

MORTLAKE SOUTH WIND FARM

EDITION 24 | OCTOBER 2023

Welcome to the 24th edition of the Mortlake South Wind Farm Newsletter. This newsletter provides information and updates about the project. The Mortlake South Wind Farm is located approximately 5kms south of Mortlake and 7kms north of Terang, within Moyne Shire.

The project will produce 530Gwh (157.5MW) of clean energy each year, which is enough to power 117,000 homes annually. The construction phase of the project has created over 100 local jobs, 10 of which will remain during the operational phase. This year also marked ACCIONA Energía's fifth consecutive year of the Mortlake South Wind Farm Sponsorship Program, and over \$195,000 of shared benefits funding since its inception.

- 1 PROJECT UPDATE
- 2 FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY PROJECTS
- 3 NEIGHBOURHOOD BENEFITS PROGRAM & EDUCATION PROGRAMS
- 4 MANAGING THE RISK OF FIRE & LANDSCAPING PROGRAM
- 5 FROM THE ARCHIVES

Project Update

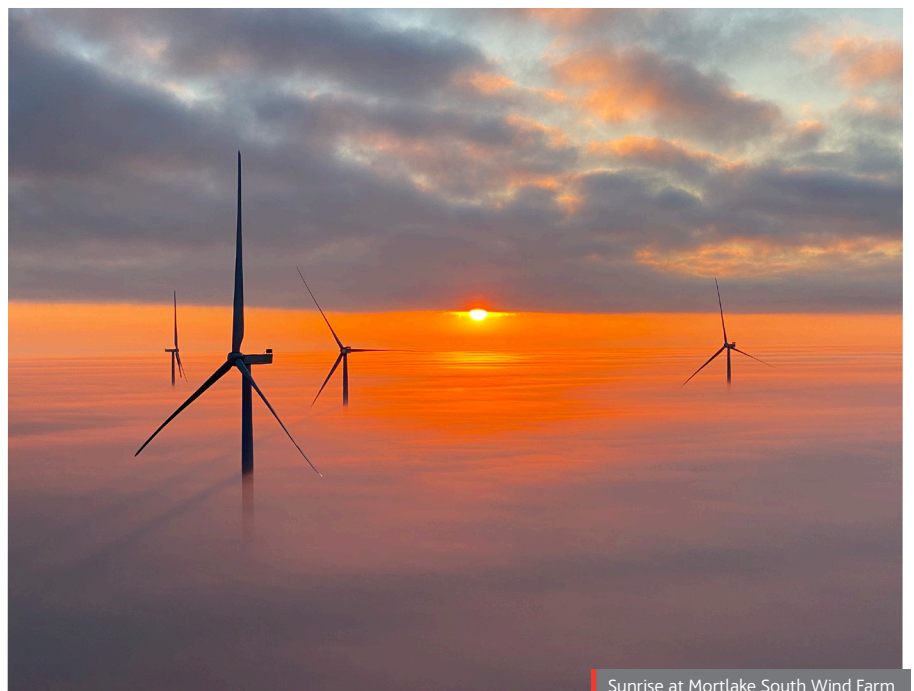
ACCIONA Energía are pleased to announce that all 35 turbines at the wind farm have been commissioned since 31 July. Maintenance of some turbines continues, alongside various remedial works around the site. The site is anticipated to be fully operational during quarter 1 2024.

In February 2023, we updated the community with the news that all infrastructure at the wind farm had been successfully energised, including the 220KV underground interconnector, Substation, Medium Voltage reticulation network and all Wind Turbine Generators.

For the first half of 2023, we were focused on the commissioning and testing needed to bring the turbines to full generation. This involved progression through a number of hold points set by Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO).

Corrective maintenance on several blades at the wind farm took place and routine inspections identified that some resin in the blades had minor inconsistencies. While these inconsistencies posed no immediate issues, over time they can

reduce the lifespan of a blade, requiring premature replacement. We made the decision to proactively correct this, removing the blades to carry out the required work on the ground. You may have also noticed that the number of workers on site increased during the first half of the year in the lead up to commissioning.



Sunrise at Mortlake South Wind Farm

Funding For Community Projects



Image courtesy of Western District News

This year marked ACCIONA Energía's fifth consecutive year of the Mortlake South Wind Farm Sponsorship Program, and over \$195,000 of shared benefits funding since its inception.

In July 2023, we announced \$45,000 in funding across thirteen community organisations as part of this year's annual Sponsorship Program. This year we received a significant number of high-quality applications and would like to thank all those who applied for the effort they put into their applications.

Representatives from the successful community organisations across Mortlake, Noorat and Terang came together to celebrate their new initiatives at a morning tea on the 27th July, at Mac's Hotel.

