development consent by the Queensland Government in May 2022. The ~\$800 million project involves 55 wind turbines and associated infrastructure and is expected to create at least 300 jobs during construction and 15-30 ongoing jobs for operation.

There is huge opportunity for jobs and careers in the renewable energy sector, especially for civil workers, machine operators/drivers and trades/technicians. The Clean Energy Council has published a useful careers guide that outlines job descriptions, required qualifications and transferable skills, career opportunities by technology and occupation, and career pathways: [www.cleanenergycouncil.org.au/advocacy-initiatives/workforce-development/careers-guide](http://www.cleanenergycouncil.org.au/advocacy-initiatives/workforce-development/careers-guide)

## Approved by the Commonwealth

In October the project was approved by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (the EPBC Act). Conditions specified in the approval include a clearing limit and gaining the Minister's approval prior to construction of offset plans that will provide a conservation gain, as well as various management plans and reporting requirements. The approval decision notice with final conditions is available on the Lotus Creek Wind Farm page (EPBC Number 2020/8867) on the EPBC Act Public Portal: <https://epbcpublicportal.awe.gov.au/all-referrals/>

## Working with the Traditional Owners

The project area is Barada Barna Peoples and Barada Kabalbara Yetimarala Peoples country. The project team have worked closely with the Traditional Owners and their representatives to ensure protection of cultural heritage sites within the project area and develop a land use agreement with meaningful benefits.

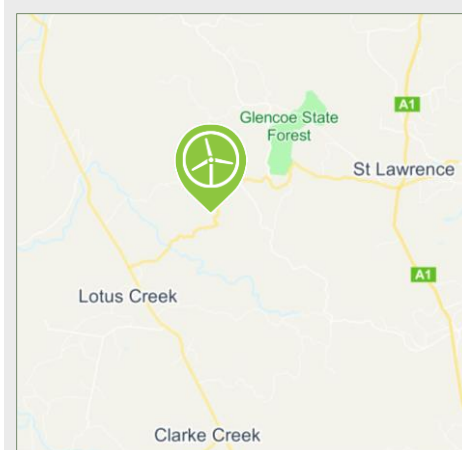
## Questions and comments



Thank you to everyone who has provided their feedback on this project during the planning and assessment phase. Thank you also to those who attended the community information sessions in St Lawrence and Clarke Creek in March.

Questions and feedback are welcome at any time and can be sent to the project team via email to [info@lotuscreekwindfarm.com.au](mailto:info@lotuscreekwindfarm.com.au).

## Location



The Lotus Creek Wind Farm project area is between Mackay and Rockhampton and approximately 20 km west of St Lawrence in central Queensland.

It is within the Central Queensland Renewable Energy Zone, an area identified as optimal for new projects to support the state's renewable energy growth and clean energy transition.

- Investment of ~\$800 million.
- 55 wind turbines.
- Expected to create 300+ jobs during construction and ~15-30 ongoing jobs for operation.
- Capacity of ~341 megawatts (MW).
- Target start of construction: Q2, 2023.
- Construction period of 24-30 months.



Photograph of the project area

## Planning & assessment

### Queensland Government

- 1 Site selection, initial concept and preliminary investigations ✓
- 2 Pre-lodgment meeting with the State Assessment and Referral Agency (SARA) ✓
- 3 Studies and assessments (prescribed by SARA State code 23) ✓
- 4 Development application and assessments lodged with SARA ✓
- 5 Assessment ✓
- 6 Determination: approved **WE ARE HERE**

