# Paling Yards Wind Farm Scoping Report

## PALING YARDS WIND FARM SCOPING REPORT

REQUEST FOR SECRETARY'S ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

Prepared for Global Power Generation Australia Pty Ltd

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# Quality Assurance

Paling Yards Wind Farm Scoping Report

REQUEST FOR SECRETARY'S ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

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Revisions

| Issue | Date | Description | Prepared By | Reviewed By | Project Principal |
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| 00 | 29/09/2021 | Final | Ian Mundy | Jo Matthews | Leonard Slabbert |
| 01 | 29/10/2021 | Updated as per DPIE RFI | Ian Mundy | Jo Matthews | Leonard Slabbert |
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# Figures & Tables



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Glossary and Acronyms

| | |
|---|---|
| AHIMS | Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System |
| AEMO | Australian Energy Market Operator |
| APZ | Asset Protection Zone |
| BAM | Biodiversity Assessment Method |
| BC Act | *NSW Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* |
| BDAR | Biodiversity Development Assessment Report |
| CASA | Civil Aviation Safety Authority |
| DAWE | Commonwealth Department of Agriculture Water and the Environment |
| DCP | Development Control Plan |
| DEE | Department of the Energy and Environment |
| DPI | Department of Primary Industry |
| DPE | Department of Planning and Environment |
| DPIE | Department of Planning, Industry and Environment |
| EEC | Endangered Ecological Community |
| EIS | Environmental Impact Statement |
| EMF | Electromagnetic Fields / Frequencies |
| EMI | Electromagnetic Interference |
| EPA | NSW Environment Protection Authority |
| EP&A Act | *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* |
| EPBC Act | *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* |
| EPI | Environmental Planning Instrument |
| ESD | Ecologically Sustainable Development |
| GIS | Geographic Information System |
| GPG | Global Power Generation Australia |
| ISEPP | *State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) 2007* |
| kV | Kilovolt |
| LGA | Local Government Area |
| LLS | Local Land Services |
| LSPS | Local Strategic Planning Statement |
| MNES | Matters of National Environmental Significance |
| MW | Megawatt |
| NEM | National Electricity Market |
| NIA | Noise Impact Assessment |
| Noise Bulletin | NSW Wind Energy: Noise Assessment Bulletin (DPE, 2016) |
| NSW | New South Wales |
| NT Act | *Native Title Act 1993* |

| | |
|---|---|
| OEH | Office of Environment and Heritage |
| ODCP | Oberon Development Control Plan 2001 |
| OLEP | *Oberon Local Environmental Plan 2013* |
| PEA | Preliminary Environmental Assessment |
| PYWF | Paling Yards Wind Farm |
| RAF | Rapid Assessment Framework Package |
| RMS | Roads and Maritime Service |
| RFS | Rural Fire Service |
| SEARs | Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements |
| SEPP | *State Environmental Planning Policy* |
| SSD | State Significant Development |
| SSD Guide | State Significant Development Guide - Exhibition Draft - December 2020 (DPIE, 2020) |
| TfNSW | Transport for NSW |
| Visual Bulletin | NSW Wind Energy: Visual Assessment Bulletin (DPE, 2016) |
| Wind Guideline | NSW Wind Energy Guideline For State significant wind energy development (DPE, 2016) |
| WTG | Wind Turbine Generator |
| WM Act | Water Management Act 2000 |

# Project Overview

## 1 Introduction

### 1.1 Applicant Details

The proponent is known as Global Power Generation Australia (GPG). It has established operations in Canberra to develop, construct and operate renewable assets in Australia to advance investment within the international renewable energy sector.

GPG is committed to developing and managing modern power generation assets with a global focus on renewable energy through hydro and wind power technologies. Wind power through wind turbines is one of the world's most widely used renewable technologies and uses wind's kinetic energy to generate electricity. Wind energy generation forms a major part of GPG's commitment towards the renewable energy future of NSW.

The Paling Yards Wind Farm Project (the Project or PYWF) will be managed by a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) under GPG to be known as Paling Yards Development Pty Ltd (ABN: 25 653 388 473).

Table 1. Applicant Details Summary

| Applicant Details | Description |
|---|---|
| Company | Global Power Generation Australia Pty Ltd (GPG) (Proponent) |
| ABN / ACN | GPG: ABN 74 130 542 03 (ACN: 130 542 031) |
| Address | Suite 4, Level 3, 24 Marcus Clarke Street, Canberra ACT 2600 |
| Phone | +61 2 6274 3200 |

### 1.2 Project Description

#### 1.2.1 Project Overview

The Project will consist of up to forty-seven (47) wind turbines, each of which allows for a maximum capacity of up to 6.6MW per turbine, providing a total generation capacity of up to 310MW. Each turbine will have an overall maximum blade height of 240m and a total of three blades per turbine.

Two turbine models are currently being considered by the Proponent. The assessment has been conducted applying a "conservative scenario" (the largest turbine model) to ensure that the supporting studies and community and stakeholder involvement covers all aspects of the proposed development, investigating the most significant scale of potential impacts

should the Project be undertaken at the PYWF site. GPG has noted that the Siemens Gamesa SG 6.6-170 is the largest turbine in consideration, which would feature a generation capacity of up to 6.6MW per turbine.

Below a summary of the proposed project, including its objectives, site specific information and location.

Table 2. Paling Yards Wind Farm Project Summary

| Project Details | Description |
|---|---|
| The Project | The Paling Yards Wind Farm (The Project or PYWF) |
| Project Objectives | · GPG is committed to developing and managing modern power generation assets with a global focus on renewable energy through hydro and wind power technologies. Wind power through wind turbines is one of the world's most widely used renewable technologies and uses wind's kinetic energy to generate electricity. Wind energy generation forms a major part of GPG's commitment towards the renewable energy future of NSW.<br>· GPG is one of the top five independent renewable energy operators in Australia. GPG currently has two operating wind farm facilities – the Crookwell 2 Wind Farm (91MW) near Goulburn in New South Wales (NSW) and the Berrybank Wind Farm (180MW) in south-western Victoria (VIC). The recent approved Crookwell 3 Wind Farm (58MW) in NSW will add to their portfolio.<br>· Through the efficiency of wind power generation, GPG is committed to investing in and contributing towards the renewable energy future of NSW and State Government efforts to reduce carbon emissions and achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.<br>· The project aims to contribute towards reducing the dangerous impacts of climate change.<br>· The project will also contribute capital investment into the local economy. |
| Number of Wind Turbine Generators (WTG) | 47 (forty-seven) Wind Turbine Generators (WTGs). |
| Maximum Total Height (Blade Tip) | 240 metres |
| Individual WTG Capacity | 6.6MW |
| Total Expected Capacity | 310MW |
| Additional Project Components | · Construction of up to three (x3) wind monitoring masts fitted with various instruments such as anemometers, wind vanes, temperature gauges and potentially other electrical equipment.<br>· Construction of on-site electrical substations (collector substation and connection substation) with approximately 9km of overhead powerline (70m in width) to connect to the Mount Piper to Bannaby 500kV transmission line (including control room and other associated grid connection facilities).<br>· Construction of a control room, maintenance buildings, switchgear, and associated control systems in the vicinity of the wind turbine towers.<br>· Roadworks and upgrades to local road infrastructure at key access points along Abercrombie Road in addition to internal tracks for vehicle access to turbines and infrastructure. |
| Total Project Area | 4,600 hectares (ha) |
| Project Approvals | State Significant Development (SSD) Approval Pathway |
| Construction | Construction is expected to commence in late 2022. |
| Operation | · It is expected that the Wind Farm will be operational between 2024-2054.<br>· Hours of operation will be 24hours per day, 7 days per week. |

| Project Details | Description |
|---|---|
| Employment | · 400 (four-hundred) full-time positions during construction.<br>· 4 (four) long term operations jobs. |
| Capital Investment Value (CIV) | $550million - $600million. |
| Project Benefits | · A total capital investment of between $550M and $600M;<br>· Up to 400 full-time positions during construction and four (4) ongoing full-time positions during the operation of the wind farm;<br>· Stimulation of the economy in the Oberon Council including greater income generation and subsequent expenditure in the region;<br>· Additional employment and commercial opportunities from the economic investment;<br>· Up-skilling of the local workforce within a growing energy market;<br>· The use of locally sourced materials and labour;<br>· Increases in the local tourism industry for workers and visitors to the site;<br>· Power generation via a clean, renewable energy source of up to 310MW; and<br>· Contributions towards reducing the dangerous impacts of climate change through the displacement of up to 900,000 tonnes of greenhouse gases per year. |

### 1.2.2 Site Locality

The site is located at the western extent of the Great Dividing Range in NSW, 60km south of Oberon, 60km north of Goulburn and approximately 140km west of Sydney. The site is situated in the Oberon Local Government Area (LGA).

Key locality considerations for the Project site are as follows:

- Abercrombie National Park borders the site to the west and south. The site is bordered by national parks and uncleared land to the south-east all of which are heavily vegetated
- To the east of the site is the Wiarborough Nature Reserve and Blue Mountains National Park.
- The Project site includes three separate land holdings over approximately 4,600 hectares referred to as 'Mingary Park', 'Paling Yards', 'Middle Station' and 'Hilltop'. Most of the site has been cleared of native vegetation, although scattered trees are common within the site, and thicker vegetation exists near the site's boundary.
- The site ranges from between 900m and 1,065m above sea level, with significant slopes in many areas.
- The site includes several ephemeral creeks and drainage lines cross the site, which drains into Abercrombie River.
- The site is currently used for agricultural purposes such as sheep and cattle grazing.
- The area is heavily undulating with some steep slopes.
- The site is bisected by Taralga Road, which links the towns of Oberon and Taralga.
- The closest towns are Porters Retreat and Curraweela which have township populations of approximately 180 and 320 respectively.
- Several water courses traverse the area including the Abercrombie River, which flows into the Lachlan River. The Abercrombie River forms the southern boundary of the site.
- The site is approximately 40km to the north-east of the existing Crookwell 1 Wind Farm and the approved Crookwell 2 and Crookwell 3 Wind Farms.

