

Western Renewables Link – Environment Effects Statement and Planning Scheme Amendment

The Victorian Minister for Planning has approved the Planning Scheme Amendment (PSA) for the Western Renewables Link (WRL), marking another significant milestone for the project. This follows the recent release of the Minister's assessment of the project's Environment Effects Statement (EES) under the *Environment Effects Act 1978*.

The Minister's assessment completed the public review and assessment phase of the EES process and will inform subsequent planning and approval decisions for the project. The approval of the PSA is the primary planning approval for WRL and establishes the planning controls that would govern the project's design, construction and operation.

We appreciate that these processes have been lengthy and challenging for the local community.

We thank and acknowledge the landholders, community members, technical experts and many stakeholders for their valuable contributions and engagement throughout the transparent and thorough EES process, particularly those who took part in the public hearing.

What this means

The Minister found that the environmental impacts of the project are acceptable on balance, with implementation of the environmental management framework, environmental performance requirements and other recommendations within the assessment.

This includes doing further work recommended in the Darley area to investigate possible opportunities to further minimise environmental risks in the area, particularly those relating to landscape and local views, biodiversity, social and bushfire concerns.

The approval of the PSA enables certain preparatory activities to proceed. However, construction remains subject to the remaining State and Federal environmental approvals.

We will now work through the recommendations and seek the necessary approvals.



The full assessment can be viewed online at:

www.planning.vic.gov.au/environmental-assessments/browse-projects/western-renewables-link

PSA gazettal can be viewed at:

www.gazette.vic.gov.au/gazette/Gazettes2026/GG2026S554.pdf

What happens next for the project

The planning controls that will govern the project's construction and operation are informed by an amendment to the Northern Grampians, Pyrenees, Ballarat, Hepburn, Moorabool and Melton planning schemes.

Approval of the PSA is a key planning milestone but further approvals are required before construction can commence, including:

- Approval under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act*
- Cultural heritage approvals
- Permits and consents to manage impacts on waterways, flora and fauna

Once the required approvals are achieved, the project can move into construction.

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More information

Visit the project website westernrenewableslink.com.au for the latest project information.

TELUS Health

We recognise this project is causing uncertainty and concern for landholders and communities. We have engaged independent and confidential counselling services to support community members affected by the project.

You can contact TELUS Health on 1300 360 364 or Rural Financial Counselling Service (RFCS) on 1300 735 578. Please refer to the project website for more services.

Need assistance to contact us?



If you need an interpreter, please call 13 14 50.



If you are deaf and/or find hearing or speaking with people on the phone difficult, please contact the National Relay Service on voice relay number 1300 555 727, TTY number 133 677 or SMS relay number 0423 677 767.

Contact us

 westernrenewableslink.com.au
 1800 WRL WRL (975 975)
 info@westernrenewableslink.com.au

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