

Rye Park Wind Farm Community Consultation Committee
Meeting No 20 held at Yass Soldiers' Memorial Hall, Yass
Thursday 5th March 2020

Present

CCC Members: Nic Carmody (Independent Chair), Andrew Field, Jayne Apps, Christine Hawkins, Malcolm Day, Graeme Privett.

Proponent: James Beckett, Martine Holberton, Marita Giles (Tilt Renewables).

Observers: John McGrath, David Sainsbury, Carlene Carmody (Minutes).

The meeting opened at 7.05pm.

1. Welcome/Apologies

Apologies: Sara Brown, Cr James Wheelwright, Cr Geoff Frost. Thank you to the Committee members present for their attendance.

2. Declaration of Pecuniary or other interests

All attendees required to complete Code of Conduct and Pecuniary Interest forms for the Department. Both were distributed to those present to complete as required by the new CCC guidelines. There were no changes to the declarations for those attendees at today's meeting.

3. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 26th September 2019 were adopted.

4. Actions arising from previous minutes

Action sheet updated.

5. Correspondence

Request from Andrew Field for a TransGrid representative to attend the meeting. Kath Elliot from TransGrid unfortunately cannot attend this meeting but is keen to attend future meetings.

6. Rye Park Wind Farm Project Status

- Tilt Renewables have been preparing and near finalisation of the modification application to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment. Purpose of the meeting today is to review the main aspects of the application and the outcomes of the studies which will support the modification application.

Presentation made is appended as an attachment to the minutes for information of the Committee. Some notes from the presentation have been included below for ease of reference:

- Reducing number of turbines by 12 but increasing tip height (from 157m to 200m). More current technology and increased efficiencies to maximise the energy generation potential of the site.
- Review of site design – we have been continuing the detailed design of the wind farm site

with changes as a result to locations of key infrastructure (e.g. access tracks, overhead transmission lines and underground cabling).

- Ongoing electrical design has resulted in Tilt Renewables now proposing 2 substations as part of development not 4. This will be an internal substation within the northern aspect of the wind farm and the connection substation to the Transgrid 3J/330kV transmission line.
- Due to furthering of the detailed design some assumptions made during the initial environmental assessment have been reviewed and will be updated in the modification application. This and changes to the site design have resulted in an overall increase to the disturbance associated with the project (the majority of which is in non-native/disturbed land).
- Road transport options – identified preferred route for heavy and over-dimensional loads. This preferred route is based on consultation with key parties, design standards and consideration of impact to roadside vegetation.
- The modification application will define proposed access points to the wind farm site from public roads. Discussion was held around the preparation of a Traffic Management Plan and further consultation with the CCC on this document prior to its finalisation.
- Operational Bird and Bat studies reconducted for the proposed increase in tip height with an overall increase in the rotor swept areas of individual turbines and the wind farm as a whole. The increased blade length will increase risk to birds species flying over 30 metres.
- We will prepare a Bird and Bat Adaptive Management Plan for approval by the Secretary prior to commissioning of the wind farm that amongst other things will identify measures for minimising bird and bat strike. On other wind farms we operate this has included counts of bird deaths, minimising the availability of raptor perches and controlling pests within the area of the wind farm. Scavenger trials may be effective in confirming the potential impacts to some bird species and will be considered.
- Committee members noted that the photo montages in the presentation were of very poor quality – with the turbines almost invisible. Tilt Renewables encouraged members to access the visual impact assessment report for better definition of the montages once made available.
- Consultation with Council staff and Councillors in ongoing with recent meetings with Yass Valley Council. Further consultation is ongoing, and we will continue to hold meetings where relevant and agreed to by councils and Councillors.
- Yass, Boorowa, Rye Park Modification information sessions have been held in late 2019. These were successful sessions with follow-up consultation undertaken to respond to specific matters raised. After the sessions a newsletter was put together and distributed in December 2019 to provide as much information as possible for those that were unable to attend.
- We continue to refine and are upgrading our stakeholder management systems to refine our stakeholder list and ensure that as many community members as possible receive information/notifications.
- Submission of the modification application is likely to occur at the end of March 2020 with us expecting the process to take around 12 months to complete. It is a regulatory process and therefore the overall timing is dependent on successful completion of the legislative requirements.

7. Questions on project status

Andrew Field: I will email my list of questions and cc in all committee members.

James Beckett: We will provide answers to any questions and will respond to Nic Carmody to distribute to all CCC members.

Andrew Field: Concrete crossing at Blakney Creek and Rye Park road is stuffed. You should be doing the main road so that all residents benefits. I think that is wrong.

Tilt: This isn't a section of road that is currently in our preferred transport route. We are currently looking at how we can look at further community investment above what is outlined in the Voluntary Planning Agreements and it could be something we look at as part of our Benefit Sharing Program.

David Sainsbury: When you talk about the roads, what will they be improved to?

James Beckett: We have been consulting with councils regarding road upgrade standards for a number of months. This has assisted us to determine our preferred transport routes and we note that high-level requirements for road upgrades are listed in the Development Consent, though in practical measures this generally refers to widening and strengthening pavements and in some sections re-aligning roads to meet minimum safety requirements. In addition to this we have commenced structural assessments of a number of bridges and structures along the preferred transport routes.

Andrew Field: What is the definition is of "trucks and vehicle movements" – given projects like the Bango Wind Farm is transporting in an average over 10ML per month. Do you have an estimate of water usage?

James Beckett: We will have an updated estimate of water requirements for the project included in the modification application. Given the increase in turbine size and therefore larger footing requirements, the water requirements will increase from what was previously presented. We have experience in the construction of wind farms and therefore have reliable data on the likely water usage for projects like the Rye Park Wind Farm. We are commencing investigations into potential sources of water and I will update the CCC once we have more definition around this matter.

Andrew Field: No oversize over mass vehicles allowed on Cooks Hill Road. However, it doesn't include the cars, water carts, gravel trucks. And what definition is there for these vehicles.

Marita Giles: That will be stated clearly in our VMP. It will define vehicle size.

John McGrath: I have given you a list of questions 17 weeks ago. No response to date. Why?

James Beckett: I don't recall them though always happy to respond to matters that are raised with us. (John in fact discussed his questions with another Tilt employee at the consultation session, not James)

Martine Holberton: We went through them with you at Rye Park, you didn't give us the hard copy.

Nic Carmody: Suggested to John to email his questions to a CCC member for them to submit to Tilt Renewables for a response.

Jane Apps: Are you looking for Koalas?

Marita Giles: We have had the ecologists out and they haven't identified any to date. Will look to address the potential risk to koalas.

Jane Apps: Informed the representatives that koalas have been sited further north of the project site.

