

Resource and Land Use Model - Gippsland Community Workshops



The State Government recently announced its intention for an orderly restart of onshore conventional gas exploration and development in Victoria from 1 July 2021.

The decision follows three years of detailed investigation by the Victorian Gas Program to better understand the potential for new discoveries of onshore conventional gas (i.e. natural gas that does not need to be fracked) and the risks, benefits and impacts of developing the resource.

Overseen by an independent Stakeholder Advisory Panel, the studies found that a responsible and well-regulated onshore conventional gas industry would not risk Victoria's groundwater supplies or agricultural reputation.

To strengthen future regulatory licensing processes, the Victorian Gas Program is assessing land uses and features across Gippsland to produce a model of land sensitivity and significance in relation to potential onshore conventional gas activity.

A preliminary resource and land use planning model of Gippsland has been built. Now, we're seeking community input to ensure the final model reflects local knowledge.

The result will provide an evidence base for future government decisions to ensure that any land interactions and issues are addressed as part of the onshore conventional gas development approvals process. It will also assist communities to engage with government and industry around any planned activities.

How we built the preliminary land use model

Gippsland is home to distinctive rural and coastal landscapes, productive agricultural land and sensitive environments with significant biodiversity. Over 140 authoritative datasets have been collected to map the region's unique natural, cultural, environmental, economic and social land uses and values.

These datasets (for example the locations of significant flora and fauna, waterways and windfarms) are displayed spatially to produce a map showing areas of sensitivity.

The data has been organised into seven themes and scored to identify potential locations where the land may be constrained in some way. These themes are:

This scoring process helps assess the extent to which a land feature, or area of sensitivity or significance, would constrain the potential for onshore conventional gas exploration or development.

If land is scored as being highly constrained, it could mean that:

- there are features of sensitivity or significance that would need to be considered and addressed prior to any development proceeding; or
- resource development may not be appropriate in the context of local land values and/or features.

The outcome of this process is a **preliminary land use model**.



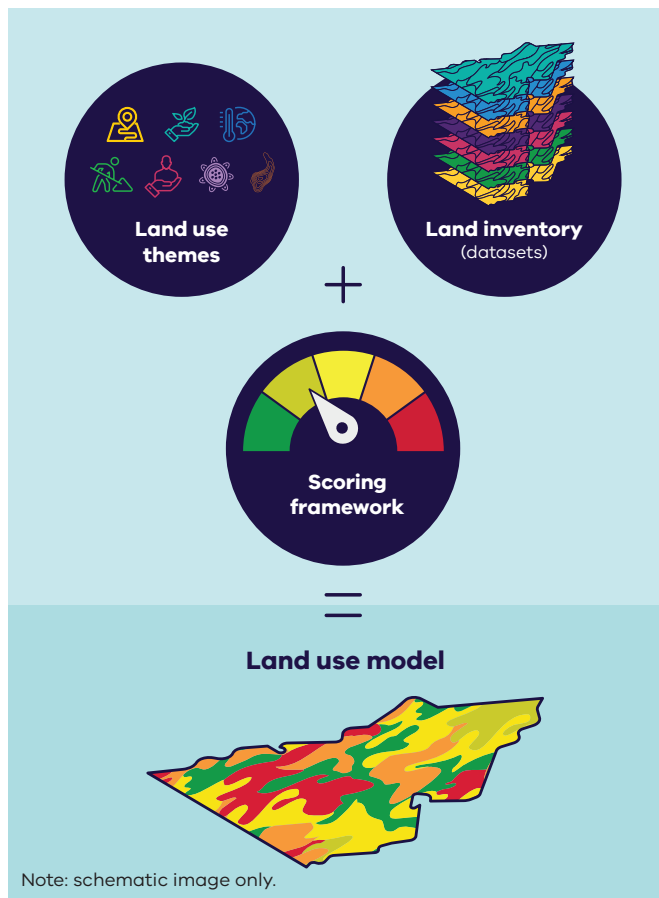
Windfarms are an example of a constrained area



Physical feature: Windfarm

- Theme: Infrastructure
- Sub-theme (criteria): Energy infrastructure
- Dataset: Government windfarm data layer
- Score: Windfarm present = Extremely constrained, due to conflicting infrastructure requirements.
- Preliminary land use model: Constrained area displayed in red.

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Regulation of the onshore gas industry

Unconventional gas (fracking and coal seam gas) is permanently banned in Victoria.

Regulatory controls for onshore conventional gas exploration and development are provided by the Petroleum Act 1998 and regulations. This legislation ensures areas such as wilderness land, national and state parks are excluded or restricted from gas exploration and development.

The regulations require licensees to undertake an extensive detailed assessment of land and environmental impacts as part of the licencing process.

We want to hear from you

The wide range of authoritative datasets used provides a high level assessment of land sensitivity across Gippsland, incorporating features such as national parks, wetlands and waterways. The online community workshops will test the preliminary land use model with residents to help ensure the final model reflects local knowledge.

To learn more about the model, how it was developed and to have your say, join one of our **online community workshops**.

Sessions are designed to capture insights about different municipalities within the study area. Geoscientists will also be on hand to answer questions and listen to local feedback.

Online Workshop Details

Date	Time	Local Government Area Focus
Monday 1 June	3pm and 5pm	Wellington
Tuesday 2 June	3pm and 5pm	South Gippsland
Wednesday 3 June	3pm and 5pm	East Gippsland
Thursday 4 June	3pm and 5pm	Latrobe

* To maximise opportunities for participant contributions, workshop numbers may be limited. Further sessions could be scheduled according to demand.

To register for an online workshop focused on your area, please visit earthresources.vic.gov.au/gasprogram. For more information, or if you are unable to attend a workshop, please email VGP@djpr.vic.gov.au or telephone 03 4505 0329.

Final Resource and Land Use Model - Gippsland

Feedback from the community workshops will inform the final land use model, which will be provided in an interactive spatial format for government, stakeholders and communities. A technical report on the model will also be published.

The final land use model will be also integrated with other geoscientific, technical and environmental studies and form part of the Victorian Gas Program's set of studies.

Further information

Further information about the project is available from earthresources.vic.gov.au/gasprogram

You can also call the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions on 136 186 or email the Victorian Gas Program at vgp@djpr.vic.gov.au