Figure 1 indicates the location and context of the site to the regional towns and local communities within Bathurst, Oberon, Lithgow, Taralga and Crookwell.

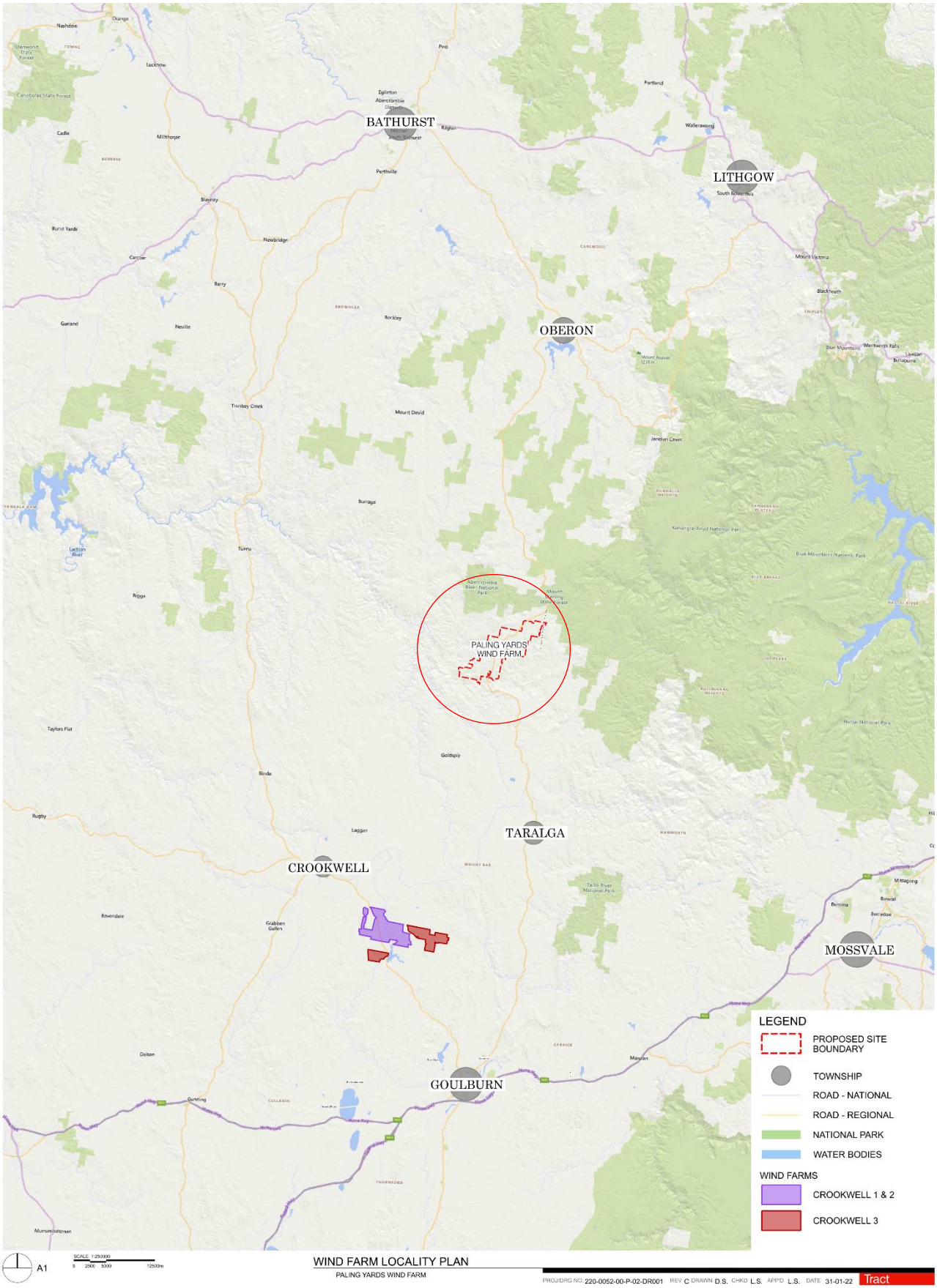


Figure 1. Locality Plan (Source: Tract, 2022)

### 1.2.3 Site Description

Below provides a summary of the registered lots and addresses that will form part of the application site:

Table 3. Involved Lots

| Site Address | Lot / DP | Lot Involvement |
|---|---|---|
| 7056 Abercrombie Road Paling Yards 2580 | Lot 1 / DP 753019 | WTG and ancillary |
| 7056 Abercrombie Road Paling Yards 2580 | Lot 2 / DP 753019 | WTG and ancillary |
| 7056 Abercrombie Road Paling Yards 2580 | Lot 3 / DP 753019 | WTG and ancillary |
| 7056 Abercrombie Road Paling Yards 2580 | Lot 4 / DP 753019 | WTG and ancillary |
| 7056 Abercrombie Road Paling Yards 2580 | Lot 30 / DP 753019 | WTG and ancillary |
| 7056 Abercrombie Road Paling Yards 2580 | Lot 31 / DP 753019 | WTG and ancillary |
| 7056 Abercrombie Road Paling Yards 2580 | Lot 32 / DP 753019 | WTG and ancillary |
| 7056 Abercrombie Road Paling Yards 2580 | Lot 1 / DP 753037 | WTG and ancillary |
| 6466 Abercrombie Road Paling Yards 2580 | Lot 2 / DP 753037 | WTG and ancillary |
| 7056 Abercrombie Road Paling Yards 2580 | Lot 5 / DP 753037 | WTG and ancillary |
| 6335 Abercrombie Road Paling Yards 2580 | Lot 6 / DP 753037 | WTG and ancillary |
| 6055 Abercrombie Road Paling Yards 2580 | Lot 7 / DP 753037 | WTG and ancillary |
| 7056 Abercrombie Road Paling Yards 2580 | Lot 11 / DP 753037 | WTG and ancillary |
| 7056 Abercrombie Road Paling Yards 2580 | Lot 13 / DP 753037 | WTG and ancillary |
| 7056 Abercrombie Road Paling Yards 2580 | Lot 14 / DP 753037 | WTG and ancillary |
| 6055 Abercrombie Road Paling Yards 2580 | Lot 15 / DP 753037 | WTG and ancillary |
| 6335 Abercrombie Road Paling Yards 2580 | Lot 16 / DP 753037 | WTG and ancillary |
| 7056 Abercrombie Road Paling Yards 2580 | Lot 17 / DP 753037 | WTG and ancillary |
| 7056 Abercrombie Road Paling Yards 2580 | Lot 18 / DP 753037 | WTG and ancillary |
| 6055 Abercrombie Road Paling Yards 2580 | Lot 19 / DP 753037 | WTG and ancillary |
| 7056 Abercrombie Road Paling Yards 2580 | Lot 20 / DP 753037 | WTG and ancillary |
| 7056 Abercrombie Road Paling Yards 2580 | Lot 21 / DP 753037 | WTG and ancillary |
| 6335 Abercrombie Road Paling Yards 2580 | Lot 22 / DP 753037 | WTG and ancillary |
| 7056 Abercrombie Road Paling Yards 2580 | Lot 23 / DP 753037 | WTG and ancillary |
| 6335 Abercrombie Road Paling Yards 2580 | Lot 26 / DP 753037 | WTG and ancillary |
| 7056 Abercrombie Road Paling Yards 2580 | Lot 27 / DP 753037 | WTG and ancillary |
| 6335 Abercrombie Road Paling Yards 2580 | Lot 28 / DP 753037 | WTG and ancillary |
| 6055 Abercrombie Road Paling Yards 2580 | Lot 34 / DP 753037 | WTG and ancillary |
| 1633 Jerrong Road, Jerrong 2580 | Lot 36 / DP 753037 | WTG and ancillary |
| 6790 Abercrombie Road Paling Yards 2580 | Lot 39 / DP 753037 | WTG and ancillary |
| 6335 Abercrombie Road Paling Yards 2580 | Lot 40 / DP 753037 | WTG and ancillary |
| 6466 Abercrombie Road Paling Yards 2580 | Lot 41 / DP 753037 | WTG and ancillary |
| 6466 Abercrombie Road Paling Yards 2580 | Lot 42 / DP 753037 | WTG and ancillary |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 6790 Abercrombie Road Paling Yards 2580 | Lot 43 / DP 753037 | WTG and ancillary |
| 6335 Abercrombie Road Paling Yards 2580 | Lot 44 / DP 753037 | WTG and ancillary |
| 7056 Abercrombie Road Paling Yards 2580 | Lot 45 / DP 753037 | WTG and ancillary |
| 6055 Abercrombie Road Paling Yards 2580 | Lot 48 / DP 753037 | WTG and ancillary |
| 7056 Abercrombie Road Paling Yards 2580 | Lot 49 / DP 753037 | WTG and ancillary |
| 6650 Abercrombie Road Paling Yards 2580 | Lot 53 / DP 753037 | WTG and ancillary |
| 6057 Abercrombie Road Paling Yards 2580 | Lot 67 / DP 753037 | WTG and ancillary |
| 6057 Abercrombie Road Paling Yards 2580 | Lot 2 / DP 753064 | WTG and ancillary |
| 6055 Abercrombie Road Paling Yards 2580 | Lot 41 / DP 753064 | WTG and ancillary |
| 6055 Abercrombie Road Paling Yards 2580 | Lot 56 / DP 753064 | WTG and ancillary |
| 6057 Abercrombie Road Paling Yards 2580 | Lot 67 / DP 753064 | WTG and ancillary |
| 7056 Abercrombie Road Paling Yards 2580 | Lot 2 / DP 1025920 | WTG and ancillary |
| 7056 Abercrombie Road Paling Yards 2580 | Lot 41 / DP 1025920 | WTG and ancillary |
| Abercrombie Road Paling Yards 2580 | Lot 13 / DP 257010 | WTG and ancillary |
| 6790 Abercrombie Road Paling Yards 2580 | Lot 51 / DP 621232 | WTG and ancillary |
| Abercrombie Road, Paling Yards 2580 | Lot 7002 / DP 1068142 | WTG and ancillary |
| Abercrombie Road, Paling Yards 2580 | Lot 7002 / DP 1068142 | WTG and ancillary |

