



Fire safety

at the Salt Creek Wind Farm

Wind farms are not considered to increase fire risk. In fact, in most cases wind farms benefit the community via their large access track network, additional personnel on site during construction and operation and the fire mitigation measures required by the responsible authority.

There are strict mitigation measures in place during construction and, once operational, wind farm access tracks can assist in fire fighting measures in multiple ways. An example of this was at Snowtown, South Australia in 2013 (pictured right). The Country Fire Service was able to use wind farm access tracks to control a number of lightning induced bush fires. The wind farm's infrastructure made it easier to defend property and having people in elevated positions with good visibility of the countryside allowed early detection and reporting of the fire.

Aerial fire fighting is not prevented by the presence of a wind farm, but it is considered on a case by case scenario based on the risks presented by the fire event. A good example of aerial fire fighting within and surrounding a wind farm was seen in January 2017 when a fire approached the Waterloo Wind Farm in South Australia. Aerial fire fighting occurred throughout the wind farm using multiple aircraft, and the fire was stopped at one of the turbine access roads.

There are several fire mitigation measures in place at the Salt Creek Wind Farm.



Salt Creek Wind Farm fire safety infrastructure

- Two 22,500 litre tanks on site which remain full year round for fire use only;
- During construction, a stand pipe with capacity to pump 16,000 litres of water in three minutes; and
- Eight kilometres of tracks for easy access and fire breaks.

Salt Creek Wind Farm construction fire safety measures

- All vehicles are restricted to paved roads on Total Fire Ban days;
- No "hot work" such as cutting, grinding, welding or heat shrinking cables on Total Fire Ban days;
- Smoking only on hardstand areas (on TFB days workers are required to return to the site compound to smoke); and
- 12 staff with fire training to assist the CFA.

Low risk of fire

The risk of fire at wind farms is very low for the following reasons:

- Flammable elements are located high above the ground;
- There is little vegetation around the base of a turbine tower;
- Automatic systems shut turbines down if component temperatures are outside acceptable limits; and
- Installation of wind farm access tracks provide the ability to efficiently combat fires.

Assisting fire fighters

Access roads constructed as part of the wind farm infrastructure assist firefighters by:

- Providing access to often inaccessible areas;
- Serving as a control line;
- Creating natural fire breaks; and
- Providing staging areas for firefighting in their cleared areas.

For more information please visit the project website

www.saltcreekwindfarm.com.au or contact the Project Team on 1800 122 823 or email saltcreekwindfarm@tiltrenewables.com

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