



Salt Creek Wind Farm – Bat and Avifauna Management Plan - FAQs

What is the Salt Creek Wind Farm Bat and Avifauna Management Plan?

The Salt Creek Wind Farm Bat and Avifauna Management Plan (or BAM Plan) is a plan that documents the management of bats and birdlife on the Salt Creek Wind Farm (SCWF) site. It incorporates important measures to monitor and report bird and bat activity and will be in place for the lifetime of the wind farm – about 30 years. The BAM plan has been prepared in consultation with Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) and approved by the Moyne Shire Council.

Why is this plan in place?

It is an important part of our environmental commitments and a requirement under our planning permit.

What are the benefits of the plan?

The plan puts in place a series of measurement tools that allow us to look at bird and bat movements at the wind farm site. The plan provides an important framework to measure bat and bird activity that would otherwise not be known. The plan sets out monthly site searches for the 30-year lifespan of the wind farm, which creates a wealth of knowledge specific to the local region.

How are dead or injured bats or birds identified at the Salt Creek Wind Farm?

Qualified ecologists conduct monthly carcass searches on site. Any carcasses found by the wind farm staff outside of the ecologist's routine surveys are reported through the incidental finds on-site procedure. If a cluster of feathers, but no carcass, is found this is also reported.

How are the public informed of these findings?

All findings will be reported annually and published on the Salt Creek Wind Farm website (<https://www.tiltrenewables.com/assets-and-projects/Salt-Creek-Wind-Farm/>).

Do all carcass findings need to be reported to DELWP?

No. The BAM plan stipulates that threatened birds or bats listed under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC Act), Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act (FFG Act) or DELWP Advisory List need to be reported to DELWP, but common species (such as magpies and crows) do not. However, common species found on the wind farm will also be included in the annual reporting described above.

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What species of significance are likely to visit the wind farm site?

Common Name	Scientific Name	EPBC Threatened Species	FFG	DELWP Advisory List
Australasian Shoveler	<i>Anas rhynchos</i>	-	-	VU
Australian Painted Snipe	<i>Rostratula australis</i>	EN	L (as <i>Rostratula benghalensis</i>)	CR
Blue-billed Duck	<i>Oxyura australis</i>	-	L	EN
Brolga	<i>Grus rubicunda</i>	-	L	VU
Southern Bent-wing Bat	<i>Miniopterus schreibersii bassanii</i>	CR	L	CR
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	-	L	
Grey Goshawk	<i>Accipiter novaehollandiae</i>	-	L	VU
Hardhead	<i>Aythya australis</i>	-	-	VU
Latham's Snipe	<i>Gallinago hardwickii</i>	-	-	NT
Musk Duck	<i>Biziura lobata</i>	-	-	VU
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>	-	-	NT
White-bellied Sea Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>	-	L	VU

CR – Critically Endangered
 EN – Endangered
 VU – Vulnerable
 NT – Near Threatened
 L - Listed

Source: Appendix A of the BAM plan

What is the process if a threatened bird or bat listed under the EPBC Act, FFG Act or Advisory List is found dead or injured within the wind farm?

The death or injury of any of these listed species is known as a ‘significant impact’. If this does occur there are strict protocols documented in the BAM Plan, which are listed below.

- The significant impact will be reported to Moyne Shire Council and DELWP within **two days** of being discovered.
- An investigation into factors that are likely to have led to the significant impact, including the time of year, life cycle of the species and weather conditions will begin within **seven days**.
- The scope of the investigation will be developed in consultation with and agreement from DELWP and Moyne Shire Council, to the satisfaction of Moyne Shire Council.
- It will be undertaken by a qualified ecologist and completed within **two months** of the significant impact occurring and will incorporate an evaluation of the likelihood of further collisions by the species. (cont.)

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- At the completion of the investigation a report will be prepared in consultation with DELWP and to the satisfaction of Moyne Shire Council.
- Moyne Shire Council will review the report and decide – in consultation with DELWP – whether a subsequent mitigation and/or offset plan is required.

What bird and bat monitoring surveys are being undertaken?

A Brolga utilisation monitoring program observes flocking and breeding within up to five and no less than three kilometres from the wind farm boundary. These flocking surveys are undertaken at dawn and dusk for two days each month from December through to June. Brolga breeding surveys are undertaken during daylight hours for two days each month between July and December.

Bat utilisation monitoring is conducted in two six-week periods of consecutive nights, commencing in October and then in March.

Who is implementing the BAM plan?

Qualified ecologists from environmental consultancy Brett Lane and Associates (BL&A) are undertaking the surveying and reporting under the BAM plan. Further information on BL&A services and capabilities can be found on their website (<https://ecologicalresearch.com.au/>). The BAM plan was originally written by Jacobs.

Where can I find more information about the BAM plan?

The full BAM plan is provided on the Salt Creek Wind Farm website (<https://www.tiltrenewables.com/assets-and-projects/Salt-Creek-Wind-Farm/>).

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