

PROJECT INFORMATION UPDATE

August 25

Context

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

This broadsheet continues the WGEH information series on key aspects of the project, with earlier updates and general information available from the website – www.wgeh.com.au

Environmental surveys

The WGEH project area has historically been poorly surveyed across fauna, flora and ecological communities; both in the terrestrial and marine settings. The last significant survey of the broad Hampton Tablelands and Roe Plain took place close to 40 years ago.

To help understand and shape the future footprint of the project, WGEH has been collecting a wide range of environmental data for the past four years. When combined with the further studies required by State and Federal regulators, WGEH will have undertaken the largest ever environmental data collection within that area.

Some examples of the studies that WGEH has already completed include:

- The mapping of ocean organisms and habitat.
- The survey of wind, wave and current conditions.
- Detailed flora and vegetation surveys.
- Southern Hairy-nosed Wombat surveys.



Comprehensive WGEH environmental surveys will continue under the guidance set by government regulators. The Western Australian Environment Protection Authority (EPA) will oversee compliance with a Public Environmental Review (PER) and the Commonwealth, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) will oversee an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Environmental Scoping Documents (ESD) outline environmental survey requirements for both the state and commonwealth. The state ESD has been formally approved by the EPA and is available from the EPA website - www.epa.wa.gov.au/proposals/western-green-energy-hub The DCCEEW scoping document is currently under final review.

The environmental surveys are important and useful

For the WGEH project to receive approval from the environmental regulators, studies required for the PER and EIS need to be undertaken, with data collected and interpreted. The extensiveness of these processes means that approvals will not be finalised for the next couple of years.

The usefulness of the collected environmental data goes well beyond its contribution to Western Australia's regional knowledge bank and as an information source for future generations. It specifically assists, at a landscape scale, how WGEH plans its project, how impacts are minimised, and how environmental offsets are provided for those features that are impacted.

In line with our core mitigation strategy of avoidance, this includes identifying those important areas that will be completely avoided. For example, designated buffer zones around key karst features; and having zero ground water abstraction, instead using options that desalinate seawater.

WGEH avoidance of important features is also made easier due to the large available land area and the flexibility we have with the footprint positioning of our future infrastructure. The proposed total indicative footprint of our project will disturb less than 5% of the total land area, leaving the remaining 95% undisturbed.

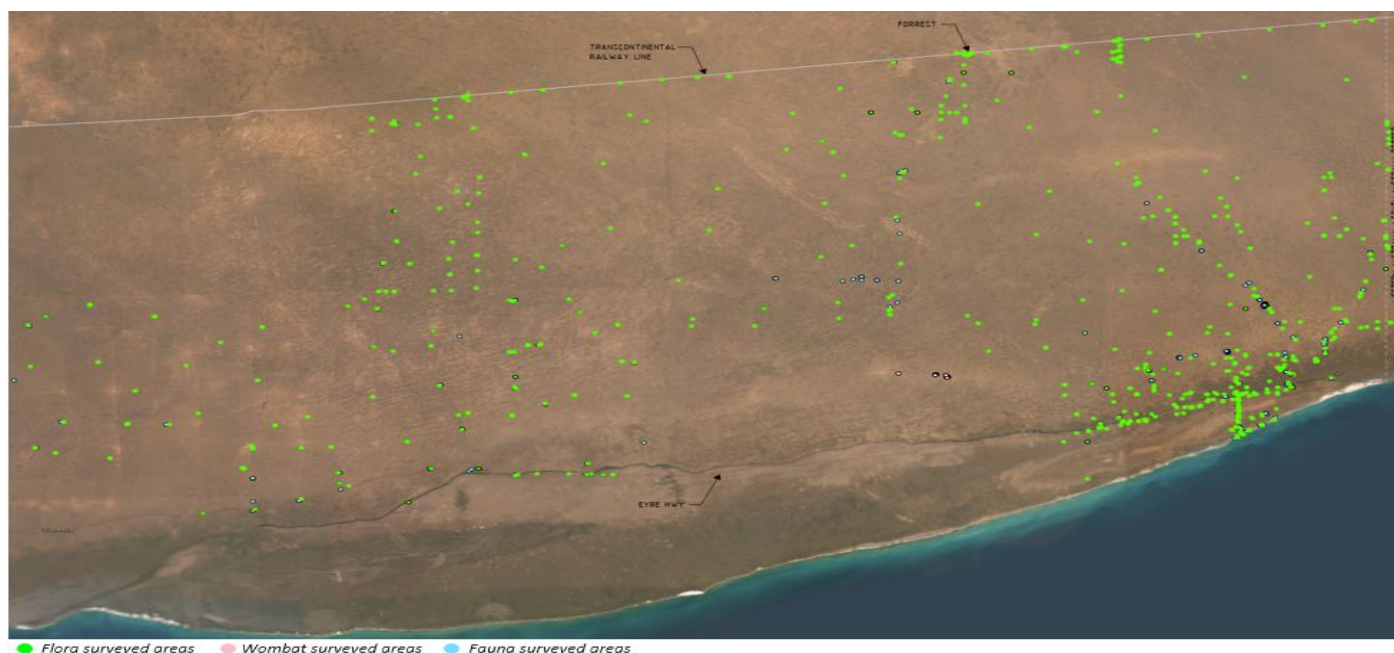


Figure 1 – WGEH environmental studies 2021-2025

The collected environmental information, some about culturally significant landscape features and flora and fauna; and ocean organisms and habitat, is available to the WA Mirning People Aboriginal Corporation (RNTBC). This information may assist with in-depth site understanding and delivery of healthy country plans, as well as complement information that will be collected as part of joint management responsibilities for the South Coast (Mirning) Marine Park

Based on appropriate information, WGEH is also committed to establish ecological initiatives that will undo past degradation and species loss.

Surrounding locations and communities, both existing and newly developing, may benefit from access to key terrestrial and marine information. For example, informed decisions on suitable flora and fauna for streetscapes; fire management regimes; and beach and dune management.

On- going engagement

WGEH will continue a range of key stakeholder engagements, for example with local government, State Government agencies, and in interested communities including Eucla, Norseman, Esperance and Ceduna.

WGEH will also update via in – person briefings and newsletters, the regularity of which will depend on what is happening with the project and the levels of interest. To the extent that we are able, if more information is required, please contact us via the WGEH website – www.wgeh.com.au