Marita Giles: I will pass that information onto our ecologists.

Jane Apps: we have a vacancy to the CCC when will it be filled?

Nic Carmody: The guidelines require the Committee to have up to 7 community members.

8. Next Meeting

Next meeting to be held, 6pm Thursday 18th June 2020 prior to Public Consultations, Yass Soldiers' Memorial Hall Annexe.

Meeting closed at 8.55 pm

No	Action	Meeting	Owner	Deadline	Comment
6.	Councils to look into adding information links on their websites to enable members of the public to find the information about the wind farm.	7.3	Councillors/Tilt Renewables		Councillors reminded again to arrange this meeting 11/10/2018
21.	Coppabella Site inspection to be arranged following commencement	24/8/17	N Carmody	31/03/18	Not commenced
25	Councillors to advise when members of the Community Enhancement Fund for the project are appointed	11/10/2018	Council Representatives		

COMPLETED ACTION

2.	Provide copy of Committee Guidelines to all Committee members	4.0	N Carmody		Complete
7.	Michael to bring copies of windfarm maps to the next meeting, and to send out link to booklet from exhibition	7.3	M Head		Complete
1.	Follow up with Mike from Trustpower regarding Nic's emails about appointment of new committee members	3.0			Complete – Department accepted alternates for Committee.
3.	Previous minutes to be amended to reflect agreement/ disagreement of committee members on subject of funds	5.0	M Head		Complete – minutes amended
9.	Forward copy of October 2015 minutes to Committee members	17/2/16 4.0	N Carmody		Complete

10.	Committee members to advise Chairman if electronic copies of maps required	17/2/16 5.3	Tilt Renewables		Electronic copies of maps to be provided to Committee members by Tilt Renewables
12.	Updated transport maps, including all roads to be provided	17/2/16 6.6	M Head		Electronic copies of maps to be provided to Committee members by Tilt Renewables, including road details
13.	Specific questions for DP&ES to be provided, collated and forwarded	17/2/16 7	N Carmody		Complete
14.	Arrange for copy of Response to Submissions Documents to be provided to the Rye Park Post Office	12	N Carmody		Complete – advised that preferred locations were received from Councils, distribution list amended to include Rye Park Post Office. Apologies were received.
15.	Raise with Department issue of Rye Park Post Office not being included on distribution list	12	N Carmody		Refer above
17.	Confirm whether new Draft Guidelines apply retrospectively and whether council representation changes if a development covers various LGAs. Provide link to Guidelines to members.	12	N Carmody		Complete – copy of new guidelines provided to Committee Members.
4.	Michael to circulate previous minutes, people to provide feedback to Nic, and then Nic will edit and publish to the website before next meeting.	6.	N Carmody/ M Head		No longer applicable as CCC Guidelines Provide proper procedure.
5.	Members to read Michael's draft report and come back with comments/questions next meeting	7.3	Attendees		Done
8.	Confirmation of the total number of houses within 5 km and total number of properties without houses in the same distance to be provided at next meeting by Trustpower		Tilt Renewables		Complete
11.	Contact Upper Lachlan, Yass & Borrowa Councils to request information links be provided on their website	17/2/16 5.3	N Carmody J Wheelwright		Complete
16.	Provide email members list of heights of all wind monitoring towers	12	Tilt Renewables		Complete
18.	Re-appointment to Committee – Chair to advise Department that all current members would like to remain on the Committee. Chair to advise members once confirmation is received	24/8/17	N Carmody	31/10/17	Complete

19.	Maps – electronic maps to be provided to committee members, to include LGA boundaries. To provide clear definition 3 separate maps will be provided.	24/8/17	Tilt Renewables	30/09/17	Complete
23.	Confirmation of location of the compound near R51	3/5/2018	Tilt Renewables		Chris has distributed response – it has been removed.
22.	Copy after the development approval to be emailed to all committee members.	30/11/17	N Carmody		
24	Chris to provide EPBC information	11/10/2018	Tilt Renewables		James to follow up and send to Nic. Links provided attached to minutes
26	Chris to provide a copy of the noise report that was used in the approval.	11/10/2018	Tilt Renewables	Next meeting	
27	Nic to provide a link in an email to the PAC	11/10/2018	N Carmody		
28	Request for Tilt to advise capacity and name of the Transgrid line that the project will feed into.	7/2/2019	Tilt Renewables	05/03/2019	Yass to Gullen Range Transmission Line (3J Line)
29	Process for Management Plans	7/2/2019	Tilt Renewables		
30	What is the approval quantity for tree clearing?	7/2/2019	Tilt Renewables		
31	Source of water for the project?	7/2/2019	Tilt Renewables		



