



# Tall Tree Wind Farm Online Ecology Session

4 February 2026



# Session objectives and expectations

This session is being hosted to provide the community ecology information in relation to the proposed Tall Tree Wind farm and answer ecology questions about the project.

All questions tonight will be taken through the Q&A chat feature. Please feel free to write your questions in the Q&A section at any time throughout the session. The team will try to respond to all questions to the best of our current knowledge once the main presentation has concluded. If required, additional time will be given to the question section of this event.

Those questions that we are unable to answer or not related to ecology will be taken on notice and responses emailed to all participants and published online. Please note, any questions about Brolga surveys will need to be taken on notice, as Ecology and Heritage partners did not complete this work.

We ask that all participants of the online session communicate any questions or feedback respectfully. Respectful behaviour | ACCIONA Energía Community

The Tall Tree Wind Farm project team will continue to engage with stakeholders through a range of channels as we develop this project.

This session is being recorded. The recording and presentation will be published on the Tall Tree Wind Farm Community Hub Page ([www.community.accionacom.au/talltree](http://www.community.accionacom.au/talltree))



Acciona Energía acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea and community.

We acknowledge the Wadawurrung People as the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which the Tall Tree Wind Farm is proposed to be located.

We pay our respect to Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



# AGENDA

- 1** Welcome
- 2** Overview of the Project –  
Paul Treasure, ACCIONA Energía
- 3** Ecology –  
Aaron Organ and Alex Wilkinson, Ecology and Heritage Partners
- 4** Questions and Answers



