



Rye Park Wind Farm

Newsletter
Edition

9

August
2020

Project update

The NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment's (DPIE) public exhibition period for the Rye Park Wind Farm Modification Application was held from Wednesday 13 May to Wednesday 3 June.

Submissions from governmental agencies, organisations and the public were received during the public exhibition of the Modification Application Report. The Rye Park Wind Farm project received a total of 129 submissions. *

On Wednesday 19 August we lodged our **Response to Submissions (RTS) Report** to DPIE and on Friday 21 August DPIE made the report publicly available on the NSW Major Projects website: www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/project/26241

The RTS Report documents how the issues raised in submissions have been considered and responded to by Tilt Renewables. Further clarifications to the Proposed Modifications are outlined and assessed in detail in the Amendments Report which has been submitted with the RTS Report and should be read in conjunction with the RTS Report.

* A description of how the submissions have been counted is provided in detail in Section 4.1.1 of the RTS Report.

These clarifications have been made in response to:

- submissions made during the public exhibition period;
- ongoing consultation with technical and non-technical stakeholders; and
- progression of the Project's detailed design.

Specific feedback from the community and DPIE on visual impact and community perception around the Rye Park village has been addressed through the removal of a further three turbines within close proximity of Rye Park village.

In an effort to demonstrate our commitment to responding to community concerns, we believe that the removal of the three turbines will address concerns related to the visual impact of wind turbines on Rye Park village.

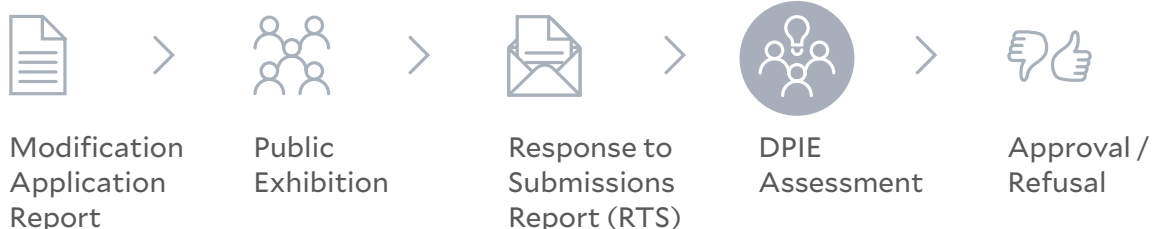
While the Modification Application remains downloadable for viewing via the NSW Major Projects website, we also encourage you to use the **Inform Rye Park website** (www.informryeparkwf.com) to explore the modifications proposed, the environmental assessments and proposed mitigation strategies, and engage with us on ideas around Benefit Sharing.

Subscribe to receive
the newsletter by email



We encourage everyone in the community to subscribe to the newsletter. Sign up by emailing us at: ryeparkwindfarm@tiltrenewables.com

Next Steps



What is a Response to Submissions Report (RTS)?

The purpose of an RTS Report is to:

- give the Applicant an opportunity to respond to the issues raised in submissions and to describe what action has been taken to address these issues
- help the community, organisations and government agencies to understand how the issues they raised have been addressed
- assist the approval authority to evaluate the merits of the project.

In preparing the RTS Report, we have undertaken additional evaluations, environmental assessments and consultation with relevant stakeholders. The RTS Report presents analysis of the submissions received and provides categorised and grouped responses in a logical, consistent and impartial manner. Individual submissions have been grouped by theme with a response for each theme.

As of 21 August, DPIE published the RTS Report on the NSW Major Projects portal. Submitters are able to navigate to a response to each of the topics raised in their submission by using their unique identifier provided by DPIE.

