



## Memo

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**To:** Rye Park Wind Farm Community Consultative Committee (CCC)

**From:** Martine Holberton, Community and Stakeholder Engagement Advisor

**Subject:** Community consultation and initial community feedback about a proposed modification to the Rye Park Wind Farm development consent

**Date:** 09 December 2019

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### 1. Purpose

This memo has been prepared to update members of the Rye Park Wind Farm CCC about recent community consultation regarding the proposed modification to the project's development consent.

### 2. Background

The Rye Park Wind Farm was approved in 2017 for up to 92 wind turbines with a maximum tip height of 157 metres. Since the project was originally planned and approved, there have been advancements in wind turbine technology. In order to use the newer and more efficient wind turbines, a modification to the Rye Park Wind Farm development consent is proposed. This would involve increasing the maximum turbine tip height to 200 metres and reducing the number of turbines from 92 to 80.

Tilt Renewables recently shared early information about the proposed modification and sought initial feedback from members of the community in order to make people aware of its intention to apply for a modification and understand any new concerns or suggestions that the modification may raise for people.

### 3. How we communicated

Information about the proposed modification and opportunities to provide feedback were communicated through:

- CCC meeting and updates
- Newsletters distributed to around 650 households by Australia Post and made available at council offices (Yass and Boorowa) and Rye Park Post Office
- E-news issued to around 50 subscribers
- Around 130 letters sent to host landowners, neighbours, prior submitters, councils and local MPs
- Four advertisements in local newspapers - Boorowa News and Yass Tribune
- Project website
- Hilltops Council's facebook page
- Information materials on display and handouts at community sessions.

### 4. How we consulted

Anyone could provide feedback or discuss the modification with Tilt Renewables by:

- Attending a community drop-in session in Boorowa, Rye Park or Yass during 12-14 November
- Completing a feedback form online or in hard-copy at a community drop-in session between 4 November – 4 December
- Contacting us by telephone or email to talk or arrange a meeting.

We asked for feedback on three key questions:

- The modification: *Does the proposed modification raise any new concerns or ideas for you?*
- Benefit sharing: *Do you have suggestions for how Tilt Renewables can contribute positively to your community?*
- Communication and engagement: *How would you like us to consult with you and keep you informed about the project in future.*

## 5. Overview of feedback

220 individual comments were recorded during the 4 November to 4 December consultation period, providing Tilt Renewables with a greater understanding of current views, issues and preferences in the local community.

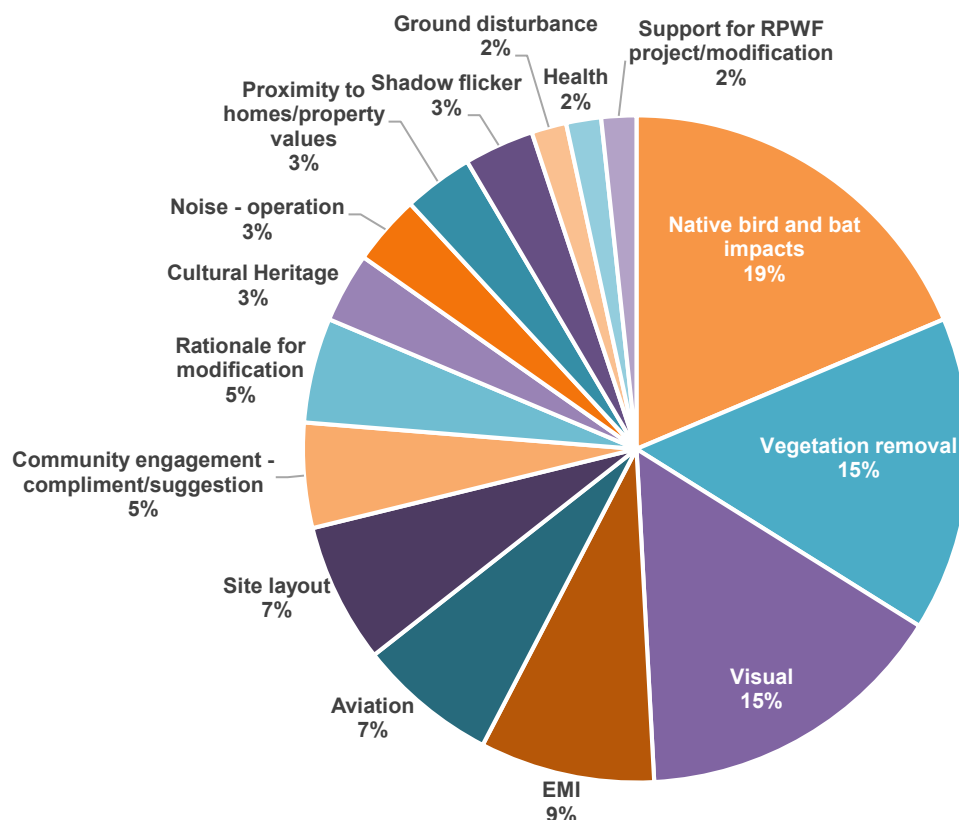
### Feedback about the Development Consent modification

Around one-quarter of all comments were about the proposed modification. Feedback about the modification generally focused around:

- Questions about why a modification is needed and what benefits and/or impacts it will bring
- Concerns that an increase in tip height could have greater impacts
- Interest in impact assessment report content, methodology and currency of data
- A desire to access new information such as photomontages, maps, noise data
- Questions about next steps in the assessment process.

