



EES Technical Studies Liveability and Amenity

This factsheet provides an overview of the Liveability and Amenity based studies that will be assessed through our Environment Effects Statement (EES)



Port of Hastings Corporation (PoHC) is required to prepare an Environment Effects Statement (EES) for the Victorian Renewable Energy Terminal (the Terminal).

An EES is the most rigorous environmental impact assessment process in Victoria. There are 20 technical studies that are being prepared to investigate the potential impacts of the Terminal.

There are three EES studies that assess these potential Liveability and Amenity impacts:

- Onshore Noise and Vibration.
- Landscape and Visual.
- Air Quality.

Lighting impacts are also being considered across a range of technical studies.



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Onshore Noise and Vibration

What is being investigated?

Our Onshore Noise and Vibration Assessment examines how construction and operation of the Terminal could change the acoustic environment for nearby residents and the environment, including how activities such as piling, dredging, reclamation, truck movements and operations generate noise and vibration.



Image: Settlement trial at the OTRA site

How are we assessing impacts?

To assess potential noise and vibration impacts, our specialists are:

- Monitoring existing noise and vibration levels at nearby locations, including residential properties near Marine Parade and the Tyabb-Hastings Cemetery Estate, as well as proximate key locations within the Hastings Industrial Precinct.
- Modelling construction and operational activities using a 3D acoustic model to predict how noise, low frequency noise and vibration would travel through the environment.
- Comparing predicted levels against EPA guidelines to determine the level of potential impacts.
- Identifying mitigation measures to avoid, minimise or manage those impacts.

Landscape and Visual

What is being investigated?

The Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment identifies the key publicly accessible locations from which the Terminal and ships transiting the Terminal would be most visible. This includes locations such as Hastings and viewpoints across Western Port, such as French Island and Phillip Island.

The assessment has included visual impacts during both in the construction and operational phases of the project, when offshore wind towers will be partially constructed at the Terminal before being shipped out to the offshore wind zone on specialised vessels.



Image: Visual representation of a ship carrying turbine components from the Terminal

How are we assessing impacts?

A series of visual montages have been developed, to understand what offshore wind towers would look like from these different viewpoints. These included

- Hastings foreshore
- Tyabb-Hastings Cemetery
- Cowes Jetty
- French Island Jetty.

The study has also considered the duration of visual impacts, as the Terminal will have different visual impacts depending on the project activities occurring at the site. For example, some viewpoints will only experience very short-term visual impacts from ships moving through the shipping channel. Other locations will be able to see the turbine components as they are stored and partially constructed at the Terminal.



Scan the QR code to watch our webinar presentation, and learn more about the visual impact study, including other visual montage locations.

Lighting

What is being investigated?

Lighting is being considered across a range of technical studies, with the intent to:

- Characterise existing lighting conditions near the project in established residential and open space areas and at other sensitive land use and high amenity locations.
- Model predicted changes from project-related light emissions at nearby sensitive receivers during the Terminal's operations.
- Outline and evaluate any potential mitigation options that could avoid and minimise lighting effects.

This technical assessment is an input to the Flora and Fauna assessments, Marine Ecology, Onshore Ecology and Waterbirds reports. It is in these technical assessments, that potential impacts arising from the identified lighting emissions are considered.

How are we assessing impacts?

Baseline artificial light monitoring to capture the existing lighting environment, an assessment undertaken in line with the *Artificial Light Pollution Guidelines for Wildlife*. This was completed using a Sky42 light monitoring camera, that captures sky brightness.

Modelling of the sky brightness, using a cumulative whole-of-sky, zenith and horizon sky brightness was then overlaid with the existing lighting.

This process allows for an assessment of change in sky brightness arising from the Terminal operations. Ecological assessments then utilise these predicted changes to determine potential impacts to receptors as relevant in their reports.

Air Quality

What is being investigated?

The assessment investigated the potential air quality impacts from construction and operations. Air quality can be impacted by emissions of dust, odours, exhaust emissions and other gases.

The study is looking at whether there could be impacts to people in Hastings, and the nearest residents at the Tyabb-Hastings Cemetery Estate, as well as plants or animals in adjacent lands and waters. Potential cumulative impacts from nearby industrial facilities and future approved developments are also being considered.

How are we assessing impacts?

To understand air quality impacts, the assessment:

- Uses EPA monitoring data and site data to understand baseline air quality, surrounding land uses, meteorology and sensitive receptors.
- Evaluates construction impacts using a dust risk framework and a roadside screening tool to predict changes in nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter along construction traffic routes.
- Models operational impacts, including wind erosion and vessel exhaust emissions.
- Tests these predictions against EPA air quality benchmarks.

Learn more about our other EES study areas

Scan the QR code to view the other Environment Effects Studies fact sheets.



Flora and Fauna

These studies explore the potential impacts to the flora (plants, trees, and seagrasses) and fauna (birds, mammals, skinks, fish, and marine invertebrates) in and around the project area.

Western Port is home to many plant and animal species, including threatened and migratory species. As these species can be affected by new infrastructure projects, we are required under the Environment Effects Act and Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act to assess our potential impacts.



Environment and Water

These studies explore the potential impacts of the project on coastal processes such as tides, currents, and erosion, surface water and groundwater conditions, soil and sediment quality and any contamination risks.

Western Port is an environmentally unique and sensitive area, and it is important that we fully understand ground and marine conditions and potential impacts so that we can ensure the proper mitigation measures are put in place.



People and Places

These studies explore potential impacts to local communities (commercial, recreational, residential), Historic and Aboriginal Cultural Heritage, and Land Use Planning.

Major projects, such as the Victorian Renewable Energy Terminal, can have an influence on the way we live, work and play in the local community. We need to assess how construction and operational activities affect areas like recreation, business, residences, and economic growth in the region.



Traffic, Transport and Aviation

These studies explore the impacts of additional traffic volumes on local road networks, as well as the potential impacts of the project on local aviation.

Trucks will be needed to bring materials to site, and construction worker vehicles will need to access site via local roads. It's important to assess any potential impacts this could have on the local road network, and ensure roads are safe and traffic is managed appropriately during this time.

From an aviation perspective, offshore wind towers will be up to 200m tall when assembled at the Terminal.



What we've heard so far

Community and stakeholder input continues to play an important role in shaping the Environment Effects Statement (EES) before it is finalised for exhibition.

Throughout our engagement activities, we have received questions related to the potential noise impacts (both onshore and offshore) during construction and how construction noise will be monitored.

Questions include construction noise effects on local businesses and residents.

There is also interest in how visual, air quality and lighting impacts will be managed during construction.

These amenity impacts, such as dust and lighting, are assessed across several technical studies, including the Air Quality and Landscape and Visual Impact reports.



Image: Community Technical Roundtable session

Upcoming Exhibition of the EES (2027)

The project EES will be available for public review and comment for at least 30 business days.

The EES will include supporting technical documentation, including a detailed consultation report outlining how the project engaged with stakeholders and the community, and considered feedback as part of preparing the EES.

During this time, there will be an opportunity to review the full suite of technical studies and EES reports and make a submission to the Planning Minister in response to the project.

Details about the exhibition, how to access documents and how to make a submission will be published closer to the time. At this stage, EES public exhibition is expected to occur in 2027.

Stay informed and up to date about the EES exhibition process

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