Tall Tree Wind Farm: Community Information Sessions - Questions Taken on Notice

August and September 2025

9 October 2025

About this document

This document details the responses to the questions taken on notice throughout the August and September 2025 Community Information Sessions held in Lethbridge, Teesdale, Meredith and Shelford. The responses to these questions have been compiled with technical input from colleagues in our community, business development, environment and planning, engineering and construction and operations teams.

How to navigate

This document has been ordered by each Community Information Session location. Some questions were asked at multiple information sessions, in this case they are reflected under the first session the questions were raised. A contents page with hyperlinks will take you to the questions asked in each session. Simply click on the location you are interested in.

Getting in touch

We want to stay in touch and continue to listen to the community – you can find out more about the project at our online community hub: https://community.acciona.com.au/talltree.

You can also get in touch by email at talltree@acciona.com, by phone at 1800 283550, or by post at PO Box 24110, Melbourne, VIC 3001.

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Please note that the responses provided are to the best of our current knowledge and are subject to change over time as the project progresses, consultation continues, and more information is gathered through further studies and assessments. The information included in the questions, which has been provided by community members, does not constitute ACCIONA's opinion and has not been verified.

Questions by Community Information Session location

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Community Question	Response
Meredith Community Information Session	
Do you know how far the shadow flicker goes out for MacIntyre Wind Farm?	Our MacIntyre Wind Farm has the same blade width (or 'chord length') of 4.3 metres as that proposed for the Tall Tree Wind Farm. As there are no existing neighbouring dwellings within 1,139.5m of a turbine for this project, no studies have been necessary following construction of the project as dwellings are outside the zone of influence.
Who determines that there is no shadow flicker impact beyond a certain point? And how current are the National Wind Farm Guidelines?	The shadow flicker assessment report for the Tall Tree Wind Farm project has been prepared in accordance with the methodology and considerations outlined in the Draft National Wind Farm Development Guidelines, prepared by the Environment Protection and Heritage Council and published in 2010. These guidelines provide a nationally consistent framework for assessing the environmental and amenity impacts associated with wind farm developments. Shadow flicker impact is considered moderate (or greater) when, from the location of a receptor, 50% or more of the sun is covered by the blade. The guidelines state that 265 x maximum chord length (4.3 m for Tall Tree Wind Farm) is the limit of the zone of visual influence, which is the area within which shadows may be perceptible, and shadow flicker may be moderate (or greater). Beyond this distance - 1,139.5m for Tall Tree Wind Farm - any shadow flicker is considered low intensity and will not exceed shadow flicker limits.
The current guidelines are outdated and don't reflect the realities of modern turbine technology. The increased height of today's turbines raises significant concerns about noise due to atmospheric differences at higher altitudes. These changes also introduce new risks, including barotrauma, shadow flicker, and blade glint, which are not adequately addressed in the existing framework. How are you addressing this in the current design?	Guidelines governing wind farm development are regularly reviewed by planning and compliance authorities to ensure they are still relevant to the realities of modern turbine technology. The Victorian Government's 'Planning Guidelines for Development of Wind Energy Facilities', created in September 2023, requires shadow flicker to be under 30 hours per year at each non-associated dwelling around the project. The National Draft Guidelines for Wind Farm Development published in 2010 outline best practice for modelling shadow flicker and have been adopted as industry standard. Although the method has been in use for 15 years, modelling software and understanding of the wind turbines had significantly improved. The modelling undertaken by Moir, the consultant engaged to produce a shadow flicker study for the EES referral, takes into consideration the maximum rotor diameter of 183 m, the maximum hub height for this rotor which complies with the maximum overall tip height of 250.5 metres (159 m), and the maximum blade chord width (4.3m). Shadow flicker modelling is based on geometry, including the position of the sun relative to the modelled wind turbine and local elevations over the

Community Question	Response
	course of a year. Noise regulation is subject to Victorian government guidelines issued in September 2023, with additional technical guidance updates provided by EPA in December 2024. The technical guidance utilises the New Zealand Standard for noise modelling, published in 2010, with Victoria-specific guidelines. Improvements have been made to noise modelling software and verification of modelling against observed operational noise, as well as significant improvements in methods of mitigating real-world wind turbine noise. Due to industry-standard low-reflectivity finishes for wind turbine blades, which have been in place for many years, blade glint is very unlikely to impact areas around the wind farm. The wind farm layout design and positioning takes into consideration neighbouring dwellings and potential impacts on these and the wider community. Such considerations have been taken into account as the design has evolved over the past few years, and will continue to be considered as we seek the relevant approvals for the project.
Where is the ecological assessment report Attachment 3A, Fatal Flaws Assessment and Critical Incident Analysis, and why wasn't it released with the EES?	A Fatal Flaws assessment was undertaken by ERM as the consultant engaged in the early investigation of the project to provide background and early understanding into the likely feasibility of the Tall Tree Wind Farm project. The studies undertaken for the Referral assessment have since superseded this information. The Fatal Flaws Assessment report was reviewed by EHP in the course of undertaking the work that is summarised in the report submitted with the EES referral; as its content and conclusions were not relied upon in EHP's findings, however, it has not been included in, or appended to, their report.
Has anyone studied how much material comes off a turbine each year? I've heard around 60 kg of fibre is shed annually, and now that fibreglass tank production has stopped, it's ending up in our wool, sheep, and water.	No fibreglass is shed from a wind turbine blade operating normally. The leading edge of a turbine blade (i.e. the curved part which first encounters the airstream as the rotor turns) can experience small levels of material erosion over time due to collisions with dust, ice and/or other particles in the air - similar to the wear that the paintwork on the front of a car may experience after years or decades of highway driving. The material eroded, however, is the outer coating of paint - the leading edge of a turbine blade is typically painted with a long lasting, hard wearing, non-toxic polymer paint. Each blade of every turbine is inspected periodically (typically annually) - via ground-based telescopic cameras or (increasingly) by drone - to ensure any erosion damage is not severe. If areas of concern are identified in these inspections, the blades are flagged for remedial maintenance which generally involves treatment and repainting of the leading edge. This will occur