This year's funding included almost \$14,000 for local schools as well as support for local healthcare, sports, arts, and First Nations community groups. We are honoured to continue to fund these great initiatives and look forward to future sponsorship opportunities.



Western Plains Spinners, Weavers & Craft Group accepting their certificate at Mac's Hotel

ORGANISATION	PROJECT	AMOUNT
Cooinda Terang Inc	Going solar - specialist disability accommodation	\$10,000
Mortlake College P - 12	Gym equipment - school gym to community gym	\$4,800
Noorat Primary School	Kitchen Garden - A return to roots	\$2,500
St Colman's School, Mortlake	Bike Track	\$3,000
Music Homestead Inc	Music Homestead Inc	\$2,000
Terang Squash Club	Come and try days/nights	\$3,000
Western Plains Spinners & Weavers & Craft Group Inc	New seating for meeting rooms	\$3,000
Hampden Specialist School	Accessible children's books with Nature Ninja	\$2,750
Mortlake Lions Club	Community newsletter	\$2,500
Terang Arts in the Avenue	Colour Terang Festival	\$3,000
Western Victorian Branch Australian Stock Horse Society	WestVic Stockhorse Campdraft	\$2,500
Kirrae Health Service Inc	Koko Blokes	\$5,000
Noorat & District Agricultural & Pastoral Society Inc	2023 Noorat Show	\$1,000

Neighbourhood Benefit Program

The Neighbourhood Benefit Program has helped neighbours of the Mortlake South Wind Farm inject more than \$189,000 into the local economy since mid-2019,

The Neighbourhood Benefit Program was developed to share the economic benefits of the wind farm with neighbouring residents. Anyone living within 4 kms of a wind turbine can apply to receive an EFTPOS card to be used at more than 40 participating businesses in Mortlake, Terang and Noorat. This means the cash flow from the wind farm stays close to home, supporting local businesses and their families.

If you are a business that would like to participate in the program, please contact us for further information.

The majority of spending (38%) took place in retail shops, including home furnishing and appliances. Almost one third (32%) of this total was spent in supermarkets and smaller grocery shops, and 15% was spent in farming supply businesses.

2023/2024 card distribution

For registered participants, there is no need to reapply this year. The program will automatically roll over and further details will be provided in the coming weeks.

For any eligible residents who have not previously applied, please go to community.acciona.com.au/mswf-nbp to apply. For more details or a print version contact us at mortlake@acciona.com or via 1800 283 550 for an information pack.

Scholarship Program

Each year, a one-time scholarship of \$5,000 is available to a student wishing to undertake tertiary study that will benefit their community. Scholarship recipients are selected through an application process, and preference will be given to those studying engineering, science or agricultural based courses.

This year ACCIONA Energía were proud to award the first scholarship recipient for the Mortlake South Wind Farm, Tom Wright.

2023 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT - THOMAS WRIGHT

Tom commenced his Advanced Diploma of Aeronautical Engineering at RMIT this year. He's always been interested in this field of study, and we can't wait to see what he achieves.

Tom has a dream to one day travel to Antarctica and conduct research in one of the most remote places in the world. ACCIONA Energía is proud to have been able to help Tom spend more time this year focusing on his studies and wishes him all the best for his end of year exams and future career aspirations.



Kirrae Health Services accepting their certificate at Mac's Hotel

Student Visit

Earlier this year, 22 Mortlake College students learned about renewable energy and enjoyed a visit to Mortlake South wind farm. The students and two teachers who accompanied them had a great day learning about how a wind farm operates.

Dominic Luddy, Stakeholder and Community Engagement Manager, and Sara Church, Site Administrator at Mortlake South Wind Farm, presented to Mortlake P-12 College about the renewable industry, teaching them about wind generation and sustainability in the future. The students were very curious and asked many questions. Some of their comments to teachers after the site visit were:

- "I never thought of the wind farm as an opportunity for careers"
- "Wouldn't it be cool to get work experience there"
- "There's so much math and science learning involved on the project"

And they were even more thrilled when they found out about the scholarships and community programs that ACCIONA Energía offers.



Visitors checking out the turbines



Managing the risk of fire

With the temperatures set to rise this summer, we want to assure our local community that ACCIONA Energía recognises our responsibility to minimise the risk of fire at Mortlake South Wind Farm. We also have an important role to play assisting emergency services in the case of a fire in the vicinity of the wind farm. The key management measures implemented at the wind farm are listed below.

Listening to the experts

If Mortlake South Wind Farm (MSWF) is in the path of a fire ACCIONA Energía will follow the advice of the State Control Centre and other emergency authorities.

Bushfire Mitigation Plan and Emergency Response Plan

Bushfire Mitigation Plan (BMP) - The overall objective of the BMP is to minimise the risk of bushfires as a result of the operation of the MSWF, with the primary objective being to eliminate fire ignition risks in all of our operations.

