

Expanding renewable energy whilst safeguarding wildlife

PROPOSAL FOR AN ARC INDUSTRIAL TRANSFORMATION RESEARCH HUB

OVERVIEW

Monash University seeks to **create a new RESEARCH HUB** where wind energy partners, including **Vestas** and **RPS**, can work collaboratively on forward-looking solutions to preserve Australia's biodiversity. We propose to lead an application for an **Australian Research Council Industrial Transformation Research Hub** in late 2023 that will optimise outcomes for both energy transition and wildlife through the advancement of environmental assessment, monitoring pathways and predictive tools.

BACKGROUND

Wildlife interactions present a key challenge for developers and operators of renewable wind energy. The Australian context is often quite different to the northern hemisphere and requires tailored responses. For example, albatrosses and flying foxes present novel challenges to the assessment and mitigation of collision risk. We wish to transform approaches that quantify and manage wildlife interactions with renewable wind energy in Australian marine and terrestrial realms. Our proposal is to deliver science-led solutions that monitor, manage and mitigate wildlife interactions. These solutions will be tailored to reduce constraints and improve timelines within each of the feasibility, construction and operational phases of onshore and offshore wind developments.



Wind energy sector-wide



From concept through construction to operation



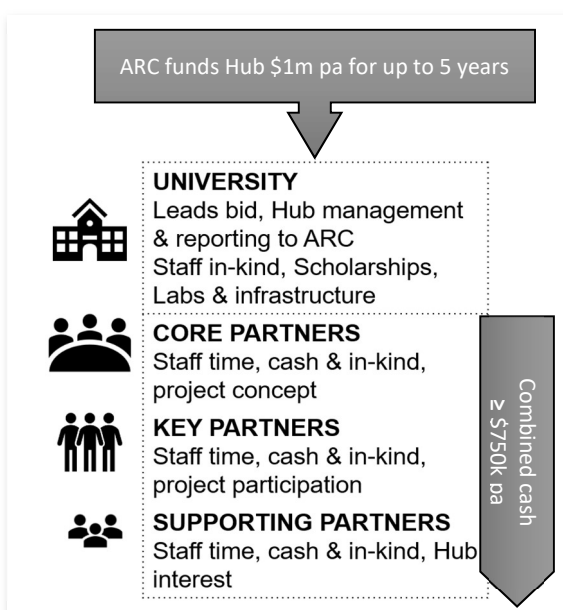
Streamline and standardise assessment & monitoring



Optimise energy transition & biodiversity impact

A RESEARCH HUB TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

A new **RESEARCH HUB** under the leadership of Associate Professor Rohan Clarke at Monash University, will bring together industry consortia, government and community stakeholders. We propose to co-develop and undertake research that supports the expansion of wind energy while safeguarding biodiversity— specifically for **ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT, MONITORING PATHWAYS** and **PREDICTIVE TOOLS**. Success will bring about **world-leading tools, common approaches** and **sector-sharable knowledge**, as well as **simplification** and **standardisation** across regions for the benefit of industry and wildlife.



THE FINE PRINT – HOW MUCH? HOW LONG?

ARC Research Hubs are supported by a Federal funding pool accessible by universities to enable collaborative R&D with companies for **up to 5 years** to solve challenging and transformational industry issues. Applications are competitive and due end of November 2023 for a 1 January 2025 commencement, if successful.

Bids need cash and in-kind contributions to demonstrate tangible proof of importance to the sector and partner commitment. To secure \$1 million p.a. from the ARC for 5 years, the program rules require collective **partner cash contributions ≥ \$750,000 pa** as well as collective cash and in-kind partner contributions that equal or exceed ARC funds requested. In-kind contributions can be staff time, equipment access, etc.

The bid needs TALENT from partners. Every partner must be represented by at least **one person** who can actively participate in the Hub as their organisation's champion and a 'Partner Investigator'.

THE BENEFITS TO YOUR ORGANISATION

- Be a part of a collaborative, long term, industry transformative \$5m+ research program that will do good for proponents and the industry today and for the future
- Get exposed to the forward-thinking, cutting edge innovative research and help direct and apply it to your organisation's specific challenges
- Leverage your organisation's R&D investment against Federal Government funding to gain 1.5 -1.7 times leverage for every \$1 spent
- Early access to skilled workforce via student engagement
- Access to broad STEM expertise and talent pool across university networks

CONTACT US

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KEY DATES

11 October 2023

Applications open & Guidelines released

29 November 2023

Applications close

10 March 2024

Rejoinders (= responding to assessors)

End of July 2024

Announcements

1 January 2025

Hub commencement



Photo by Rohan Clarke. Campbell Albatross *Thalassarche impavida*

“Australia’s energy transition is likely to have unintended consequences for habitats and biodiversity. We must anticipate this and develop evidence-based methods to manage and mitigate impact to wildlife from green energy infrastructure.”

A/Prof Rohan Clarke, Director of the Masters of Environment & Sustainability, Monash University

