

Panel 3:

# Potential Impacts of Wind Farms on Landscape Values

Wind farms can have a number of different impacts (positive and negative) on the landscape. Wind farms can affect landscape character and scenery, indigenous cultural values, amenity, cultural heritage and sense of place. These impacts are influenced by the wind farm's location, the height of towers and turbines, the number of turbines, movement, colour, materials and supporting infrastructure. The significance of these impacts varies for different places and different communities (and even between individuals within communities).

While communities will be concerned about all or any impacts of wind farms on landscapes, approaches for assessing impacts on natural and cultural heritage within a landscape are well defined. It is how wind farms affect community-held landscape values (which arise from a person's associations, memories, knowledge or experiences of that landscape) that needs to be better understood.

It is important that impacts are considered against identified landscape values, that is, those things important to communities. This allows measures that will mitigate impacts to be accurately identified.

There are a number of techniques that can be used to communicate and depict the impacts of a wind farm on the landscape. The challenge is to provide accurate information in accessible formats to support informed community and professional assessment of the impacts.

**What is important to you about the impact of windfarms on landscape values?**

**Is there anything of special significance in determining the acceptability of a windfarm in a particular place?**