RYE PARK WIND FARM CCC MEETING

5 MARCH 2020



AGENDA

1. WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING SINCE THE LAST CCC

2. REASONS FOR THE MODIFICATION

3. PREFERRED TRANSPORT ROUTE

4. MODIFICATION PROCESS AND STATUS

5. SPECIALIST STUDIES – EARLY FINDINGS

6. QUESTIONS

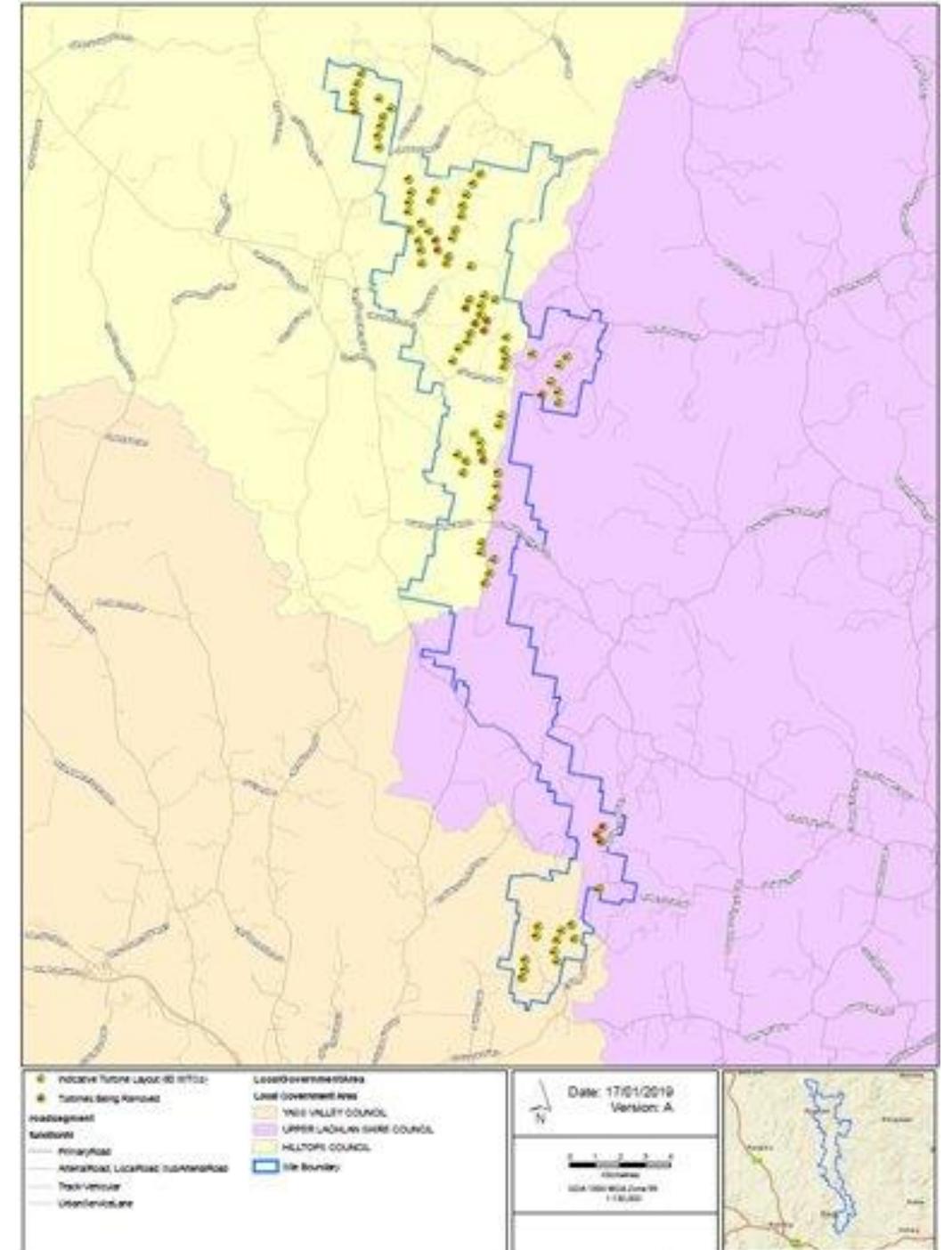


WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING SINCE THE LAST CCC PREPARATION OF THE MODIFICATION

Since September 2019, our main focus has been undertaking the specialist studies necessary to support the modification application and continuing consultation with our stakeholders

We're modifying the Rye Park development consent to:

- Remove 12 wind turbines down to a maximum of 80. No changes are proposed to the location of these turbines
- Increase maximum tip height of 200m to enable newer and more efficient turbine models
- Change the layout of the internal access tracks, underground cabling and overhead transmission lines
- Remove one of the two operations and maintenance (O&M) facilities and two of the three substations
- Remove vegetation along roads requiring upgrade along on our preferred transport route



WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING SINCE THE LAST CCC CONSULTATION WITH TECHNICAL STAKEHOLDERS

Early engagement with technical stakeholders is integral to ensure key issues are raised and resolved

Recent targeted engagement with technical stakeholders to re-establish relationships and discuss the proposed modification has included:

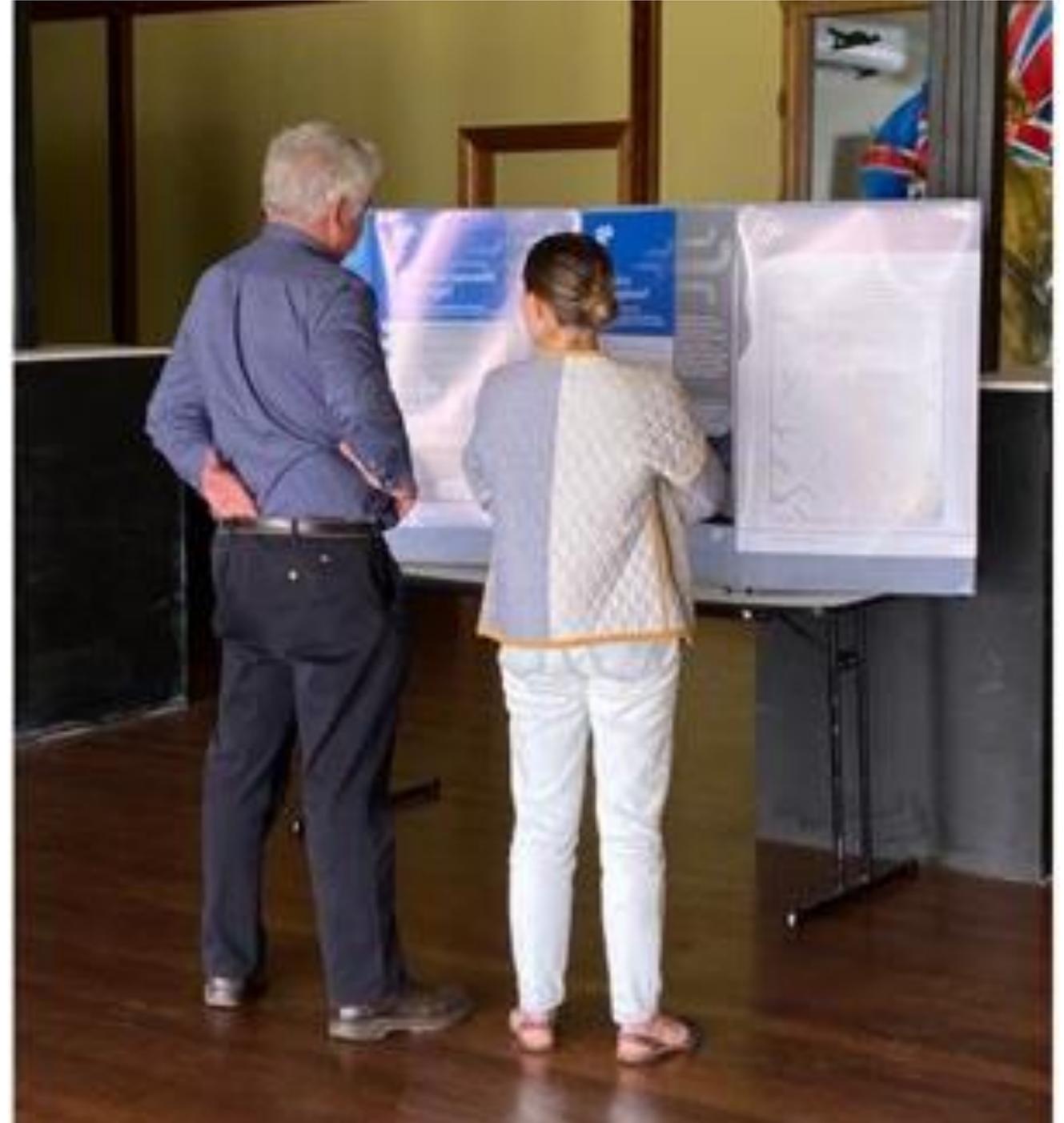
- November 2019 – January 2020: meetings with DPIE and OEH to discuss required road upgrades and assess ways to reduce subsequent vegetation removal
- January 2020: Councillor briefing session with Yass Valley Council
- February 2020: DPIE (Crown Land) meeting
- February – March 2020: Ministerial briefing sessions with DPIE
- March 2020: Councillor briefing session with Upper Lachlan Shire Council (pending confirmation with Council)



WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING SINCE THE LAST CCC COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

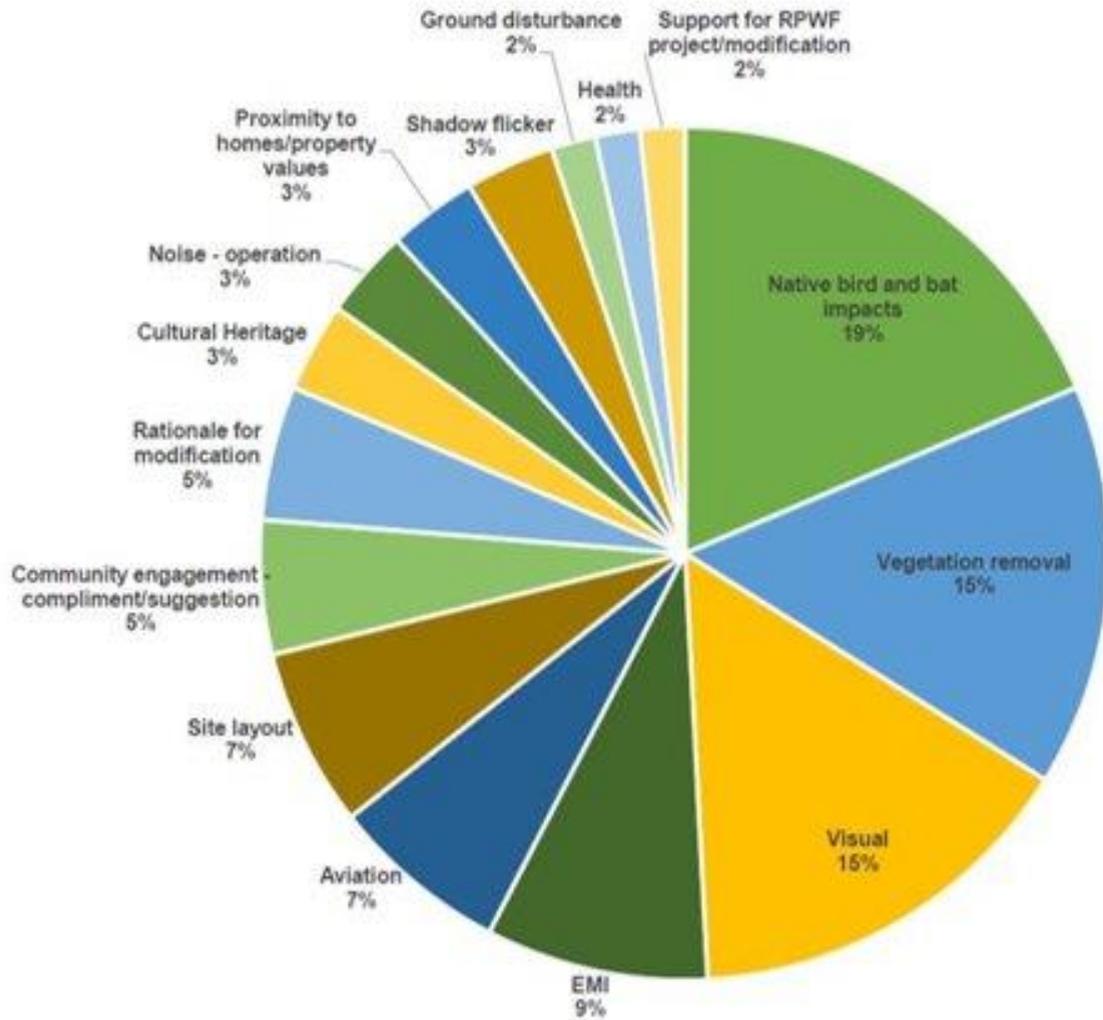
Early engagement was undertaken to make people aware of the modification, project rationale, proposed changes and understand any key areas of concern for the community

- Drop in sessions were held in November 2019 in Boorowa, Rye Park and Yass to discuss the proposed modification and seek feedback on the project
- 1:1 meetings were held with host landowners, neighbouring properties and other interested community members
- December 2019 newsletters were distributed to 650 households
- 130 letters were sent to host landowners, neighbours, prior submitters, councils and local Members of Parliament