The transmission line route will include the following lots:

Table 4. Transmission Line Involved Lots

| Site Address | Lot / DP | Lot Involvement |
|---|---|---|
| 6466 Abercrombie Road Paling Yards 2580 | Lot 2 / DP 753037 | Transmission Line |
| 7056 Abercrombie Road Paling Yards 2580 | Lot 5 / DP 753037 | Transmission Line |
| 6335 Abercrombie Road Paling Yards 2580 | Lot 16 / DP 753037 | Transmission Line |
| 6335 Abercrombie Road Paling Yards 2580 | Lot 40 / DP 753037 | Transmission Line |
| 6055 Abercrombie Road Paling Yards 2580 | Lot 56 / DP 753064 | Transmission Line |
| 6057 Abercrombie Road Paling Yards 2580 | Lot 67 / DP 753064 | Transmission Line |

## 1.3 Project Background

The proposed Paling Yards Wind Farm project has a long development history. Initially conceived in 2002 to deliver a renewable energy asset within the Oberon region and reduce carbon emissions, the Project has undergone many revisions in its development, layout, and establishment. These revisions result from project and land ownership changes, community and stakeholder feedback, and advancements in wind turbine technology which have occurred during the Project's history.

Below a summary of the project history.

Table 5. Project Background Summary

| Background Details | Description |
|---|---|
| Project Conception | · Initially conceived in 2002 to deliver a renewable energy asset within the Oberon region and reduce carbon emissions, the Paling Yards Wind Farm Project has undergone many revisions in its potential development, layout, and establishment.<br>· These revisions result from project and land ownership changes, community and stakeholder feedback, and advancements in wind turbine technology, which have occurred throughout the Project's history.<br>· Other sites within the Oberon region was considered in 2002, but due to various factors influencing site selection process (i.e., environmental sensitive land and natural parks, willing landowners, wind speed and efficiency reviews, proximity to dwelling houses etc) the current site for the Paling Yards Wind Farm was selected. |
| Project History | Previous Project (2002 - 2009)<br>· The Project initially was proposed by TME Australia Pty Ltd in 2002.<br>· The project progressed through a joint venture with Gamesa Energy Australia Pty Ltd. A consultant team was established in 2004 to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and EPBC referral for a project of approximately 46 turbines of 67 – 78 metres to hub height. At the time, the rapid changes in technology in the wind farm industry meant that wind farm projects for consideration by authorities demonstrated an increasing number of larger turbines.<br>· The initial project was first referred to the then Minister for Environment and Heritage under the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth) (EPBC Act)*. The Minister determined that the project was not a controlled action that required approval under the EPBC Act.<br>Previous Project (2009 - 2014)<br>· In mid-2008, Union Fenosa Wind Australia took over the project from Gamesa Energy Australia Pty Ltd.<br>· On 29 October 2009, the Deputy Director-General for the Department of Planning (under delegation for the Minister for Planning) determined the project classification was a Critical Infrastructure Project, whereby Part 3A of the EP&A Act was applied. A Part 3A development application was subsequently lodged for the project on 9 April 2010. The then proponent (Union Fenosa Wind Australia) engaged specialist consultants to investigate and assess the site and prepare the lodgement of an EIS.<br>· An essential element of the investigations undertaken was the face-to-face community consultation (door-knock) carried out with surrounding landowners from 30 May 2011 to 1 June 2011. The results of the door-knock, combined with the second round of consultation with key stakeholders and additional consultant studies, resulted in several changes made to the Project's design to address the issues raised.<br>· The initial proposal included options for between 30 and 50 turbines, each with a power output of two megawatts and a collective capacity to produce 60 to 100 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy. The type of wind turbine initially proposed had a maximum rotor radius of 45 metres and a hub height of 67 - 78 metres. The wind turbine tower and the rotor's combined height in a vertical position was a maximum of 125 meters (maximum tip height).<br>· Due to technological advancements in wind turbine design, a revision in the project's design sought to include up to 59 turbines. The previous consultant's assessments, plus community and stakeholder consultation, were based upon this design. Following the final flora and fauna assessment findings, four of the intended 59 turbines were required to be removed due to the Conservation Agreement in place for the Box Gum Grassy Woodland project as part of the Commonwealth Government's Environmental Stewardship program. The revised Development Application (DA) sought approval for a project that included up to 55 turbines with a potential energy generating capacity for up to 275 MW of renewable energy.<br>Previous Project (2014 - 2020) |

| Background Details | Description |
|---|---|
| | · The final EIS was prepared and submitted on 27 January 2014, with the public exhibition taking place from March to May 2014. The EIS received a total of 24 submissions from the general public and other interested stakeholders.<br>· Over this period, the previous project stalled, with GPG eventually taking over the previous project from Union Fenosa Wind Australia. Tract as the project lead was reengaged by GPG in 2019-20 to finalise a Response to Submissions Report to progress the PYWF project.<br>· The *Response to Submissions Report* and an *Additional Information Report* was finalised by Tract and submitted to DPIE in April 2020.<br>Current Project (2020 – Present Day)<br>· Following further detailed discussions on the project between the Proponent and DPIE, the previous development application (DA) was withdrawn. It was agreed as part of these discussions that due to recent technological advancements in the design of wind turbine equipment and the amount of time that had passed since submission of the original DA and EIS, it would be best to submit a new application to the Department for consideration and assessment. This new proposal would also provide the opportunity for a new round of community engagement.<br>· GPG formally engaged the appointed consultant team in December 2020, and work commenced with preparing this Scoping Report and supporting studies. |
| Project Timeline | · Previous Project (2002 - 2009) - TME Australia Pty Ltd / Gamesa Energy Australia Pty Ltd<br>· Previous Project (2009 - 2014) - Union Fenosa Wind Australia<br>· Previous Project (2014 - 2020) - Union Fenosa Wind Australia / Global Power Generation Australia (GPG)<br>· Current Project (2020 – Present Day) - Global Power Generation Australia (GPG) / Paling Yards Development Pty Ltd |

The table below provides a summary of the existing or current land use rights and highlights any potential future development consents that might be required.

Table 6. Existing Rights and Potential Future Developments

| | Description |
|---|---|
| Existing or Approved Development | · The Project site is primarily zoned as RU1 Primary Production under the *Oberon Local Environmental Plan 2013* (OLEP).<br>· The proposed Paling Yards Wind Farm Project, classified as "*electricity generating works*" under the *State and Regional development SEPP 2011* and *Infrastructure SEPP 2007*, is permissible within the RU1 Primary Production zone subject to development consent.<br>· All existing uses relating to the properties listed in Table 3 and Table 4 are to be retained.<br>· There are no existing electrical generating works facilities or rights that needs to be incorporated into the project. |
| Future Developments | · Any possible future battery storage units or facilities will require separate development approvals and are not included in this application.<br>· Changes to number of turbines, turbine locations and turbine envelopes will require a modification of the approved consent.<br>· Any other developments or upgrades not listed above will require separate development applications or modification of an approved consent. |

## 1.4 Scoping Report Purpose and Structure

The applicant GPG is seeking State Significant Development (SSD) consent under Division 4.7 of Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act).

This Scoping Report has been prepared and is submitted to the Secretary of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) in support of the SSD application for the Project.

The Scoping Report will support the Secretary in issuing the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) that will guide the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as part of the SSD application for the Project.

This Scoping Report has been prepared in consideration of the following NSW Government assessment frameworks and guidelines:

- '*Rapid Assessment Framework Package*' (RAF) - Exhibition Draft December 2020 (DPIE, 2020)
  - *State Significant Development Guide* (SSD Guide) and *Appendix A - Preparing a Scoping Report*
- '*Wind Energy Guideline*' (Wind Guideline) (DPE, 2016)
- '*Wind Energy: Visual Assessment Bulletin*' (Visual Bulletin) (DPE, 2016)
- '*Wind Energy: Noise Assessment Bulletin*' (Noise Bulletin) (DPE, 2016)
- '*Wind Energy Framework Standard Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements*' (SEARs)

Other NSW guidelines, including the SSD *Social Impact Assessment Guideline* (July 2021) and feedback from DPIE planning officers, have also been considered as part of this Scoping Report in addition to the above documentation.

As per the RAF and SSD Guide requirements, a Scoping Summary Table has been prepared as part of this Scoping Report and is included within Appendix A.

The structure and content of this report are outlined in the following table.

Table 7. Scoping Report Structure

| Section | Content | Description |
|---|---|---|
| Section 1 | Project Overview | Introduces the Project, its purpose and background. |
| Section 2 | Strategic Context | Outlines the strategic context for the Project within NSW. |
| Section 3 | Site and Project Description | Outlines the project area, context, considerations and alternative. |
| Section 4 | Statutory Context | Outlines a statutory framework and requirements. |
| Section 5 | Community and Stakeholder Engagement | Outlines the current and future stakeholder and community engagement process for the Project. |
| Section 6 | Assessment of Impacts | Provides summary of assessment matters, key factors for consideration, and a risk assessment. |
| | | |
| Appendices | Content | Prepared by |
| Appendix A | Scoping Summary Table | Tract Consultants |
| Appendix B | Paling Yards Wind Farm Mapping | Tract Consultants |
| Appendix CAppendix D | Blade Transport and Wind Turbine Route Study | Rex J Andrews Engineered Transportation (RJA) |
| Appendix D | Preliminary Traffic Assessment | SLR Consulting Australia (SLR) |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Appendix E | Community Stakeholder Engagement Plan | Environmental Resources Management Australia (ERM) / Kathy Jones and Associates (KJA) |
| Appendix F | Biodiversity Values Assessment | Environmental Resources Management Australia (ERM) |
| Appendix G | Preliminary Landscape and Visual Assessment | Moir Landscape Architecture (Moir) |
| Appendix H | Preliminary Noise Assessment | SLR Consulting Australia (SLR) |
| Appendix I | Phase 1 Social Impact Assessment | Environmental Resources Management Australia (ERM) |
| Appendix J | SEPP 33 Assessment | SwithCo |
| Appendix K | Decommissioning and Rehabilitation Plan | WSP Australia (WSP) |
| Appendix L | Aviation Impact Assessment | Aviation Projects |
| Appendix M | Preliminary Cumulative Impact Assessment – Scoping | Tract Consultants |
| Appendix N | Factors for Consideration Table | Tract Consultants |
| Appendix O | Indicative Disturbance Footprint | Global Power Generation (GPG) |

# Strategic Context

## 2 Strategic Issues

### 2.1 Strategies & Policy

This section outlines the strategic justification for the Project in the context of the relevant commonwealth, state and local government policies and directives.

