

**Tall Tree Wind Farm:
Community Ecology Webinar
Held on the 4th of February 2026
Questions taken on notice**



2 April 2026

About this document

This document details the responses to the questions taken on notice or requiring follow-up from the Community Ecology Webinar. The responses to these questions have been compiled with technical input from colleagues in our community, business development, environment and planning, engineering and construction, operations teams and where applicable, external consultants.

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.

Questions by Community from Community Ecology Session

FOLLOW-UP RESPONSES	4
QUESTIONS THAT WERE TAKEN ON NOTICE AT THE MEETING, PLEASE FIND THE RESPONSES BELOW:	6
RESPONSES PROVIDED BY NATURE ADVISORY	7
RESPONSES PROVIDED BY ACCONA ENERGÍA	7

Community Question	Response
Follow-up responses	
<p>Why is it ok to disturb the ground in the beginning but not when it comes to costly decommissioning?</p>	<p>Ground disturbance is unavoidable in areas where wind farm infrastructure is to be installed, including adjacent areas during construction. For planning and environmental approvals, any native vegetation or habitat values within this ‘impact corridor’ are considered permanently lost, and equivalent offsets must be obtained.</p> <p>In practice, some of the impacted areas may be able to be rehabilitated during the operational life of the wind farm, with a return of vegetation, habitat and/or economic values. By minimising work during the decommissioning period (e.g. by removing only those below-ground components which are less than a certain depth below the surface), the disturbance to these areas can be minimised.</p>
<p>Excavation in certain areas may expose Acid sulfate soils. When these soils are disturbed and oxidised, they can release acidic water into the groundwater system. Will there be soil experts permanently onsite during construction and beyond to monitor soil levels.</p>	<p>The project’s construction, operational, and decommissioning phases will each be governed by a comprehensive Environmental Management Plan, based on an assessment of environmental risks and appropriate corresponding controls. The potential for disturbing acid sulphate soils will be considered within this framework; with control measures put in place as needed to manage these risks and prevent impacts on groundwater and other systems.</p>
<p>As people who are passionate about wildlife, flora and fauna, do you think the destruction that is proposed for Deans Road is acceptable? Given that the surrounding properties there have not provided access, wouldn't it make more sense to save all the trees and habitat there and try an alternate route? Access is being denied to protect this very environment that you are expertly qualified in.</p>	<p>The project must consider environmental impacts as a whole, including how wildlife and fauna interact with the existing landscape, flora present, and habitats it may provide. Data is necessary to ensure adherence to the mitigation hierarchy of avoid, minimise, mitigate, and offset. All surveys conducted to date or ongoing have adhered to the relevant guidelines, and there will be no vegetation removal in areas that were not surveyed or where access was not granted.</p> <p>Measures will be taken to reduce impacts to the Dean’s Road corridor to the maximum extent possible during the proposed underground cabling works within this road reserve. This may include trenching in the shoulder of the road pavement to avoid the vegetated edges of the road reserve, and placing multiple cable runs in the same trench (where suitable trench depths can be achieved). There remains, however, the risk of vegetation loss within the 1000m section where trenching is proposed.</p> <p>Acciona’s preference is to avoid impacts wherever possible – in the case of Dean’s road this has included thorough investigation of several alternative routes over the past several years. Unfortunately securing access to and easement over an adjacent private property, which would likely have avoided vegetation impacts, has not been possible.</p>

