

# Rye Park Wind Farm

## Project overview and proposed modification

November  
2019

### Project overview

The Rye Park Wind Farm is an approved, \$700 million development north of Yass and east of Boorowa, near the township of Rye Park.

Located on a long ridgeline running north-south at right angles to the prevailing wind direction, it provides a reliable source of wind.

The project area spans the Hilltops, Upper Lachlan and Yass Valley local government areas.

The Rye Park Wind Farm is proposed to be developed by Tilt Renewables - an owner, operator and developer of wind and solar farms in Australia and New Zealand.

We bring decades of experience developing, building and managing renewables assets and are strongly committed to the communities where we operate.



### Benefits



#### JOBS AND LOCAL BENEFITS

- Around 250 jobs during construction
- Around 10 jobs during long-term operations (30 years)
- Supporting local businesses and creating jobs by buying local goods and services
- Upgrades to some local roads
- Creation of additional fire breaks and improved access roads for fire fighting



#### REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- \$230,000 per year in community funding
- Around \$3 million in direct payments to local landowners
- Significant local and regional economic benefits
- Drought-proof and post-retirement income stream for farmers



#### ENVIRONMENT

- Clean and renewable source of energy
- Approximately 35% increase in generation capacity - enough to power around 240,000 homes per year
- Offsets the emission of more than one million tonnes of carbon per annum - equivalent to removing 370,000 cars from the roads each year
- Construction carbon emissions offset within first year of operation
- Zero carbon emissions during operation of the wind farm
- Building increased knowledge of local plant and animal species through surveys, monitoring and protection



# Project approvals and proposed modification

Tilt Renewables is proposing to modify some aspects of the approved Rye Park Wind Farm.

Since the Rye Park Wind Farm received planning and environmental approvals, there have been advancements in wind turbine technology. New, more efficient turbines are now available. Using the latest turbines at Rye Park Wind Farm would allow the project to generate more electricity from fewer turbines, powering more homes with clean energy.

Recent technical studies, detailed design and construction planning has given us a clearer picture of how the Rye Park Wind Farm could look and operate. This new information has identified some changes that would allow the wind farm to be built and operated more efficiently.

We are proposing to apply for a modification to the Rye Park Wind Farm development consent to incorporate these changes.

## What is a modification and why is it needed?

A modification is a formal planning process for making changes to an approved development consent.

It involves submitting a modification application and environmental assessment to the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) for assessment and approval.

A modification focuses on differences between the approved project and the modified project. It provides an assessment of potential environmental impacts of the proposed changes. Project components proposed to remain the same are not reassessed and the existing development consent and conditions remain in place.

Re-referral of the project's approval under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC) may also be needed.

## Proposed changes to the approved project

Key modifications proposed to improve and refine the Rye Park Wind Farm project are outlined below:

Project component	Current (approved)	Proposed (modification)	Change
Number of turbines	92	80	-12
Height of turbines (maximum tip height)	157m	200m	+43m
Operation and maintenance facility	2	1	-1
Substations	3	2	-1
Construction truck routes	Multiple options	Preferred option	Removal of options

Changing the number and tip height of wind turbines is expected to result in changes to:

- length and width of access tracks (on wind farm site);
- length of underground cabling (on wind farm site);
- length of overhead power lines (on wind farm site);
- area of site disturbance (on wind farm site and off site due to road upgrades);
- native vegetation removal (on wind farm site and off site due to road upgrades).

Detailed design and environmental studies are underway to understand the extent of these changes and any potential impacts.

The modification will not seek to change other conditions in the existing development consent, including those for noise, air emissions and shadow flicker.

## Modification assessment process

We expect to apply for a modification to the existing Rye Park Wind Farm development consent in early 2020.

2019

### Technical studies

Relevant studies are undertaken to assess any potential impacts that may result from the modified project.

### Community consultation

We are discussing the proposed modification with relevant government agencies and departments, councils, landowners and local communities to share information and understand any concerns. Feedback will be considered in the modification application and in ongoing detailed design and construction planning.

2020

### Modification application

Following community consultation, we expect to finalise a modification application and submit it to DPIE for assessment in early 2020.