Paul Treasure

Project Manager

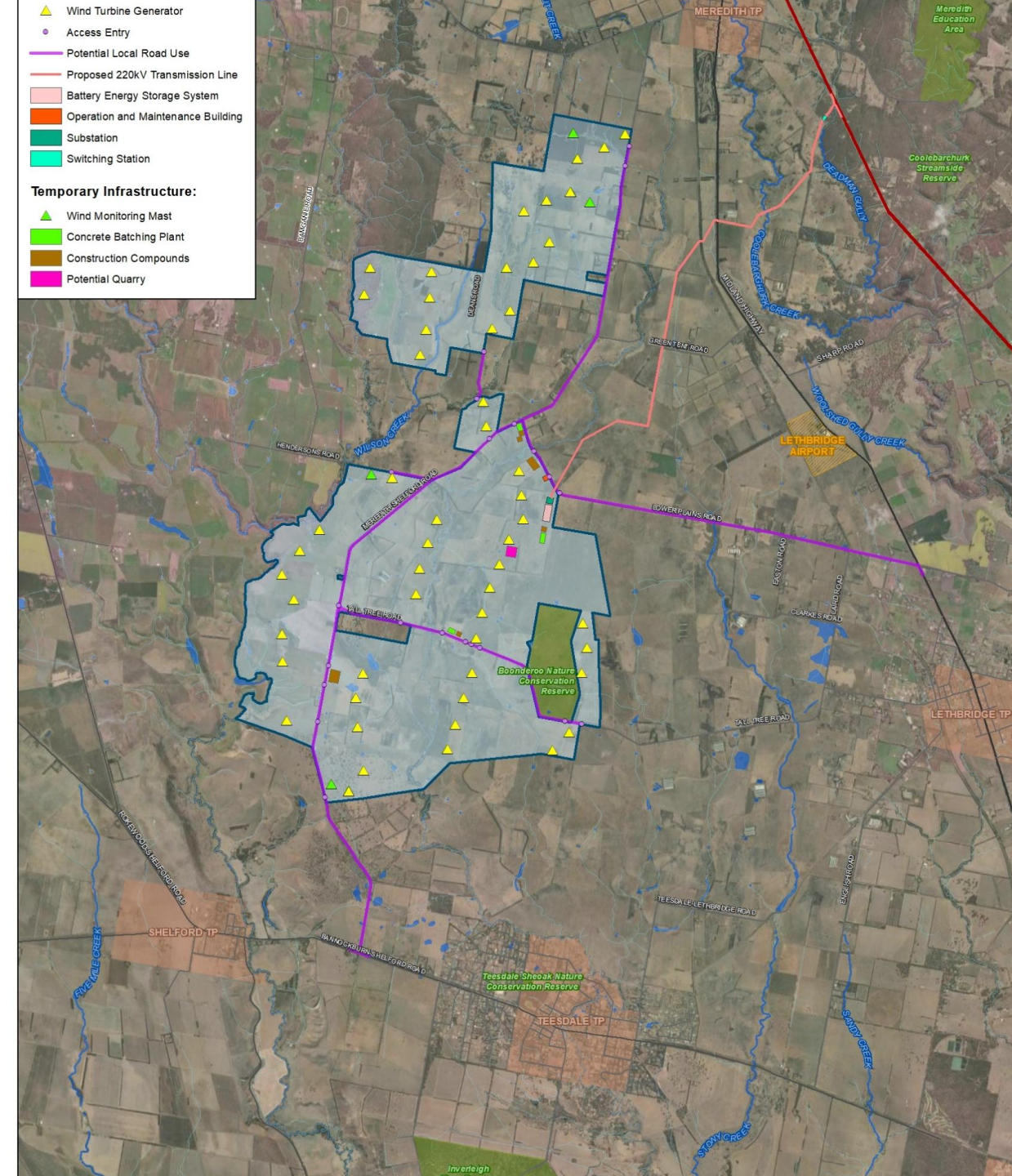
# The Project

- 53 turbines
- 360MW wind turbine capacity
- 11.3 KM Transmission line
- Battery Energy Storage System (up to 800 MWhrs)

An **Environment Effects Statement (EES)** is required for the Tall Tree Wind Farm

**Controlled action** under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (**EPBC**).

- 2026-2027 Assessments and Approvals
- 2028 anticipated Construction
- 2030 anticipated Operations





# Aaron Organ Principal Ecologist and Alex Wilkinson Associate Zoologist

# Ecological Assessment

Tall Tree Wind Farm, Victoria

Ecology and Heritage Partners



# Background

- ❑ The Ecological Assessment was undertaken to inform the preparation of the Commonwealth and State project referrals, and subsequently the Environmental Effects Statement (EES). It addresses the following key objectives:
  - ❑ Define the criteria relevant to the study including legislation, standards and guidelines
  - ❑ Describe the study methods
  - ❑ Characterise the existing environment relevant to biodiversity issues
  - ❑ Identify key potential issues/impacts and assess the significance of impacts
  - ❑ Propose avoidance, mitigation and management measures to reduce the significance of impacts

# Policy - Commonwealth

- Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999
  - Triggered if significant impact on any Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES)
  - Protected Matters Search Tool (PMST)
  - Field Surveys
  - Significant Impact Guidelines
  - Part 9 referral



## Matters of National Environmental Significance

Significant impact guidelines 1.1  
Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

