

7.0 Visual Impact (contd.)

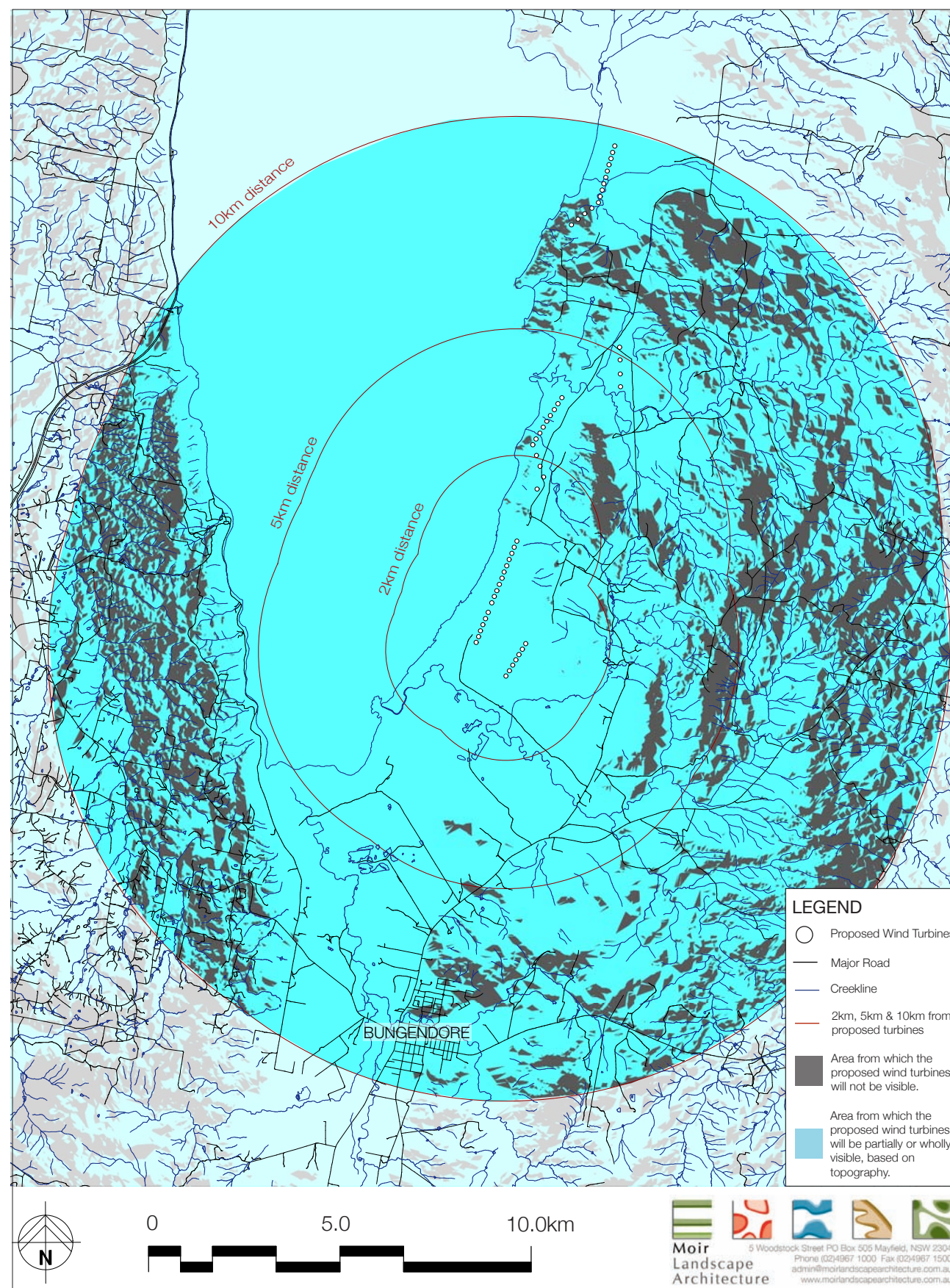


Figure 12: Zone of Visual Influence (based on topography), Southern Group.

7.1.1 Zone of Visual Influence Results

The ZVI model identifies a large percentage of land surrounding the proposed development as areas where the Wind Turbines will be visible from (refer to Figure 9). Overall low lying and generally flat topography associated with the Lake George Plain and rural plains associated with Bungendore are contained within the ZVI. The Lake George Range escarpment to the west and the Great Dividing Range to the east provide a visual barrier screening views from the west. The highest visual impact of the wind turbines based on the ZVI is likely to be within the 0-5km radius shown. The ZVI is impeded to the east and to the west by the undulating topography. The visual influence of each group of wind turbines varies slightly and is described below.

ZONE OF VISUAL INFLUENCE

Views towards the proposed development are unimpeded from the Federal Highway in the west, with the ZVI extending across Lake George. Visual influence is reduced towards the top of the escarpment associated with the Lake George Range. Views of the proposed turbines from the east are limited by topography associated with the Great Dividing Range.

NORTHERN

The northern group of turbines are sited on low lying land adjacent the north eastern edge of Lake George within the Allianoyonyiga Creek catchment. The ZVI for the turbines extends across Lake George to the Federal Highway, and south to Bungendore (refer to Figure 10). The ridge lines south of the wind turbines obstruct views from the south, and along most of the Tarago/Bungendore Road.

CENTRAL

The central group of turbines (refer to Figure 11) are the most visually prominent due to the location of two turbines on the ridge of Red Hill. Seven turbines are located directly adjacent to Lake George in a lineal arrangement within the Taylors Creek catchment. The visual catchment extends towards the north, decreasing at the ridges associated with Mt Baby. To the east the ridge line of Hammonds Hill and other ridges associated with the Great Dividing Range provide a visual barrier along the Tarago-Bungendore Road.

SOUTHERN

The southern group of wind turbines are situated over 7km north of the Bungendore town centre. The Zone of Visual Influence extends into the town however ridge lines immediately north of the town provide a degree of obstruction (refer to Figure 12).

The Zone of Visual Influence is based solely on topographic information and consequently the proposed wind turbines will be obstructed by a range of landscape elements. The Zone of Visual Influence has been determined for the proposed wind turbines alone. The existing wind turbines of Capital Wind Farm are typically located along the ridge lines to the east of the proposed turbines.