

From: [Monica Revell](#)
To: [Ross Johns](#)
Cc: [Info](#)
Subject: RE: Renewables
Date: Thursday, 20 February 2025 5:22:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
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Good Afternoon Ross,

Thank you for your email in relation to renewables. We agree that Yarriambiack position statement in relation to renewables, mining, and transmission lines is considered and makes their position clear.

We wish to acknowledge your recommendation for independent environmental and noise amenity background testing. Council will be developing its own position statement on the issues of renewables, mining, and transmission lines, and will need to carefully consider and discuss the recommendation for independent environmental and noise amenity background testing as part of a future budget development process.


We also acknowledge the concerns you raise about the absence of building permits for large-scale renewable projects and the safety risks of wind turbines and battery installations, along with potential insurance and health risks posted by battery installations, particularly in fire-prone areas. We will certainly take these matters into account as we develop our position.

Kind regards
Monica



Monica Revell (She/Her) | Chief Executive Officer
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 Hindmarsh Shire Council acknowledges the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagalk Nations as Traditional Owners of Country.

 We recognise the important ongoing role that Indigenous people have in our community and pay our respects to their Elders, past and present.



Hindmarsh Shire Council is committed to providing a safe and welcoming environment for all people to participate, including those with diverse sexualities and genders.



Hindmarsh Shire Council is a member of the Communities of Respect and Equality (CoRE) alliance partnership that shares a vision of safe, equal, and respectful communities in the region.

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From: Ross Johns [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 7 February 2025 11:04 AM
To: Info <info@hindmarsh.vic.gov.au>
Subject: Renewables

Monica Revell and Council, We would like to commend Yarrambiack Council for the excellent work they have embarked on, with the position on “Renewables, Mining and Transmission lines”. The Yarrambiack independent and rational consideration of the proposed significant, changes to our regions risks and amenity.

Given the rushed and poorly planned process adopted by Government, it is essential we conduct independent environmental and noise amenity background work.

The environmental work will need to be conducted over a 12 month period to account for migratory and some nomadic species. With a full environmental survey of the Hindmarsh swamps and bush land areas, grasses, shrubs and trees, through each of the seasons. We may need your assistance in this work to ensure the thoroughness and quality.

We will also be conducting independent acoustics background testing around occupied dwellings close to Warracknabeal and Wilkur Energy Parks . We highly recommend Hindmarsh Council does the same for urban areas of Nhill (3) and Jeparit(2), if conducted at the same time significantly discounted rates will apply.

We also highly recommend that Councils building inspectors oversee the quality and workmanship of these enormous structures. The purpose of doing so is to ensure multinational corporations, driven by profits do not compromise the safety of workers, residents or tourists to our region.

I also reference the below quote from the, “Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner”, website around safety and permits;
“Finally, large scale renewable projects do not currently require a building permit as the structures do not correlate to existing National Construction Code. Therefore, the regular checks and balances provided for by a building permit that is in place when building, say, a 50-storey building, are currently not present when constructing a fleet of say, 280 metre tip height wind turbines. The rationale for excluding large-scale renewable from requiring a building permit should be re-assessed to determine whether a revision is appropriate.”

[Health and Safety Matters
aeic.gov.au](https://www.aeic.gov.au)

We also believe the insurance and health risks around battery installations require some closer scrutiny. Most renewables projects will likely have battery storage close by in high fire prone areas. The 2 proposed batteries for the Warracknabeal Energy Park could easily be in the half a billion dollar range and pose significant risk to all residents. Including insurance risks and health risks if consumed by fire with resulting smoke impacting Warracknabeal residents.

Our organisation highly values, proper process and ethical personal and corporate conduct. We fear the reason, government has short cut community safeguards, of building and planning is to build structures that don't comply with any existing building rules or in-fact have significant structural defects. No resident or land owner can build a house, shed or any planning scheme change without Council building inspection or complying with planning rules.

Yours sincerely,

Ross Johns

Wimmera Mallee Environmental and Agricultural Protection Association.

Sent from my iPad