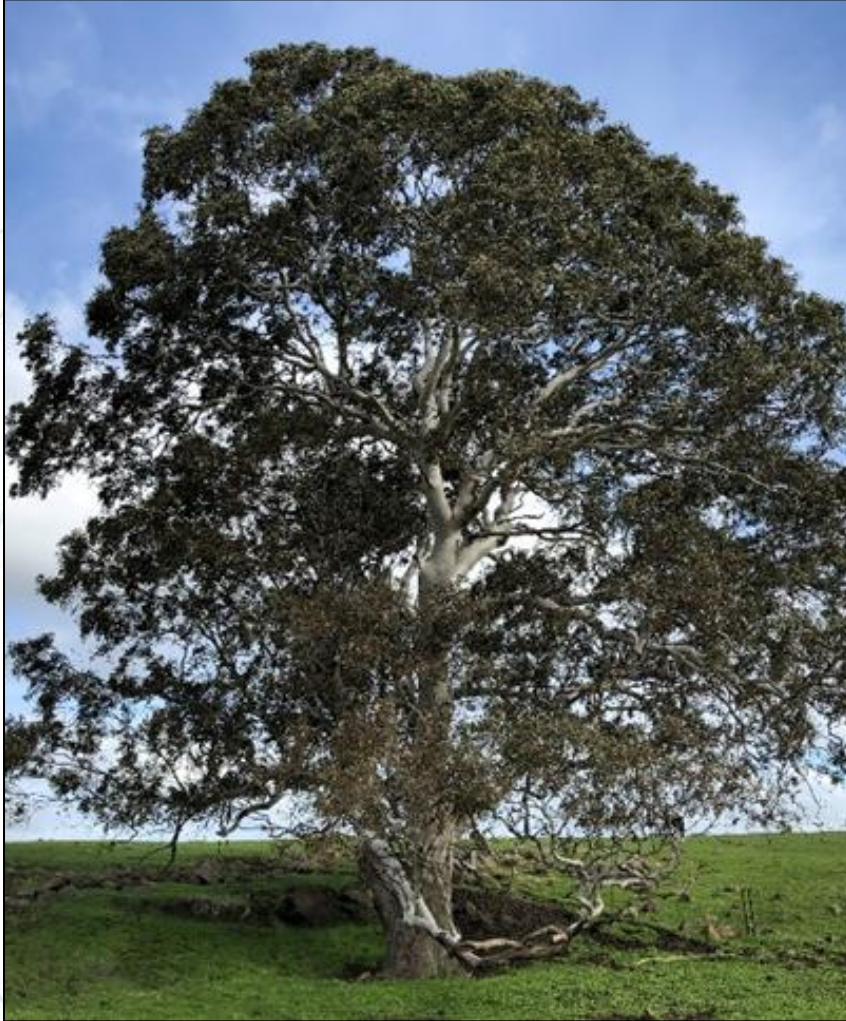


# Policy - State

- Environmental Effects Act 1978
- Flora and Fauna Guarantee (FFG) Act 1988 (2019)
  - Triggers for the requirement for an Environmental Effects Statement
    - Clearing at least 10 hectares of native vegetation
    - Significant impacts to FFG Act values



# Policy - Local



- Clause 52.17 'the Guidelines'
  - Must apply for a permit to remove any native vegetation
  - Offsets only required for patches of native vegetation or scattered trees
  - Some exemptions (Clause 52.17-7)
    - Planted vegetation
    - Site area exemption (0.4 hectares)
    - Regrowth (less than 10 years old)
    - Dead vegetation (DBH < 40cm)
- Zones and Overlays
- Three-step approach
  - Avoid
  - Minimise
  - Offset



# Ecological Assessment Process

- Due Diligence
  - Desktop
  - Rapid site assessment
- Detailed Biodiversity Assessment
  - Desktop
  - Detailed site assessment
  - Recommend species surveys (if required)
- Undertake targeted species surveys



# Field Assessments

Flora surveys conducted to date include the following:

## Flora

- Habitat Hectare and Large Tree Assessments (Nov 2023 - ongoing)
- Targeted Summer Flora Surveys (Jan 2024 - ongoing)
- Targeted Spring Flora Survey (Nov 2024 to Nov 2026)
- Targeted Winter Flora Survey - Spiny Rice-flower (Aug 2023 to Aug 2025)



# Field Assessments

Fauna surveys conducted to date include the following:

## Fauna

- Targeted Striped Legless Lizard (Sep 2023 to Dec 2024)
- Targeted Golden Sun Moth (Nov 2023 to Jan 2026)
- Targeted Growling Grass Frog (Feb-Mar 2024)
- Targeted Latham's Snipe (Jan 2025)
- Targeted Victorian Grassland Earless Dragon (Sep 2023 - ongoing)



# Field Assessments

Fauna surveys conducted to date include the following:



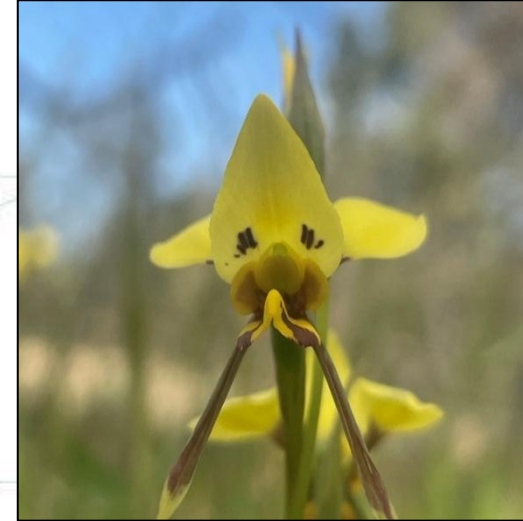
- Bird Utilisation surveys (Aug 2023 - ongoing)
- Migratory Birds (Nov 2023 to Jan 2026)
- Raptor / nest roaming surveys (Aug 2023 - ongoing)
- Nocturnal Birds (Sep 2023)
- Targeted Microbat (Oct 2023 to Feb 2025)



# Field Assessment Methods

## Flora Survey Methods

- >300 person days in total spent surveying native vegetation, ecological communities and listed flora species.
- The targeted surveys were undertaken by a team of Botanists.
- All areas of remnant vegetation were traversed within the survey area at five metre intervals.
- Hand-held GPS units were used to record the location of any listed species encountered.



