Ecology

Above and below right - photographs of the project area

Caring for the natural environment

Australia's electricity market is changing to reduce carbon emissions and mitigate the impacts of climate change such as rising temperatures and severe weather events, which are among the biggest threats to biodiversity and wildlife.

In Queensland the wind resource often overlaps with vegetation (see map overleaf). Increasing renewable energy generation and conserving biodiversity are both important and can both be achieved with careful planning and management.

The project area is made up of large cattle grazing properties with a mixture of historically cleared pastureland, regrowth and remnant eucalypt woodlands and open forests. High value environmental areas have been excluded from the project footprint, and minimising impacts to the flora and fauna in the project area is a priority.

The project team is committed to collaborating with environment stakeholders, ecology specialists and host landowners to implement responsible strategies to avoid, minimise and mitigate the ecological impacts of the development.

The aim is to achieve net gains for biodiversity and key species in the project area over the longer term. Measures to achieve this could include rehabilitation of the initial construction disturbance, improved management regimes for threatening processes such as feral pests, weed control and fire management, and offset areas that present the opportunity to increase and improve habitat for key species.

Environmental assessment

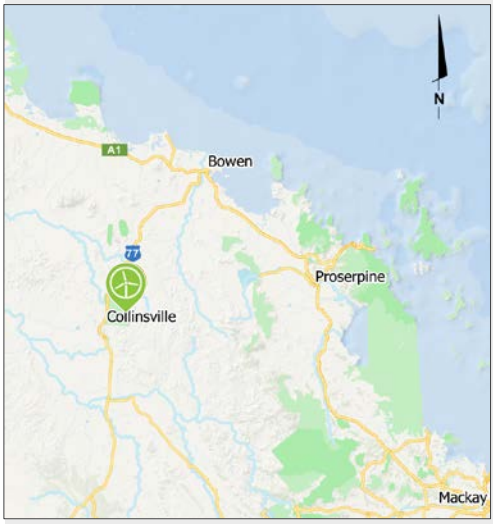
Comprehensive and rigorous assessment of the project's potential environmental impacts, both within the project area and downstream, is required.

Queensland's *State code 23: Wind farm development* aims to ensure wind farms avoid, minimise and mitigate adverse impacts on the natural environment (fauna and flora) and associated ecological processes. It requires assessment of potential impacts on vegetation, habitat for threatened species, biodiversity corridors and avifauna (birds and bats), strategies to minimise and mitigate impacts, and preparation of technical reports and preliminary management plans.

The Australian Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water will also require thorough assessment of the project's potential impacts on any species found within the project area that are considered matters of national environmental significance and protected under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

This will involve several years of work including on-site field surveys and targeted investigations for key species by specialist ecologists and survey teams, and input from scientists, experts, local natural resource managers and knowledge holders.

Location



The Collinsville Green Energy Hub project area is made up of large pastoral properties located near Collinsville and about 80 km south-west of Bowen.

Environmental assessment

Queensland Government

1. Site selection, initial concept, preliminary investigations
2. Pre-lodgment meetings
3. Studies and technical assessments to fulfil requirements (State code 23) — **WE ARE HERE**
4. Development application and assessments lodged
5. Requests for further information (if required) and response
6. Documents accepted and placed on public exhibition
7. Response to submissions, further information (if required)
8. Final documents submitted
9. Assessment
10. Decision notice issued

