



Proposed Cattle Creek Wind Farm

Development Application
August 2026

Information booklet

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**Cattle Creek
Wind Farm**

RWE

Planning and approvals

Renewable energy projects in Australia usually need both state and federal approvals before they can be built.

State planning assessments look at issues such as land use, local impacts, community feedback and technical studies. Federal assessments focus on potential impacts to nationally protected environmental values.

Together, these processes help ensure projects are planned and developed with consideration of both community and environmental impacts.

State planning approval

The Cattle Creek Wind Farm will lodge its Development Application (DA) with the Queensland Government's State Assessment and Referral Agency (SARA).

This involves completing a Social Impact Assessment, entering into a Community Benefit Agreement with local government, and submitting a range of technical assessments and draft management plans as outlined in this document.

Have your say

During the public notification period, RWE will inform the public by placing notices in local towns, notifying adjoining landowners, advising Western Downs and Toowoomba Regional Councils, and publishing notice on www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au. We will also share the notice on our project website and in local newspapers.

Community members can make a written submission to SARA outlining their views on the project.

Submissions can be lodged through the SARA submissions portal, by email, or by post using the contact details provided in the public notice for the application.

Submissions must be lodged before the closing date and meet the requirements of the QLD Planning Act 2016.

How does SARA respond to a public submission?

SARA considers all properly made submissions as part of its assessment of the development application. The submissions made are reviewed alongside technical studies, agency advice and relevant planning requirements.

While SARA does not typically provide an individual response to each submission, the matters raised are considered in the assessment and decision-making process. The final decision notice and supporting documents are published by the Queensland Government and explain the outcome of the assessment.

State Development Application timeline



Preparation

Before a developer can lodge a DA with SARA, the following must be prepared:

- Social Impact Assessment
- Community Benefit Agreement
- Technical assessments and supporting studies



Lodgment

Once the prerequisite requirements and technical assessments are complete, the Development Application is formally lodged by the proponent with SARA.



Public notification

Any person can review the DA and provide feedback during the 15 business day public consultation period. Notices are published in local newspapers and the project websites is updated to keep stakeholders informed.

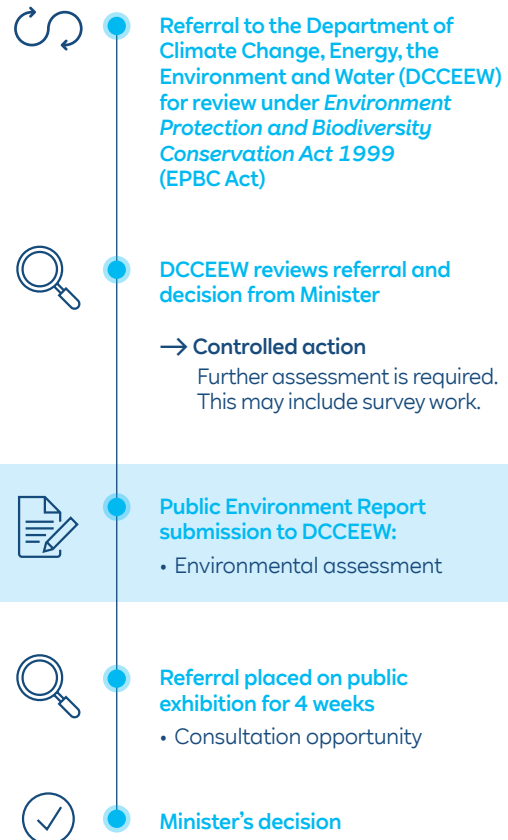
Federal planning approval

Federal planning assessments are conducted under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) and focus on potential impacts to nationally protected environmental values.

In March 2025, the project was referred under the Australian Government's EPBC Act assessment process. The EPBC process evaluates the Project's potential environmental impacts and identifies measures to avoid, mitigate and, where necessary, offset those impacts.

A decision under the EPBC process is expected in mid 2027.

Federal planning timeline



Information request

As the State's assessment manager, SARA coordinates input from relevant government agencies.

- SARA reviews the application and supporting documentation.
- If additional information is required, SARA issues an **information request**.
- The applicant is provided with a statutory timeframe to respond with further information, clarification, or revised plans.



Final assessment and decision

SARA completes its assessment by considering:

- Technical reports and specialist studies
- Compliance with State Development Assessment Provisions requirements
- Relevant planning framework and agency advice
- Community submissions

SARA then issues a **decision notice**, which may:

- Approve the application (typically subject to conditions); or
- Refuse the application.



Final public notification

- The DA outcome is made publicly available.

Planning assessment requirements

To support the planning and approvals process for the proposed Cattle Creek Wind Farm, a range of technical and environmental assessments are carried out to identify potential impacts, inform project design, and demonstrate compliance with applicable planning, environmental, and statutory requirements.

These assessments provide the evidence base for evaluating the project's effects on the natural, social, cultural, and built environment, while also identifying appropriate mitigation and management measures.