# Field Assessment Methods

## Fauna Survey Methods

- >250 person days in total spent surveying for fauna
- Diurnal point-count surveys
- Nocturnal spotlighting and call play-back surveys
- Bat detector deployment
- Tile grid and artificial burrow survey
- Transects and active searching



# Results – Overview

## Species Diversity

- 156 flora species (51 introduced) and 133 fauna species (nine introduced) recorded during the field surveys

## Remnant Vegetation

- 489 hectares of remnant vegetation represented by 12 Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVCs)
- 1,819 large trees (in patches and scattered), predominately large old eucalypts



# Results – Flora

## Listed Flora Species diversity

- One EPBC Act-listed ecological community, National Temperate Grassland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain (NTGVVP)
- 5 FFG Act-listed flora recorded
  - Austral Tobacco
  - Small Scurf-pea
  - Tough Scurf-pea
  - Fragrant Saltbush
  - Small-flowered Wallaby-grass
- One FFG Act-listed vegetation community, Western (Basalt) Plains Grassland Community

# Results – Fauna



## Listed Fauna Species diversity

- 5 EPBC Act-listed fauna recorded
  - Blue-winged Parrot
  - Brown Treecreeper (adjacent to site)
  - Golden Sun Moth
  - Growling Grass Frog
  - Striped Legless Lizard
- 5 FFG Act-listed fauna recorded
  - Eastern Bent-wing Bat
  - Eastern Great Egret
  - Platypus
  - Yellow-bellied Sheath-tailed Bat
  - Tussock Skink

# Impact Assessment

## Direct Impacts

- Vegetation removal and habitat loss
- Moderate loss of EPBC Act-listed NTGVVP ecological community
- Minimal loss of EPBC Act-listed Striped Legless Lizard habitat
- Moderate-high loss of EPBC Act-listed Golden Sun Moth habitat
- No loss of EPBC Act-listed Growling Grass Frog habitat
- Removal of known habitat for several recorded FFG Act-listed species

# Impact Avoidance

- Multiple project design reviews to avoid and minimise impacts
- Leading to the removal of turbines and associated infrastructure from the initial project design
- Realignment of proposed tracks, road widening, transmission line, and turbines



Original design



Design after avoidance of NTGVVP

# Mitigation Measures

- Further avoidance of biodiversity values
- Buffer zones
- Pre-clearing significant species surveys
- Flora and fauna salvage / relocation
- Establishment of 'no-go areas'
- Dust, noise and light suppression / management
- Contingency measures to manage unexpected discovery of listed flora and fauna species during construction and operation of the project
- Staff and contractor inductions
- Examining the establishment of onsite first party offset sites



# Case Study – Wedge-tailed Eagle (WTE)

## Species info

- Not EPBC Act or FFG Act listed
- Not a 'Species of Concern' for onshore wind farms (DEECA 2024)
- WTE are known to occupy a territory of approximately 30-40 square kilometres (Hatton *et al.* 2015).
- Given the Project Site is 55-60 square kilometres, at least two resident pairs – plus juveniles in spring and summer – are likely to occupy the Project Site
- The Tasmanian WTE is a subspecies, and is EPBC Act-listed, unlike the WTEs found in Victoria

## Results

- WTE and other raptors are likely to fly at and above turbine blade height when foraging
- Two pairs of WTE recorded within Project Site
- Five WTE or other raptor nests were recorded within the Project Site

## Mitigation

- 200-metre turbine-free buffer zones from recorded raptor nests



# Offsets

- Permanent compensation for biodiversity losses arising from native vegetation removal
  - Land clearing for a large-scale development; or
  - Removal of a single tree on private property.
- Credit owners secure and manage offset sites (ongoing) to maintain or improve native vegetation condition
  - Can be a patch of native vegetation, one or more scattered trees or an area of revegetation.
- Third Party offset sites generate native vegetation credits which can then be sold

# State Offsets

- General Habitat Units
  - Does not have a significant impact on any habitat for rare or threatened species.
- Species Habitat Units
  - A significant impact on habitat for a rare or threatened species
  - Must compensate for the removal of that particular species' habitat.



