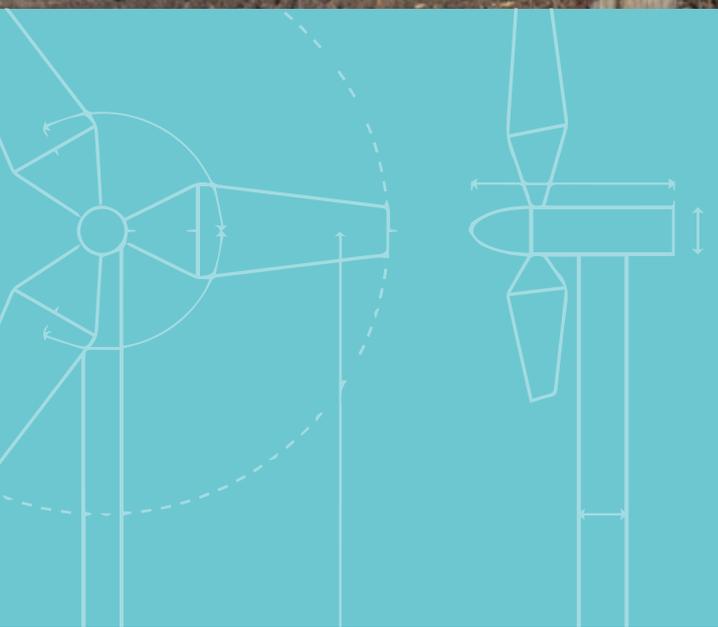




The process of development, construction and operation

ALBERTON WIND FARM SYNERGY WIND



OUR ROLE:

We are a project development company whose mission is to identify and develop projects that promote the increased usage of renewable energy, and create returns for everyone involved, including the local community.

As a project developer we are responsible for the first stage of project development, working to identify suitable locations, and undertaking the required assessment and planning steps to bring a project to development approval.

Once the project has progressed along the development path, we then identify project partners who can build, own and operate the completed project. We work alongside these partners to ensure all issues and interests identified during the project development phase are managed through the construction phase, and that operations commence as predicted.

PLANNING PERMIT APPLICATION AND ADMINISTRATION

In Victoria, a planning permit is required to develop a wind farm. The (State) Minister for Planning is the responsible authority for considering and determining planning permit applications.

Often there are other state and federal regulatory requirements that need to be met before a planning permit application can be determined.

In the case of the Alberton Wind Farm the federal Department of Environment and Energy determined the project to be a "controlled action" under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC). Synergy Wind responded to the matters of national environmental significance raised by the Department in this finding, and this information will be considered alongside the planning application submission.

CONSTRUCTION

Once a planning permit is granted, construction will generally commence within 8-12 months. However, this is not a

requirement of the permit. Construction takes 12-24 months to complete.

Construction, traffic management, environmental management and safety plans are developed to ensure any impact on the local community and landowners is minimised. Formal health and safety systems will also be in place.

Traffic management plans are developed in consultation with the local council and VicRoads (where relevant) to ensure they are appropriate to the requirements of the local area. It is envisaged that traffic impacts on the local community and wider road network will be minimal as the delivery of wind farm components would most likely take place at Port Anthony and be transported to the site from there.

OPERATIONS AND MONITORING

Modern wind farms are computer controlled and generally remotely managed, however regular maintenance and repairs of the turbines is undertaken during operations, and access to

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hosts' land is required. Access arrangements are agreed with landowners.

When a planning permit is issued for a wind farm, that permit states the conditions of approval. The wind farm **MUST** operate in compliance with all conditions stated in the permit. Monitoring of noise and some fauna, such as birds, is required to be undertaken, to ensure the wind farm is operating as required under the permit conditions.

Example permit conditions can be found in the policy and planning guidelines for development of wind energy facilities in Victoria at <https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/planning-permit-applications/specific-permit-topics/wind-energy-facilities>

Wind farms are operational for about 25 years, after which they are either pulled down completely (decommissioned) or replaced with new wind turbines (repowered). Regulations require that a wind farm is dismantled if they cease operation for an extended period of time. The wind farm site is then returned as close to its original state as possible to allow for agricultural use of the land as it existed prior to the wind farm.

COMPLAINTS

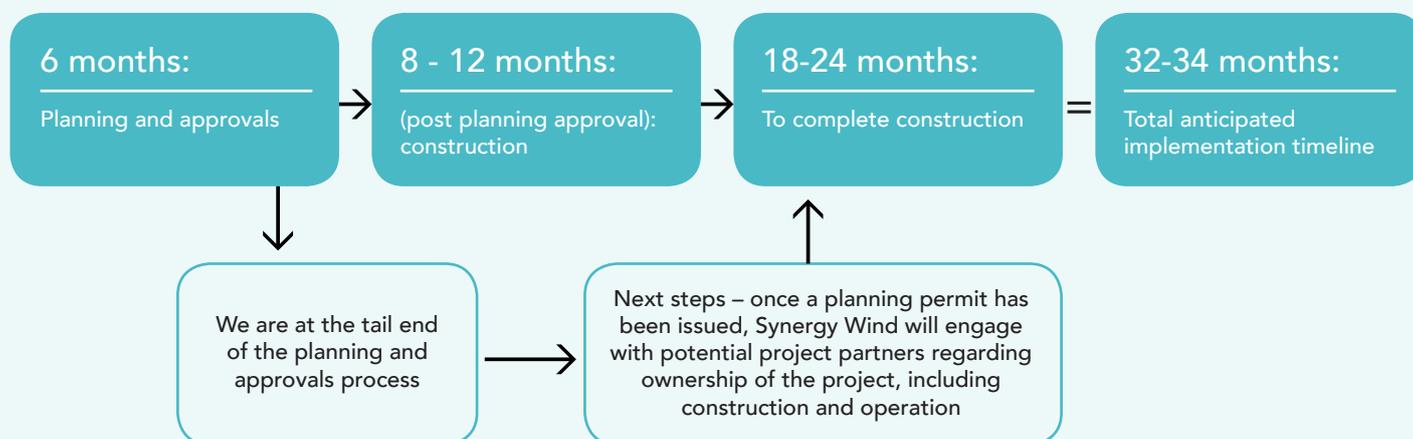
Issues relating to the operational compliance of wind farms in Victoria should first be referred to the operator for resolution. Where issues cannot be resolved directly with the operator, or through council as the enforcing authority, the matter can be referred to the National Wind Farm Commissioner.

The National Wind Farm Commissioner is an independent role appointed by the federal government.

The Commissioner's role is to:

- facilitate the referral and resolution of complaints received from concerned residents about planned or operating wind farms
- provide greater transparency about wind farm activity in Australia; and
- identify and promote best practices related to the planning, development and operation of wind farms, including standards and compliance, complaint handling procedures and community engagement.

Where are we now and what are the next steps:



If you would like more information on the Alberton Wind Farm or Synergy Wind Pty Ltd please:

Phone: + 61 3 85068371 Email: contact_us@synergy-wind.com