Community Question	Response
	before there is a risk that the surface of the fibreglass is exposed (and therefore can be eroded). In very rare situations, such as the failure of a blade due to a manufacturing defect or an extreme lightning strike, there may be a risk of pieces of fibreglass or fibres falling from a turbine blade. This would result in the turbine being shut down until remedial work is undertaken. As part of this remedial work a full cleanup of the area around the damaged wind turbine would be undertaken to the satisfaction of the responsible authority (e.g. EPA) to collect and dispose of any fibreglass or other debris.
Lethbridge Community Information Session	
You released a video on 19 September about the planning process that gave incorrect information between 34–37 minutes. It mentioned going to VCAT—can you please clarify?	The Online Community Information Session on the 19th of September 2024 was delivered, based on our knowledge at that point, to explain the complex process of seeking and obtaining planning and environmental approvals. Due to the query raised we have taken down the video from the community hub while we seek clarification from the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP). We encourage anyone who wants to know more about the Victorian Planning process to visit the DTP website: https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/environmental-assessments
Shelford Community Information Session	
Every year wind turbines kill raptors. What about a preventative and proactive plan, rather than counting the dead birds? There is no way that the population in Victoria can be sustained, given the proliferation of wind farms in the state.	The recording of the presence and behaviour of birds, and raptors in particular, are central to the Bird and Bat Utilisation Studies which have been undertaken to date, and continue to be undertaken. The protection of vulnerable and endangered species through appropriate siting of wind turbines and other infrastructure is a key consideration which is informed by these studies. Technologies which actively monitor bird movements around operational wind turbines have been trialled around the world and parts of Australia - the appropriateness and potential benefits of these are under active consideration.
Can you guarantee on the record that we won't be impacted by noise or shadow flicker?	The proposed Tall Tree Wind Farm project will need to comply with current regulations. If the project cannot demonstrate that it can comply with regulated limits on noise and shadow flicker, we do not expect it will be approved. Likewise, if it exceeds these limits during operation, it will need to be rectified. Such rectification measures could include the shutdown of certain turbines under certain conditions (e.g. at certain times of day on certain days of the year for shadow flicker), and/or turbines operating in modified modes (e.g.

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	with a lower rotational velocity, which reduces noise emissions).
Would you make available what the composition of a turbine is?	The composition of the turbines for the proposed Tall Tree Wind Farm will depend on the final selection of turbine model. To find out more about Nordex Turbines please visit https://www.nordex-online.com/en/sustainable-products/ By way of example, below is some information available on the Nordex website relevant to the N163 turbine model (one of those under active consideration for the Tall Tree Wind Farm). The material mix for the Delta4000 N163/5.X turbine is: 80.4% concrete (turbine foundation) 16.3% steel (carbon steel, stainless steel, cast steel) 1.2% glass fibre/carbon fibre, reinforced plastic 0.6% polymers 0.2% copper 0.1% operating fluids <0.1% aluminium 1.0% other
In terms of the background noise decibel limit – what's an audible example of 40 decibels?	Noise is measured in decibels (or dB) - namely, sound intensity on a logarithmic scale. The level of noise at the threshold of hearing for a typical human is 0dB, and each increase of 3dB represents an approximate doubling of sound intensity (though human perception of 'loudness' generally equates to an increase of 10dB). A computer operating in standard conditions, or a modern refrigerator, would generally create a soft hum which is typically around 40dB. If the computer is working harder (e.g. the fan is running louder) or the refrigerator is older, the noise could be closer to 45dB. Further information regarding typical noise levels can be found online, such as here: https://noiseawareness.org/info-center/common-noise-levels/ It is worth noting that noise limits for wind farms under regulations apply to noise levels measured outside a dwelling. The barrier effect of walls and windows reduces the level of noise that can be heard inside a house.
We can't contact the ecologist that wrote the report, we should bring an ecologist.	We will be working to schedule a meeting with one of our ecology consultants to discuss the Ecological Assessment that was included as part of the Tall Tree Wind Farm project referral, for those community members that have expressed an interest.

Community Question	Response
Teesdale Community Information Session	
What happens during the middle of the operational phase, if there is no Tall Tree Wind Farm entity (i.e. ABN) and the parent company goes bankrupt?	ACCIONA Energía is a Spanish company and the largest 100% renewable energy company in the world. With over 20 years' experience in Australia, we pride ourselves on developing, building, owning and operating our energy projects. If, however, the project were to be sold (in whole or in part) at some point after planning permission was granted, or in the unlikely event of bankruptcy where project lenders stepped in, the new project owner(s) would be bound by the terms of the Lease Agreements in place with host landowners, as well as the environmental and planning approvals and obligations for the project. In the extremely unlikely scenario where no project owner exists, the obligation to remove the turbines typically reverts back to the owner of the land under the planning conditions.
Could ACCIONA be able to provide a liability impact and carbon footprint statement for the project?	A Life Cycle Assessment has been conducted for N163 at 159m hub height, one of the two turbine models under active consideration for the Tall Tree Wind Farm. This illustrated an impact of 9.52g CO2 equivalent per kWh produced over 20 years, a figure which reduces significantly with recycling of components and extending the design life to 35 years or beyond. Nordex are working to update their Life Cycle Assessments for the N175. The amount of energy that it takes to build, operate and decommission a wind farm is offset by the clean energy produced by that project in less than one year.