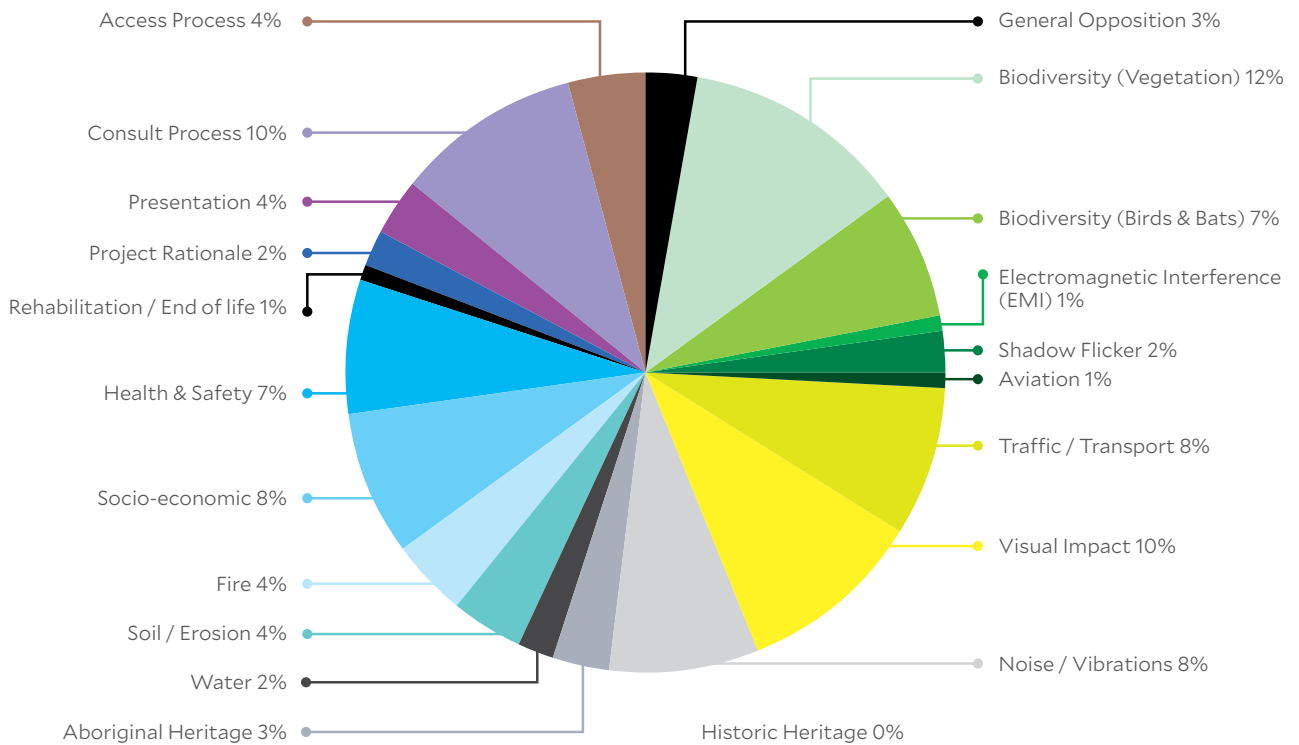
Additionally, now that we have lodged the RTS Report, we would be happy to provide an electronic or hard copy of the RTS Report to those who request it. Please contact us by phone or email if you would like to request a copy.