# Commonwealth Offsets

- Permanent compensation for loss of EPBC Act-listed values arising from native vegetation removal
- Secure and manage offset sites (ongoing) to maintain or improve habitat condition commensurate to the impacts to habitat
- 'Third Party' or 'First Party' offset sites generate species offset credits which can then be sold
- Benefits to First Party offset sites



# Adaptive Management Framework (Mgt. Plans)

Offset  
Management Plan

Construction  
Environmental  
Management Plan

Biodiversity  
Management Plan

Native Vegetation  
Management Plan

Bat and Avifauna  
Management Plan

Threatened  
Species  
Management Plans

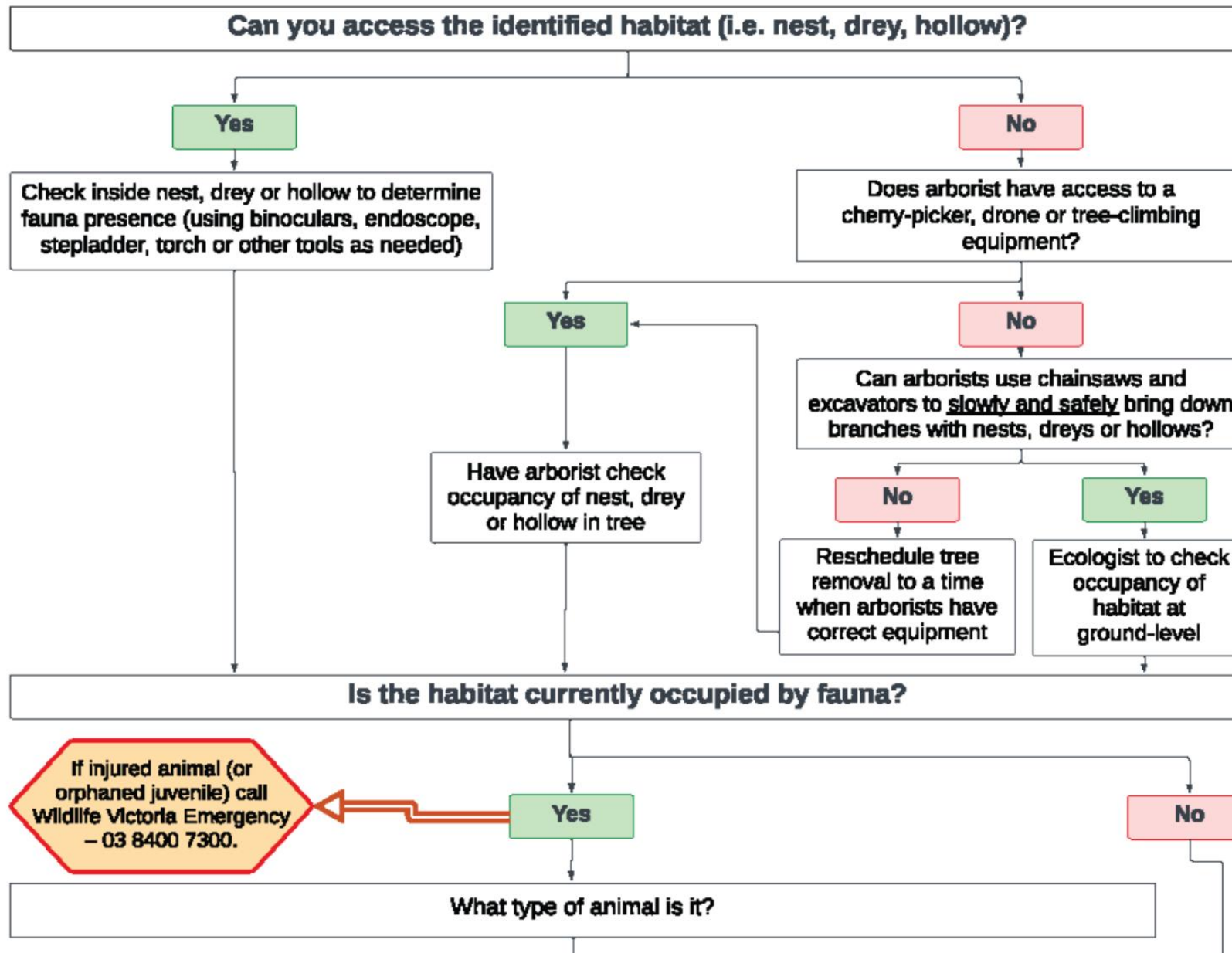


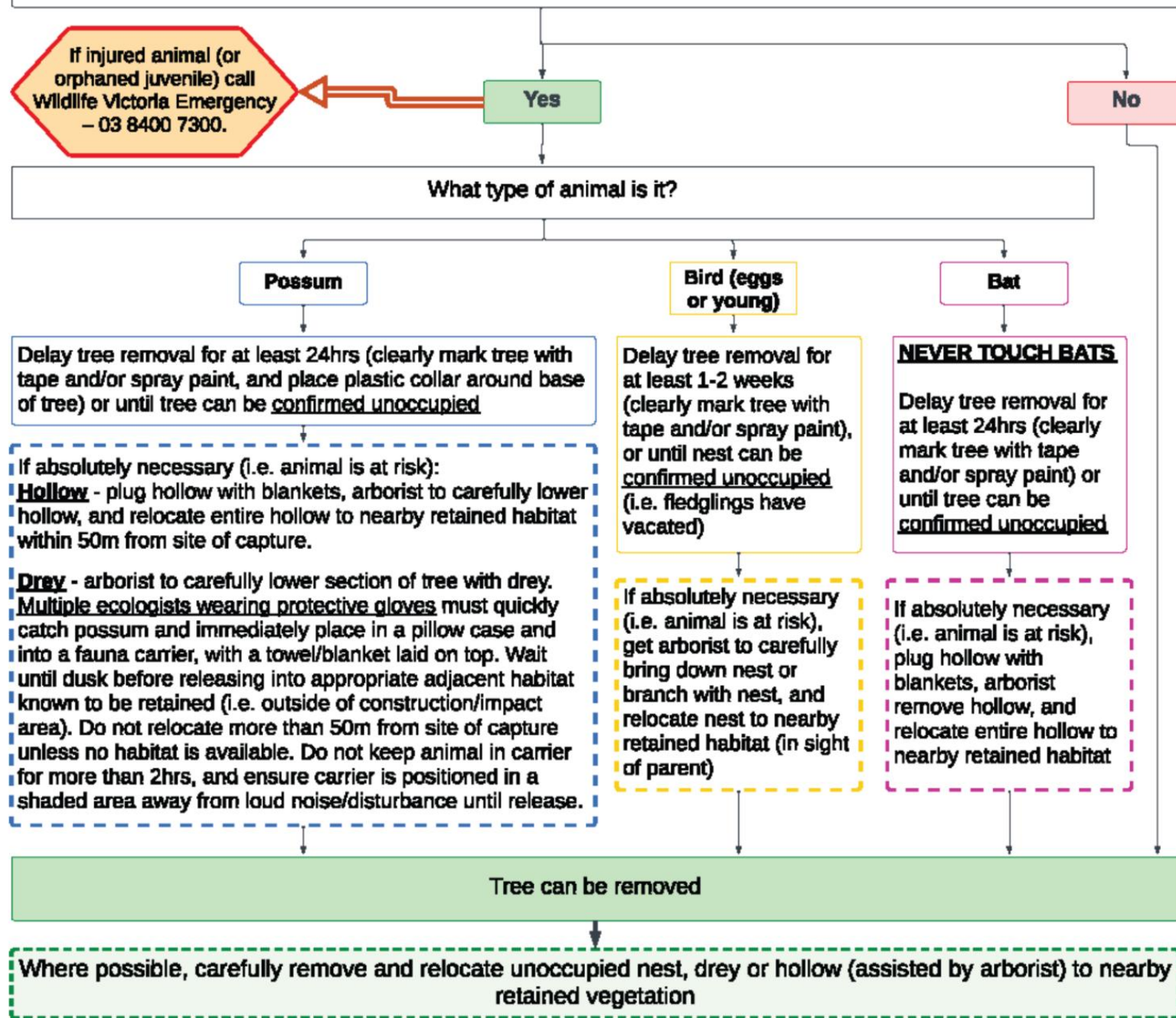
# Bat and Avifauna Management (BAMP)