**The most commonly raised concerns about the modification relate to potential visual and biodiversity impacts (vegetation, birds and bats).**

*Feedback about the development consent modification, by topic (total responses = 59)*



**Other feedback**

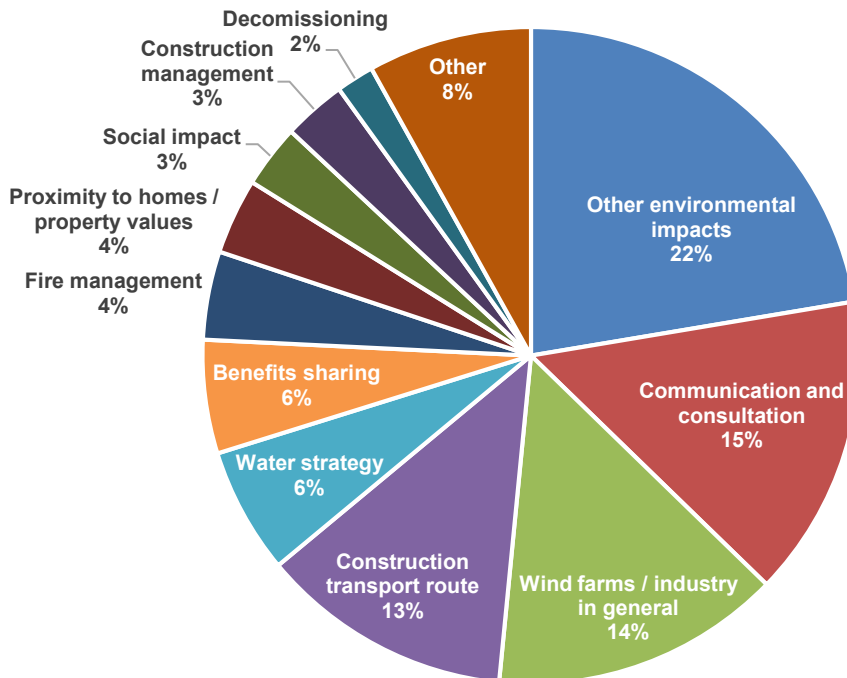
Around three-quarters of all comments were about other topics of importance to the community.

**Topics of greatest interest were other environmental impacts, communication and consultation, wind farms in general and the construction transport route.**

The other environmental impacts raised are those that are of concern to people regardless of the modification (e.g. concern about visual impact of the wind farm regardless of turbine height).

There was also significant interest in where the project will source water for construction and the approach to fire management. Both issues were very topical during the consultation period due to ongoing drought conditions, local news coverage about water for a different wind farm project, and unprecedented fires affecting NSW.

*All other feedback, by topic (total responses = 161)*



**6. Next steps**

This consultation has allowed the Tilt Renewables team to hear first-hand from the community about matters of concern and importance to them. All feedback has been registered and responses to individual questions or requests are being actioned during late 2019 and early 2020.

We will consider and address feedback about the proposed modification through the modification application, including accompanying environmental assessments, and will continue to share information, listen to community views and use feedback to inform ongoing project work and decisions.

Our commitment to listening to and acting on feedback received is outlined over the page.

We will be out to talk with the community again when the modification application has been finalised and has been reviewed by the NSW Department of Planning Industry and Environment. This will involve sharing and discussing the findings of the application, including accompanying environmental assessment reports so that people can access and understand information, and make informed submissions regarding the modification, should they wish to.

*Tilt Renewables' commitment to listening and taking action on community feedback*

 <b>Tell us</b>	 <b>How we will listen and act</b>
<b>Does the modification raise any new concerns or ideas for you?</b>	We will use your feedback to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• share with specialists undertaking technical studies</li> <li>• identify mitigation measures to minimise potential impacts, to be included in management plans</li> <li>• inform the modification application so that it considers and responds to community concerns and ideas.</li> </ul>
<b>Do you have suggestions for how Tilt Renewables can contribute positively to your community?</b>	We will use your feedback to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• plan our approach to sharing benefits with the local community</li> <li>• inform a decision about how any additional funding is administered</li> <li>• help identify local projects or social and environmental issues that would benefit from funding or in-kind support from Tilt Renewables.</li> </ul>
<b>How would you like us to consult with you and keep you informed about the project?</b>	We will use your feedback to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• plan future communication and consultation that meets the community's needs.</li> </ul>
<b>General / other feedback</b>	Feedback on other topics will be recorded and used at the right time to inform: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• wind farm detailed design</li> <li>• construction management</li> <li>• operations and maintenance.</li> </ul>