

Environment Effects Statement now on exhibition

Public comment invited

Neoen Australia Pty Ltd (Neoen) (ABN 57 160 905 706) has prepared an Environment Effects Statement (EES) for the Kentbruck Green Power Hub Project (the Project).

The EES, together with the draft Planning Schedule Amendment (PSA) (C116GELG) are now available for public comment for a period of 30 business days.

This notice is provided pursuant to the *Environment Effects Act 1978* (Vic) (EE Act), the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act) and *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (PE Act). Written submissions on the EES and draft PSA can be made between Tuesday 28 January 2025 and 11:59pm on Tuesday 11 March 2025.

Project Description

The Project is a proposed 600 megawatt (MW) wind farm in south west Victoria being developed by Neoen. The wind farm is predominantly located in an actively harvested pine plantation and connects into the grid at the Heywood Terminal Station. The project includes: 105 wind turbines; on site electrical substations; weather stations; on site quarry; 26.6km 275kV underground transmission line; concrete batching plants; power and water supply infrastructure; and site facilities including site offices and car park facilities.

If the Project gains all required approvals, construction is anticipated to begin in 2026.

EES Process

The Project was referred to the Victorian Minister for Planning on 24 July 2019 in accordance with Section 8(3) of the EE Act. On 25 August 2019, the Minister determined that an EES is required for the project due to the potential for significant environmental effects. On 7 November 2019, the Commonwealth Government determined that approval would be required under the EPBC Act and accredited the EES proves for the related assessment. In December 2019, the former Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) issued draft Scoping Requirements for the Project's EES for public comment. Following consideration of feedback, the final Scoping Requirements were issued, and identified the matters to be investigated and documented in the EES.

The Project requires approval under the EPBC Act, *PE Act*, *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* (Vic) (AH Act), and the *Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990* (Vic) (MSRD Act). These key approval processes have been underway in parallel with the preparation of the EES, including the PSA, and Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP).

Additional approvals required include a consent from Parks Victoria pursuant to Section 27 of the *National Parks Act 1975* (Vic) (NP Act), a licence from Department of Environment Energy and Climate Action (DEECA) pursuant to Section 52(1C)(f) of the *Forests Act 1958* (Vic), a permit pursuant to Section 48 of the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* (Vic) (FFG Act), authorisation under the *Wildlife Act 1975* (Vic), a permit pursuant to Section 51 of the *Water Act 1989* (Vic), a permit in accordance with Section 67 of the *Water Act 1989* (Vic), and consents under Section 63 of the *Road Management Act 2004* (Vic).

The EES process is accredited to assess impacts on Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) under the EPBC Act through the Bilateral Assessment Agreement between the Commonwealth and the State of Victoria. The Commonwealth Minister or delegate will decide whether the project is approved, approved with conditions or refused under the EPBC Act, after having considered the Minister for Planning's assessment under the EE Act.

The Victorian Minister for Planning will provide a final assessment of the effects of the project following public exhibition of the EES and a subsequent inquiry.

This EES has considered MNES for making a determination under the EPBC Act. You can make a submission on the matters assessed for the purposes of the relevant provisions under the EPBC Act, by making a submission on the EES.

After considering the Victorian Minister for Planning's assessment under the EE Act, the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment will make a determination whether to approve the Controlled Action under the EPBC Act.

Procedures for the EES were published in 2019 and are available on the DTP website at: planning.vic.gov.au/environmental-assessments/browse-projects/kentbruck-green-power-hub.

You can also read more about the EES process for the project at the above link.

Any person may make a written submission on the EES and draft PSA during the exhibition process. All such submissions will be treated as submissions on the EES.

How to Make a Submission

Anyone can make a submission on the EES and the draft PSA. Submissions must be made in writing and be received by 11.59pm on Tuesday 11 March 2025.

Submissions can be lodged via the Victorian Government's Engage Victoria website at: engage.vic.gov.au/Kentbruck-IAC.

If you do not have internet access and are unable to lodge a submission online contact Planning Panels Victoria (PPV) through the DEECA Customer Call Centre on 136 186 (select option 6) and request a hardcopy submission coversheet.

Submissions will be treated as public documents and will be published on the Engage Victoria website.

The submission process is independently managed by PPV and any enquiries regarding the management of submissions and the Inquiry and Advisory Committee and Hearing process should be directed to PPV.

The Inquiry and Advisory Committee Process

The Minister for Planning will appoint an independent Inquiry and Advisory Committee (IAC) to conduct a public hearing commencing in the week beginning 19 May 2025 and expected to run for 5–7 weeks (as required).

The IAC will hold a Directions Hearing on Tuesday, 1 April 2025 to consider the arrangements and timetable for the public hearing.

If you want to present to the IAC you will need to make a written submission, and mark on the online submission form that you would like to be heard.

The IAC will review all the submissions, the EES and draft PSA before providing advice to the Minister for planning. The scope of the IAC is guided by Terms of Reference issued by the Minister for Planning.

Information on the hearing process and timetable will be published as it becomes available at engage.vic.gov.au/Kentbruck-IAC.

How to access the EES and Exhibited Documents

The EES and the draft PSA application are now available to read and download at kentbruckgreenpowerhub.com.au.

Hard copies of the EES and the draft PSA will be made available at the following locations during the exhibition period:

Neoen Portland Office
111 Bentinck Street, Portland

Nelson Visitor Information Centre
Leake Street, Nelson

Department of Energy, Environment, and Climate Action
8 Nicholson Street, Melbourne

Glengelg Shire Council
71 Cliff Street, Portland

State Library of Victoria
328 Swanson Street, Melbourne

You can request a USB loaded with the complete EES and draft PSA from Neoen at any time during the public exhibition period.

For those who cannot access either physical or electronic sites to view the EES and draft PSA, hard copies may be requested and purchased from Neoen at cost by:
email: kentbruckgreenpowerhub@neoen.com
or calling: 1800 966 206.

Drop In Sessions

The office in Portland will be open Monday 4pm to 7pm and Saturday 11am to 2pm, staffed by a local Community Liaison. The CFA Hall in Nelson will also be staffed Friday 5pm to 7pm. Drop-in sessions with the wider Project Team will be held by the Proponent at the following locations and times:

Portland Yacht Club
12pm–2pm, Tuesday 11th February
55 Lee Breakwater Road, Portland

Mount Richmond Hall
4pm–6pm, Tuesday 11th February
Portland-Nelson Road, Mount Richmond

Heywood Community Meeting Room
12pm–2pm, Wednesday 12th February
77 Edgar Street, Heywood

Nelson CFA Hall
4pm–6pm, Wednesday 12th February
28 N Nelson Road, Nelson

Questions

In relation to the Project or EES Documentation

Neoen Australia Pty Ltd (Proponent)
Level 7 / 99 King Street
Melbourne, VIC 3000
1800 966 206
contact@kentbruckgreenpowerhub.com.au

In relation to making a submission or the Inquiry and Advisory Committee Process

Planning Panels Victoria
136 186 (select option 6)
planning.panels@transport.vic.gov.au

In relation to the EES Process

Impact Assessment Unit, DTP
environment.assessment@transport.vic.gov.au