Community Newsletter
August 2025

SQUADRON ENERGY

Pikedale Wind Farm

In this issue

At a glance

647k
Expected homes powered

1GW
Expected capacity

553k
Expected tonnes of emissions avoided

Project update

This newsletter shares the latest updates and an overview of current project activities. It includes information in response to key issues we've heard from the community as part of our ongoing engagement.

Upcoming assessments and consultation

We continue to refine the Pikedale Wind Farm project in response to community feedback, environmental studies, civil and electrical design progress.

Detailed noise assessments will be carried out using the updated layout, to help to ensure the placement of turbines complies with regulatory noise limits.

We are also continuing to engage with neighbours around the project. This includes one-on-one discussions with nearby landowners to better understand specific concerns and feedback.

Visual assessments are currently underway to help inform the layout design. We have captured viewpoints from neighbouring properties to help understand and minimise potential visual impacts where possible.

Geotechnical investigations and bore hole studies will begin across the site in the coming months and will take around three months to complete. This work will provide important information about ground conditions to inform foundation design and site access planning.

A transport route assessment will be prepared to identify suitable transport routes and potential road upgrade requirements for the safe and efficient delivery of turbine components and equipment. The assessment will be carried out by an independent specialist and involves desktop analysis, field verification and site inspections.

Community

Throughout the year we have engaged with host landowners, neighbours and members of the local community to discuss the project and to seek feedback to inform aspects of the project design.

On 28-29 April 2025, the Pikedale Wind Farm team hosted drop-in community information sessions at the Stanthorpe RSL. This provided an opportunity for the community to learn about the proposed wind farm, the planning process and to ask the project team questions. We received valuable feedback and questions around potential environmental impacts, community benefit sharing, and traffic and transport from local residents.

We are committed to supporting local communities and events through our sponsorship program. We have recently supported the Stanthorpe Brass Monkey Rodeo. Events like the rodeo play an important role in bringing people together, celebrating local culture and contributing to the region's social and economic vitality. We are pleased to support initiatives like these that foster community spirit and provide opportunities for residents and visitors to connect.

If you are interested in applying for a community sponsorship, visit our website or contact the project team.

We continue to visit the area regularly and are available to meet anyone interested in the project. Please contact us using the details below.

Squadron Energy news

Community investment map

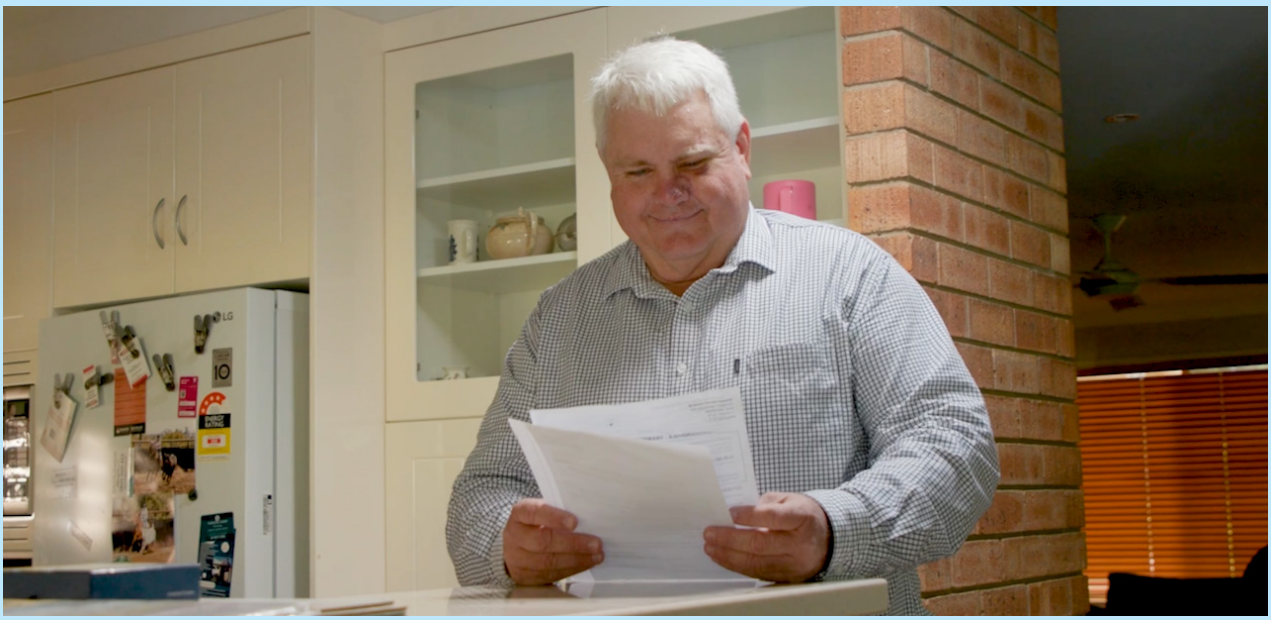
We share the benefits of our projects by supporting communities over the long term through a range of community investments. To learn more, click the QR code to explore our interactive map and see community initiatives we've supported in the regions we operate in since 2019.