### Community information sessions

We will be available to discuss the final modification and environmental assessment with locals during the DPIE assessment and formal submissions process.

### Formal assessment and submissions

The modification application will be assessed by DPIE. It will be placed on public exhibition and submissions may be made in response to the modification.

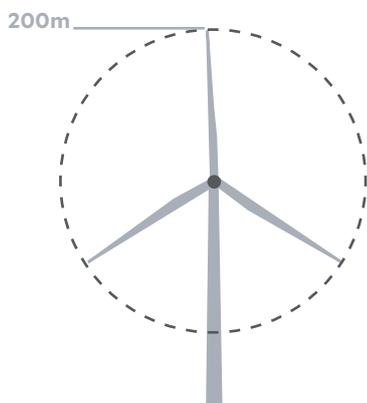
## Turbine tip height

New wind turbines that are more technologically advanced and efficient are proposed to be used at the Rye Park Wind Farm.

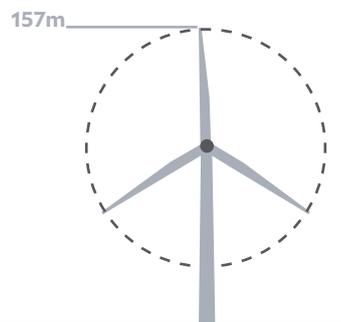
This will involve reducing the number of turbines from 92 to 80 and increasing the maximum tip height from 157 metres to 200 metres.

The change in tip height is in line with more recently approved wind farms, such as Bango Wind Farm, which has approval for a tip height of 200 metres.

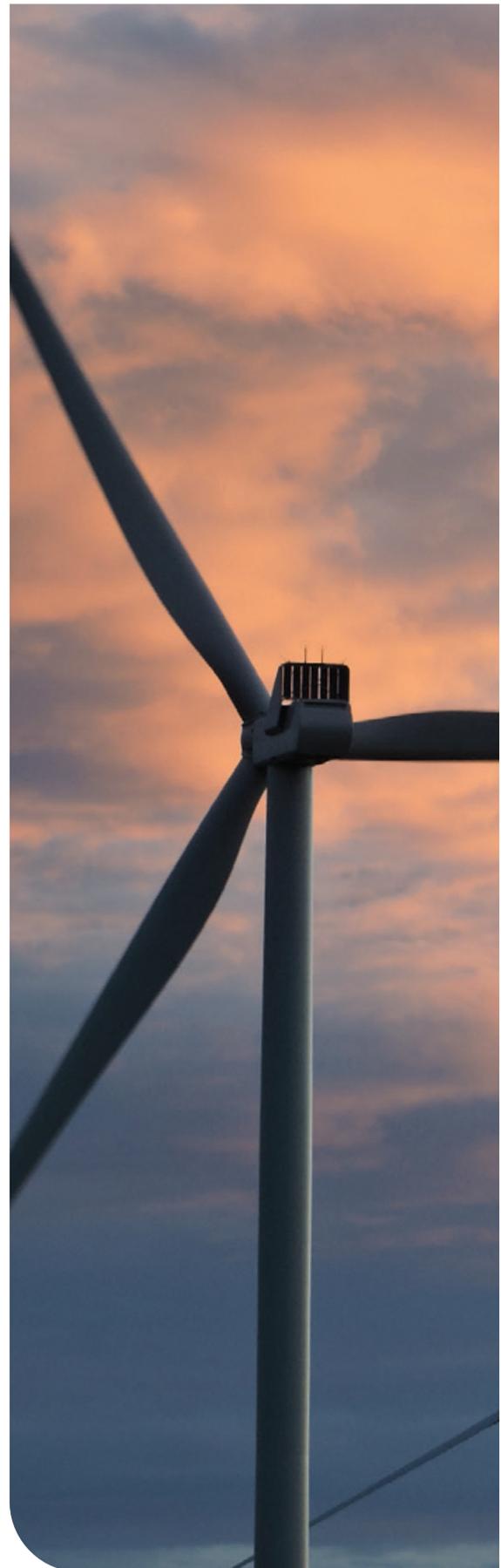
**Proposed indicative turbine  
- 200m tip height**



**Approved indicative turbine  
- 157m tip height**



*Indicative only - exact turbine model yet to be selected.*



**2021**

### Assessment decision

We expect that it will take around 12 months for the modification to be assessed.