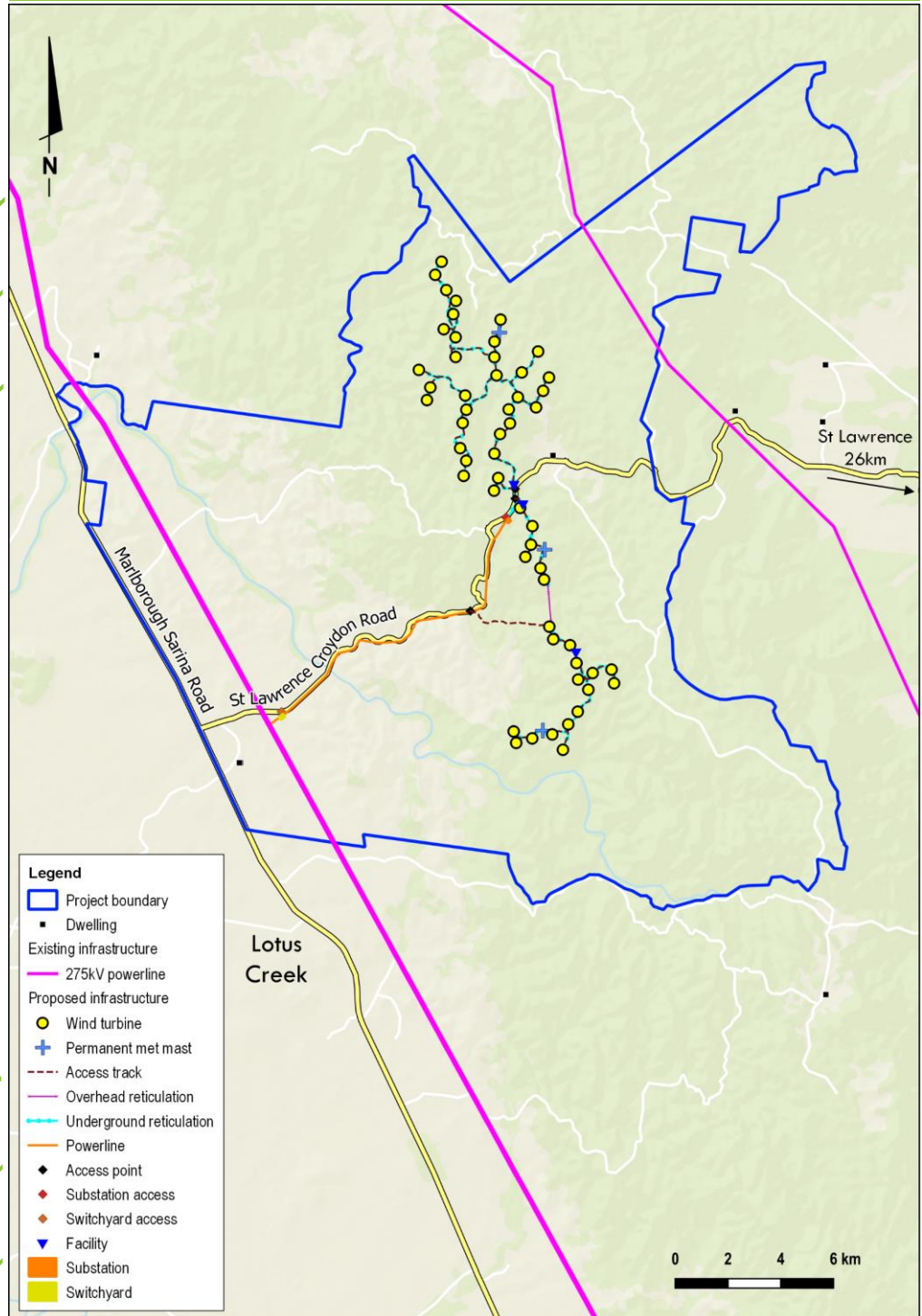


### Australian Government

Referral to the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) for review under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act)

- 1 ✓
- 2 Decision: controlled action, assessment by preliminary documentation. ✓
- 3 Request for further information (RFI) ✓
- 4 Response to RFI submitted ✓
- 5 Assessment accepted by DCCEEW and placed on public exhibition ✓
- 6 Final assessment submitted ✓
- 7 Determination: approved **WE ARE HERE**

## Lotus Creek Wind Farm site map: 55 wind turbines



The project area is located about 20 km west of St Lawrence in central Queensland. The proposal involves 55 wind turbines connected to the existing 275 kV powerline and would have an output capacity of ~ 341 MW.

## Changing energy market

The Queensland Government has updated its renewable energy targets, to 70% renewable energy by 2032 and 80% by 2035, including 25 gigawatts (GW) of new large-scale wind and solar, on the way to net zero emissions by 2050.

Renewable energy is the cheapest source of energy and more is urgently needed to reduce carbon emissions, replace fossil fuel sources of energy and meet growing energy demand. The Australian Energy Market Operator through its Integrated System Plan predicts that Australia will require nine-times the variable utility-scale renewable energy we have now by 2050, with 50 GW of that predicted to come from Queensland.

Meeting these targets will require harnessing Queensland's considerable renewable energy potential as quickly and efficiently as possible.

The Lotus Creek Wind Farm gives the Marlborough, St Lawrence and surrounding communities a great opportunity to take advantage of Queensland's energy transition.

## More information

Lotus Creek Wind Farm (Vestas)

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