Power Promise Program

Squadron Energy has launched a new Power Promise Program to deliver direct, energy-related benefits to communities near our future renewable energy projects.

The program is designed to be flexible and community driven. We want to work with you to find out whether you're interested in the program and what type of benefits might be possible for your area.

Click the QR code to find out more and express your interest.



FAQs

Read about the assessments that will be carried out for the project as well as key issues we have heard from the community as part of our ongoing engagement from pages 5 to 9.

Topics of interest include:

- Biodiversity
- Visual impact
- Noise
- Electromagnetic interference and electromagnetic fields
- Traffic and transport
- Hydrology and soil
- Contamination
- Microplastics
- Socio-economic impact assessment
- Shadow flicker
- Lighting
- Insurance
- Aboriginal culture
- Bushfire management

Your input is valuable, and we encourage you to share your questions, concerns and feedback. Please contact the project team using the details below to have your say.

Contact us

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Biodiversity

We are due to complete the first 12 months of bird and bat monitoring across the project site with a further 12 months of monitoring remaining, as part of our commitment in understanding bird and bat activity across the project area.

A meteorological mast was installed in February 2025. The mast records wind speed and meteorological data up to 110m. Equipment in the mast will also record ongoing bat calls, including migration peaks.

Fauna and vegetation surveys are being conducted in accordance with the Nature Conservation Act and the Vegetation Management Act (QLD), and the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (Commonwealth).

In addition to scheduled seasonal monitoring, specialist ecology consultants will survey nocturnal (active at night) and diurnal (active during the day) bird species, small and large mammals, reptiles and other species through:

- direct observation and spotlighting
- camera traps and drone.

The ongoing assessments of fauna habitat values and use of LiDAR technology to map habitat extents, will also enable ecologists to predict species presence even if not observed to ensure proactive avoidance and mitigation in design, selection of risk-based controls, offsetting opportunities and evidence-based decision making. This includes targeted protected plant and Threatened Ecological Community surveys.

This will provide a scientifically justified approach to preparing the impact assessment, based on the project's layout and methods, to address Matters of State and/or National Environmental Significance and align the project's outcomes with best practice standards and community expectations.

An aquatic ecology assessment will also be starting, as will studies of streams, water bodies, riparian (riverbank) areas, hollow-bearing trees and other valuable wildlife habitats.

Visual impact

As per planning guideline State code 23 of the State Development Assessment Provisions v3.2 (planning guideline), a visual impact assessment report will be completed for the Development Application.

To ensure consistency and accuracy, photomontages are prepared in accordance with specific methods and within photographic parameters. Lenses with 50mm focal length must be used, the camera must be positioned at a specified height above ground, and photos must be taken at set times of day. There is no deliberate distortion of images through the choice of photographic equipment or any other means.

Noise

A noise and vibration impact assessment will model potential noise and vibration impacts during construction and operations. The methodology will conform to the Wind Farm Development (State code 23) performance outcomes and planning guidelines.

The meteorological mast installed on site can be used to support site specific noise modelling. The next step is to start baseline noise monitoring at selected dwellings to determine existing background noise levels to inform the technical assessment and ensure we comply with noise guidelines.

Taller turbines, or higher generating capacity turbines, are not necessarily noisier because technology differs between different manufacturers. The worst-case sound power level for the turbines being considered will be used in noise modelling.

Wind turbine syndrome is an alleged illness with reported symptoms of headaches, nausea, sleep problems, vertigo and tinnitus among others. There are claims that wind turbine syndrome is caused by exposure to low frequency noise or 'infrasound'. There have been multiple scientific, peer-reviewed studies on wind farm noise that have found that infrasound from wind farms do not cause negative health effects.

Electromagnetic interference (EMI) Electromagnetic fields (EMF) assessments

The EMI assessment examines the potential impact on existing telecommunication systems. The project must demonstrate compliance with the Environment Protection and Heritage Council (EPHC) National Wind Farm Development Guidelines.

The EMF assessment calculates electric and magnetic fields including from the project's overhead and underground electrical services. A complete impact assessment is carried out against exposure guidelines set by the International Commission on Non-ionising Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) and the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA).

Traffic and transport

The project will assess traffic impacts during the construction, operation and decommissioning phases. We will prepare a detailed Traffic and Transport Assessment to examine traffic generation, road and intersection upgrade requirements, and assess the impact of project traffic on public transport users and road users including pedestrians, cyclists and school children.

A traffic management plan will be prepared to minimise traffic safety risks and disruption to local road users. It will include a cumulative impact assessment of traffic from any nearby developments.

Hydrology and soil

A surface water assessment is a requirement to understand potential impacts of the project on surface water runoff, flood risks, and risks and impacts to waterways and water quality.

An erosion and sediment control plan will be prepared to understand and manage the site's water and soil conditions during construction. A soil survey will start shortly to determine the soil characteristics and consider the potential for erosion.