Table 8. Policy Justification Summary

| Policy / Strategy | Strategic Consideration | Description |
|---|---|---|
| International | | |
| The Paris Agreement: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change | · International treaty on climate change<br>· Limit global warming and achieve a long-term temperature goal to achieve a climate neutral world by mid-century. | · The 'Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change' (Paris Agreement) was ratified on the 4 November 2016. Negotiated by 196 state parties as a global response to mitigate global warming and combat climate change, the Paris Agreement requires signatory countries to put forward their intended "*nationally determined contributions*" towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions.<br>· Australia as a signatory is committed to a reductions target between 26 to 28% below 2005 levels by 2030. The Australian Government has designed a policy framework that includes the development of a low emissions technology roadmap (*Technology Investment Roadmap: First Low Emissions Technology Statement – 2020*) to fulfil its Paris obligations and achieve lower greenhouse gas emissions.<br>· The Project is expected to reduce emissions and increase Australia's renewable energy supply as a low emissions technology project. The Project aligns with the Paris Agreement objectives in seeking to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. |
| Federal Government | | |
| Technology Investment Roadmap: First Low | · Develop and deploy low emissions technologies | · The Commonwealth Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources released the '*Technology Investment Roadmap: First Low Emissions Technology Statement – 2020*' on the 22 |

| Policy / Strategy | Strategic Consideration | Description |
|---|---|---|
| Emissions Technology Statement 2020 | · Invest in low emissions technologies. | September 2020. The Technology Investment Roadmap outlines the importance of proven renewable technologies like solar and wind, along with coal and gas in securing Australia's energy future and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.<br>· The Australian Federal Government will provide additional investment to support new and innovative renewable energy, energy storage and energy efficiency technologies combined with existing mature renewable technologies. GPG Australia's private investment in the Project as a mature renewable technology supports the strategic intent and transformation objectives outlined within the Technology Investment Roadmap.<br>· The Technology Investment Roadmap will guide more than $20 billion of government investment in low emissions technology by 2030.<br>· The Project is expected to reduce emissions, create additional jobs within a regional area and increase Australia's renewable energy supply. |
| Australia's Long-Term Emissions Reduction Plan: A whole-of-economy Plan to achieve net zero by 2050 | · Climate change impacts<br>· A technology-led plan<br>· Drive down the costs of new technologies<br>· Keep energy prices down | · The Australian Federal Government recently announced that it will aim to deliver net zero emissions by 2050. In October 2021 the Prime Minister and Minister for Industry, Energy and Emissions Reduction released Australia's Long Term Emissions Reduction Plan to achieve this goal.<br>· The Plan sets out a pathway on how the Government will invest $20 billion into low emissions technology over the next decade. This is expected to further unlock at least $80 billion of total private and public investment, including in clean hydrogen, carbon capture and storage and energy storage.<br>· It was recently shown that Australia is on target to reduce emissions by up to 35% by 2030, well above the targeted 26-28%. This trend is likely to continue through to 2050 through private sector investment together with the support by the Federal Government. |
| 2020 Integrated System Plan (ISP) | · A roadmap for the National Electricity Market<br>· Identified investment choices and recommends essential actions to optimise consumer benefit.<br>· Delivers both power systems and broader policy needs in the long-term interest of electricity consumers. | · The Australian Energy Market Operator's (AEMO) *Integrated System Plan* (ISP) is described as a *"whole-of-system plan that provides an integrated roadmap for the efficient development of the National Electricity Market (NEM) over the next 20 years and beyond"* (AEMO, 2020). The AEMO released the 2020 ISP on 30 July 2020,<br>· The plan's objective is to design a low-cost and reliable energy system to meet the emissions trajectory as determined by Australian policymakers. The AEMO 2020 ISP provides an actionable roadmap for eastern Australia's power system.<br>· The plan identifies the lowest system cost investments for Australia's future energy system as being:<br>o Distributed energy resources (rooftop PV, batteries and other customer level resources). *"Distributed energy generation capacity is expected to double or even triple."*<br>o Variable renewable energy (solar, wind and other variable renewable energy utility level resources). *"Over 26 GW of new grid-scale renewables is needed."* |

| Policy / Strategy | Strategic Consideration | Description |
|---|---|---|
| | | o Supporting dispatchable resources. "*6-19 GW of new dispatchable resources are needed in* support."<br>o Power system services. "Power *system services are critical to the secure operation of the power* system."<br>· Significant market and regulatory reforms are identified as being required to bring the right resources into the system in a timely fashion. GPG can collaborate and work with both the AMEO and the NSW Government to ensure that the Project is compatible with the ISP and makes a valuable contribution towards the future energy system of NSW.<br>· The Project proposed is consistent with the ISP and would provide an additional renewable wind energy asset that provides a new source of renewable electricity generation for NSW. |
| NSW Government | | |
| NSW '**Electricity Strategy**' (2020) | · Renewable Energy Zones | · The NSW Government has recently set out an '*Electricity Strategy*' to deliver five Renewable Energy Zones (REZs) across NSW. This strategy and the '*Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap*' will play a vital role in providing affordable, reliable energy generation to help replace the State's existing power stations as they come to their schedules end of operational life.<br>· The strategy currently lists the following regions:<br>o Central-West Orana;<br>o New England;<br>o South-west;<br>o Hunter-central Coast; and<br>o Illawarra.<br>The PYWF site and surrounds does not fall within one of the identified REZs, however the broader region depicted by Bathurst to the north, the Blue Mountains to the east, Goulburn to the south and Cowra to the west will play a critical role for the state in achieving its renewable energy targets. In this regard, the region already contains several existing and approved wind farms including Crookwell 1, Crookwell 2 and Crookwell 3 Wind Farms to the south of the site. |
| Net Zero Plan Stage 1: 2020-2030 | · Cut emissions and achieve net zero<br>· Stimulate a range of initiatives focussed focused on energy generation via renewables.<br>· It supports a range of initiatives targeting energy, electric vehicles, hydrogen, primary industries, technology, built environment, carbon | · The '*Net Zero Plan Stage 1: 2020-2030*' (Net Zero Plan) is the primary plan for NSW in tackling climate change and establishes a goal for net-zero emissions by 2050. The Net Zero Plan intends to achieve this goal by stimulating a range of initiatives focused on generating electricity via renewables and promoting energy efficiency, electric vehicles, hydrogen, primary industries, coal innovation, organic waste and carbon financing.<br>· All these initiatives are intended to grow the economy, create jobs and reduce greenhouse gas emissions over the next decade. The Project is consistent with the *Net Zero Plan* objectives and is expected to assist the NSW Government in promoting new energy generation through renewable, low emissions technologies and lowering greenhouse gas emissions. |

| Policy / Strategy | Strategic Consideration | Description |
|---|---|---|
| | financing and organic waste. | · The Project has the potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by an estimated 900,000 tonnes per annum. It provides an additional renewable wind energy asset that provides a new source of renewable electricity generation for NSW that would help meet the targets identified in the *Net Zero Plan*. |
| Regional and Local Context | | |
| Central West and Orana Regional Plan 2036 | · | · The '*Central West and Organa Regional Plan 2036*' (Regional Plan) released by the NSW Government in 2017 is a regional strategy for guiding future land use priorities and decisions over the next 20 years. The Regional Plan is the regional strategy for the 19 Local Government Areas (LGAs) of Bathurst Regional, Blayney, Bogan, Cabonne, Coonamble, Cowra, Dubbo Regional, Forbes, Gilgandra, Lachlan, Lithgow, Mid-Western Regional, Narromine, Oberon, Orange, Parkes, Warren, Warrumbungle and Weddin.<br>· The Regional Plan has established the following four goals (including relevant directions and actions) for which the Project must be consistent:<br>**Goal 1** - The most diverse regional economy in NSW<br>o Direction 9: Increase renewable energy generation<br>- Action 9.1 - The Regional Plan identifies that wind generation opportunities are focused around the tablelands and slopes of the Central West, including areas within Blayney, Oberon and Wellington which all have access to the existing electricity network.<br>- Action 9.3 – Outlines that best practice community engagement approaches should be utilised to ensure that the community benefits from utility-scale renewable energy projects.<br>**Goal 2** - A stronger, healthier environment and diverse heritage<br>o Direction 13: Protect and manage environmental assets<br>- Action 13.2 – Outlines that potential impacts arising from development in areas of high ecological value are minimised, with offsets or other mitigation mechanisms considered for unavoidable impacts.<br>o Direction 14: Manage and conserve water resources for the environment<br>- Action 14.2 – Outlines that the location, design, construction and management of new developments minimise impacts on water catchments, including downstream areas and groundwater sources.<br>**Goal 3** - Quality freight, transport and infrastructure networks<br>o Direction 21: Coordinate utility infrastructure investment<br>- Action 21.3 – Outlines that developments should be monitored to ensure that infrastructure is responsive to investment opportunities.<br>**Goal 4** - Dynamic, vibrant and healthy communities. |

