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# Coonerang Wind Farm



# About the proposed Coonerang Wind Farm



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The proposed Coonerang Wind Farm project is approximately 15 kilometres south of Cooma, in NSW's Snowy-Monaro region. The project is located on the lands of the Ngarigo people within a region blessed with renewable energy resources.

## Overview

The Snowy-Monaro region is home to a number of renewable energy projects such as the Boco Rock Wind Farm as well as the iconic Snowy Hydro Scheme.

If approved, this project would power approximately 135,000 homes annually with affordable, clean and reliable energy for approximately 30 years. The Project will involve the construction, operation and decommissioning of a wind farm, Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), electrical infrastructure and other supporting infrastructure.



**ESTIMATED  
264 MW OF  
WIND POWER**



**POWERING  
UP TO 135,000  
HOMES**



**DELIVERING  
LONG TERM  
COMMUNITY  
BENEFITS**



**PROTECTING  
CULTURALLY  
SIGNIFICANT  
INDIGENOUS SITES**



**CARING FOR  
THE LOCAL  
ENVIRONMENT**



**OPERATING  
IN HARMONY  
WITH  
AGRICULTURE**

## Refining the project in consultation with the community and experts

As this is a State Significant Development (SSD) project, a range of technical studies have been undertaken during the development of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Alongside ongoing community engagement and feedback, the technical studies will assist in refining the project design and layout. The final project layout will be confirmed in an EIS that is put on public exhibition for feedback.



# Project location



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The Coonerang Wind Farm is located approximately 15 kilometres south of Cooma and 3.4 kilometres east of The Brothers. The initial project layout comprises:

- 33 wind turbines with a generating capacity of approximately 264MW.
- Turbines with a hub height of up to 176 metres and a tip height of up to 266 metres.

## About Somenva

Someva Renewables is an 100% Australian family-owned, NSW based renewable energy company that works with landowners, communities, and industry leaders to deliver the clean, affordable and reliable energy that will power Australia's future.

