VISUAL IMPACT

Wind turbines are large features in the environment, reaching up to 205-251 metres from the base of the wind turbine to the tip of the blade.

We acknowledge that wind turbines do impact the landscape but will work with communities to ensure our wind farms have the least possible detrimental impact on visual amenity.

Spark Renewables has selected this site partly due to the flat terrain. This site is also relatively remote and expansive – allowing for flexibility in the wind farm site design based on the community's feedback.

As part of any planning permit application, Spark Renewables will complete a comprehensive assessment of potential impacts on landscape character and visual amenity.

We will work with nearby neighbours of the project to fund tree planting and visual screening. If you live nearby we would encourage you to contact us so that we can start talking with you about how this would work.

Overall, we consider that the immediate and long-term benefits which wind farms bring to communities offset any loss of visual amenity.

END-OF-LIFE & DECOMMISSIONING

Planning for land rehabilitation and decommissioning is part of the wind farm approval process.. The long-term planning for the removal and replacement of wind turbines and ancillary equipment is included in each landowner agreement, as well as stipulated in conditions of consent by planning authorities.

Once landowner agreements cease or at the end of the operational life of the project, the wind farm could either be repowered or the wind farm infrastructure would be decommissioned and removed. The project-specific decommissioning activities would be agreed with the relevant council of the Local Government Area or the state planning authority.

Decommissioning activities:

- Disconnection from electrical grid.
- Wind turbines and all ancillary equipment removed and materials recycled where possible.
- All above-ground components removed and site rehabilitated to former condition.
- Underground cabling and concrete turbine footings typically remain in the ground (below ploughing depth) unless it is economical to remove and recycle.
- Access roads, gates and fencing may be removed and land rehabilitated, unless required by the landholder.

Wind Farm Impacts

Frequently Asked Questions

By Spark Renewables
For feedback contact
info@sparkrenewables.com

BIRDS, BATS, FLORA & FAUNA

Spark Renewables engages specialist consultants to undertake detailed flora and fauna surveys to determine the ecological attributes of the land.

We aim to minimise the impact on flora and fauna by designing projects to be constructed outside areas of high conservation significance and adopting control measures during the construction process.

During the detailed design, wind turbines will be micro-sited to minimise the potential impact on fauna habitat with turbine heights selected
to minimise the overlap between rotor swept area and bird flight heights.

Other mitigation measures include preparing management plans, identifying 'no-go zones' within the project site and conducting pre-clearance surveys.

Spark Renewables also consults with government departments of environment and biodiversity throughout the development, construction and operational stages of projects, as well as local non-government
organisations.

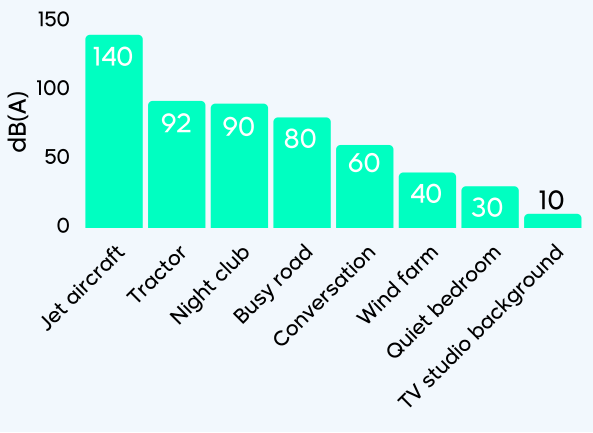
NOISE & HEALTH

Before it can operate, a wind farm has to demonstrate that noise levels at neighbouring residences will meet strict noise limits. These limits are designed to ensure that noise from a wind farm is not intrusive for the average person.

At neighbouring houses, wind turbine noise must not exceed 40dB(A) or background noise level +5dB(A), whichever is greater.

As part of any planning permit application, Spark Renewables will complete a comprehensive assessment of noise levels at all nearby houses in accordance with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) guideline: Development of Wind Energy Facilities in Victoria - Policy and Planning Guidelines and New Zealand Standard 6808:2010 Acoustics – Wind Farm Noise.

Sound pressure levels in
A-weighted decibels:



CULTURAL HERITAGE

Spark Renewables is committed to the involvement of Traditional Custodians in project design and planning, and guaranteed ongoing access to sites of significance.
Wind farm developers are required to determine whether the relevant site has the potential to have heritage value. Conducting a risk assessment and landscape character and utilisation modelling prior to any field studies are essential to ensure that potential areas of importance to Aboriginal people are identified

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT & DUST POLLUTION

Soark Renewables will be planning for managing traffic to ensure safety and minimising any dust pollution.

Traffic routes into the site will be designed to minimise impacts on population centres and local residents. The traffic assessment will note any road upgrades required for the project. Spark Renewables will pay for these upgrades, and any repairs necessitated by project traffic.

If the project receives Development Approval, a full Traffic Management Plan will be designed in consultation with councils and the Department of Planning and Transport.