| Policy / Strategy | Strategic Consideration | Description |
|---|---|---|
| | | · The Project is aligned with and does not conflict with any of the goals or directions listed within the Regional Plan. |
| Oberon Local Strategic Planning Statement 2040 – Oberon – More than You Imagine | · Sets out 20 year vision for the Oberon land use planning framework.<br>· Strong strategic focus on:<br>o Growth<br>o Community well-being<br>o Infrastructure<br>o Environment<br>o Leadership | · The Oberon Council's '*Local Strategic Planning Statement 2040 – More Than You Imagine*' (LSPS) sets out the 20-year vision for land use planning framework to address Oberon's economic, social and environmental needs. It highlights the strategic planning outcomes and development issues for the LGA. It sets out a range of planning priorities and actions to guide planning and support the community of Oberon for the next 20 years.<br>· The following five planning priorities were identified as being the focus for future strategic planning, including: growth, community well-being, Infrastructure; environment; and leadership:<br>o The 'Infrastructure' planning priority gives effect to the Regional Plan directions – specifically "Direction 21: Coordinate utility infrastructure investment". It outlines that the existing electricity network capabilities provide constraints to the provision of electricity to future growth and development areas.<br>o Council has identified that it will capitalise on planned investments in utility infrastructure in the towns and villages to drive economic and housing growth opportunities. The Project will support residents in towns and villages through supporting jobs, employment and maximising private infrastructure investment within the Oberon LGA.<br>o The 'Environment' planning priority within the LSPS gives effect to the Regional Plan directions - specifically "Direction 9: Increase renewable energy generation". The LSPS explains through NSW Wind Atlas that the Oberon LGA has a high wind speed. The LSPS states that alternative energy sources like wind farms are identified as a potential future opportunity for the LGA.<br>· The Project supports the planning priorities as outlined within Oberon Council's LSPS. |
| Central Tablelands NSW: Planning Context | · Site suitability for renewable energy infrastructure | · The Central Tablelands are known for their strong and available wind resources. As a result, the area includes several other wind farms in various planning and development stages.<br>· Recent studies have shown that the average wind speed tested across the Paling Yards region is approximately 7.0 metres per second. This is generally considered to be a good wind resource for wind turbines to operate as part of a wind farm development.<br>· Other site suitability factors have been taken into account in choosing the site as a location for a wind farm, including:<br>o Population density and buffers to residential settlements;<br>o Willingness of land owners;<br>o Size of land holdings;<br>o Proximity to the existing electricity grid;<br>o Strength of wind resource;<br>o Minimal impacts on:<br>o Flora and fauna; |

| Policy / Strategy | Strategic Consideration | Description |
|---|---|---|
| | | o Heritage (including Aboriginal);<br>o Non-stakeholder dwellings; and<br>o Vistas and view lines.<br>o Appropriate terrain and land capability; and<br>o Access to existing infrastructure (ports, good quality roads etc.). |

## 2.2 Key Features

As part of the assessment, certain key features of the site and its surrounds have been identified that have potential to be impacted by the Project. Below is a summary of the key potential areas of impact.

### 2.2.1 Community

Considering the context of the site in relation to the local and regional community, which includes the involved and non-involved landowners, community engagement has played a key role since project inception back in 2002.

Table 9 below provides a summary of the main considerations given in relation to potential impacts on the community.

Table 9. Key Considerations relating to impacts on the community

| Stakeholder Group | Consideration |
|---|---|
| Involved Landowners | · Noise levels and mitigation measures to involved dwellings |
| | · Contractual agreements and consideration |
| | · Construction activities and impacts |
| | · Ongoing operational matter |
| Non-involved landowners | · Noise levels and mitigation measures to non-involved dwellings |
| | · Visual impact on non-involved dwellings and sensitive uses |
| | · Shadow flicker impact on surrounding dwellings |
| | · Increase in localised traffic during construction and operation |
| | · Environmental concerns due to siting of turbines and substation |
| | · Neighbour agreements and considerations |
| Wider community | · Visual impact on rural views, including the installation of night markings (aviation lights) |
| | · Cumulative visual impact from wind farm and other similar developments |
| | · Aeronautical concerns relating to flight paths and aviation safety |
| | · Social impacts and potential risks, including health impacts |
| | · Communication tools and involvement throughout the application process |

Section 5 of this report provides a more detailed assessment of the community and stakeholder engagement done to date and lists the various stakeholder groups to be engaged.

### 2.2.2 Natural and Built Environment

The key natural and built environment features to be considered as part of the proposal are listed in Table 10 below.

Table 10. Key Natural and Built Features to consider

| Details | Feature | Description |
|---|---|---|
| National Parks | · Abercrombie National Park<br>· Wiarborough Nature Reserve<br>· Blue Mountains National Park | · Abercrombie National Park borders the site to the west and south.<br>· To the east of the site is the Wiarborough Nature Reserve and Blue Mountains National Park.<br>· It is understood that the Project will be required to consider all potential visual and other impacts for any surrounding lands zoned E1: National Parks and Nature Reserves.<br>· Further consideration and assessment of any potential impacts on surrounding National Park lands and reserves are provided later in this Scoping Report.<br>· The preliminary visual and landscape assessment is included as an attached appendix (Appendix F). |
| Scenic Landscapes | · Mingary Park<br>· Paling Yards<br>· Middle Station<br>· Hilltop | · The Project site includes separate landholdings over approximately 4,600 hectares referred to as 'Mingary Park', 'Paling Yards', "Middle Station' and "Hilltop".<br>· Most of the site has been cleared of native vegetation, although scattered trees are common within the site, and thicker vegetation exists around the site.<br>· A Preliminary Visual Impact Assessment has been prepared as part of the scoping report to assess the visual impact of the project on the site and surrounds.<br>· A detailed Visual Impacts Assessment will be undertaken as part of the EIS. |
| Waterways / Rivers | · Several ephemeral creeks and drainage lines that cross the site, which drains into the Abercrombie River | · Several watercourses traverse the area, including the Abercrombie River, which flows into the Lachlan River.<br>· The Abercrombie River forms the southern boundary of the site.<br>· The Project is not expected to significantly impact upon any waterway or natural river system.<br>· The impact of the project on any water courses or waterways will be assessed as part of the EIS. |
| Infrastructure | · Telecommunication and Electromagnetic Interference | · Potential impacts to communication and broadcast signals due to the turbine locations, size and operation.<br>· A telecommunications assessment will be prepared as part of the EIS process to further assess the impacts. |
| | · Traffic and Roads | · There will be a slight increase in traffic on local and regional road networks due to mainly the construction of the wind farm. This could include construction traffic impacts on the road surface. |

| Details | Feature | Description |
|---|---|---|
| | | · Blade and equipment transport to the site might have a moderate impact on the local and regional road network.<br>· Additional access points from the site to Abercrombie Road are proposed.<br>· An internal road network is proposed. |
| | · Transmission Line | · The existing 500kV Mount Piper to Bannaby transmission line will be retained.<br>· A new connection point to the 500kV line to the north-east of the site is proposed to connect to the electrical grid. |

### 2.2.3 Risks and Hazards

The below table provides a summary of risks and hazards identified in association with the project.

Table 11. Key Risks or Hazards relating to the Project

| Risk / Hazard | Description | |
|---|---|---|
| Risks / Hazards | · Bushfire | · While it's not expected that the project would result in an increased bushfire risk, a bushfire management plan and risk assessment will be prepared as part of the EIS. |
| | · Contaminated land, soil and landform | · Possible erosion, landform modification and rehabilitation of the site and surrounding area due to the construction and operation of the wind farm.<br>· The potential for any soil pollution or contamination due to the project will assessed as part of the EIS. |
| | · Electric and Magnetic Fields | · An EMF assessment will be undertaken as part of the EIS. The assessment will include findings on any potential impacts of the project on adjacent telecommunication towers, broadcasting equipment and signals. |
| | · Water and waterways | · Water availability and potential pollution impacts to watercourses during construction.<br>· The potential impacts on and alteration of waterways through the construction and operation of the wind farm will be determined.<br>· A hydrological assessment will be prepared as part of the EIS process. |
| | · Climate Change | · The project is not expected to have any negative contributory impact on climate change and enable renewable energy generation that does not create carbon emissions. |
| | · Storage of Dangerous Goods (SEPP 33 Assessment) | · A risk screening assessment of hazards associated with the storage of dangerous goods on the site was undertaken.<br>· The assessments concluded that the Project is not considered to be hazardous as per the State Environment Planning Policy No. 33 – *Hazardous and Offensive Development (SEPP 33)*.<br>· A full copy of this report is attached to this report as Appendix J. |
| | · Aviation | · An Aeronautical Impact Assessment (AIA) was prepared as part of the preliminary investigation (Appendix L). |

| Risk / Hazard | Description | |
|---|---|---|
| | | · The assessment considers potential aviation impacts, provides aviation safety advice in respect of relevant requirements of air safety regulations and procedures, and informs consultation with relevant aviation agencies. |
| | · Blade Throw | · Risks relating to possible blade throw could be included as part of the EIS. |
| | · Noise | · The construction and operation of the wind farm might have a negative impact on nearby sensitive receivers.<br>· The wind farm operational noise impacts on receptors have been assessed as part of this proposal. As detailed noise assessment will be undertaken as part of the EIS (Appendix H). |

A detailed risk assessment has been undertaken for the Project in alignment with the Wind Energy Framework to identify the environmental and social risks and key matters to be assessed as part of the Paling Yards Wind Farm Project. The risk assessment summary table is included under Section 6.2 of this document.

The PYWF Project team includes the following planning, engineering, and technical specialists who each reviewed the relevant risks and impacts from the project:

- Environmental Resources Management Australia (heritage, social Impact, biodiversity, bushfire, EMF, telecommunications and hydrology);
- KJA (Community and stakeholder engagement);
- WSP (decommissioning and rehabilitation);
- Moir Landscape Architecture (landscape and visual assessment);
- SLR Consulting Australia (noise and vibration, hazard and risk, traffic and transport);
- SwitchCo (State Environmental Planning Policy No 33--Hazardous and Offensive Development - SEPP33);
- Rex J Andrews Engineered Transportation (blade transport route study);
- Aviation Projects (aviation impact assessment); and
- DNV (shadow flicker assessment).