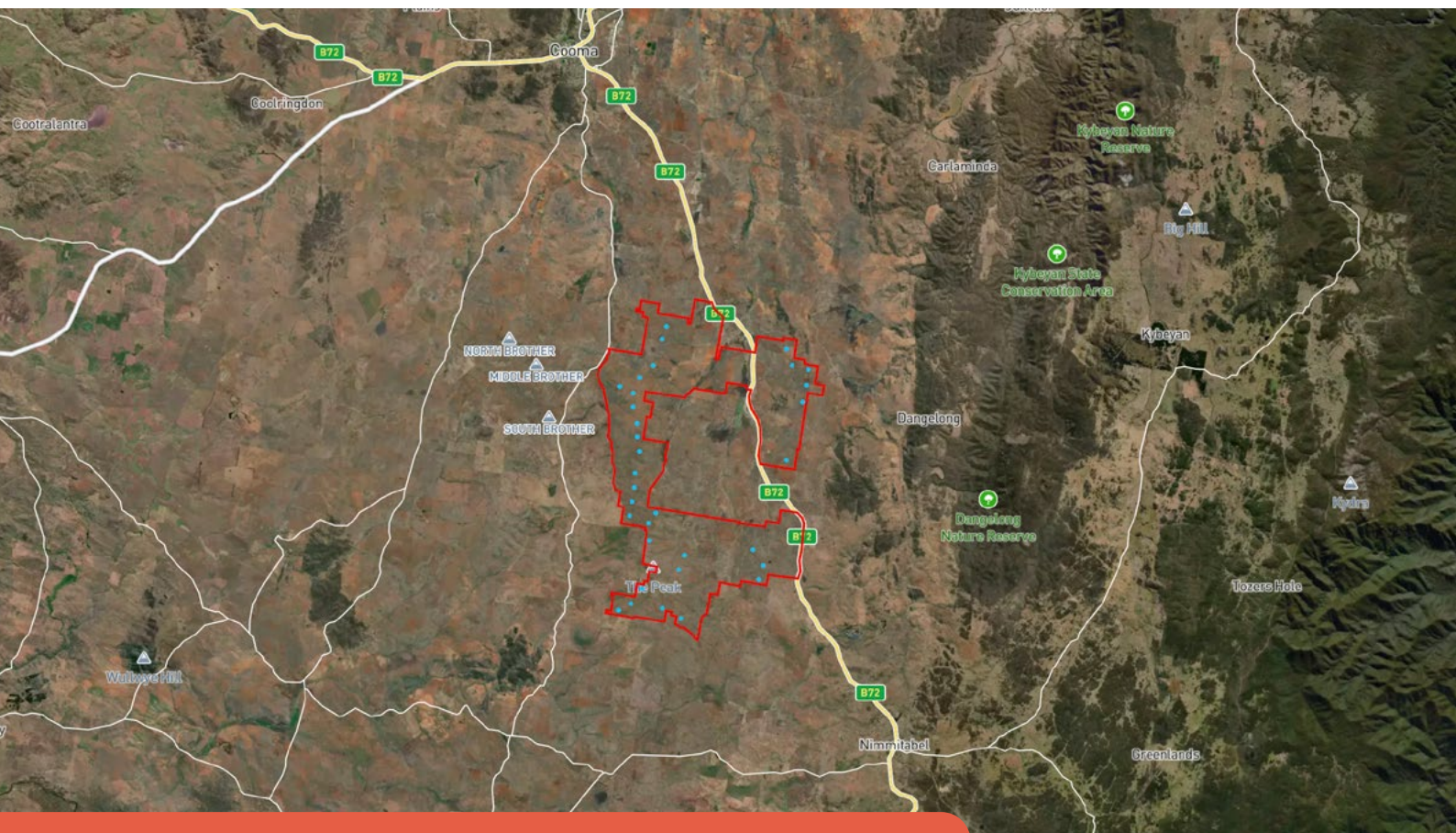
**33**  
wind turbines



**127**  
jobs created  
during  
construction



**17**  
jobs during  
operation

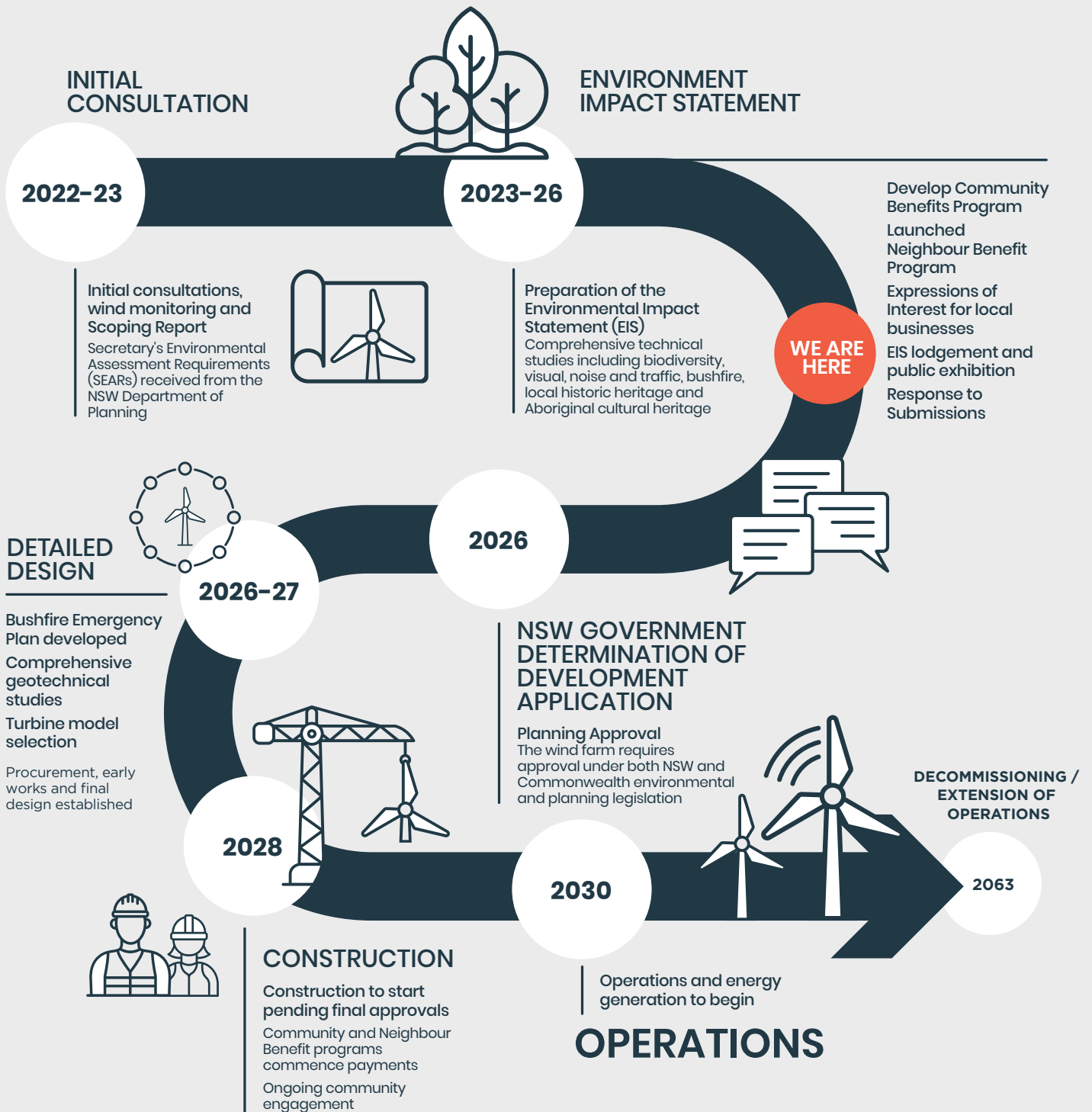


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# Project Development Schedule



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# Visual Assessment



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A team of visual landscape architects is assessing the potential visual implications of the wind farm on local residences and public viewpoints during the EIS phase. The visual assessment will consider the landscape values, character, and amenity of the site and its surroundings.

## Photomontages

The visual assessment will also present a series of photomontages from public and private viewpoints to illustrate the likely view of the project. Initial photomontages are available now on the project website. Engaging with nearby neighbours during field work will determine potential visibility from dwellings, taking into account structures and vegetation.

## Key public viewpoints

- Maffra Road, The Brothers
- Monaro Hwy before Springs Road, Rock Flat
- Monaro Hwy between The Peak Road and Springs Road, Rock Flat
- Monaro Hwy, South of the Peak Road, Rock Flat
- Myalla road, Rock Flat

## Maintaining visual amenity

To help maintain visual amenity, wind farms will typically include the following features:

- uniformity of colour, design, rotational speed, height and rotor diameter
- evenly spaced to give a regular pattern creating a better balance within the landscape
- use of simple muted colours (matte white finish) and non-reflective materials to mitigate distant visibility and avoid drawing the eye
- no unnecessary lighting, signage or logos.

According to the initial public viewpoint assessment, a small number of turbines may be visible from the Nanny Goat Hill lookout in Cooma, while some turbines will also be viewable from the Monaro Highway.

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Wind turbine movement creates sound. However, people generally find they can have a conversation at the wind turbine base without having to raise their voices.

Guidelines published by the NSW Government specify some of the most stringent noise criteria in the world and are lower than comparable criteria in the US and Europe. NSW Wind Energy Guidelines ensures that noise impacts from wind energy projects are assessed, managed and mitigated. It aims to balance the critical development of renewable energy with community wellbeing by setting clear standards for noise management.

## Key features of NSW noise guidelines



### Noise limits for residences:

Noise from turbines must not exceed 35 dB(A) or the existing background noise level by more than 5 dB(A).



### Noise limits for recreational areas:

Passive recreation areas in national parks also must meet strict limits to protect visitor experiences.



### Health and safety:

Based on extensive research, no direct evidence links wind turbine noise to any adverse health effects.

