

St Patricks Plains Wind Farm



A photomontage showing what the St Patricks Plains Wind Farm would look like from Poatina Road.

Project approved by TASCAT

On 25 August 2025 an appeal against Central Highlands Council's planning approval for the St Patricks Plains Wind Farm was determined and the project was approved by the Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (TASCAT).

The appeal, brought by the No Turbine Action Group Inc, challenged Council's approval on the grounds of noise limits and visual impacts. Both grounds were unsuccessful, and the project was approved with minor changes to the original conditions set by Council and the Environment Protection Authority Tasmania (EPA).

In its decision TASCAT confirmed the noise limit set by the EPA of 35 dB(A) for non-involved dwellings and the metric to be used to measure compliance is LA90, as recommended and evidenced by Ark Energy's acoustic expert. The decision reiterated the EPA's view that the project is "capable of meeting the applicable noise limit" and "unlikely to cause nuisance".

In relation to visual impact, TASCAT confirmed the project's compliance with planning scheme requirements. TASCAT required Council to set a condition relating to shadow flicker which follows the recommendations of Ark Energy's expert.

The case decision for *No Turbine Action Group Inc v Central Highlands Council [2025] TASCAT 162 (25 August 2025)* is available on the Australian Legal Information Institute website here: <https://www7.austlii.edu.au/cgi-bin/viewdoc/au/cases/tas/TASCAT/2025/162.html>

Or by scanning the QR code right

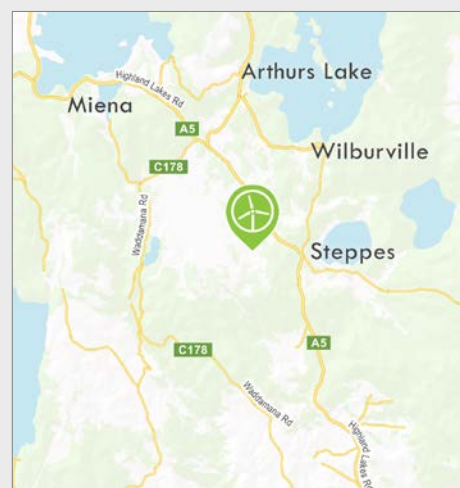


Next steps

The project will now proceed with various specialist and contractor site visits, studies and reports required to complete secondary approvals and ensure that all consent conditions are addressed. Work will also continue for grid connection studies and arrangements for transporting components to site. This detailed design work is expected to take 9 to 12 months to complete. The project team will continue to provide updates to the community as work progresses.

The wind farm is also in the final stages of consideration by the Australian Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). Assessment of the wind farm was undertaken on behalf of DCCEEW by the EPA under a bilateral agreement.

Location



The project area for the St Patricks Plains Wind Farm is about 10 km south-east of Miena and 25 km north of Bothwell in the Central Highlands area of Tasmania.

Key project information:

- Up to 47 wind turbines.
- Wind turbine tip height of 231m.
- Up to 300 megawatts of renewable energy.
- Up to 200 jobs during construction.
- Up to 20 full-time jobs during operation.
- Construction period of 24 months.
- Community benefit funds for the life of the wind farm.

Planning & assessment

The Development Application was determined by the Tasmanian Civil & Administrative Tribunal (TASCAT). Approval is also required from the Commonwealth Government under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

1 Site selection and preliminary investigations ✓

Referral to the Australian Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) under the EPBC Act.

2 * Determined a Controlled Action with assessment by the Environment Protection Authority Tasmania (EPA) under bilateral agreement (Ref 2019/8497). ✓

3 Notice of Intent lodged with the EPA ✓

4 Project Specific Guidelines for the EIS issued by the EPA ✓

5 Studies, assessments, site design ✓

6 Preparing EIS for lodgment ✓

7 Development application (DA) and EIS submitted to Central Highlands Council ✓

8 EIS referred by Council to the EPA ✓

9 EIS on exhibition for public comment ✓

10 Responses to submissions and EPA request for additional information. ✓

11 Assessment by the EPA ✓

12 If approved, EPA conditions provided to Council ✓

13 Assessment by Council ✓

14 Decision by Council – Approved ✓

15 Council decision appealed to TASCAT ✓

16 Decision by TASCAT - Approved ✓

17 Decision by DCCEEW ✓

Bothwell careers expo

Members of the project team participated in the Bothwell District High School Careers Expo in August and enjoyed connecting with students from Kinder/Prep through to Year 12, from Bothwell District High School, Glenora District School and Oatlands District High School.

Ark Energy's exhibit featured model wind turbines, activity sheets, videos and a VR headset to help students learn more about wind energy and work opportunities in the renewable energy sector.



Supplier opportunities

Ark Energy is committed to facilitating and supporting local participation in the St Patricks Plains Wind Farm. Local suppliers, businesses and property owners are encouraged to register their interest in providing services or accommodation by emailing their details to info@stpatricksplainswindfarm.com.au with 'Supplier enquiry' as the subject. This information will be added to the interested supplier list. Construction is currently targeted to commence in Q1 2027.

Thank you

Thank you again to the local community for the ongoing support and patience throughout the planning and environmental approvals process.

Ark Energy and the project team remain focused on the many benefits this project can bring, including local jobs and community investment, greater scientific knowledge about species in the area, and significant new clean energy generation for Tasmania that will enable further investment attracted by the State's green grid.

We appreciate the growing number of local residents, suppliers and business owners who have engaged with us and registered their interest in being part of the project. Local involvement and feedback remain invaluable as the project progresses.

More information

Visit - St Patricks Plains Wind Farm Information Centre, 16a Patrick Street, Bothwell, 7030.

Phone - 1800 731 296.

Email - info@stpatricksplainswindfarm.com.au

Register for updates - arkenergy.com.au/mailling-list-details

Website - stpatricksplainswindfarm.com.au or scan QR code



Scan QR code to visit the project website