+

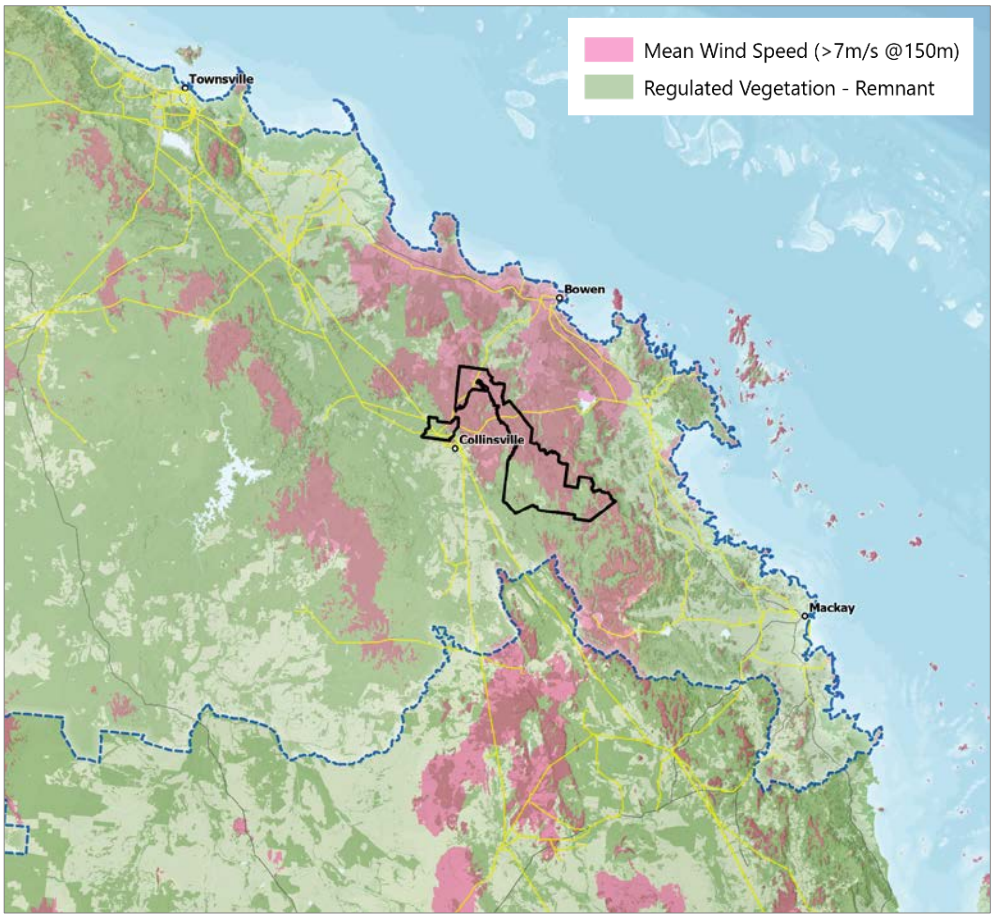
Australian Government

1. 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) — Est Q2 2025
2. Determination and advice on assessment pathway
3. Assessment guidelines issued
4. Assessment work to fulfil requirements
5. Draft assessment submitted for adequacy review
6. Requests for further information (if required) and response
7. Assessment accepted and placed on public exhibition
8. Response to submissions, further information (if required)
9. Final assessment submitted
10. Determination

Environmentally responsible development

Avoiding and minimising ecological impacts is an important focus during the early development phase. Ark Energy's approach is to:

- Iterate the project's design as more information becomes available, to avoid and minimise environmental impacts to the maximum extent achievable.
- Consult widely with environment stakeholders and workshop solutions where required, to find workable compromises with meaningful benefit.
- Invest and collaborate on strategies and commitments for repair such as rehabilitation of the initial construction disturbance.
- Develop strategic initiatives to improve the quality and size of habitat and habitat connectivity for key species, such as environmental offset management areas and tailored management regimes for fire management, feral pest management and weed control.
- Focus on net gain outcomes for biodiversity and key species in the project area over the longer term.



The Collinsville Green Energy Hub project area is near Collinsville and south-west of Bowen The wind resource overlaps with vegetation, so minimising impacts on the environment is an important priority.

More information

Visit Collinsville Green Energy Hub Office & Information Centre
47 Railway Road, Collinsville.
See the window and project website for open times.

Email info@collinsvillehub.com.au

Tel 1800 731 296

Website collinsvillehub.com.au or scan QR code right

News Register at arkenergy.com.au/mailing-list-details for e-news or send the project team your address and a request to be added to the mail (post) list.

Scan QR code to visit the project website

ARK ENERGY

BRISBANE
Level 25, 239 George St
Brisbane, QLD 4000

SYDNEY
Level 2, 275 George St
Sydney, NSW 2000

TOWNSVILLE
Shop 6, 7-13 Tomlins St
South Townsville, QLD 4810