**In practice, this means allowable noise is somewhere between a whisper and a quiet library. This level is set to ensure that any noise from wind turbines is compatible with surrounding land uses and to ensure noise levels do not significantly affect the living experience of people residing in the area.**

## Assessment and monitoring

- **Early assessment:** Noise impacts are considered at the planning stage to prevent issues later. Preliminary background noise monitoring has been undertaken by an independent noise consultant at neighbouring properties to the proposed site. Over a six week period in preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement, it has found that as wind speeds rise, so does the amount of background noise, potentially masking the noise of wind turbines.
- **Post-approval monitoring:** Approved projects must monitor and manage noise to remain compliant.
- **Community agreements:** Residents may negotiate private agreements with project developers for noise limits.

# Traffic & Transport Assessment



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Potential traffic impacts on the surrounding road network will be assessed by traffic engineers. Large vehicles will be required to deliver equipment. Any large vehicle movement would be accommodated on the road network subject to road upgrades and the adoption of Traffic Management Plans. Operational traffic for the project is expected to be minimal, and the only traffic will be associated with maintenance and operation services.

## Management and mitigation

- Noise Management and Traffic Management Plans will be developed before construction commences and are included as a sub-plan to a Construction Environmental Management Plan.
- We will keep local residents informed about construction-related traffic through a community information program, including via our website, content in local newspapers and letterbox drops.
- Sufficient on-site parking is included in the project's design to ensure that the project workforce does not need to park on nearby roads.

Construction activities will generally be undertaken during standard daytime construction hours consistent with the NSW Construction Noise Guidelines, which are:

- 7 am to 6 pm, Monday to Friday
- 8 am to 1 pm, Saturday
- No construction activities on Sundays or public holidays

Opportunities to engage local suppliers are being explored, which would help reduce traffic impacts. This includes assessing the potential use of the local quarry, to support construction.

## Port to site route

Options for transporting from port to the proposed project site are currently being assessed, with routes under consideration from both Port Kembla and the Port of Eden.



## Monaro Rail Trail Project

Someva supports the development of the Monaro Rail Trail, which passes through the proposed site, and will support a recreational trail along the disused rail corridor from Queanbeyan to Bombala. We are committed to working with Monaro Rail Trail representatives to ensure the design and layout of the proposed wind farm complements this important initiative, supporting local users and tourism opportunities it will bring to the region.

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# Biodiversity Assessment



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Biodiversity assessments ensure that wind farm projects are planned and executed responsibly, balancing the need for sustainable energy with the protection of natural habitats.

In regions where wind farms are proposed, biodiversity assessments are essential to identify and manage potential risks to native vegetation, threatened species and ecological communities. These assessments provide a framework for understanding the environmental context of the project site, evaluating direct and indirect impacts, and implementing strategies to avoid, minimise, or offset impacts to biodiversity.

The NSW Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM) is a framework that assesses the impacts of development, clearing, or biodiversity certification on biodiversity and ensures appropriate measures to avoid, minimise, or offset these impacts. BAM is part of the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme (BOS) under the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016.

## How does the BAM process work?

1. Assessment: Identifies biodiversity values on land, including native vegetation, threatened species, and ecological communities
2. Impact evaluation:
  - a. Direct impacts like habitat clearing
  - b. Indirect impacts like changes in water flow or increased human activity
3. Mitigation and offsets:
  - a. Developers must avoid and minimise impacts where possible
  - b. Residual impacts are offset by securing biodiversity credits, which fund conservation efforts

## Protecting the local environment

Mitigation and management of biodiversity will be addressed through several strategies and plans:

- A Biodiversity Offset Strategy will be developed to ensure biodiversity is protected in the future. Investigations will begin in the EIS process to establish local biodiversity stewardship sites as the primary method for securing required biodiversity offsets. If offsets cannot be fully secured through local sites, the project will explore options in the open credit market and the Biodiversity Conservation Fund to fulfill any remaining requirements.

- A Biodiversity Management Plan must be prepared by ecologists and approved by the NSW Government before any construction begins. This plan will outline strategies and measures to protect vegetation and fauna habitat, as well as rehabilitation and revegetation strategies where clearing is necessary.
- A Bird and Bat Adaptive Management Plan (BBAMP) will be developed and approved by the NSW Government prior to construction. This plan will include a monitoring regime and response measures aimed at mitigating impacts on bird and bat species. It will include a wind curtailment strategy to ensure that the operation of turbines does not have an unacceptable impact on local birds and bats.

