



Blade incident, Yendon, Lal Lal Wind Farms

Around 6:40pm local time on 15 September 2019, a blade broke and fell to the ground from a V136-3.6 MW turbine at Lal Lal Wind Farm in the Moorabool Shire of Victoria, Australia. No injuries or property damage occurred as a result.

The impacted area was cordoned off, and a Vestas crisis management team formed within 12 hours.

In the early morning of 16 September, the team:

- *notified WorkSafe Victoria*
- *notified the customer and owners of Lal Lal Wind Farm*
- *as a standard precautionary safety measure, suspended the operation of all turbines at Lal Lal Wind Farm*

Vestas understands that prior to the blade break, the site experienced severe weather conditions, including lightning. Based on a turbine inspection carried out by Vestas technicians on 16 September, Vestas confirms that the damaged turbine was struck by lightning.

On the afternoon of 16 September, the team decided to resume operation on all turbines at the Lal Lal Wind Farm, except those in the Yendon section which remain under inspection. The on-site technical team is investigating the root cause.

Having concluded its response, the crisis management team has now dissolved and has appointed Pierre Pretorius, Vestas AUNZ Construction Director, to manage the inspection process to determine and communicate the root cause.

At Vestas, safety is our absolute priority. Within 12 hours of the incident occurring, Vestas took immediate action, including: (i) securing the incident zone, (ii) initiating a proactive inspection of all other turbines at the wind park, (iii) temporarily suspending all operations at the wind park until each turbine had been individually inspected.

In terms of our turbines and projects more generally, Vestas actively monitors the statistical likelihood of extreme weather incidents. We are aware that these events, while rare, do occur; we therefore go to great lengths in our engineering design and planning to minimise risks to physical safety or property in the surrounding area. The fact that this incident occasioned no such damage shows the effectiveness of these efforts. If there was ever any suggestion that this, or any other wind park, posed a safety risk, we would cease operations immediately.

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