Wind turbines

- The hardstands surrounding the turbine towers are covered with crushed rock to reduce the growth of vegetation and weeds are regularly removed.
- The wind turbines are located on land that is primarily used for grazing (the grass for grazing is kept short by livestock).
- Wind turbines are to be inspected every year before the 1 November to ensure the crushed rock is clear of vegetation and other flammable items.
- All wind turbines are fitted with fire extinguishers, one located in the nacelle, and another located at ground level door entry.

Underground power cables

- All underground cables are accurately surveyed, and routes marked with delineator posts.
- Any work involving excavations is controlled by work permit system in accordance with the Permit to Work Procedure.
- The underground assets have been registered with Dial Before You Dig (DBYD).

Substation

- The substation yard is covered in crushed rock to reduce the growth of vegetation.
- Lightning protection poles are installed to control strikes inside the switchyard.

Operation and Maintenance Facility

- Building equipped with fire protection system and equipment.
- Chemicals stored in accordance with legislative requirements.
- Firebreaks maintained from potential flammable materials.

Fire-fighting equipment and vehicles

- Fire-fighting equipment adequate to enable small fires to be extinguished will be provided in all vehicles, temporary/ permanent buildings and the substation.
- 22500 litre water supplies will be installed in locations around the site with approved outlets.
- Vehicles will be equipped with appropriate extinguishers for the vehicle, first aid kit, fire blankets, torch, wire cutters, rope and wheel changing equipment.

Emergency Response Plan (ERP)

The ERP describes the roles, responsibilities and procedures for responding to and managing an emergency as a general plan for ACCIONA Energía sites. The ERP provides a general procedure for a number of emergency scenarios from bushfire response to failure of energised equipment, to severe storm and hazardous material spill response. The ERP provides a procedural response and will work in conjunction with the BMP in the case of a fire.

Engagement with CFA Brigades

Engagement with local Country Fire Brigades (CFA) will be undertaken and continue throughout the operational life of the wind farm. The CFA will be given the opportunity to review and comment on the BMP and the ERP, and a site visit to familiarise and check out the site wind farm site and the fire mitigation measures. Other emergency services such as the Victoria Police Moyne Shire Council Emergency and Fire Prevention Officers and Ambulance Officers will also be invited to participate in this site visit.



Landscaping Program

Landscaping work is offered to all neighbours within 4 kms of a turbine to provide a visual screen from the Mortlake South Wind Farm.

Plans are designed between each landowner and a qualified landscape architect. ACCIONA Energía will arrange all meetings to develop the

plans and covers the costs involved in the planning, tree planting and maintenance for three years.

So far, almost 70 neighbours have taken up the offer of landscaping to help reduce the visual impact of the wind farm. All planting works have now been completed at those

properties.

It's not too late to get involved in the program, which is open until July 2024. If you own an eligible dwelling within 4 kms of a turbine and want to apply, visit www.acciona.com.au/mortlake to download an Expression of Interest form.



From the archives

MORTLAKE SOUTH WIND FARM NEWSLETTER

EDITION ONE, MARCH 2012

Prime Minister Julia Gillard travelled to Gurrundah in New South Wales in 2011 to open ACCIONA Energy's Gunning Wind Farm and hailed it as a step towards an Australian economy powered by clean energy. The Prime Minister joined senior executives, managers and staff from ACCIONA Energy and more than 100 guests to launch the 31-turbine renewable energy project.

"We're here today to celebrate what can happen when you've got the courage and the foresight to seize the future, and that's what ACCIONA Energy has done," the Prime Minister said. "It's truly impressive in scale, truly impressive in output, and it's signposting a way forward into a clean energy future."

ACCIONA Chairman José-Manuel Entrecanales praised Australia's commitment to renewable energy after travelling from Spain for the wind farm's launch. "It is essential to combine the efforts of long term-focused, responsible governments such as yours with private sector initiatives such as the one we're inaugurating today," Mr Entrecanales said. "Only this shared commitment will lead us to victory against global warming."

The 46.5 megawatt, \$147 million wind farm will produce enough energy to power 23,250 homes and save 162,750 tonnes of greenhouse emissions each year.

Gunning is ACCIONA Energy's third wind development in Australia, after Waubra in Victoria and the Cathedral Rocks joint venture in NSW.

ACCIONA Energy has built more than 200 wind farms around the world.

In the nine months to December 2011, the Gunning Wind Farm generated 118GWh of renewable electricity. This is enough to power approximately 19,000 households for a year.



Celebrating the Gunning Wind Farm launch: ACCIONA Chairman José-Manuel Entrecanales and Prime Minister Julia Gillard

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CONTACT US

We welcome your contact for information or feedback about any of our activities. Please call the free-call number **1800 283 550** or email mortlake@acciona.com.

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