Campbells Bridge Wind Farm

Newsletter Edition 1, November 2023

At a glance

- About 145
- T HEIGHT About 250m

O LOCATION

15 kilometres north-west of Stawell, 11 kilometres south of Rupanyup, more than three kilometres from Glenorchy and Callawadda

The land is mainly cropping or grazing farmland, which can continue if the wind farm is constructed

SI7F About 14,000 hectares LANDHOLDERS 8 More than 30 About 1,000 megawatts (MW) **PROJECT STATUS** \$\$\$ Planning and approvals **PROPOSED CONNECTION** Existing Bulgana Terminal Station About 30km of overhead 220kV transmission line adjacent to existing line

OPERATION Targeting 2029



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Hello and welcome to the Campbells Bridge Wind Farm Newsletter

RWE Renewables Australia is working on developing a wind farm at Campbells Bridge, in the Northern Grampians and Yarriambiack shires.

The proposed project is in the planning and approvals stage and is planned to include about 145 turbines.

During the feasibility stage we engaged with landholders who would host turbines. We also visited houses within five kilometres of the site boundary to introduce the wind farm, answer questions and receive important local knowledge and feedback to help shape the project.

We have been out and about in the project community and will continue to be there regularly as we engage with landholders, neighbours, the Northern Grampians and Yarriambiack shire councils, Traditional Owners, community groups and others. We will soon be opening a shopfront in Stawell, where locals can drop in to learn more about the project.

Pop-up information hubs will also be set up in Glenorchy and Rupanyup. Further details, including locations and opening hours, will be communicated in the coming months.

Our newsletter is one of the many ways we will engage with you and keep you informed of project news. We will also provide updates via other methods such as information sessions and our project website.

On behalf of the team, thank you for your interest and we look forward to working with you as the proposal progresses.

Best regards, Ashley Clifton Development Manager Campbells Bridge Wind Farm

Join our mailing list

Scan QR code or email **campbellsbridgewindfarm.com.au** to subscribe to our mailing list and stay up to date with project news.

Printed newsletters will be available at the Campbells Bridge Wind Farm shopfront, as well as our Glenorchy and Rupanyup pop-up information hubs.



RWE

Campbells Bridge Wind Farm

About RWE – a global energy leader with a local focus

RWE is one of the world's leading producers of renewable energy and operates a global portfolio of about 16 gigawatts (GW) of renewable wind, solar and battery storage projects. In addition, there are more than 70 renewable energy projects under construction in multiple countries throughout the world, totalling more than 7 GW.

The RWE Group entered the Australian market in 2018 with the construction and subsequent operation of one of the country's largest solar farms – the 249 MW Limondale Solar Farm in New South Wales (NSW).

RWE is now developing an exciting portfolio of wind, solar and battery storage projects across Australia. Our growing team of almost 50 people – based out of the Melbourne head office – is backed by the experience of RWE Renewables' 5,300 strong team across the European, North American, and Asia Pacific regions.

We have a planned gross investment in Australia of \$6 billion by 2030, to develop up to 3 GW of onshore wind, solar and battery projects across multiple states. We also plan to invest billions more in offshore wind. Our Limondale project is one of the country's largest solar farms. We have built a strong relationship with the Balranald community over the past five years and were recently chosen to deliver and operate Australia's first 8-hour battery within the existing project site through the Long Term Energy Storage Assessments process.

We have a strong focus on working with and making positive contributions to the communities where our projects are based, as well as being a key driver of Australia's energy transition.

RWE is committed to fostering transparent and lasting relationships with stakeholders, with particular consideration for local communities and landowners.



Scan the QR code for more information about RWE Renewables Australia or visit au.rwe.com



Speak with us

We value your feedback and are committed to listening and responding to your questions about the Campbells Bridge Wind Farm.

If you have any questions or comments, please call 1800 298 624 or email campbellsbridgewindfarm@rwe.com

You can also visit our website at campbellsbridgewindfarm.com.au



Engaging with you

What you have told us to date

Thank you to the 36 community members who responded to our survey. We will continue to seek and consider community feedback throughout the development of the project.

The results were:

- Twenty-five support the project
- Eight are indifferent
- Two oppose the project
- Three marked 'other' to this question

Upgrades of local infrastructure, near neighbour payments and support for local industry and employment were identified as the highest priorities for project support.

This important feedback will help us shape the project's future.



Our progress



Initial project studies began in early 2022 and included wind monitoring, ecology surveys and planning investigations.

The project has since moved into the planning and approvals phase, which will likely take two to four years.

This includes specialist studies into factors such as cultural heritage, transport, noise, shadow flicker, ecology (fauna, flora), surface and ground water, visual, social and aviation.

Project benefits

RWE has a proactive approach to community development, engagement and support. Our support and donations have so far included:

- \$25,000 Rupanyup Primary School playground
- \$10,000 Grampians Field & Game traps
- \$9,000 Glenorchy Golf Club mower
- \$7,975 Rupanyup Football Netball Club electronic scoreboard
- \$5,000 Murtoa Agricultural & Pastoral Society Annual Show
- \$2,000 Campbells Bridge Hall Progress Association
- \$2,000 Glenorchy Memorial Hall
- \$1,000 Glenorchy Good Friday Appeal
- \$250 Glenorchy Golf Club Opening Day

If approved, the Campbells Bridge Wind Farm will implement a benefit sharing program that will incorporate a variety of initiatives.

More information will be provided next year.

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Frequently asked questions and answers

Does RWE have a history in coal?

Yes. RWE began in Germany in 1898, when fossil fuels were the predominant source of energy. Our company has embraced the renewable energy transition, and is now a leading owner and operator of renewables worldwide. Green electricity is now our focus, with RWE owned and operated wind farms, solar power and battery storage facilities in many countries around the world.