## Environmental assessment

Technical studies are underway to assess the extent and potential impact of the proposed modification.

These studies are completed by independent subject-matter specialists.

Final reports will be submitted with the modification application and will be publicly available as part of the DPIE assessment process.

The focus of each study is on differences between the approved project and the modified project.

### Technical studies

#### Noise

This study is assessing potential changes to noise generated by the proposed turbine size and layout. No changes to noise conditions are proposed.

#### Visual

This study is assessing potential visual impacts of the proposed turbine dimensions and layout on homes within four kilometres of a wind turbine, including consideration of Rye Park village.

#### Shadow Flicker

This study is assessing changes in potential shadow flicker effects that could impact homes nearby to the wind farm.

#### Electromagnetic Interference (EMI)

This study is assessing whether the proposed modification would change the likelihood of EMI at homes within five kilometres of a wind turbine.

#### Birds and bats

This study is assessing any change in risk to birds and bats present in the project area, that could result from the proposed modification.

It considers possible effects of the proposed turbine tip height, increased ground clearance and increased rotor swept area.

Key bird and bat species that will be considered include the Superb Parrot, Painted Honeyeater, Dusky Woodswallow, Wedge-tailed Eagle, White-throated Needletail, Eastern Bentwing Bat, Eastern False Pipistrelle and the Yellow-bellied Sheath-tail-bat.

#### Aviation

This study is assessing any change in risk to aviation activities that could result from the proposed turbine dimensions and layout.

#### Biodiversity

This study is assessing potential changes to site disturbance and native vegetation removal both on the wind farm site and off-site for local road upgrades.

It will consider possible effects of the proposed modification, including removing 12 turbines, widening site access tracks and any roadside vegetation removal that may be required to upgrade some local roads.

Winter surveys have already been completed and Spring surveys are currently underway to inform this study. Further surveys are planned for Summer.

#### Cultural Heritage

This study is assessing potential impacts to sites with cultural heritage value that could be affected by the proposed modification.

Five Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) were invited to participate and the Buru Ngunawal Traditional Custodians Group and Onerwal Local Aboriginal Land Council are supporting field studies during late 2019.

The study will consider potential impacts on the wind farm site and off-site where local road upgrades may be needed.

## Construction truck routes

Several route options for construction traffic were identified and approved in the Rye Park Wind Farm development consent.

We are currently working to select a preferred construction truck route to the wind farm site. This route will be used by heavy vehicles including oversize trucks carrying large items such as turbine blades and transformers.

To select and design a preferred route, we will consider:

- Council requirements;
- design standards;
- development consent requirements;
- route suitability for over dimensional loads;
- feedback from landowners and residents located on the potential route;
- the need for upgrades or widening at pinch points;
- potential impacts to ecology, heritage, property and traffic;
- practicality;
- cost;
- road safety.

A Transport Management Plan (TMP) will be developed closer to construction starting to ensure construction traffic is well managed.



## Community engagement

Tilt Renewables engages with communities to share information, listen to views and ideas, and seek feedback to inform project decisions. We are committed to open and honest conversations with all stakeholders.

We understand that local people have a strong interest in the Rye Park Wind Farm.

Community consultation about the proposed modification to the project's development consent will take place during November 2019.

We will listen and use feedback to:

- understand new ideas or changed impacts;
- identify community preferences for addressing potential impacts;
- inform wind farm detailed design and construction planning;
- influence the ways we share benefits and work with the community.

There will be further opportunities for community feedback and involvement as the project progresses, including when the modification application is submitted.

A Community Consultative Committee (CCC) meets regularly and provides a forum for discussion between Tilt Renewables and community representatives with an interest in the Rye Park Wind Farm.

Please visit [ryeparkwf.com.au](http://ryeparkwf.com.au) for the latest updates and to learn about opportunities to get involved.



## Contact us

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