## Monaro grassland earless dragon surveys

As part of the ecological assessment surveys Cooma Men's Shed has been engaged to make 170 reptile tubes which have been used to help monitor for the Monaro grassland earless dragon. This research will form part of Someva's response to the Environmental Impact Statement requirements for the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure.



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# Social and Community Assessment



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A Social Impact Assessment (SIA) evaluates how projects, such as wind farms, affect people and communities. It examines potential positive and negative impacts, including how people live, work, and interact with their surroundings, and provides strategies to manage these effects responsibly.

A Preliminary Social Impact Assessment is included in the Coonerang Wind Farm Scoping Report which you can access at [www.somevarenewables.com.au/project/coonerang](http://www.somevarenewables.com.au/project/coonerang). A more detailed assessment is underway and will be included in the EIS.

## Why is a social impact assessment important for wind farm projects?

Wind farm projects can significantly influence local communities through changes in land use, improved employment opportunities, infrastructure, and environmental conditions. Conducting an SIA ensures:

- Communities are consulted and involved in decision-making
- Potential negative impacts are minimised or mitigated
- Positive outcomes, such as job creation and community investment are maximised

## Key steps in the social impact assessment process

1. Scoping and initial assessment
2. Predicting and evaluating social impacts
3. Developing mitigation and enhancement measures
4. Monitoring and adaptive management

## Community involvement

- Consultation: The community is engaged from the start to ensure local values and perspectives are heard and incorporated
- Decision making: Residents have opportunities to influence project designs and outcomes
- Benefit sharing: Wind farm projects can contribute to local development through community funds, improved infrastructure and economic growth



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# Protecting Aboriginal cultural heritage



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Many proposed wind farm sites are located in regions of high cultural significance to Aboriginal communities, where the land is deeply interconnected with traditions, stories, and ancestral connections.

Protecting Aboriginal cultural heritage during wind farm development not only fulfills legal obligations but also honours the rich history and ongoing cultural identity of Aboriginal people. By carefully assessing and managing potential impacts, wind farm projects can strike a balance between generating renewable energy and safeguarding the heritage and values of the land's Traditional Owners.

Aboriginal cultural heritage encompasses physical and intangible elements, including sacred sites, ceremonial grounds, artefacts, and the traditions, stories, and connections that link Aboriginal people to their land, or "Country."

## Why do we assess Aboriginal cultural heritage?

When development projects, such as wind farms, are proposed, there is a risk of impacting Aboriginal cultural heritage. The *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* requires developers to assess potential impacts to avoid or minimise harm. This ensures that cultural significance is preserved while enabling sustainable development.

### Steps in the process

1. Due diligence: Developers must determine if their project could impact Aboriginal cultural heritage
2. Consultation: Aboriginal people with knowledge of the area must be involved early and throughout the process
3. Investigation: Experts identify and document objects, sites, and cultural values
4. Assessment: The cultural significance and potential harm of proposed activities are evaluated
5. Mitigation: Where harm cannot be avoided, strategies to minimise impacts are developed

### Key protections

- Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permits (AHIP): Required if impacts to cultural heritage cannot be avoided
- Legal protections: Severe penalties exist for damaging or moving Aboriginal objects or sites without approval
- Community involvement: Aboriginal voices are central in decision-making, ensuring cultural values are respected

## Stakeholder Engagement

We have committed to tailoring the design of the project to protect important Indigenous cultural sites. Our co-design process involves working closely with local Indigenous groups including Merrimans LALC and Bega LALC. We have also undertaken onsite surveys with Registered Aboriginal Parties to ensure cultural values are properly identified, respected and incorporated into the project's planning. The results of these on site surveys will be presented in the Environmental Impact Statement.

## How do I get involved in the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment process?

If you are seeking to be involved in this process, please reach out to our team directly by emailing us at [community@someva.com.au](mailto:community@someva.com.au).

Someva Renewables proudly acknowledge that the Coonerang Wind Farm project is located on the lands of the Ngarigo people. We pay our respects to Elders past and present and value working with First Nations groups on renewable energy projects.

