



Fact sheet

Wind Farms

Managing biodiversity

We are committed to minimising the impact of our wind farms on the environment and biodiversity.

Detailed environmental assessments are required to obtain state and Commonwealth approval to construct and operate our wind farm. We undertake these assessments to help us understand the existing biodiversity on site, potential impacts caused by the project, and ways to avoid or minimise them.

We follow the ‘avoid, minimise, offset’ principles. We will design the wind farm to avoid and minimise biodiversity impacts by means such as carefully siting project infrastructure, and creating exclusion zones and wildlife corridors.

Where impacts cannot be avoided, we will mitigate them through environmental offsets that will preserve the habitat of the impacted species. This involves securing land at another site and managing that land over time to benefit those impacted species.

A bird and bat risk assessment will be prepared as part of the development application. Impacts will be assessed against the relevant state and federal conservation acts. These assessments will

inform our Bird and Bat Adaptive Management Plan to help us to monitor and manage any potential impacts to bird and bat species during the construction and operation of our wind farm.

How will Equis manage any biosecurity impacts?

We understand the importance of biosecurity and the risks to farming, environment and social amenity caused by poor biosecurity practices. We employ strict biosecurity measures to stop the introduction or spread of invasive plant species in an area.

As part of the early feasibility studies for our project, we agree on an access protocol with the landowners to ensure appropriate biosecurity protection measures are undertaken by project teams when entering a property.

We will prepare an environmental management plan to demonstrate the wind farm’s compliance with the strict environmental requirements under the state and Commonwealth planning approval conditions.

The environmental management plan will define control measures for the construction period which may include:

- Surveys needed to identify high risk areas.
- Marked construction corridors and exclusion areas (to avoid driving off-road and/or seasonal restrictions to areas).
- Vehicle and machinery clean down procedures, including:
 - vehicle and machinery inspections, checklists, and certificates.
 - washdown bays and clean down facilities for vehicles and machinery moving between sensitive areas.
- Limits and restriction on the movement of topsoil during construction.
- Requirements for runoff and drainage design to help prevent the spread of invasive plants.
- Obligations for timely rehabilitation of any areas temporarily disturbed by construction activities.
- Training and awareness including site inductions for all site personnel.

Do wind farm developments have special exemptions to clear vegetation?

Generally no. When constructing a wind farm, developers have to comply with the requirements of the planning permits issued by government authorities. Such planning permits will ordinarily limit the amount and types of vegetation that may be cleared for the purpose of the project.

Provide feedback

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