



Fact sheet

# Wind Farms

## Decommissioning a wind farm

We commit to responsible decommissioning of infrastructure and site rehabilitation at the end of the operational life of the wind farm.

When decommissioning, we aim to sustainably reuse, repurpose, recycle, recover and responsibly dispose of our wind farm infrastructure in ways that will support Australia's circular economy.

### **Who is responsible to decommission the wind farm?**

As the owner of the wind farm, we are responsible for decommissioning the site at the end of the project's life and we take on the financial cost to do so. The landowner or local community bear no responsibility or obligation to decommission any part of the wind farm.

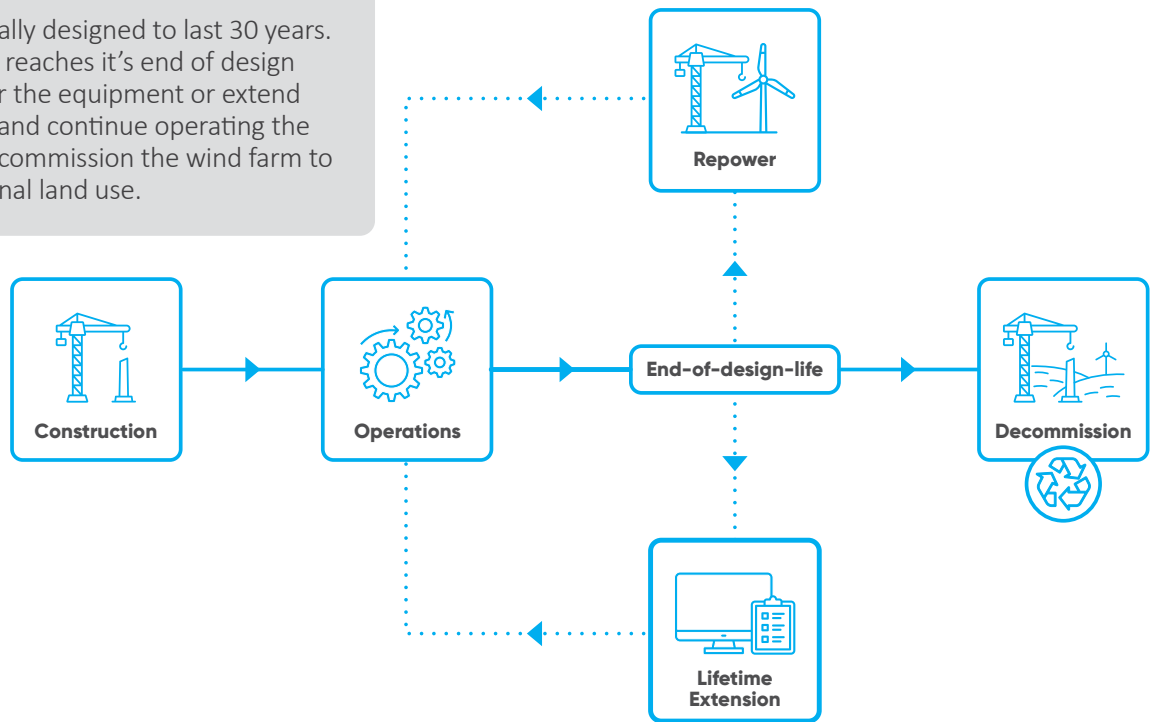
The regulators may impose additional decommissioning and rehabilitation obligations through the development approval process.

The decommissioning process may involve:

- Preparing a decommissioning plan that details the decommissioning process.
- Establishing a decommissioning fund years before the end of the wind farm's design life to cover the cost of decommissioning. The amount we are required to set aside in the decommissioning fund can be determined by an independent cost assessment, to ensure there are enough funds to complete the job.
- Dismantling and removing the wind turbines.
- Removing related infrastructure (unless the host landowner requests that infrastructure be retained on site and our development approval conditions allow for this).
- Covering and revegetating roads and foundations.

## Decommission Process

Wind farms are usually designed to last 30 years. After the wind farm reaches its end of design life we may repower the equipment or extend the operational life and continue operating the wind farm or we decommission the wind farm to restore it to its original land use.



## Can wind turbines be recycled?

We are committed to repurpose and recycle our wind turbines at their end of life in ways that will benefit our environment and support Australia's circular economy.

Up to 98% of a wind turbine's large metal components (such as the tower sections, cast iron frame, and nacelle) and 95% of other major parts (generator, gearbox, cables, and yaw system) can be recycled.

Wind turbine blades have been challenging to recycle due to the use of epoxy resin in the blade, which is a hard and durable plastic. Many major wind turbine and blade manufacturers are now working on technologies that increase their recyclability and avoid landfill, and we would look to employ such technologies to the extent they become available in the future.

## Provide feedback

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## Need more information

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