Is there any connection between the Campbells Bridge Wind Farm and the proposed VNI West transmission line?

RWE is not considering VNI West as a connection option for the Campbells Bridge Wind Farm.

Does the wind farm require a new transmission line?

Yes. It is expected about 30 kilometres of new transmission line will be required.

What terminal station will it connect to?

The proposed connection is the existing Bulgana Terminal Station.

Where is the proposed substation location and how big is that site?

Investigations are being undertaken into possible substation sites at the southern end of the project site, close to the existing 220kv transmission line. The substation site is expected to be approximately five to seven hectares.

Will RWE engage with the local community?

Absolutely – this is already underway. Typically community engagement for renewable projects begins in the planning and approval stage. We began engaging with the broader public much earlier, in the feasibility stage. This has included a doorknock of all neighbours within five kilometres of the proposed project boundary in February 2023, and more recently have started meeting with residents within three kilometres of the proposed turbines. If you would like to meet with us, please call 1800 298 624 or email campbellsbridgewindfarm@rwe.com

Can RWE compulsorily acquire properties?

No. RWE and the Campbells Bridge Wind Farm do not have the right to compulsorily acquire land.

How far will turbines be from neighbours?

Planning guidelines require turbines to be no closer than one kilometre to any neighbouring dwellings. We have committed to buffering all neighbouring dwellings by 1.6 kilometres. Turbine blades are not permitted to overhang roads or neighbouring properties, so will be at least 100 metres from any fencelines.

Will RWE have a rehabilitation bond?

RWE is implementing a security commitment (i.e. a bond) for the proposed Campbells Bridge Wind Farm. This security is for the landowners and will be enough to cover decommissioning of infrastructure for each property. This cost will be determined by an independent quantity surveyor. If the decommissioning obligations in the planning permit are not met the landowner is able to draw down the security.

Are wind turbine components recyclable?

Many components of a wind turbine, such as the tower and nacelle, already have established recycling practices. However, until recently, the composite materials used in wind turbine blades have been more challenging to recycle because a resin system binds all components together. However, RWE is very proud to have tested the world's first recyclable blade (developed by Siemens Gamesa) at our Kaskasi offshore wind farm, near Germany.



RWE's legal responsibility flows from its position as owner and operator of the project and lessee of the land. Actual legal responsibility for losses and damage depends on the circumstances, so it is hard to answer categorically. However, RWE will have appropriate public liability insurance which typically will respond to risk of loss including from fire, just as we do on our other projects in Australia and overseas.

What happens if there is a Total Fire Ban or a fire in the area?

The project operations manager will be able to have the turbines turned off quickly in the event of an emergency. Their contact details will be publicly available, as will the project manager during construction. Wind farms can operate on Total Fire Ban days where permitted in accordance with local fire bylaws and regulations. However, TFB days usually have very high winds and turbines automatically turn off when the wind exceeds about 90 kilometres per hour. Hot works (such as welding) will not be undertaken at the project site on TFB days. Ground and aerial fire-fighting can occur at the site in the event of a fire and the proposed Campbells Bridge Wind Farm will adhere to the CFA guidelines that 'support safe and effective fire-fighting operations'. We will also adhere to the guidelines recommendations to include an on-site water supply for fire-fighting and implement fire breaks.

Does the landowner have final say on where the turbines are placed?

RWE will work closely with landowners to identify locations of turbines and other project infrastructure with consideration of existing operations. RWE is responsible for the placement of turbines and other project infrastructure. If approved, there is a micrositing allowance which allows turbines to be moved to a minimal extent (typically up to 100 metres) from the approved location.

When will the turbine layout be finalised?

Developing a project layout requires ongoing iterations in consultation with project stakeholders.

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The number of turbines and final layout will be dependent on the outcome of the detailed environmental, ecological and engineering studies being undertaken, in parallel with community consultation.

Detailed surveys and studies are underway, and these need to be completed before appropriate infrastructure locations are identified. We understand that the community has questions and we have been contacting immediate neighbours and sharing information about the closest potential turbines to their properties.

The reason we can do this at this early stage is because – while we know some locations may change – we have implemented site boundary and neighbouring dwelling buffers which inform the design and turbine locations in these specific areas. It's worth noting, that even these locations are subject to change due to outcomes from other detailed studies.

Once detailed investigations are complete and we have an indicative project layout with more accurate information about potential infrastructure locations, we will share this information with the wider community.

How committed is RWE to the renewables industry in Australia?

RWE plans to invest up to \$6 billion in wind, solar and battery projects across Australia by 2030 and billions more in offshore wind projects, should it be successful in offshore wind auctions.

RWE is committed to working with communities and make positive contributions in areas where its projects are based.



Thank you from Rupanyup Primary School

I'd like to thank RWE for its support in making our new playground a reality for our students. Our old playground area was unsafe and, due to the fact we had insufficient funds, school and community volunteers were forced to step in and remove the playground equipment and clear the area for works to take place. This left us with a gaping hole for a new playground, which is critical for our small school with only two teachers and 16 students.

Our new playground has been created with the sole intention of supporting a balanced approach for students and, most importantly, their engagement and eagerness to head out to play demonstrates every day that our natural playground is a place for their wonder and enjoyment. As a school, we desperately need enrolments to ensure our continuity, and our new playground is now a modern, inviting and visually appealing area that will encourage families to consider our school for their children. A potential increase in enrolments will also have a positive ripple effect on our broader community.

Our hard-working parents committee has raised \$100,000 for a new playground and the \$25,000 provided by RWE means we have enough to deliver the project. Thank you RWE.

- Principal Darcy Taberner Rupanyup Primary School \$25K to the Rupanyup Primary School





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