Community Question	Response
<p>Following on from my soil question, how detailed is the soil monitoring? If this project goes ahead, the mycelium network will be disturbed. The relationship between plants and fungi will be interrupted. How do you plan to avoid/mitigate / monitor & ultimately restore and support this important aspect of the environment?</p>	<p>An assessment of the geological conditions at the Project will be conducted to identify the geological formations present. This will include field walkovers, soil, and rock sampling. Before construction begins, a comprehensive geotechnical investigation will be carried out to inform both the project design and the Environmental Management Plans for construction and operation. Once risks and impacts are identified through this study, recommendations for avoidance, mitigation, and management measures can be considered to ensure that no further effects occur and that the risk of environmental harm is minimised.</p>
<p>Why are the ecologists always spotted on the roadside when they could and should be accessing host properties to conduct more thorough investigations? And getting closer to the wetlands that are mentioned as being not accessed?</p>	<p>All surveys that have been conducted to date or are ongoing have followed the relevant guidelines (Commonwealth or State), DEECA's advice where necessary, and include surveying in numerous seasons. The Ecologists have been completing Bird Utilisation Surveys (BUS) within road reserves, which not only provide habitat for local and migratory birds in the vegetation within them, but also provide the ecologists with visual access to the adjacent paddocks, which are largely clear of trees.</p>
<p>Some consequences of low frequency to fauna include lower reproductive success , weakened immune function , reduced growth or survival over time. Given that low frequency travels well through soil , rock and vegetation what is your mitigation to ensure this does not occur?</p>	<p>As part of the biodiversity surveys being undertaken for the project, the data collected provides a picture of how fauna are using the area. Studies into all potential impact pathways are taken into account in the assessment of potential effects on biodiversity. If a particular species will be negatively impacted from the project, management measures will be considered.</p>
<p>The study is incomplete. The landscape has changed dramatically since this initial report. Golden Plains Wind Farm (accumulation of turbines impact, definite increase in our bird life in our area) and fires.</p>	<p>The report provided by EHP for the EES referral in June 2025 was a summary of the studies which had been undertaken to that point. Numerous studies have been ongoing since then – including Bird Utilisation Surveys – and will be included in the biodiversity assessment which forms part of the Environment Effects Statement for the project (anticipated submission later this year).</p>
<p>You didn't mention how many actual turbines and infrastructure are impacting the Golden Sun Moth.</p> <p>Turbines 9, 10 Fig 12a, 33, 34,35,38,39,44,45,45p 46,51 Fig 12b</p> <p>Concrete batching plant and compounds: Newly released map Meredith/Shelford/Lower Plains. How can so many turbines be allowed to impact their habitat?</p>	<p>The Golden Sun Moth is a species listed as Vulnerable under the Federal EPBC act (previously listed as Critically Endangered). Studies undertaken to date have confirmed the presence of, and suitable habitat for, this species at a number of locations within the site. The layout design has been updated to avoid impacts to the habitat of this species as much as possible, and further work will be done to minimise impacts during detailed design and construction. Any residual impacts will need to be offset either by securing suitable offsets within the project site, or via offsite offset agreements.</p>
<p>The density (number of turbines in a small area), turbine layout, and siting of this project result in the complete loss of safe habitat for all local bird</p>	<p>The presence of local and migratory bird life in the project area will be informed by the Bird Utilisation Surveys that have been conducted onsite over the past few years. The potential</p>

