



Planning Panels Victoria

Department of Transport and Planning

1 Spring Street
Melbourne Victoria 3000
GPO Box 2392
Melbourne, Victoria 3001

13 February 2023

Dear Submitter

Mt Fyans Wind Farm Planning Permit Application PA1800406

We are writing to you because you made a submission to the above Planning Permit Application for the development of a wind energy facility at Mt Fyans.

On 2 June 2019 the Minister for Planning called in the above application under section 97B(1)(a) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. The Minister for Planning, under delegation has referred all submissions (113 in total) to an independent Panel appointed under the section 97E of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. Tim Hellsten (Chair), Kate Partenio and Steve Blackley are appointed as the Panel.

The Panel will hold a Public Hearing. This letter:

- tells you about the hearing process
- tells you what you need to do if you want to participate in the Public Hearing
- explains how we will use information the Panel collects
- sets out draft directions for the Public Hearing.

The proposal includes:

- 81 wind turbines with a maximum tip height of 200m
- an onsite substation
- an offsite substation
- the subdivision of two lots for substations
- an overhead 200kV transmission line on compact poles.
- a 500kV transmission line from the off-site substation to the Mortlake Terminal Station
- road access works in the Transport Zone 2
- internal access tracks, hardstand areas and underground cables
- wind monitoring masts
- business identification signs
- removal of 0.833 hectares of native vegetation.

The Applicant for the proposal is Woolnorth Renewables.

If you would like to review the submissions referred to the Panel, please contact Development Approvals, Department of Transport and Planning at Development.Approvals@delwp.vic.gov.au or 1800 789 386.

The Hearing process

The Panel will:

- consider submitters in an independent forum
- be informal and not like a court
- give fair, unbiased advice to Council and the Minister for Planning about the proposal.

Submissions and other information presented throughout the process, including the Hearing, will be **treated as public documents**. Please carefully read the attached *Privacy Collection Notice*.

Privacy Statement

Any personal information about you or a third party in your correspondence will be protected under the provisions of the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014. It will only be used or disclosed to appropriate Ministerial, Statutory Authority, or departmental staff in regard to the purpose for which it was provided, unless required or authorised by law. Enquiries about access to information about you held by the Department should be directed to the Privacy Coordinator, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, PO Box 500, East Melbourne, Victoria 8002



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The Panel process includes a Directions Hearing and the Hearing.

Directions Hearing

At the Directions Hearing, the Panel will:

- give directions about exchanging information before the Hearing and the conduct of the Hearing
- consider Hearing times and venue and site inspections
- answer questions people have about the Panel process including the Hearing.

The Directions Hearing will be held:

10.00am, Friday, 3 March 2023

by video conference using MS Teams

Video link: [Click here to join the Directions Hearing](#)

Meeting ID: 455 933 952 989

Passcode: jr52pd

Dial in by telephone: dial 1800 571 208 input 517659181 then dial the '#' key

You should attend the Directions Hearing if you:

- are new to the Panel process or wish to participate in the Hearing
- have questions about the Panel process or wish to raise procedural issues.

The Panel proposes to issue directions after considering all requests to be heard and any additional matters raised at the Directions Hearing or in writing before the Directions Hearing.

Hearing

The purpose of the Hearing is for people to speak to their written submission and to hear from the Proponent, Council, and other parties. The Hearing will start on **Monday 3 April 2023** and should run for approximately 14-18 days. The Hearing is open for anyone to attend.

The Panel will consider all referred written submissions when preparing its report, including those from submitters who do not attend the Hearing.

Key dates

The Key Information attached to this letter includes a list of key dates for the circulation of information in the leadup to the Hearing. If you wish to comment on the key dates but are unable to attend the Directions Hearing, you can provide comments in writing to planning.panels@delwp.vic.gov.au by Wednesday, 1 March 2023.

If you wish to be involved in the Hearing

Please complete the [online request to be heard form](#) by **12 noon on Wednesday 1 March 2023** if:

- you wish to be involved in the Hearing
- you do not wish to speak but would like a copy of the timetable and directions.

Notes on completing the online request to be heard form are attached.

Further Information

The attached *Privacy Collection Notice* explains how your submission will be used by the Panel.

Further information including the *What is a Panel?* guide, *Guide to the Public Hearing* and *Frequently Asked Questions* are available at: <https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/panels-and-committees/planning-panel-guides>

If you have any questions, please contact Georgia Thomas of Planning Panels Victoria on [REDACTED] or planning.panels@delwp.vic.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'TH', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Tim Hellsten
Panel Chair

Att 1 – Letter of Referral

Completing the Request to be Heard Form

Mt Fyans Wind Farm Planning Permit Application PA1800406

When completing the online *request to be heard form*, please note the following details.

When will the Hearing be held?

The expected hearing dates are between 3/04/2023 and 28/04/2023.

What if I have availability issues during the expected hearing dates?