Summary of Submissions

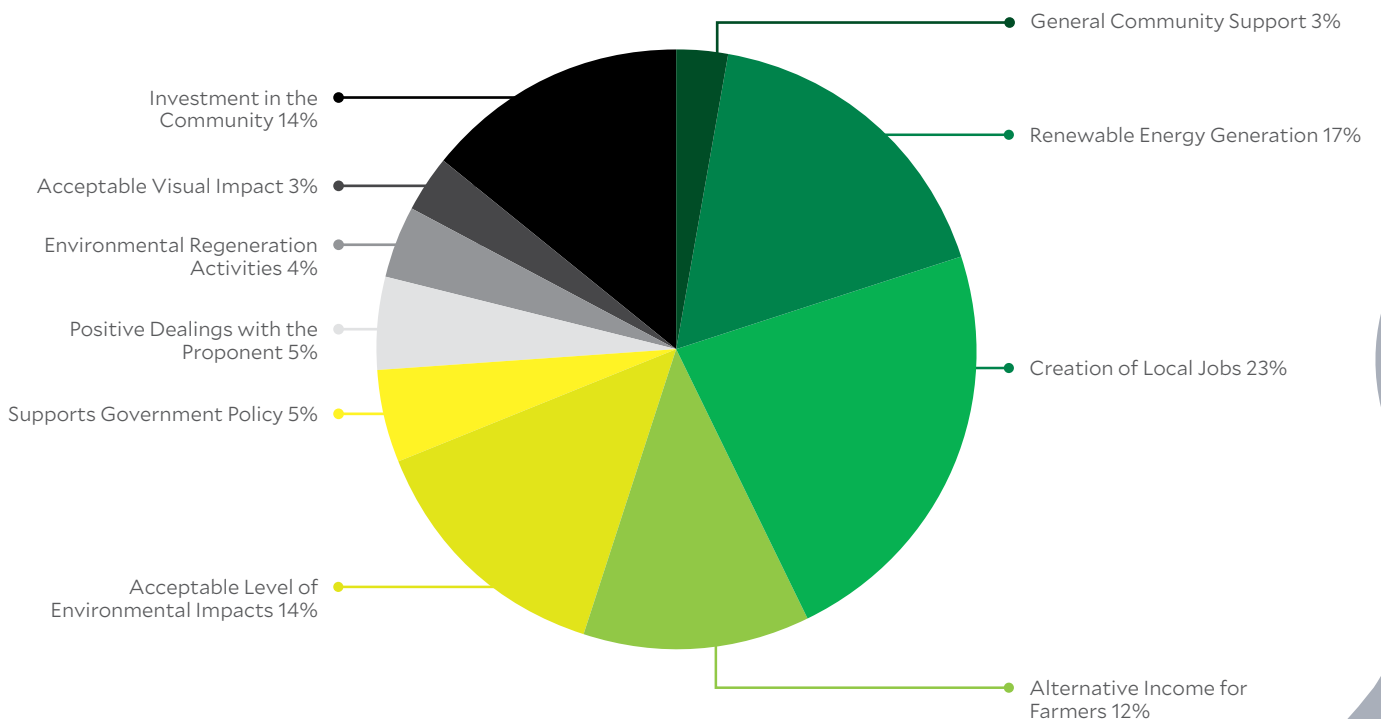
Category	Position			Total Number of Submissions Received
	Support	Comment	Object	
Governmental Agency Comments and Submissions	-	17	-	17
Organisation Submissions	2	1	4	7
Public Submissions	20	0	85*	105
Total Submissions	22	18	89	129

* Whilst 127 submissions were received from members of the community, 22 of these submissions were duplications (resulting from multiple submissions being lodged by the same person).

Modification Topics raised in Public Submissions – Object



Modification Topics raised in Public Submissions – Support



Clarifications to the Modified Project include:

Refinement of the Project infrastructure including:

- Removal of an additional three wind turbines within close proximity of Rye Park village;
- Adjustment of 2.3 km of Transmission Line (up to 330kV);
- Clarification of the approved, permanent meteorological masts (met masts) so as to allow for the Development Corridor;
- Refinement of the Development Corridor – External Roads;
- Additional ground disturbance for pole locations and associated track to enable the Project to connect to the TransGrid Transmission Line; and
- Inclusion of an additional temporary construction compound to facilitate upgrades on the TransGrid owned existing 330kV Transmission Line at the southern section of the Project site.

All clarifications to the Modified Project have been further detailed in the Amendments Report.

A revised Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (Revised BDAR) and Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (Addendum to the ACHA) have been undertaken to assess the refinement to the Project infrastructure. The assessments found that the proposed refinements will not substantially change the level of impacts associated with the Modified Project. The Amendments Report confirms that these clarifications will further reduce the overall impacts of the Proposed Modification.