## 2.3 Cumulative Impacts

While the project is unlikely to generate cumulative impacts, a detailed cumulative impact assessment will be prepared as part of the EIS. This assessment will take into account any existing and future projects in the area as per the DPIE's *Assessing Cumulative Impacts Guide (2021).*

A preliminary cumulative impact assessment has been prepared as part of this report and is attached as Appendix M. Below a summary of the levels of assessment required:

Table 12. Cumulative Impacts Summary

| Cumulative Impacts | Risk Description | Level of Assessment Required |
|---|---|---|
| Access & Transport | · Access and transport will require detailed investigations to be carried out by technical specialists. This will include:<br>o Traffic Impact Assessment<br>o Blade Transport Study.<br>· Both studies are likely to include:<br>o Data collection and route assessments (both internal and external) | · Detailed |

| Cumulative Impacts | Risk Description | Level of Assessment Required |
|---|---|---|
| | ○ Mitigation measures or suitable offsets<br>○ Criteria for evaluation impacts. | |
| Air (Aviation Impact Assessment) | · This matter will require an Aviation Impact Assessment to be prepared as part of the project.<br>· The potential impacts are well-understood and have been considered (along with the relevant standard performance measures) as part of the proposal. | · Standard |
| Amenity (Noise) | · A detailed noise assessment will be carried out by technical specialist. The assessment will include:<br>○ Data collection<br>○ Assessment of sensitive receivers<br>○ Mitigation measures or suitable offsets<br>○ Criteria for evaluation impacts. | · Detailed |
| Amenity (Shadow Flicker) | · This matter will require a Shadow Flicker Assessment to be prepared as part of the project.<br>· The potential impacts are well-understood and have been considered (along with the relevant standard performance measures) as part of the proposal. | · Standard |
| Amenity (Visual) | · A detailed visual impact assessment will be carried out by a technical specialist. The assessment will include:<br>○ Data collection<br>○ Assessment of sensitive receivers<br>○ Mitigation measures or suitable offsets<br>○ Criteria for evaluation impacts. | · Detailed |
| Biodiversity | · Assessing the biodiversity will require technical studies to be carried out by a specialist. This will include:<br>○ Biodiversity Development Assessment Report<br>○ Detailed MNES<br>○ Targeted seasonal fauna and flora surveys.<br>· The assessment will include:<br>○ Data collection<br>○ Assessment of sensitive receivers<br>○ Mitigation measures or suitable offsets<br>○ Criteria for evaluation impacts. | · Detailed |
| Engineering Hazard & Risk | · This matter will require SEPP 33 Hazard and Risk Assessment to be prepared as part of the project.<br>· The potential impacts are well-understood and have been considered (along with the relevant standard performance measures) as part of the proposal.<br>· The assessment will include:<br>○ Risk screening<br>○ Hazard Identification<br>○ Construction and Operations<br>○ Mitigation measures or suitable offsets<br>○ Criteria for evaluation impacts. | · Standard |

| Cumulative Impacts | Risk Description | Level of Assessment Required |
|---|---|---|
| Bushfire | · This matter will require a Bushfire Assessment to be prepared as part of the project.<br>· The potential impacts are well understood and have been considered (along with the relevant standard performance measures) as part of the proposal. | · Standard |
| Heritage | · Heritage assessment will require technical studies to be carried out by a specialist. This will include:<br>o Aboriginal Heritage<br>o Non-Aboriginal (Historic) Heritage<br>· The assessment will include:<br>o Data collection<br>o Assessment of sensitive sites and RAP Consultation<br>o Mitigation measures or suitable offsets<br>o Criteria for evaluation impacts. | · Detailed |
| Geotechnical / Soil | · This matter will require a Soil and Geotechnical assessment to be prepared as part of the project.<br>· The potential impacts are well understood and have been considered (along with the relevant standard performance measures) as part of the proposal. Any impacts on the Project are likely to be minor. | · Minor |
| Social | · A Social Impact Assessment will be prepared as part of the project.<br>· The potential impacts are well-understood and have been considered (along with the relevant standard performance measures) as part of the proposal. | · Standard |
| Hydrology | · A hydrology assessment will be undertaken as part of the project.<br>· The potential impacts are well understood and have been considered (along with the relevant standard performance measures) as part of the proposal. | · Standard |

# The Project

## 3 The Paling Yards Wind Farm

### 3.1 Project Area

The following section provides an overview of the project site, including key on-site features.

Table 13. Project Area Summary

| Details | Description |
|---|---|
| Locality | · The site is located at the western extent of the Great Dividing Range in NSW, 60km south of Oberon, 60km north of Goulburn and approximately 140km west of Sydney. The site is situated in the Oberon Local Government Area.<br>· Abercrombie National Park borders the site to the west and south. The site is bordered by national parks and uncleared land to the south-east all of which are heavily vegetated. To the east of the site is the Wiarborough Nature Reserve and Blue Mountains National Park.<br>· The site is approximately 40km to the north-east of the existing Crookwell 1 Wind Farm and the approved Crookwell 2 and Crookwell 3 Wind Farms.<br>· Refer to the above<br>· Figure 1 for location and context map. |
| Site Description | · The Project site includes three separate land holdings referred to as 'Mingary Park', 'Paling Yards', 'Middle Station' and 'Hilltop'.<br>· Most of the site has been cleared of native vegetation, although scattered trees are common within the site, and thicker vegetation exists near the site's boundaries.<br>· The site is primarily used for agricultural purposes. |
| Total Project Area | · 4,600 hectares (ha) |
| Other Site Features | · The site ranges from between 900m and 1,065m above sea level, with significant slopes in many areas.<br>· The site includes several ephemeral creeks and drainage lines cross the site, which drains into Abercrombie River.<br>· The site is currently used for agricultural purposes such as sheep and cattle grazing.<br>· The area is heavily undulating with some steep slopes.<br>· The site is bisected by Taralga Road, which links the towns of Oberon and Taralga. |

| Details | Description |
|---|---|
| | · Several water courses traverse the area, including the Abercrombie River, which flows into the Lachlan River. The Abercrombie River forms the southern boundary of the site. |

The below site photo provides some context to the site. It was taken from Abercrombie Road, towards the south-western portion of the proposed wind farm site.

Figure 2. View south-west from Abercrombie Road (Source: Tract, 2021)

The project details and main activities are summarised below:

Table 14. Project Details

| Details | Description |
|---|---|
| Number of Wind Turbines | · 47 (forty-seven) Wind Turbines (maximum). |
| Project Details | · Construction of up to three (3) wind monitoring masts fitted with the associated instruments.<br>· Construction of up to forty-seven (47) Wind Turbines Generators (WTG) with an overall maximum blade tip height of 240m and a total of three blades per turbine.<br>· Construction of on-site electrical substations (collector substation and connection substation) with approximately 9km of overhead powerline (70m in width) to connect to the Mount Piper to Bannaby 500kV transmission line (including control room and other associated grid connection facilities).<br>· Construction of a control room, maintenance buildings, switchgear, and associated control systems in the vicinity of the wind turbine towers. |
| Turbine Type | · Currently two turbine types / models are being considered:<br>o Turbine Option 1: Siemens Gamesa SG 6.6-170 (240m max blade tip height with 6.6MW output).<br>o Turbine Option 2: Vestas V162 (230m blade tip height with 6.2MW output).<br>· The GPG preferred option is the Siemens Gamesa turbine. |

| | |
|---|---|
| Project Objectives and Benefits | · The primary objective of the Paling Yards Wind Farm is to produce renewable energy. This form of energy meets federal, state and local government objectives to reduce greenhouse emissions and the adverse impacts of climate change. The Project would bring environmental, social and economic benefits to the Paling Yards locality, the wider region and the State of NSW.<br>· Environmentally, the Paling Yards Wind Farm would displace up to approximately 900,000 tonnes of greenhouse gases per annum and, in doing so, assist in attempts to reduce the impacts of climate change. It would provide up to 900,000 Megawatt hours (MWh) of renewable energy per year and power the equivalent of up to 100,000 households per year.<br>· Economically, the construction and operation of the wind farm would result in an investment of approximately $550 million to $600 million into the economy and create 400 full-time equivalent jobs in construction and 4 full-time equivalent jobs during operation. In addition, up to 10 additional contractors could be working on the site once every 10 to 15 years as part of scheduled major site maintenance and overhauls.<br>· Other economic and socio-economic project benefits include:<br>o Stimulation of the economy in the Oberon Council as a result of greater income generation and subsequent expenditure in the region;<br>o Upgrades to local road infrastructure;<br>o Provision of flow-on economic benefits in terms of employment and commercial opportunities from the economic investment;<br>o Up-skilling of the local workforce within a growing energy market;<br>o Use of a significant portion of locally sourced materials and employment; and<br>o Increased expenditure on local services such as accommodation and retail in the Oberon municipality.<br>· GPG is exploring options to support the site's local community, including establishing the Oberon Community Enhancement Fund for community groups and organisations. |
| Site Map | · Figure 3 below provides an overview of the site layout and turbine locations.<br>· The plan illustrates the locations of the 47 wind turbines, including transmission line, substation locations, internal road network and main access point onto Abercrombie Road.<br>· The plan also provides the relevant coordinates and elevations of each turbine. |
| Dwelling Review | · A survey undertaken in mid-2021 found that there are a total of 44 dwellings located within a 5km radius of the site boundary.<br>· 9 (nine) involved dwellings are located within the 500m buffer zone from the wind turbine infrastructure.<br>· 35 (thirty-five) non-involved dwellings are located within a 5km radius of the site boundary.<br>· Several buildings and outbuildings have been identified within a 5km radius of the site, however none appear to be occupied residential dwellings.<br>· The status of all identified buildings will be confirmed upon a final site survey before the EIS is finalised.<br>· Figure 4 below provides an overview of the Paling Yards site area and indicates the location and context of all involved and non-involved dwellings.<br>· With the exception of Turbine PY-46 being located within 1.99km from dwelling 114 as per the attached Dwellings Plan (Appendix B), no turbines will be located within a 2km radius of any non-involved dwellings. |