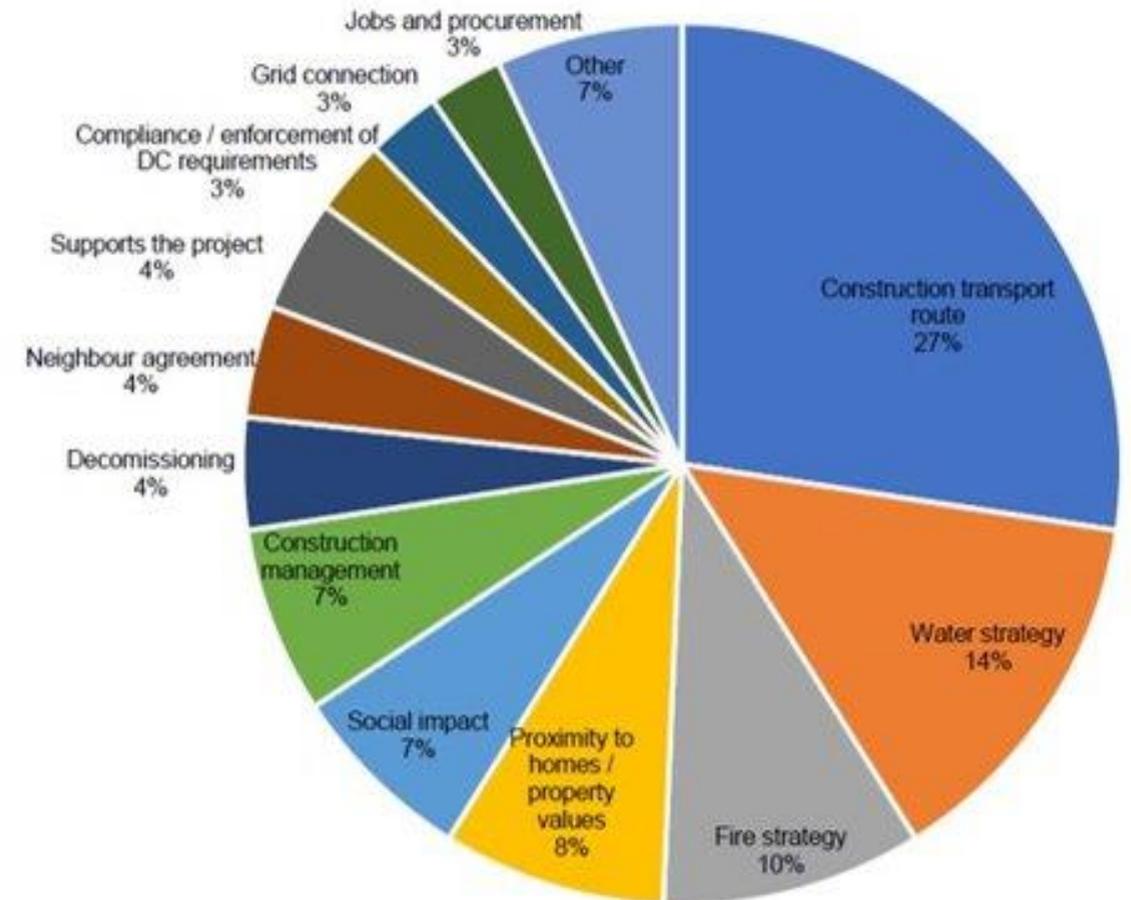


WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING SINCE THE LAST CCC COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT – KEY ISSUES RAISED

Feedback by topic (development consent / modification)



Feedback by topic (other aspects of the project)



Note: topics with only 1 comment each were grouped together as 'other'.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING SINCE THE LAST CCC BENEFIT SHARING

Tilt Renewables is committed to sharing the benefits of the Rye Park Wind Farm with the local communities

Recent progressions on benefit sharing include:

- Upcoming meeting with Rye Park Progress Association
- Working with local schools

Benefit sharing proposed for the Rye Park Wind Farm includes:

- Around 250 jobs during construction and 10 jobs during long-term operations
- \$230,000 per year in community funding (VPA)
- Around \$3 million per year in direct payments to local landowners
- Preparation of a Benefit Sharing Plan, in collaboration with the Rye Park community, that will detail how additional programmes will benefit from the Rye Park Wind Farm



REASONS FOR THE MODIFICATION JUSTIFICATION

- Latest in wind turbine technology to create more renewable energy from fewer turbines, optimising the existing site, increasing generating capacity from 327MW to ~448MW (maximum capacity), enough to power around 240,000 homes per year
- Greater contributions to the Federal Government's renewable energy targets and the NSW target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 60% by the year 2050
- More thorough environmental assessments of the site, improving site knowledge and more detailed engineering assessments, improving constructability of the layout

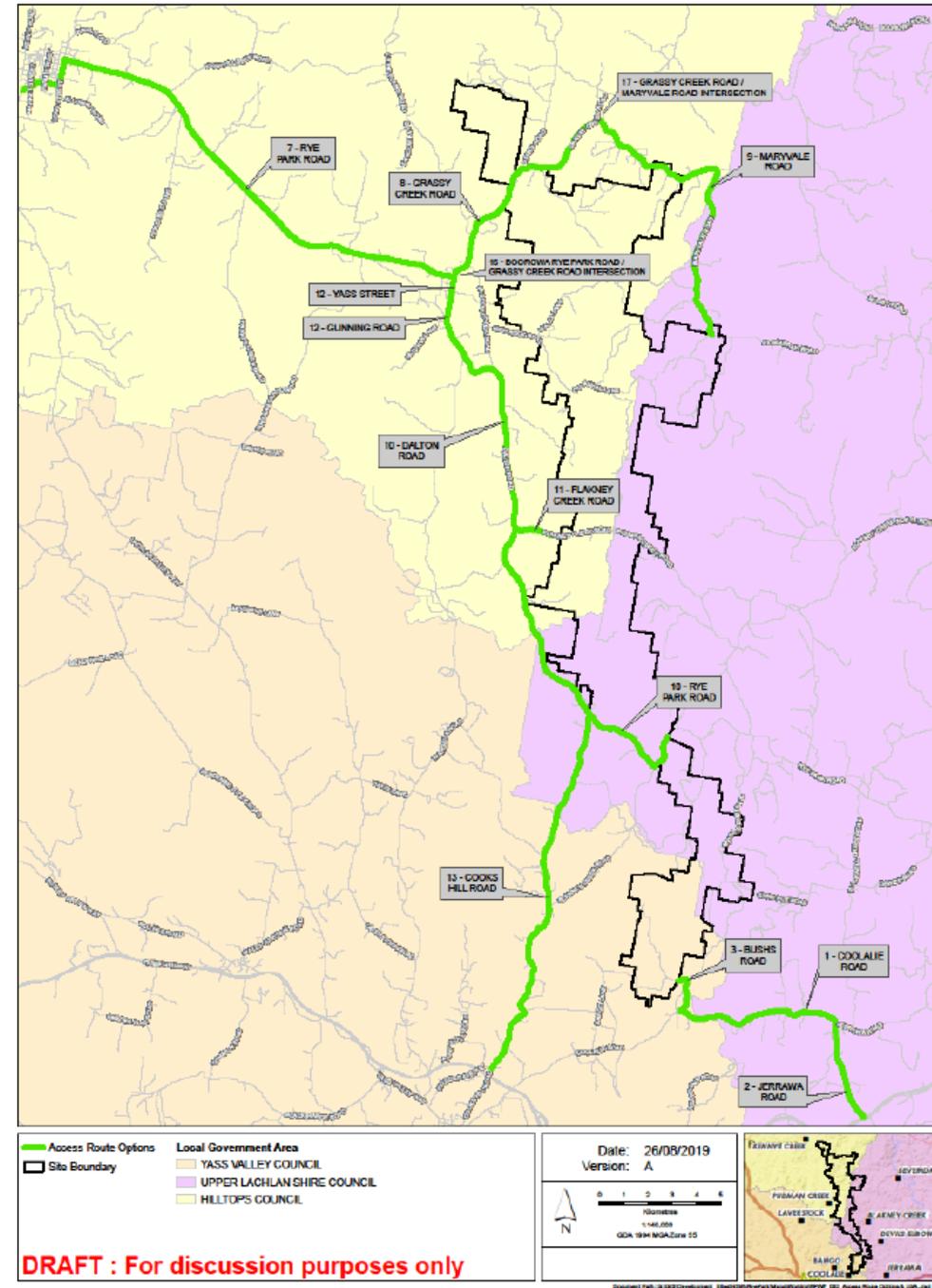
Changes to the project include:

- Increase in width of access tracks and underground cabling (resulting in an overall increase in site disturbance)
- Increase in tip height and rotor swept area
- Reduced development envelope
- Reduced underground cabling
- Reduced length of internal access tracks
- Reduction in O&M facilities and substations
- Optimising the design and alignment of the transmission line



PREFERRED TRANSPORT ROUTE CONSULTATION WITH COUNCIL & REQUIRED ROAD STANDARDS

- Approval for several transport route options in the development consent
- Consultation with councils in late 2019 to discuss requirements and considerations for road upgrades
- Road upgrade standard is defined in the Development Consent and EIS
- Road upgrade requirements specified by Council include:
 - Where possible, roads to be designed to follow existing road alignments to minimise impacts on vegetation and possible land acquisition
 - Council to help with any required land acquisition surrounding road reserves
 - Council to be provided with dilapidation surveys prior to construction commencing for areas not being upgraded



PREFERRED TRANSPORT ROUTE

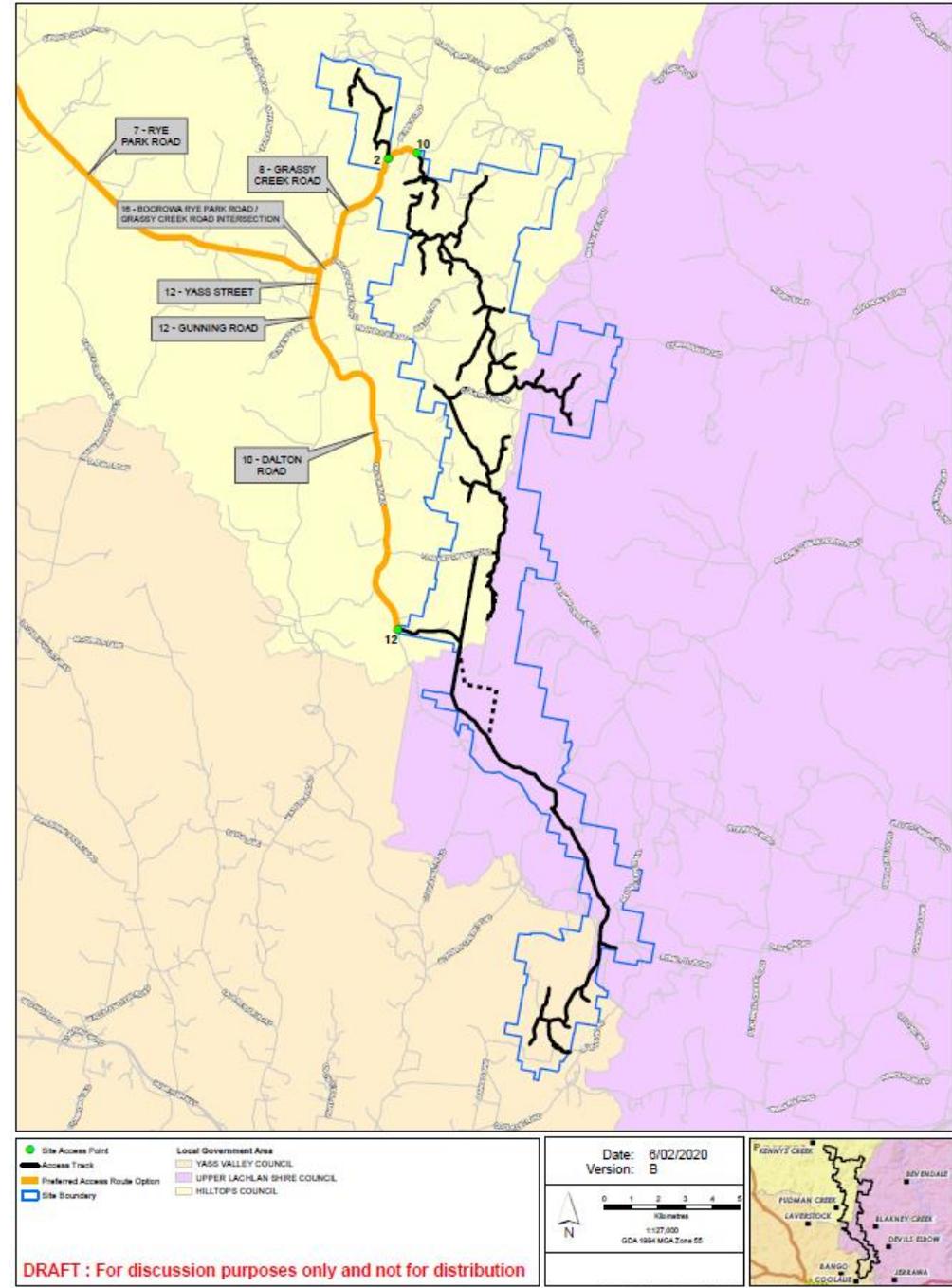
ROUTE SELECTED

The preferred transport route is based on consultation with Council, current road conditions and avoiding clearing of high quantities and more valuable vegetation

Preferred Route includes:

- Dalton Road (Rye Park)
- Yass Street (Rye Park)
- Rye Park Road (Boorowa / Rye Park)
- Gunning Road (Rye Park)
- Grassy Creek Road (Rye Park)
- Long Street (Boorowa)
- Dillion Street (Boorowa)
- Trucking Yard Road (Boorowa)

A workshop with Hilltops Council and BCD identified opportunities to have reduced road widening to minimise unnecessary loss of valuable native vegetation.