Community Question	Response
<p>life, of at least 100 square kilometres. Bird life in Australia is already in rapid decline. If it is a sinful thing to dispossess our First Nations people's from their traditional hunting grounds and home ranges, how is it ethical to dispossess our Raptor and Falcon classes of Avifauna, who absolutely rely on high winds environments to survive. The wind farm companies are selectively taking the same high wind areas the Raptors and Falcons and many other species of birds need, in the name of green energy. How is it ethical to dispossess these birds who cannot speak for themselves. How is it ethical to destroy hundreds of square kilometres of habitat on which the Raptors and Falcons rely. They cannot live anywhere else.</p>	<p>impacts of the project on bird life – including that of raptor populations – will be based on this, as well as evidence-based studies of the impacts of similar projects and will be considered in the assessment of the project.</p>
<p>There are platypus all along the Leigh river at this site and you only found one dead one? I have 4 - 5 peregrine falcon nests and caves full of bats. I have not seen anyone there at all. Also, 3 eagles next within 60 mtrs, which I have never seen before. The bird life has doubled at home. We have wind turbines from Mt. Mercer to Rokewood to the west.</p>	<p>We do not anticipate any direct impacts on the Leigh River from the project. The discovery of a platypus skull in a section of Wilson Creek near where it meets the Leigh River occurred during other surveys in the area rather than as part of a targeted search for the platypus. Following EHP's desktop assessment of previously recorded species in the region, including recent and historic Platypus records in the Leigh River, the species was noted as present. As such, no targeted surveys were necessary to determine their presence.</p> <p>Regarding information that neighbours to the project site can provide, specifically about the presence of certain native species and communities, we would very much appreciate receiving this information so it can be considered in the project studies and inform risk assessments for potential impacts. The presence of caves along rivers and creeks to the west of the project, which may provide habitat for bats, has been raised several times during community engagement, but no further details have been provided to date – we would be very keen to receive more information so this can be verified.</p>
<p>Questions that were taken on notice at the meeting, please find the responses below:</p>	
<p>Comment (underestimating impacts). The impact on native vegetation appears to be underestimated. A Mapped Wetland (considered Native Vegetation under Victoria's native vegetation policy) has not been accounted for, and there appears to be some mapping errors leading to under-representation of native vegetation.</p>	<p>Updates on this matter will be included in the EES Biodiversity report submission.</p>

Community Question	Response
Responses provided by Nature Advisory	
<p>Page 18 indicates that Level 2 Consultation for your Brolga studies consisted of consultation with 17 landholders within the wind farm. The community consultation was held from 18th – 30th March 2022.</p> <p>How is this a true and correct representation of community consultation? <i>(Reference to this question is made below with a response provided by ACCIONA Energía.)</i></p>	<p>The community consultation was conducted to determine whether landholders within the wind farm site had ever seen Brolgas on their properties. Eighteen landholders were contacted, of which 17 replied. This response rate (94%) is considered very high and representative of the community. “Community” in this case refers to landholders within the wind farm site. Golden Plains Shire and Corangamite Catchment Management Authority were also consulted.</p>
<p>Do you believe that this is an acceptable form of consultation? Do any of the hosts hold degrees in ecology to be able to ascertain birdlife species to your knowledge? If so, what degrees are held and by whom?</p>	<p>The consultation was run by ecologists from Nature Advisory with experience in Brolga work. All had relevant qualifications, such as a Bachelor of Science or equivalent or greater. Brolgas are an unmistakable species. There is little chance that qualifications would make a difference to the identification of Brolgas. The reports of landholders were taken at face value and there is no way to verify that they identified birds correctly. However, there are no similar species with which misidentification is likely.</p> <p>There was only one report of Brolgas: A pair of birds seen once in a paddock, possibly feeding, sometime between 1988-1990 near Deans Road and Meredith-Shelford Road. It was noted that conditions were wetter than normal. These Brolgas were not observed to be nesting or breeding.</p>
Responses Provided by ACCONA Energía	
<p>How many aerial surveys were conducted and during which years? You only mention of one aerial survey.</p>	<p>A single aerial survey was carried out on 9 November 2023. No Brolgas were observed.</p>
<p>The community consultation was held from 18th – 30th March 2022. How is this a true and correct representation of community consultation?</p>	<p>We understand this question refers to the consultation undertaken as part of the Brolga studies for the project, where phone calls to local landowners was undertaken to understand historical presence or sightings of Brolgas.</p> <p>The March 2022 consultation was only a small part of the Brolga assessment for the project – and indeed the community consultation more broadly. Historical records for the area have been reviewed, and two years of onsite Brolga breeding season studies have been undertaken. An interactive map has been live on the project website since March 2024 allowing members of the public to identify areas of sensitivity in and around the project, including Brolga sightings.</p>
<p>With the overlays that run along the western side of the project, including Environment Significance, Significant Landscape and a Rural</p>	<p>Overlays are an important consideration in approving any major development. The Tall Tree wind farm proposal will need to address the requirements and guidelines for each of</p>

Community Question	Response
conservation zone. How can you allow building turbines in these zones.	these overlays in seeking its planning and environmental approvals.