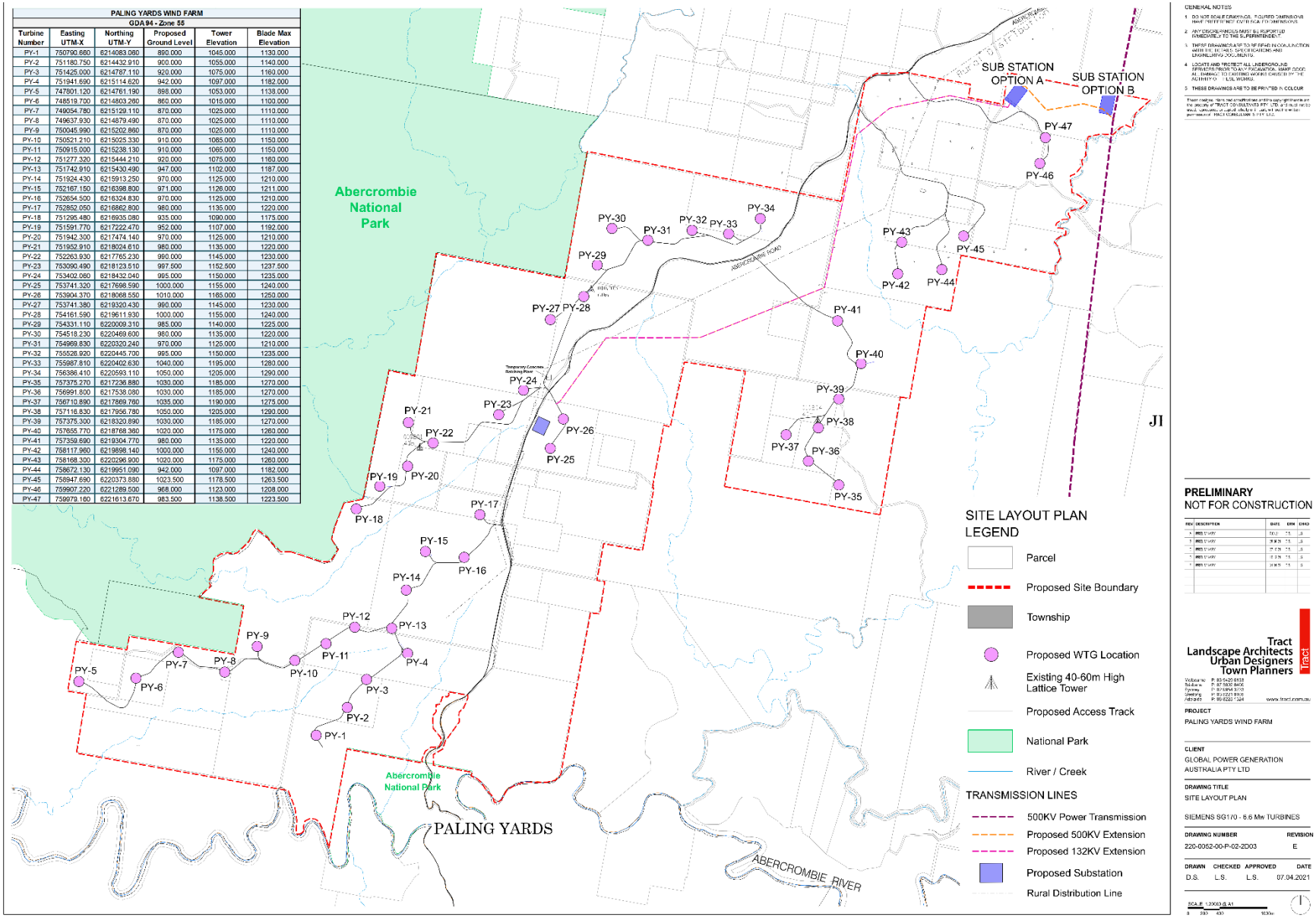


Figure 3. Paling Yards Wind Farm Site Layout (Source: Tract 2022)

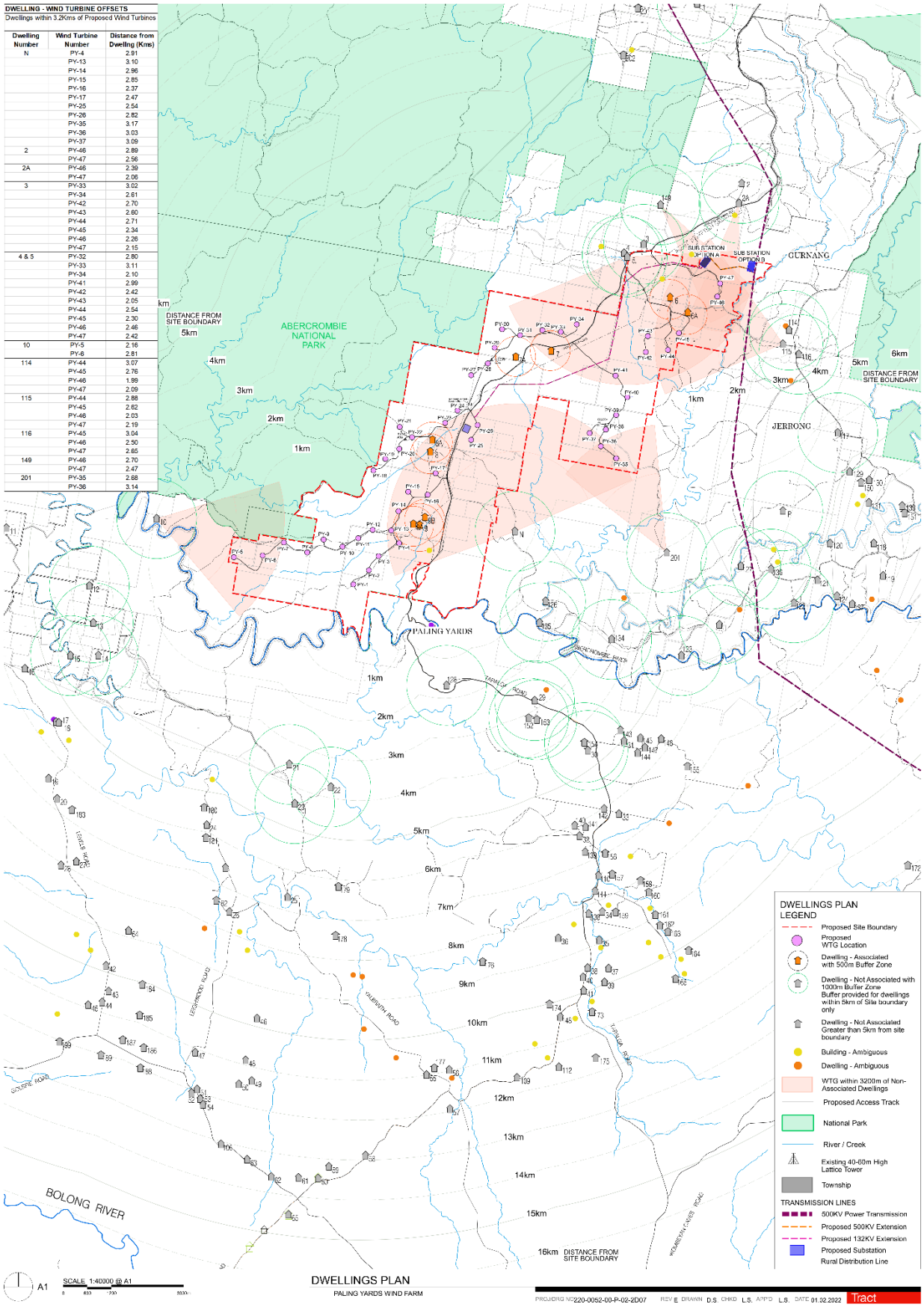


Figure 4. Dwelling Plan (Source Tract 2022)

## 3.2 Project Construction Works

The following table provides an overview of the preliminary details and wind turbines layout specifications of the PYWF. It also some additional information regarding the on-site construction activities to be undertaken.

Table 15. Construction Works Summary

| Description | Details |
|---|---|
| Site Establishment | · Site surveying.<br>· Laydown area site establishment, including levelling and compaction.<br>· Installing portable / temporary site management structures and installation / connection of utility services. |
| Internal Road Works | · Preparation and construction of internal roads to turbine and substation locations.<br>· Removal of topsoil, levelling, sub-base compaction, gravel, drainage. |
| External Road Works | · Upgrade existing roads where required.<br>· Provide new access roads to the site, including construction / upgrading of intersections from Abercrombie Road to the site. |
| Foundations | · Removal of topsoil, excavation, screed concrete, reinforcement steel bottom, installation of foundation ring, reinforcement steel top, concreting, concrete ring and conduits, backfilling. |
| Crane Pad Establishment | · Removal of topsoil, base compaction, rock / gravel compaction for base of crane pad. |
| Trenches and Cable Laying | · Excavation, sand infill, cable laying with protective covering, backfilling and compacting, installation of cable route markers. |
| Substation Civil Works | · Site survey, site clearing, levelling / compaction.<br>· Building foundations including excavation, formwork and concrete. Installation of columns, walls, roof, gutters, doors, floors. Installation of building services, including plumbing, electrical, fire protection, security. |
| Control Buildings | · Foundation works including excavation, formwork, reinforcement, concreting. Installation of columns, walls, carpentry, roof, floors, doors.<br>· Installation of services including plumbing, electrical, fire protection, air conditioning, security. |
| Switchyard Works | · Site survey, site clearing, levelling / compaction.<br>· Equipment foundations including excavation, formwork, reinforcement steel, concrete, grouting.<br>· Oil containment and separation system including excavation, formwork, concrete, ladders, hatches, pipes and bund walls.<br>· Security Fencing. |
| Electrical Works | · Control building switchboards, communications, Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) systems. Installation of cabling, switchgear and turbine control panels. |
| Turbine Supply | · Transport of towers, nacelles, hubs and blades to site from selected port. |
| Turbine Erection | · Erection of towers, nacelle and blades, including the installation of cabling |
| Substation Electrical Works | · Installation of steel structures, busbars, transformers, equipment, earthing system, metering system. |

| Description | Details |
|---|---|
| Transmission Line Works | · Surveying, Site establishment, clearing, installation of foundations, poles / towers, conductors and fittings. |
| Wind Farm Commissioning | · Pre-commissioning of turbines, SCADA, cables testing, optical fibre. Testing and commissioning of turbines, switchgear, SCADA. |
| Substation Commissioning | · Testing and commissioning of transformers, equipment, earthing, cabling and wiring checks, protection relays, SCADA, communications and security systems. |
| Electricity Grid Cut in | · Site establishment, clearing, levelling / compaction.<br>· Installation of foundations, poles / towers, connections to the High voltage transmission line. |
| Construction Closure | · Site clean-up, revegetation, landscaping.<br>· Removal of any temporary structures constructed as part of construction works. |
| Disturbance Footprint | · Appendix O provides and indicative disturbance footprint. |