MODIFICATION PROCESS STATUS



Ongoing Community Consultation

- 2019**
 - Letter of Intent to DPIE, confirmation of modification process
 - Commence revised technical studies
 - Community Information sessions (pre modification submission)
- 2020**
 - Finalise modification application and submit to DPIE
 - Community information sessions (post modification submission)
 - DPIE check and report placed on public exhibition
 - Preparation of 'response to submissions (RTS) report' (if required) and submission to DPIE
 - DPIE assessment following RTS phase (assessment may be referred to the Independent Planning Commission depending on the number of submissions received)
- 2021**
 - DPIE publishes submissions report and completes assessment

During the RTS phase, there will be an opportunity to write submissions and provide feedback on the project

The public consultation process is determined by DPIE though it is likely to be 1-2 months following submission

The modification application is required to set out the qualitative and quantitative (where possible) differences between the approved and modified project

- The modification assesses the change in impact from what was approved (92 turbine layout) to what is proposed (80 turbine layout)
- Each specialist study was reviewed for any substantive effect on the assumptions or conclusions or mitigation strategies proposed for the modification
- The last Environmental Assessments completed for the Rye Park Wind Farm project were undertaken in 2016 during the Response to Submissions (RTS) phase of the Environmental Assessment
- These assessments were based on a 109 turbine layout, however no additional assessments were undertaken against the approved 92 turbine layout
- Subsequently, assessment impacts were rebaselined against the 92 turbine layout to make a fair comparison from what was approved to what is proposed

Additional assessments include:

Aviation

Electromagnetic Interference (EMI)

Shadow Flicker

Operation Noise

Traffic and Transport

Heritage

BDAR

Operational Bird and Bat

Visual

EMI was reassessed due to modification of turbine size and reduction in turbine numbers

- DNV GL prepared an EMI assessment for the revised layout of the RPWF.
- Compared to the 92 turbine layout, the modified layout is not expected to result in any increased impact to:
 - Nearby radiocommunication towers
 - Point-to-point links
 - Emergency services communications
 - Meteorological radar
 - Trigonometrical stations
 - Citizen's band radio communications; or
 - Satellite television and internet signals
- Consultation has commenced with single-to-multipoint link operators
- **No change to mitigation strategies warranted**

Shadow Flicker was reassessed due to modification of turbine size and reduction in turbine numbers

- DNV GL prepared a Shadow Flicker assessment for the revised layout of the RPWF
- In accordance with Condition 6 of the Development Consent, the predicted theoretical shadow flicker impact does not exceed 30 hours per year at any non-associated residences
- Compared to the 92 turbine layout, there are no more non-associated dwellings affected by above 0 hours/year of predicted theoretical shadow flicker (within 50 m of a dwelling)
- Compared to the 92 turbine layout, there are no more non-associated dwellings affected by more than 30 hours/year of predicted theoretical shadow flicker (within 50 m of a dwelling), exceeding the limits specified in the development consent
- Turbines to be off-white or grey to minimise potential for glare and reflection
- **No changes to mitigation strategies are warranted**



Operational Noise was reassessed due to modification of turbine size and reduction in turbine numbers

- Sonus undertook an environmental Noise Assessment for the revised layout of the RPWF
- The noise assessment was undertaken against one of the noisiest turbines on the market for a conservative assessment
- The 80 turbine layout is predicted to achieve the operational noise criteria at all residence in the vicinity of the wind farm, with the exception of a few residences
- With a reduced noise mode of the specific turbines, it is predicted the operational noise criteria can be achieved at all residences
- Construction noise and Corona and Aeolian noise have not changed since the approved project
- **We will comply with the existing conditions of the Development Consent with respect to noise**
- A final noise assessment will be undertaken once the final turbine model and site layout has been selected (after micro-siting)

Traffic and Transport was reassessed due to modification of turbine size, infrastructure layout, preferred transport route, reduction in access points and required road upgrades

- SMEC undertook a Traffic Impact Assessment for the revised layout of the RPWF
- Both the approved 92 turbine layout and proposed 80 turbines have assumed no onsite quarry is required and all materials will be sourced offsite
- No substantial change from the approved project regarding the total number of two ways trips
- Consultation is ongoing with Councils around the preferred transport route and required road upgrades
- After construction, operational transportation will be minimal
- A Traffic Management Plan will establish a procedure to manage traffic impacts during construction such as travel timings so adjustments can be made to minimise impacts



Heritage was reassessed due to modification of the development envelope and required road upgrades

- NGH Environmental undertook an Aboriginal and Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for the revised layout of the RPWF
- Changes to the modified layout and development envelope has resulted in impacts to additional areas that were not impacted in the approved layout
- Other areas that were previously impacted will no longer be disturbed under the modified layout
- Significantly increased efforts and more extensive surveys of the site have been undertaken during this assessment, which has influenced these findings
- **Mitigation measures are to avoid impacts where possible and salvage any potential archaeological finds**



BDAR was reassessed due to modification of the development envelope and required road upgrades

