

# St Patricks Plains Wind Farm



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

## Project approved by Commonwealth

In December 2025 the Australian Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) approved the St Patricks Plains Wind Farm project under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

Environmental approval from DCCEEW followed planning approval in September 2025 from the Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal. The Tribunal upheld the planning approval granted by Central Highlands Council in July 2024 which was appealed by an objector group.

Under the approval from DCCEEW the project must be undertaken in accordance with specified conditions. The conditions are achievable and Ark Energy looks forward to working through the process of complying with them, with guidance from the specialist ecologists and planning partners that have supported the process to date.

Commitments include installation of the IdentiFlight bird detection system (pictured right) to minimise potential impacts to eagles.



St Patricks Plains Wind Farm is Ark Energy's first project in Tasmania to secure all primary approvals. Over the course of its early development the project's design was revised several times and reduced from 67 to 47 wind turbines, with changes made based on data from eagle utilisation surveys, the results of environmental surveys, technical studies and community feedback.

Ecological assessment work also found that some species identified in the original referral under the EPBC Act did not occur within the site or were not at risk of impact.



Planning and assessment documentation is available from the St Patricks Plains Wind Farm page in the Environment Protection Authority Tasmania's website. To access, scan QR code left or visit:

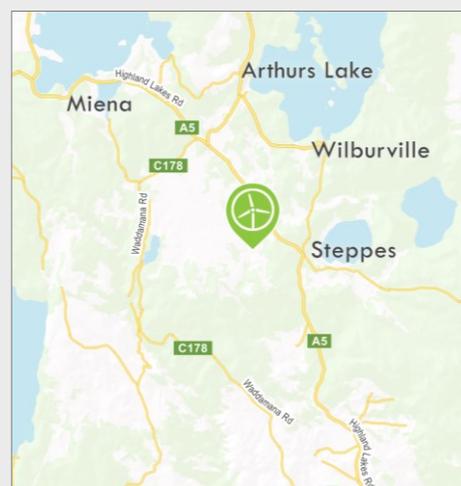
<https://epa.tas.gov.au/business-industry/assessment/proposals-assessed-by-the-epa/st-patricks-plains-wind-farm-pty-ltd-st-patricks-plains-wind-farm-central-highlands-tasmania>

DCCEEW's approval decision notice with final conditions is available from the St Patricks Plains Wind Farm page in the EPBC Public Portal (EPBC Number 2019/8497). To access, scan QR code right or visit:

<https://epbcpublicportal.environment.gov.au/all-referrals/project-referral-summary/?id=39912b26-b0a2-e911-b1b7-005056842ad1>



## 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 ✓
- 2 Referral to the Australian Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) under the EPBC Act.  
\* 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 ✓

## Next steps

With the project now approved by Central Highlands Council, the Environment Protection Authority Tasmania and DCCEEW, surveys have commenced to finalise the location of infrastructure and further minimise potential impacts.

Over the coming months, consultants and contractors will be on site to conduct further surveys and tests to ensure the ground conditions, including any artefacts, species and habitat, are known so that impacts within the disturbance footprint can be avoided or minimised.

Work over the next 9-12 months will focus on:

- Grid connection studies;
- Secondary approvals, including the preparation of a final design report addressing all consent conditions; and
- Arrangements for transporting components to site.

The project team will continue to update the community as this work progresses and further information will be provided about opportunities for interested local businesses including:

- Local accommodation providers
- Local services
- Local plant hire and equipment
- Local opportunities for work on and off-site.



A photomontage of the St Patricks Plains Wind Farm from Highland Lakes Road approaching Steppes Hall from the south..

## 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](mailto: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 our landowners and community members for their ongoing patience and support. We look forward to providing more information in due course to the growing list of residents, suppliers and business owners excited by the opportunity to be part of this project. We will continue to seek to minimise environmental impacts, be a good neighbour, and deliver meaningful benefits to the local community and wider region 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](mailto:info@stpatricksplainswindfarm.com.au)

**Register for updates** - [arkenergy.com.au/mailling-list-details](http://arkenergy.com.au/mailling-list-details)

**Website** - [stpatricksplainswindfarm.com.au](http://stpatricksplainswindfarm.com.au) or scan QR code



Scan QR code to visit the project website