You can tell us when you are not available.

The Panel will accommodate your availability where possible.

Time required to present your submission

You will be allocated 10 minutes for your submission if this field is left blank.

Expert witness details

An expert witness gives evidence in a field of expertise and must prepare a report.

If you propose to call expert witnesses, you must:

- provide details of all expert witnesses on the request to be heard form – this includes their name, organisation, and field of expertise
- circulate expert witness reports at a specified time before the Hearing.

Participants in the Hearing can generally cross-examine expert witnesses.

What happens after I complete the form?

If you complete this form, a letter with directions and a timetable for the Hearing will be emailed to you after the Directions Hearing. Your name and email address will also be added to the Distribution List for the circulation of information like reports and submissions for the Hearing unless you tell us otherwise.

What if I do not have an email address?

Please contact Planning Panels Victoria on [REDACTED] as soon as possible if you need a form mailed to you. A paper copy of documents such as the timetable will be mailed to submitters who provide a postal address.

How will my contact information be used?

We will use your contact address to contact you. We will provide your email or postal address to participants in the Hearing so that they can share reports and submissions unless you tell us otherwise.

Access requirements

Please contact PPV with any access requirements. Some Hearings are at PPV, some are at other locations and some are held online. PPV Hearing Rooms are equipped with a hearing loop, and a laptop and projector if required. If the Hearing is held at another location, we may need to ensure access requirements can be met.

Preliminary list of issues

The Panel has identified the following issues in submissions:

- Landscape and visual impacts
- Agriculture and biosecurity
- Community and social impacts
- Environmental impacts including on brolga and bat species and removal of vegetation
- Health impacts
- Noise
- Blade flicker
- Cumulative impacts
- Fire
- Traffic
- Economic impacts including on property value
- Construction impacts
- Communication reception impacts including TV, radio, and mobile phones
- Aviation
- Cultural heritage
- Sustainability.

Summary of dates

The following dates are proposed:

Time	Date	Action
12 noon	Wednesday, 1 March 2023	Requests to be heard are due
12 noon	Monday, 20 March 2023	the Proponent must circulate its Part A submission
12 noon	Monday, 27 March 2023	the Proponent must circulate expert witness reports
12 noon	Wednesday, 29 March 2023	Parties must circulate expert witness reports
9.00 am	Monday, 3 April 2023	the Proponent must circulate its Part B submission
12 noon	On the business day prior to their submissions	All other submitters must provide any written material to be presented to the Panel
10 am	Monday, 3 April 2023	Hearing commences

Planning Panels Victoria Privacy Notice

Your personal information will be collected during this Panel process for the purpose of documenting your views about the Amendment, advising the planning authority and the Minister for Planning about the Amendment, and communicating with you throughout the Panel process.

While the Panel process is underway

Natural justice for all participants and transparency are important parts of the Panel process. The *Planning and Environment Act 1987* requires the Panel to conduct any Hearing it holds in public, and to keep a public record of the material provided to the Panel. Planning Panels Victoria (PPV) may:

- provide a copy of your material with all contact details to the Proponent, government agencies and other parties to the Hearing
- provide a copy of your material to any other person who requests it (your personal information will be removed first)
- provide a copy of your material to the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) if needed for preparing Ministerial briefings
- publicly display a copy of your material in the PPV Office or Hearing room
- direct that a copy of your material be publicly displayed in the relevant local council office or DTP regional office.

Hearings

The Panel may conduct a Hearing, either in person or using video conferencing. Hearings by video conference have special privacy requirements. If you choose to participate in the Hearing, you should be aware:

- a link to the Hearing will be published on the internet, and third parties will be able to join the Hearing and observe
- the Panel may broadcast the Hearing live on the internet.

The Panel may make a recording of the Hearing and may provide a copy of any recording to any person who request it. Where Hearings are recorded, generally audio only is recorded (not video).

The Panel can hear submissions or accept material on a confidential basis, provided this would be fair to the other parties to the Hearing. If you want to make your submissions or provide material to the Panel confidentially, you will need to ask permission from the Panel Chair and provide reasons why the Panel should treat your submissions or material confidentially.

The Panel report

Under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, a Panel report is a public document. The Panel's report will include a list of the names of submitters and a list of the names of the parties to the Hearing. It may also include direct quotes from submitters. The report will be published on the internet.

After the Panel has reported

When the Panel has reported to the Planning Authority, your material will be removed from public display.

Requesting copies

If you would like a copy of any submissions or material collected by the Panel, or a copy of any recording the Panel makes of the Hearing, make a request to PPV by email at planning.panels@delwp.vic.gov.au before the Panel submits its report. If the Panel has reported, you should submit your request to the DTP Freedom of Information and Privacy Unit at foi.unit@delwp.vic.gov.au

If you have any concerns about how your submission will be used, please contact Planning Panels Victoria on (03) 8624 5719.