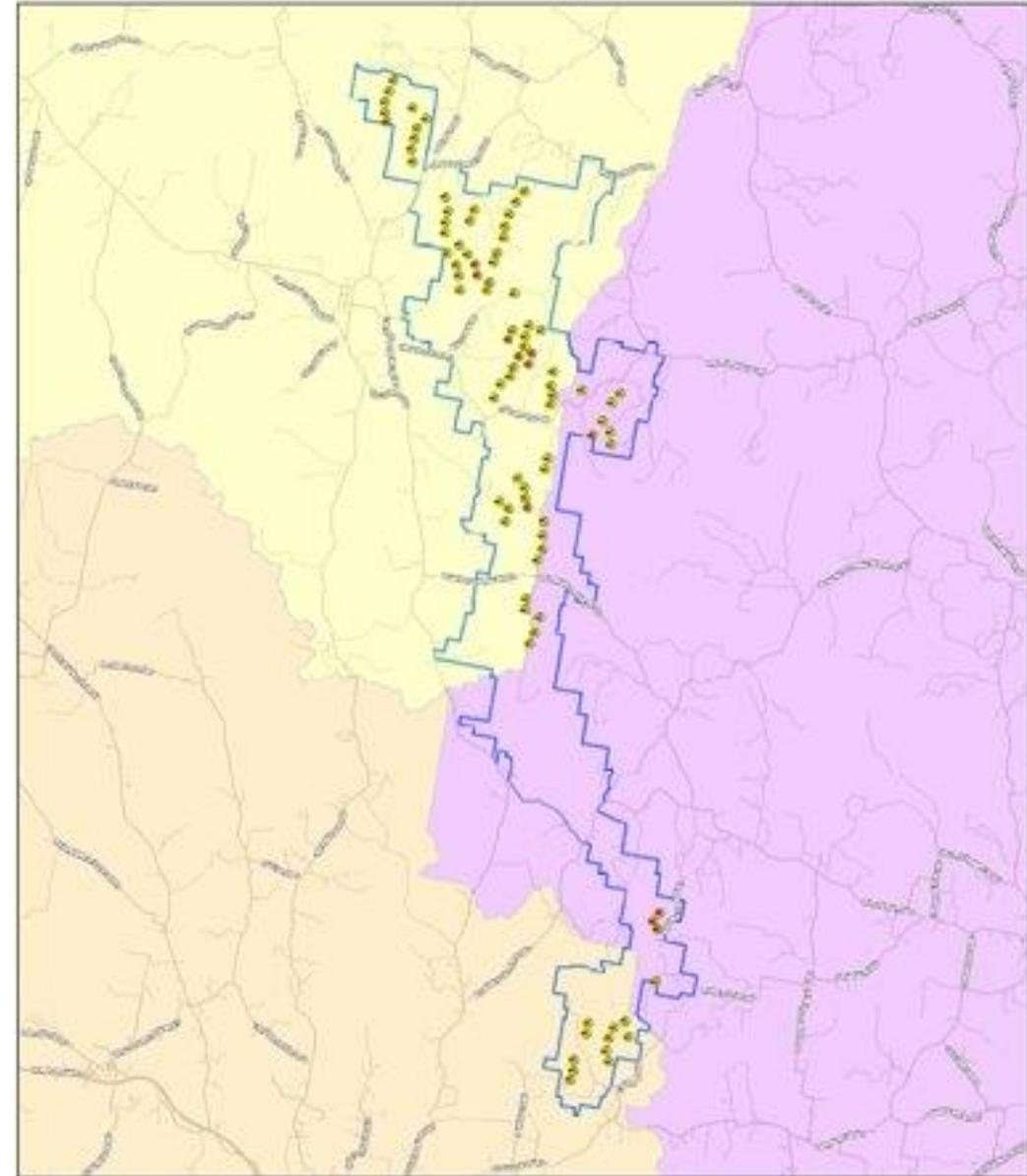
- Umwelt undertook a Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) for the revised layout of the RPWF
- The indicative development footprint supports the following Plant Community Types:
 - PCT 289 Mugga Ironbark - Inland Scribbly Gum - Red Box shrub/grass open forest
 - PCT 335 Tussock grass - sedgeland fen - rushland - reedland wetland
 - PCT 350 Candlebark - Blakely's Red Gum - Long-leaved Box grassy woodland
 - PCT 351 Brittle Gum - Broad-leaved Peppermint - Red Stringybark open forest
- Following the application of avoidance and minimisation measures, the BAM assessment identified biodiversity credits required to offset the impacts of the project
- The Development Consent includes a threshold of 50.2ha of Box Gum Woodland and current findings indicate that this threshold will not need to change in the modified project.
- Compared to the approved project, there is an increased amount of vegetation clearing, however much of this is exotic and of low condition. This is predominantly due to larger cut and fill requirements for internal access tracks and public road upgrades which were not considered in the approved project.
- Where possible, Tilt Renewables have implemented avoidance and mitigation measures.

SPECIALIST STUDIES

OPERATIONAL BIRD AND BAT

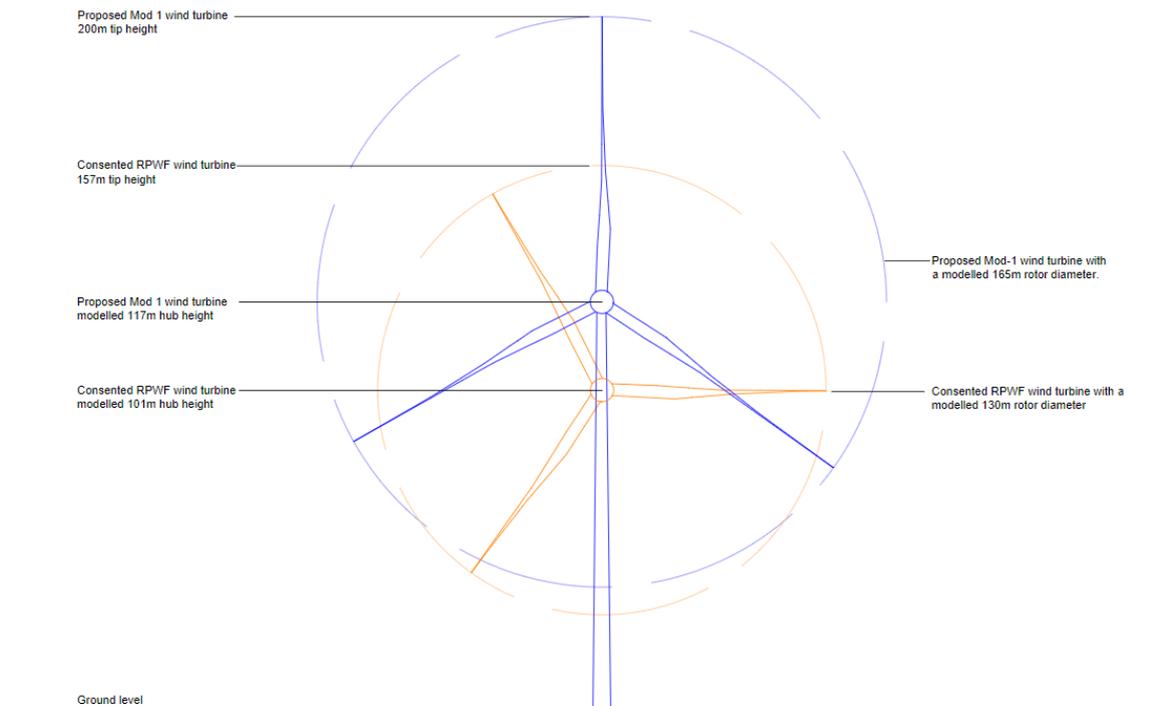
Operational Bird and Bat was reassessed due to modification of turbine size and reduction in turbine numbers

- Umwelt undertook a bird and bat strike assessment for the revised layout of the RPWF
- Focus of the assessment was on the change in extent of collision impacts predicted for the modified project
- Increased rotor swept area (RSA) per turbine would increase the risk to bird species that fly above 30m
- For threatened species which rarely occur above 20m, the risk of blade strike as part of the modification is negligible
- No additional management strategies are required
- A Bird and Bat Adaptive Management Plan will be prepared prior to construction



Visual impacts were reassessed due to modification of turbine size and reduction in turbine numbers.

- Green Bean Design has undertaken a visual impact assessment for the revised layout of the RPWF
- The study was peer reviewed by Moir Landscape Architecture with the peer reviewer generally agreeing with the findings of the VIA
- Additional levels of wind turbine visibility is limited and largely confined to the wind turbine hubs and upper portions of the rotor blades/tips
- **Proposed modification is not considered to result in a magnitude of visual change that would significantly increase visual effect**





Proposed 157m Tip Height

Photo location PM6 - View toward consented RPWF from Kershaw Street, Rye Park (157m tip height)



Proposed 200m Tip Height

Photo location PM6 - View toward proposed Mod 1 wind turbines from Kershaw Street, Rye Park (200m tip height)

Photomontage limitations

QUESTIONS