The following table:

- lists the key planning assessments for the project
- outlines the purpose of each assessment in supporting the development application
- details the key findings of each assessment
- specifies any mitigation measures or resulting actions required



Assessment type	About the assessment	Key finding	Actions
Agricultural Land Assessment	Looks at how the project could impact farming in the area, including land use, productivity and value.	• 48% suited to grazing only • 43% suited to mixed or limited crop use • 8% classes as mix of pasture and cropping land • <1% is suitable for horticulture, fruit or vegetable farming	Understanding the land use helps with project design, so high-value cropping areas can be avoided, and existing farming activities can be maintained.
Aviation Impact Assessment	Examines possible aviation impacts from the proposed Cattle Creek Wind Farm and provides safety advice for the construction and operation of the project, in line with air safety rules in Australia.	The height of the wind turbines and related structures like meteorological masts and transmission lines expected not to affect the safety of the existing airports or their navigation, radar, and communication systems.	A safety risk assessment found that obstacle lighting for wind turbines and transmission lines isn't needed to keep aircraft safe. However, CASA might still require obstacle lighting, and we are working closely together to ensure the proposed project meets aviation safety standards.
Decommissioning Management Plan	Provides a framework for the decommissioning of the Project and associated infrastructure at the end of its operational life.	The project can be decommissioned in a manner that avoids adverse impacts on landowners, the community, the environment and state, with financial security arrangements established to support decommissioning obligations.	Detailed End of Construction and Operation Decommissioning Plans will be prepared prior to construction.
Electromagnetic Interference Assessment	Looks at the potential impact of the proposed Cattle Creek Wind Farm on telecommunication services and if there is a need for any mitigation measures.	The assessment concluded that the proposed Cattle Creek Wind Farm is unlikely to significantly impact existing telecommunication services.	Nil required, an updated assessment will be required prior to construction.
Erosion Risk Assessment	Identifies areas where soil may be vulnerable to rainfall, runoff, or site activity, providing valuable guidance for designing projects that protect land, waterways, and infrastructure.	The majority of the project area has been assessed as having a very low erosion risk (less than 150 tonnes per hectare per year). With appropriate controls in place, the project is not expected to cause an unacceptable impact on the surrounding environment.	Even with a very low risk rating, the project will apply best practice erosion and sediment control measures, documented in a dedicated Erosion and Sediment Control Plan.

Assessment type	About the assessment	Key finding	Actions
Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment	Evaluates how the turbines might affect the area's landscape and views.	The project is not expected to significantly change the look of the area as long as the recommended steps to minimise visual impacts are followed. Natural landscape features in the area such as ridgelines, hills and vegetation, limit views of wind turbines that are further than 6.18 km.	Mitigation measures will still be put in place to help the infrastructure more effectively blend into the landscape. Or, in the case of aviation lighting, easily identify infrastructure at night.
MSES Impact Assessment Report	Provides an overview of the environment in and around the project area, so the project can be designed to avoid and mitigate impacts on fauna and flora for threatened species.	The three EPBC Act listed species — diamond firetail, glossy black cockatoo and koala, are likely or have the potential to be significantly impacted by the construction of the proposed wind farm.	The layout of the proposed project will be carefully designed to avoid and mitigate impacts on flora and fauna, with additional surveys to take place prior to construction. Where significant impacts cannot be avoided, we will work to improve existing habitat of threatened species in accordance with the EPBC Act.
Natural Hazard Risk Assessment	Explores the potential bushfire impacts to people, property, economic activity, and the environment, and addresses them within the relevant regulations.	- Westen Downs Regional Council area: majority medium bushfire hazard - Toowoomba Regional Council area: small areas of medium bushfire risk scattered throughout and adjoining the site	The project will follow bushfire mitigation measures in line with Country Fire Authority best practice guidelines.
Noise Impact Assessment	Models the potential noise levels from 135 wind turbines, the Battery Energy Storage System and transformers and compares them to the relevant state code requirements.	The noise assessment found that the proposed Cattle Creek Wind Farm will be within the required noise levels and separation distances.	Nil required. An updated assessment will be required prior to construction.
Preliminary Route Assessment	Considers how the Oversize Overmass (OSOM) components of the proposed project can be transported from the Port of Brisbane to the Project Area.	The report identified four main route options: - Project Transport Route 1: Port of Brisbane, Warrego Highway, Dalby Cecil Plains Road and Cecil Plains Moonie Road - Project Transport Route 2: Port of Brisbane, Toowoomba Cecil Plains Road and Cecil Plains Moonie Road - Project Transport Route 3: Port of Brisbane, Gore Highway, Pampas Horrane Road and Cecil Plains Moonie Road - Project Transport Route 4: Port of Brisbane, Warrego Highway, Moonie Highway and Cecil Plains Moonie Road	A suitable option is to be identified through the detailed design process and will be communicated to the community.
Preliminary Traffic Impact Assessment	Helps us understand the potential impact of construction traffic on existing traffic flows and the road network.	The majority of traffic is proposed to come west of Cecil Plains with access to the proposed project area via site entrances from Cecil Plains Moonie Road. Sight distances at the proposed site entrances will be designed to meet Austroads standards.	OSOM components will be carefully controlled to avoid peak periods, and will be limited in frequency based on specialist haulage vehicle availability, pilots, and escorts. RWE is committed to consulting with the community on minimising disruptions to existing traffic flows during the construction phase.
Stormwater Management Assessment	Examines site conditions and evaluates how the project may affect stormwater quality and flow.	- Flood zones extend along Cattle Creek and the Weir River in the south, and along the Waar Waar Creek in the west - The Construction Corridor is not located within any QFAO flood zone - The construction corridor will intersect 48 unmapped waterways but avoids any officially mapped watercourses under the Water Act 2000	Stormwater risks will be managed through careful planning and design. Waterway crossings will be built to manage long-term stream changes. Construction and infrastructure will be located away from major water features, and works will focus on areas with very low erosion risk or where impacts can be adequately managed.



At a glance



More than 3GW
onshore pipeline



Theodore Wind Farm
State and federal
planning approval



Constructed Australia's
first 8-hour battery



249MWac operating
Limondale Solar Farm

Legend

- In development
- Under construction
- Operational