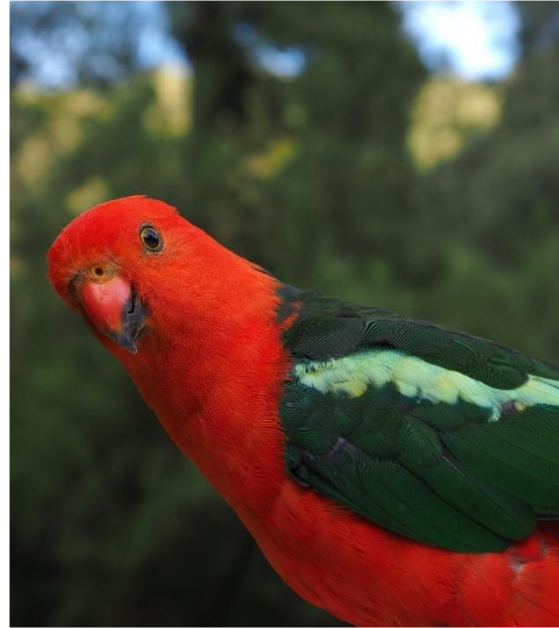
- BAM Plans are intended to monitor and inform management of impacts to birds and bats at a wind farm
- Frequent searches for bird and bat carcasses are undertaken at selected turbine sites, across an operational wind farm
- Scavenger trials are undertaken to refine mortality estimates and account for the effects of scavengers on carcass detectability
- Detectability trials are undertaken to estimate searcher efficiency
- Ultimately, BAM Plan monitoring assesses the effectiveness of current mitigations and the need for further mitigations



# ~ FAUNA SALVAGE MATRIX ~







Thank You!





# QUESTIONS?

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# THANK YOU



## TALL TREE WIND FARM Mobile Offices Drop-in Sessions

Following the decision that the Tall Tree Wind Farm will require an Environment Effects Statement (EES), we are pleased to announce that we will be launching a Mobile Office throughout 2026, beginning in March.

**Monthly drop-in sessions:** On Tuesday and Wednesday at the start of every month, our project team will be in the local area – see dates below. Community members are welcome to drop in, ask questions, and learn more about the project.

**1:1 technical discussions:** If you have a technical question or would like a dedicated conversation with the project team, we can book a one-on-one session with the relevant specialist. Please note this will be limited to availability, so may not be available on the same day.

**Additional Bannockburn sessions:** We will also host a Saturday office in Bannockburn to provide additional opportunities for community engagement.

### MOBILE OFFICE TIMES & LOCATIONS (March to August)

#### TUESDAY SESSIONS

##### TEESDALE

**Time:** 10:30am - 1:30pm  
**Location:** Teesdale Community Hall,  
Shelford-Bannockburn Rd, Teesdale,  
VIC 3328

##### SHELFORD

**Time:** 4:30pm - 7:30pm  
**Location:** Shelford Community Hall,  
16 Mercer Street,  
Shelford, VIC 3329

#### WEDNESDAY SESSIONS

##### MEREDITH

**Time:** 8:00am - 12:00pm  
**Location:** Meredith Community  
Centre, 4 Russell St,  
Meredith, VIC 3333

##### LETHBRIDGE

**Time:** 2:00pm - 5:00pm  
**Location:** Lethbridge Bluestone  
Railway,  
Lethbridge, VIC 3332

#### SATURDAY SESSIONS

##### BANNOCKBURN

**Time:** 9:00am - 12:30pm  
**Location:** Bannockburn Cultural  
Centre, 27 High St,  
Bannockburn, VIC 3331

### SESSIONS CALENDAR

| MONTH  | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | SATURDAY |
|--------|---------|-----------|----------|
| March  | 3       | 4         | 14       |
| April  | 7       | 8         | 11       |
| May    | 5       | 6         | 9        |
| June   | 2       | 3         | 13       |
| July   | 7       | 8         | 11       |
| August | 4       | 5         | 8        |

### CONTACT US

Feel free to get in touch for more information via email [talltree@acciona.com](mailto:talltree@acciona.com) or call our freephone helpline on **1800 283 550**.

You can also visit our online community hub to find out more about our project at [community.acciona.com.au/talltree](https://community.acciona.com.au/talltree).



\*Engagement dates from September onwards will be provided later in the year