

Appendix 1: Species of Concern List for Onshore Wind Energy Facilities

The Species of Concern List was developed by DEECA's Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research (ARI) using a science-based approach that involved species experts assessing all Victorian threatened bird and bat species and is transparent and repeatable⁷.

Using the information and data available from existing wind energy facilities supported by expert opinion, ARI identified which species of birds or bats were at risk based on:

- Listed as threatened under the FFG Act or the EPBC Act
- How high the species flies
- Habitat preference
- Concentration of population in localised areas
- Demographic resilience
- Population size
- Conservation status.

The level of risk from onshore wind energy facilities, and therefore the level of concern for the conservation of the species, varies from 'minimal' to 'mild' to 'concern' to 'extreme concern'. Those species that were judged to be most at risk make up the Species of Concern List because of the likelihood and the consequences of their interactions with operational turbines.

The 2024 list of Species of Concern relevant to onshore wind energy facilities

FFG Act and EPBC Act threatened status: CR Critically Endangered, EN Endangered, VU Vulnerable. Some species are listed under the EPBC Act as Migratory, which is separate to being listed under the threatened categories. Species that have been recorded as mortalities at Victorian wind energy facilities are indicated.

Table 7: Species of Concern List

Common name	Scientific name	Group	FFG Act	EPBC Act threatened	EPBC Act Migratory	Recorded fatalities
BATS – Probable concern						
Southern Bent-wing Bat	<i>Miniopterus orianae bassanii</i>	Bats	CR	CR		Yes
Eastern Bent-wing Bat	<i>Miniopterus orianae oceanensis</i>	Bats	CR			
South-eastern Long-eared Bat	<i>Nyctophilus corbeni</i>	Bats	EN	VU		
Yellow-bellied Sheathtail Bat	<i>Saccolaimus flaviventris</i>	Bats	VU			
Grey-headed Flying-fox	<i>Pteropus poliocephalus</i>	Bats	VU	VU		Yes
BIRDS – Probable concern						
Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	Gulls, Terns	EN		Yes	
Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>	Gulls, Terns	CR		Yes	
Fairy Tern	<i>Sternula nereis</i>	Gulls, Terns	CR	VU		
Australian Bustard	<i>Ardeotis australis</i>	Ground dwelling birds	CR			
Bush Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus grallarius</i>	Ground dwelling birds	CR			

⁷ https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/home/managing-impacts-of-renewable-energy-on-environment/species-of-concern-list-nov-2024_e2fb-2.pdf

Common name	Scientific name	Group	FFG Act	EPBC Act threatened	EPBC Act Migratory	Recorded fatalities
Plains-wanderer	<i>Pedionomus torquatus</i>	Ground dwelling birds	CR	CR		
Regent Honeyeater	<i>Anthochaera phrygia</i>	Land birds	CR	CR		
Fork-tailed Swift	<i>Apus pacificus</i>	Land birds			Yes	Yes
White-throated Needletail	<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>	Land birds	VU	VU	Yes	Yes
Major Mitchell's Cockatoo	<i>Lophochroa leadbeateri</i>	Parrots	CR	EN		
Scarlet-chested Parrot	<i>Neophema splendida</i>	Parrots	EN			
Red-tailed Black Cockatoo	<i>Calyptrorhynchus banksii graptogyne</i>	Parrots	EN	EN		
Swift Parrot	<i>Lathamus discolor</i>	Parrots	CR	CR		
Orange-bellied Parrot	<i>Neophema chrysogaster</i>	Parrots	CR	CR		
Elegant Parrot	<i>Neophema elegans</i>	Parrots	VU			
Eastern Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Raptors, Owls			Yes	
Grey Goshawk	<i>Accipiter novaehollandiae</i>	Raptors, Owls	EN			
Grey Falcon	<i>Falco hypoleucos</i>	Raptors, Owls	VU	VU		
Black Falcon	<i>Falco subniger</i>	Raptors, Owls	CR			Yes
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>	Raptors, Owls	EN			Yes
Little Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus morphnoides</i>	Raptors, Owls	VU			Yes
Square-tailed Kite	<i>Lophoictinia isura</i>	Raptors, Owls	VU			
Barking Owl	<i>Ninox connivens</i>	Raptors, Owls	CR			
Masked Owl	<i>Tyto novaehollandiae</i>	Raptors, Owls	CR			
Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	Shorebirds	EN	VU	Yes	
Great Knot	<i>Calidris tenuirostris</i>	Shorebirds	CR	VU	Yes	
Lesser Sand Plover	<i>Charadrius mongolus</i>	Shorebirds	EN	EN	Yes	
Eastern Curlew	<i>Numenius madagascariensis</i>	Shorebirds	CR	CR	Yes	
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	Shorebirds	EN		Yes	

Common name	Scientific name	Group	FFG Act	EPBC Act threatened	EPBC Act Migratory	Recorded fatalities
Australian Painted Snipe	<i>Rostratula australis</i>	Shorebirds	CR	EN		
Grey-tailed Tattler	<i>Tringa brevipes</i>	Shorebirds	CR		Yes	
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	Shorebirds	EN		Yes	
Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	Shorebirds	EN		Yes	
Terek Sandpiper	<i>Xenus cinereus</i>	Shorebirds	EN	VU	Yes	
Intermediate Egret	<i>Ardea intermedia plumifera</i>	Waterbirds	CR			
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta nigripes</i>	Waterbirds	EN			
Australian Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus dubius</i>	Waterbirds	EN			
Magpie Goose	<i>Anseranas semipalmata</i>	Waterbirds	VU			
Brolga	<i>Antigone rubicunda</i>	Waterbirds	EN			Yes
Australasian Bittern	<i>Botaurus poiciloptilus</i>	Waterbirds	CR	EN		
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	Waterbirds			Yes	
BIRDS – Precautionary concern						
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	Gulls, Terns			Yes	
Red-chested Button-quail	<i>Turnix pyrrhothorax</i>	Ground dwelling birds	EN			
Night Parrot	<i>Pezoporus occidentalis</i>	Parrots		EN		
Superb Parrot	<i>Polytelis swainsonii</i>	Parrots	EN	VU		
Gang-gang Cockatoo	<i>Callocephalon fimbriatum</i>	Parrots	EN	EN		
Glossy Black-Cockatoo	<i>Calyptorhynchus lathami</i>	Parrots	VU	VU		
Sooty Owl	<i>Tyto tenebricosa</i>	Raptors, Owls	EN			
Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	Shorebirds	VU	EN	Yes	
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	Shorebirds	CR	EN	Yes	
Inland Dotterel	<i>Peltodytes australis</i>	Shorebirds	VU			
Eastern Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba modesta</i>	Waterbirds	VU		Yes	
Freckled Duck	<i>Stictonetta naevosa</i>	Waterbirds	EN			