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# Waste, decommissioning and/or re-energising



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As Australia's wind energy industry grows, it is vital to plan for what happens when wind farms reach the end of their operational life. Decommissioning involves dismantling wind turbines and restoring the land, while waste management ensures responsible recycling and reuse of materials.

In NSW, the responsibility for decommissioning wind farms lies with the project owner. Development approvals and landowner agreements include provisions that outline the financial obligations and timeframes for decommissioning and site rehabilitation. During a wind farm's operational life, owners are expected to allocate funds to cover decommissioning costs, including the removal of infrastructure, waste management and land restoration.

Minimum waste streams would be associated with generation of electricity from this project. A Waste Management Plan (WMP) will be prepared and implemented to manage, reuse, recycle and safely dispose of water.

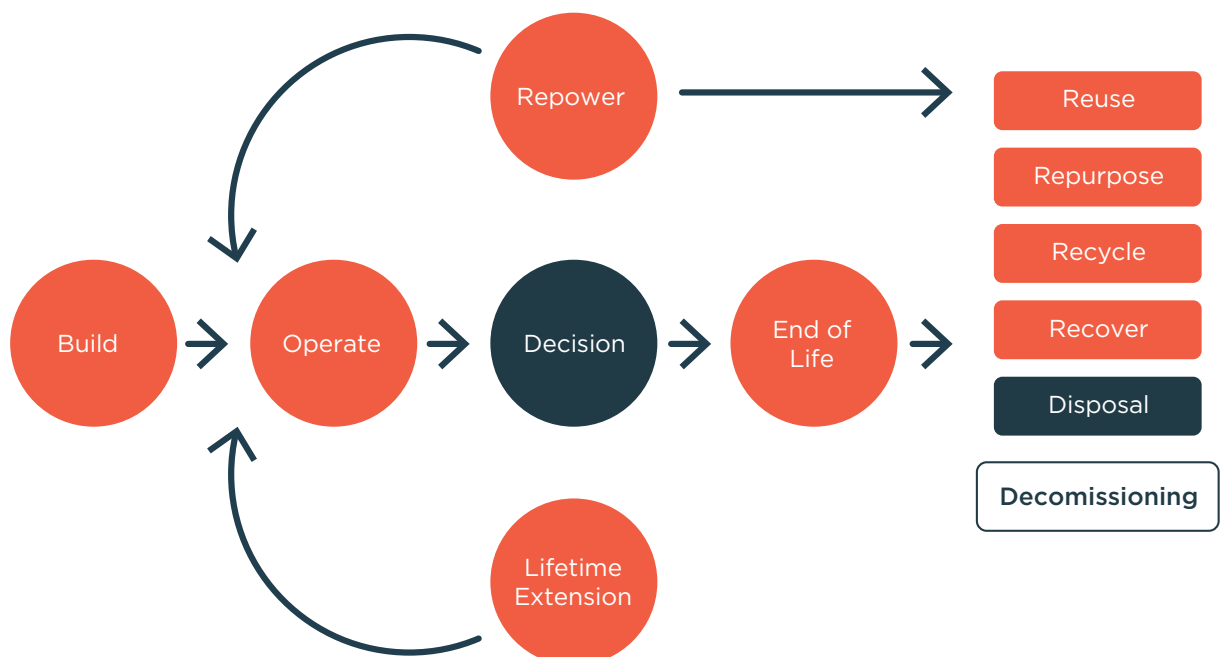
## What happens during decommissioning?

Decommissioning includes:

- Dismantling and removal: Turbines, site offices and associated infrastructure are taken down and removed.
- Land rehabilitation: Foundations are covered or removed, and the site is revegetated, returning it to its original state.
- Waste management: Materials are sorted for recycling, repurposing or disposal.

## Key facts on wind turbine waste

- High recyclability: Around 85–94% of a wind turbine's materials can be recycled in Australia, including steel, aluminium, copper and cast iron.
- Circular economy goals: Turbine blades, made from composite materials like fiberglass, are harder to recycle. Innovative solutions are being developed to address this issue. Manufacturers are working toward zero-waste turbines by creating recyclable blade designs.



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