Please refer to the Amendments Report including the updated summary table, via the NSW Major Projects website: www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/project/26241

Consultation

The consultation process was raised in some of the submissions regarding general dissatisfaction with consultation efforts, indicating that community members feel like they were not listened to, followed up with or given enough opportunity to comment.

The timing of public exhibition and Covid-19 restrictions was raised as insufficient within a number of public submissions. While Tilt Renewables does not determine the timing and process of formal public exhibition, we made significant efforts to make the public exhibition process accessible by creating a digestible summary of the Modification Application on the dedicated Inform Rye Park website, which was promoted through the May newsletter and directly via emails to the CCC members.

We acknowledge that in the past newsletters have not been able to reach all members of the community. We are committed to working with local newsagents, libraries and/or cafes to host newsletters for future communications. Following feedback received at the June CCC meeting, we have also committed to:



- Installing a project information board in the Rye Park village



- Advertising the newsletter in the Yass Valley Times (a new publication)



- Delivery of the newsletter to all letterboxes in and around Rye Park



- To ensure you do not miss any updates, please let us know that you are interested by signing up to our e-distribution by emailing ryeparkwindfarm@tiltrenewables.com

Consented Wind Farm Layout – 157m tip



Modification 1 Wind Farm Layout – 200m tip



Modification 1 Wind Farm Layout – 200m tip

Response to Submission layout (minus T32, T34 and T37)



Why is the Modification Required?

Modifications to the Development Consent are required to enable the Project to utilise improvements in wind energy technology to enable significantly more renewable energy production to be achieved with fewer, larger wind turbines and to reflect the outcomes of the ongoing design optimisation and assessment carried out as the Project progresses towards construction.

The justification for the Proposed Modifications and the associated benefits can be summarized as follows:



By using the more efficient turbine models the Project has the potential to generate more renewable electricity from the same project footprint, ultimately resulting in a lower cost of energy from the Project with clear benefits to the end user and energy consumer.



Greater efficiency; optimised cabling and transmission line infrastructure minimising electrical losses and maximising the generation capacity of the Project. Subsequent benefits as a result of this include:

- Reduction of transmission losses;
- Minimisation of resource use and waste generation;
- Reduced project cost and timelines; and
- Reduced haulage requirements.



An increase in 26% of energy capacity for the Final Modified Project will generate enough electricity to power 220,000 average Australian homes, approximately 50,000 more homes than the Approved Project, resulting in more clean energy for Australian homes and businesses.



The Project will make a significant contribution to the shortfall in generation that will arise with the forecast retirement of Liddell Power Station in the near future and other coal-fired generators over the coming years.



The Project is strongly aligned with the NSW Government energy and Commonwealth climate policies. The Project will provide 100% emissions free, renewable energy and help NSW with its inevitable transition away from its current reliance on fossil fuels which are continuing to contribute to climate change impacts.



The Project will provide full time employment for up to 250 staff during construction and up to 10 ongoing regional jobs during its operational life providing increased employment opportunities.



The Project will result in a direct injection of approximately \$2-\$3 million per annum to the local community through payments to landholders, permanent staff, the Community Enhancement Fund and a benefit sharing plan, with contributions providing better diversification of income and a drought proof and post retirement income for farmers.



Producing more clean energy means more carbon emissions savings:

- Approximately 1,314 GWh in generation per annum is enough to power around 220,000 homes per year;
- Offset more than one million tonnes of carbon emissions per annum – equivalent to removing 330,000 cars from the roads each year; and
- Offset construction and manufacturing carbon emissions well within the first year of operation.

