

PROJECT INFORMATION UPDATE

March 2025

Context

WGEH continues to progress its multi-phased wind, solar and green hydrogen development, which is located on Mirning traditional lands across the Dundas Shire and the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder.

This broadsheet provides an information update on key aspects of the Western Green Energy Hub (WGEH) project, and direct website access links to more detailed material. General project information available here – www.wgeh.com.au

Referral to environmental regulators

Over several years, WGEH has undertaken extensive surveys and investigations across its SE Goldfields project area. This has included critical wind and solar monitoring; flora and fauna studies, including in the marine and karst environments; and cultural heritage investigations.

The collected information has formed the basis of documentation that was submitted to both the State and the Commonwealth environmental regulators, as part of the required Environmental Impact Assessment process. Each set of documents was available for public comment.

In the case of the State, this is the Environment Protection Authority (EPA). For the Commonwealth, the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) is responsible for providing advice ahead of a decision by the Minister for Environment.

The regulators have subsequently considered this documentation and decided that a formal assessment is required, and have both prescribed what that level of respective assessment should be.

Environmental referral outcomes

Western Australia

In November 2024, WGEH received approval from the EPA the level at which its project will be assessed under the State's Environmental Protection Act 1986.

The EPA has requested WGEH undertake a **Public Environmental Review (PER)** which, as the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) progresses, ensures a robust and transparent process. This requires further technical study by WGEH, as well as provides extra opportunities for public and stakeholder input.

Commonwealth

In March 2025, WGEH received advice that that the Federal Minister for Environment has agreed to the assessment of its project under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act).

Due to the presence of protected matters in the project area, WGEH will be assessed as a controlled action, with related provisions to help guide further assessment. The assessment has been designated as an **Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)**.

Further technical study is required and the assessment involves extra opportunity for public comment.

Next steps

The next stage of environmental assessment requires a range of investigations and technical studies, many of which WGEH has already commenced. The resulting information will continue to inform WGEH on species, ecosystems and other values that are protected or particularly sensitive.

These advanced studies will also guide a primary avoidance strategy, meaning related areas can be totally avoided and buffer zones introduced to ensure there is no physical development overlay nor impact.

Over several months, as required by the EIA process, all necessary information will be compiled into final reporting documents. These will be available both for public comment and for assessment by relevant State and Commonwealth regulators and Ministers.

Summary

Despite WGEH concentrating its Stage 1 development closer to Eucla, the EIA covers the whole of the project area. The resulting information will ensure impact is minimised, an absolute priority through each phase of development.

The land requirements of the key project elements have been estimated and, even with the deployment of wind turbines and solar panels, the footprint on the Tableland will be minimal. Coastal infrastructure will also be consolidated.

The Western Australian Nullarbor has not been studied in detail and is often under-represented in State and Federal data sources. The continuing investigative work for the WGEH project will add significant value to these.

Major Project Status

The WGEH project will have the capacity to make a significant difference locally, regionally and nationally, as well as position Australia globally in the emerging green hydrogen sector.

This capacity has recently been recognised by the Federal Minister for Industry and Science, who has granted **Major Project Status** for the WGEH project, particularly as it aligns with the Future Made in Australia plan and contributes to the National Hydrogen Strategy.

Major Project Status recognises projects that are economically significant to Australia and facing complex regulatory challenges. These projects get extra support from the Australian Government, via the Major Projects Facilitation Agency.

This process parallels the **Lead Agency** support provided to the project by the Western Australian Government, via the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation.

On-going engagement

WGEH will continue a range of key stakeholder engagements, for example with local government, Government agencies, and interested communities and community groups.

If extra information is required, or to pass a comment, please contact us via the WGEH website – www.wgeh.com.au