We will assess how much water will be required to build and operate the project, identify available water sources and understand licensing requirements. We may also need to assess alternative water supply options if a secure water supply is not available on site.

Contamination

There are no known contaminants of concern associated with renewable energy materials subject to appropriate design and environmental controls.

Livestock Production Assurance (LPA), an existing program to ensure Australian-produced red meat is safe to eat and is free from contamination says:

"There is no prohibition or restriction on having transmission lines, solar panels, wind turbines or any similar operations or equipment on property. Having such infrastructure on property does not impact obtaining or retaining LPA accreditation and there are no additional audit requirements for a producer. If the infrastructure is maintained, there should be no problem."

Microplastics

Wind turbine blade coating is non-toxic and does not account for large, or any, emissions of Bisphenol A (BPA) or microplastics into the environment.

In March 2023, American Clean Power (ACP) published a factsheet stating that wind turbine blades contain only microscopic traces of residual Bisphenol A (BPA)and therefore do not account for any emissions of BPA or microplastics to the environment.

ACP (2023) also states that once the BPA-based epoxy glue used in manufacturing of turbine blades is hardened in the factory prior to delivery to a project site, the blades only contain microscopic traces of residual BPA. It identified that if released to a natural environment, the trace amounts of BPA would rapidly undergo biodegradation and thereby be removed. View the microplastics factsheet.

Socio-economic impact assessment

A Social Impact Assessment and Economic Impact Assessment will start inlate 2025, as part of the preparation of the development application. These assessments will include an agricultural impact assessment, workforce accommodation strategies, employment opportunities, economic benefits and impacts, project decommissioning and many other socio-economic considerations specific to Pikedale and the region. The assessment will be prepared by an independent specialist consultant, in accordance with Queensland's new draft Social Impact Assessment Guideline.

Social impact assessment processes identify how a project might affect the people living and working nearby, both positively and negatively. This is part of the Queensland Government's and our commitment to identifying and understanding social (and economic) factors to enhance positive outcomes.

Shadow flicker

A shadow flicker assessment will be conducted according to guidelines to assess potential flicker durations at dwellings. The guidelines state that the shadow flicker experienced at any dwelling should not exceed 30 hours per year as a result of the operation of the wind farm.

Lighting

Aviation safety is thoroughly assessed, in consultation with the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA). CASA may recommend aviation hazard lighting on each wind turbine. However, this requirement will ultimately be determined by the consent authority for the project.

Insurance

The Insurance Council of Australia (ICA) has stated that insurers do not have specific concerns related to neighbouring clean energy infrastructure. The ICA is not aware of any instances where its members have been unable to provide insurance or have increased premiums as a result of a farm or a neighbouring property hosting energy infrastructure.

During the construction and operational phases of our projects, Squadron takes out a range of insurance policies, including policies that respond to loss or damage resulting from a cause originating on neighbouring land.

Aboriginal cultural heritage

An Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment will be prepared in accordance with the Queensland *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003* Duty of Care Guidelines which applies to land use activities and protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage. Squadron will undertake a cultural heritage survey of the project site and have a cultural heritage management agreement/plan with relevant Aboriginal parties.

Bushfire management

Wind farms are typically located in agricultural areas with existing bushfire risk. Their presence does not materially increase this risk and facilitates improved ground-based access by the all-weather, low gradient access tracks throughout the site, strategic location of firewater, and vegetation management asset protection zones. Under the State Planning Policy (SPP) and Development Assessment Mapping System (DAMS), projects proposed in bushfire-prone areas in QLD must assess bushfire risk and demonstrate appropriate mitigation. The lightning protection on wind turbines reduces the risk of fire from lightning strikes within a wind farm.

As part of the impact assessment, the project must assess the risks associated with fires given the proximity of the project to bushfire prone land. This will include assessing the potential impact of the project on the aerial fighting capability during bushfires. Squadron complies with aviation regulations to record structures encroaching into airspace throughout development, construction and operations to mitigate risk of any collision. Operators must shut down turbines and rotate them into a uniform 'Y' position during fire events. This can be performed remotely and at the touch of a button. The SPP requires an asset protection zone between hazardous vegetation and the turbine envelope.

Operational protocols

Wind farms are equipped with lightning protection, temperature monitoring systems, and permanent site teams. These features support early detection and rapid response to fire events. Lightning protection is standard and relevant, particularly as turbine strikes have occurred globally. QLD recognises this as a fire risk mitigated through engineering design.

Squadron works closely with local Rural Fire Service teams to ensure coordination and cooperation in the event of a fire in or near our wind farm sites. Onsite staff are trained in firefighting.

The Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC), which includes the QLD RFS as a member, published a detailed guideline titled Wind Farms and Bushfire Operations.

A Bushfire Emergency Management Plan will address the operational requirements in relation to aerial firefighting and access. These measures align with recognised industry best practice and are consistent with QFD expectations for developments within bushfire-prone areas in Queensland.

Further information

FAQs are available on our website.