Project component	Approved Project	Modified Project	Final Modified Project	Change from the Modified Project to the Final Modified Project	Change from the Approved Project to the Final Modified Project
Number of wind turbines	92	80	77	Decrease by 3	Decrease by 15
Height of turbines (max tip height)	157m	200m	200m	No change	Increase by 43m
Operations and maintenance buildings	2	1	1	No change	Decrease by 1
Collection substations	3	1	1	No change	Decrease by 2
Connection substations	1	1	1	No change	No change
Preferred Transport Route (Local)	Multiple Options	A Preferred Option	A Preferred Option	No change	Selection of A Preferred Option
Concrete Batch Plants	2	3	3	No change	Increase by 1
Construction Compounds	3	2	3	Increase by 1	No change
Development Corridor (Wind Farm & Permanent Met Masks)	1,646 ha	1,272 ha	1,327.57 ha	Increase by 55.57 ha	Decrease by 318.43 ha

Upcoming engagement and COVID-19

Between now and when a decision is announced on the Modification Application, we will continue to engage with the community with the hope to get to the area for in-person consultation when it is safe and appropriate to do so.

We have an online engagement portal available to assist the development of potential benefit sharing opportunities to feed into preparation of the Benefit Sharing Plan. More information on this is outlined in the Benefit Sharing section of this newsletter.

We have commenced and committed to improved consultation efforts regarding the Preferred Transport Route for the Project. Stakeholders along the route will be included in newsletter communications and project construction communications.

Following the decision on the Modification Application, we will be conducting pre-construction engagement (including information sessions) to provide further details on the final project and construction related matters (e.g. traffic management).

Tilt Renewables are closely monitoring the COVID-19 situation and continue to adapt our measures as the situation changes. While Victoria is under Stage Four restrictions, Tilt Renewables staff will not be traveling unless otherwise permitted by the Victorian Government requirements and only where deemed absolutely necessary.

Goods and Services Register

Wind farm construction creates hundreds of direct jobs on site and thousands of jobs in businesses that supply the project.

The types of jobs created include:

- Domestic scale electricians
- Transport operators
- Competent machine operators
- General labourers
- Quarries
- Concrete businesses

Construction also provides an economic boost for regional communities by increasing demand for local goods and services, such as accommodation, hotels, restaurants and cafes. We are committed to employing local people and buying local wherever possible.



To register interest in providing goods or services for the Project, please visit the Rye Park project webpage (www.ryeparkwf.com.au) and complete the linked form under the Employment section.



Thank you

* Image: Modification 1 Wind Farm Layout – 200m tip. Response to Submission layout (minus T32, T34 and T37)

Benefit sharing

We are committed to sharing the benefits of the Rye Park Wind Farm with the local community and invite you to share your ideas on how we could contribute to meaningful projects that have positive and lasting benefits for many.

The live page (www.informryeparkwf.com/benefit-sharing) enables the community to provide input on the kinds of additional benefit sharing programs they'd like to see delivered for the Rye Park community. Suggestions received include road safety improvements, education scholarships, power supply for the village and improvements to local amenity such as a general store or recreation facilities.

On other projects we have provided funding for sponsorships, community energy initiatives, education programs and training, and employment schemes – but all communities are different, so we don't take a one-size-fits-all approach.

Please use the Benefit Sharing page on the Inform Rye Park website below to provide your input on the kinds of additional benefit sharing programs you'd like to see delivered for the Rye Park community.

www.informryeparkwf.com/benefit-sharing

More detailed consultation is planned for Q4 2020 / Q1 2021, to help inform the preparation of the Benefit Sharing Plan for the project. This may include information sessions, workshops, one on-one-engagement with potential benefit sharing partners (in person and/or virtually, pending Covid restrictions on travel).



**Tell us your
community
improvement
project idea**

Questions?

If you have any questions, get in touch by calling: **1800 WE TILT (938 458)**

Email: ryeparkwindfarm@tiltrenewables.com | **Web:** www.ryeparkwf.com.au

Postal Address: PO Box 16080 Collins St West, Melbourne Vic 8007