## 3.3 Project Phases & Delivery

GPG has indicated that the entire construction phase for the Project is expected to take approximately twelve (12) months but will be subject to any delays caused by the weather or other unforeseen circumstances.

In order to provide the reader with an overview of the project phases and total delivery timeframe, GPG has prepared the below project stage and timeframe summary.

Table 16. Project Sequencing Summary

| Phase Details | Project Stage | Timeframe | Potential Impacts |
|---|---|---|---|
| Approvals | · Scoping Report | · Dec 2021-Jan 2022 | · None |
| | · Environmental Impact Statement | · Feb-May 2022 | · Site surveys and testing by project team |
| | · Community Engagement | · May-June 2022 | · Potential door-knocks and letter drops<br>· Community engagement and information session(s) |
| | · Project Assessment and Determination | · July-Oct 2022 | · Site surveys and testing by project team and contractors |
| Construction | · Site Establishment<br>· Internal / external roads<br>· Foundations and trenching<br>· Other civil works | · Commence Oct 2022 (Summer 2022 / 2023) | · Possible increase in noise<br>· Potential dust from construction activities<br>· Increase in localised traffic<br>· Vegetation clearing<br>· Disruption in agricultural activities (on-site) |
| Blade Transport | · Blade Transport | · Summer 2023 / 2024 | · Transportation of blades from selected port to site |

| Phase Details | Project Stage | Timeframe | Potential Impacts |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | · Potential to temporarily impact local traffic and road network<br>· Delivery of blades to laydown area on-site |
| Transmission Line | · Installation of foundations, poles / towers, connections<br>· Testing | · Autumn-Spring 2023 | · Minimal increase in localised traffic<br>· Vegetation clearing<br>· Delivery of poles / towers to laydown area |
| Operation | · Commencement of operation of wind farm | · Commence March 2024 | · Potential for additional minor construction activities until wind farm is released for full capacity output |
| Decommissioning & Rehabilitation | · Decommissioning<br>· Rehabilitation | · At least 30 years of operational live | · Decommissioning, which includes dismantling turbines and transportation off-site.<br>· Possible increase in noise<br>· Potential dust from construction activities<br>· Increase in localised traffic<br>· Land rehabilitation. |

Note - this is still an initial estimate and will be dependent on the timeline to obtain development consent and the approval of pre-construction conditions as set out by the State department.

## 3.4 Blade Transport

This section summarises the key points outlined within the Blade Transport Route Study Assessment (Route Study) conducted by Rex J Andrews Engineered Transportation (RJA). A preliminary assessment was prepared in February 2021 to evaluate the transport of wind turbine equipment from Newcastle to the Project site. A copy of the full study is available as Appendix C.

The Route Study assesses potential traffic and transport requirements in transporting the blades from Newcastle Port to the site. The assessment includes the proposed transport vehicle design, planned transport route for the equipment, the access route to the site and internal sealed / unsealed roads.

RJA notes that the wind turbine equipment is to be imported by ship from international locations to the Port of Newcastle. RJA, in their blade transport assessment, have reviewed and identified three potential transport route options:

- Route Survey A: Smaller blades and loads up to 5.1 metres in loaded height could be transported via Sydney using Route Survey A.
- Route Survey B: Loads over 5.1 metres and up to 5.9 metres in height, and smaller blades could be transported via Mudgee using Route Survey B.
- Route Survey C: Blades over 68 metres could be transported via the Dubbo Route using Route Survey C.

The table below details the key blade transport options available.

Table 17. Blade Transport Summary

| Route Option | Route Title | Distance | Route Description | GPS Link |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Route Survey A: Loads under 5.1 metres in height | · Newcastle to Paling Yards via Sydney | · 444 km | · This route occurs via Selwyn street, George Street, Industrial Drive, Maitland Road, New England Highway, John Renshaw Drive, M1, Pennant Hills Road, M2, M7, M4, Great Western Highway, Littlebourne Street, O,Connell Road, Abercrombie Road. | · https://goo.gl/maps/wxaPMAxSzGSEKrZZ8 |

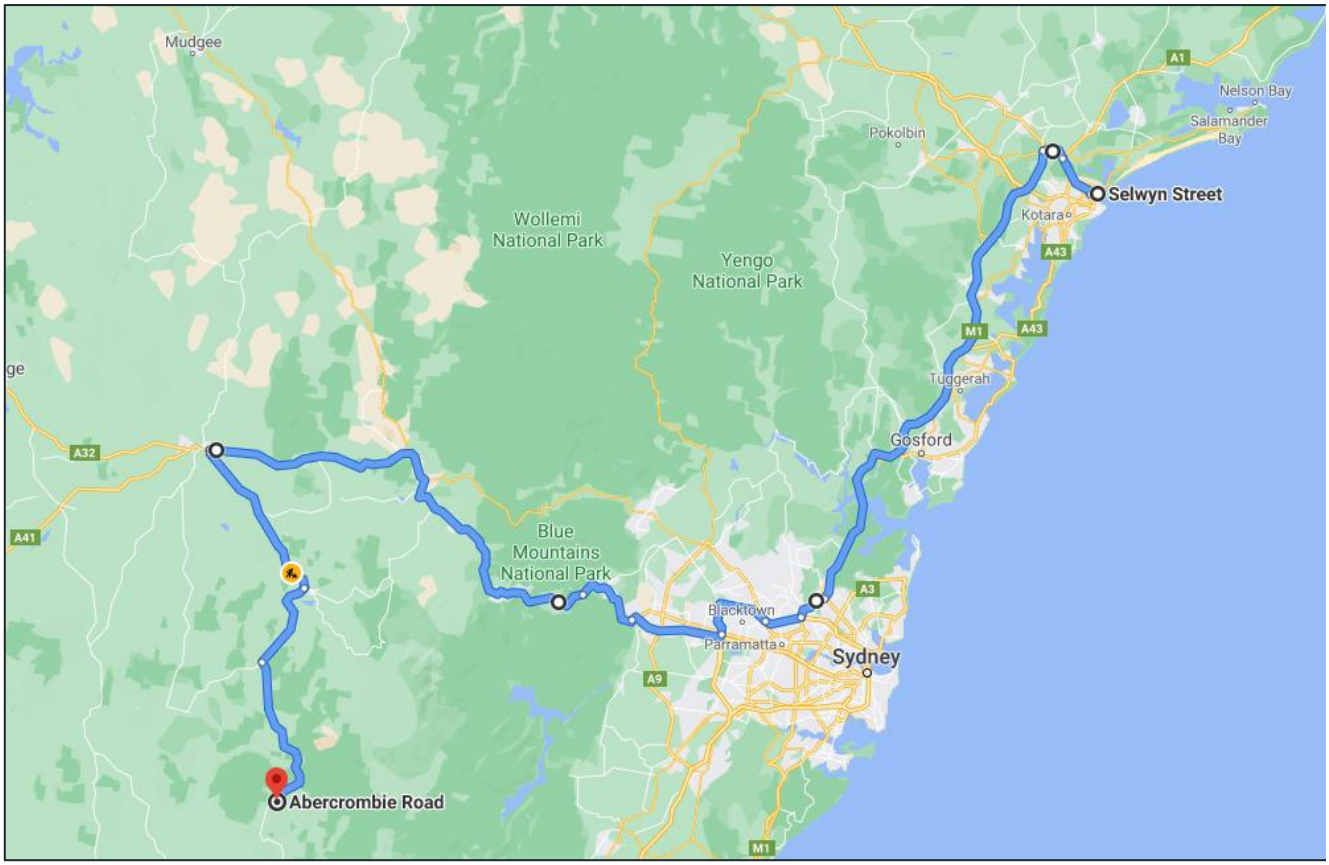


Figure 5. Google Map of Route Survey A: Loads under 5.1 metres in height (Source: RJA & Google Maps, 2021)

| Route Option | Route Title | Distance | Route Description | GPS Link |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Route Survey B: Loads up to 5.9 metres in height. | · Newcastle to Paling Yards via Mudgee | · 654 km | · This route occurs via Selwyn street, George Street, Industrial Drive, Maitland Road, New England Highway, John Renshaw Drive, Hunter Expressway, Golden Highway, Denman Road, Bengalla Road, Wybong Road, Golden Highway, Castlereagh Highway, Main Street, Pipers Flat Road, Range Road, Great Western Highway, Littlebourne Street, O,Connell Road, Abercrombie Road. | · https://goo.gl/maps/8KqByBnVx3f113mk9 |

| Route Option | Route Title | Distance | Route Description | GPS Link |
|---|---|---|---|---|

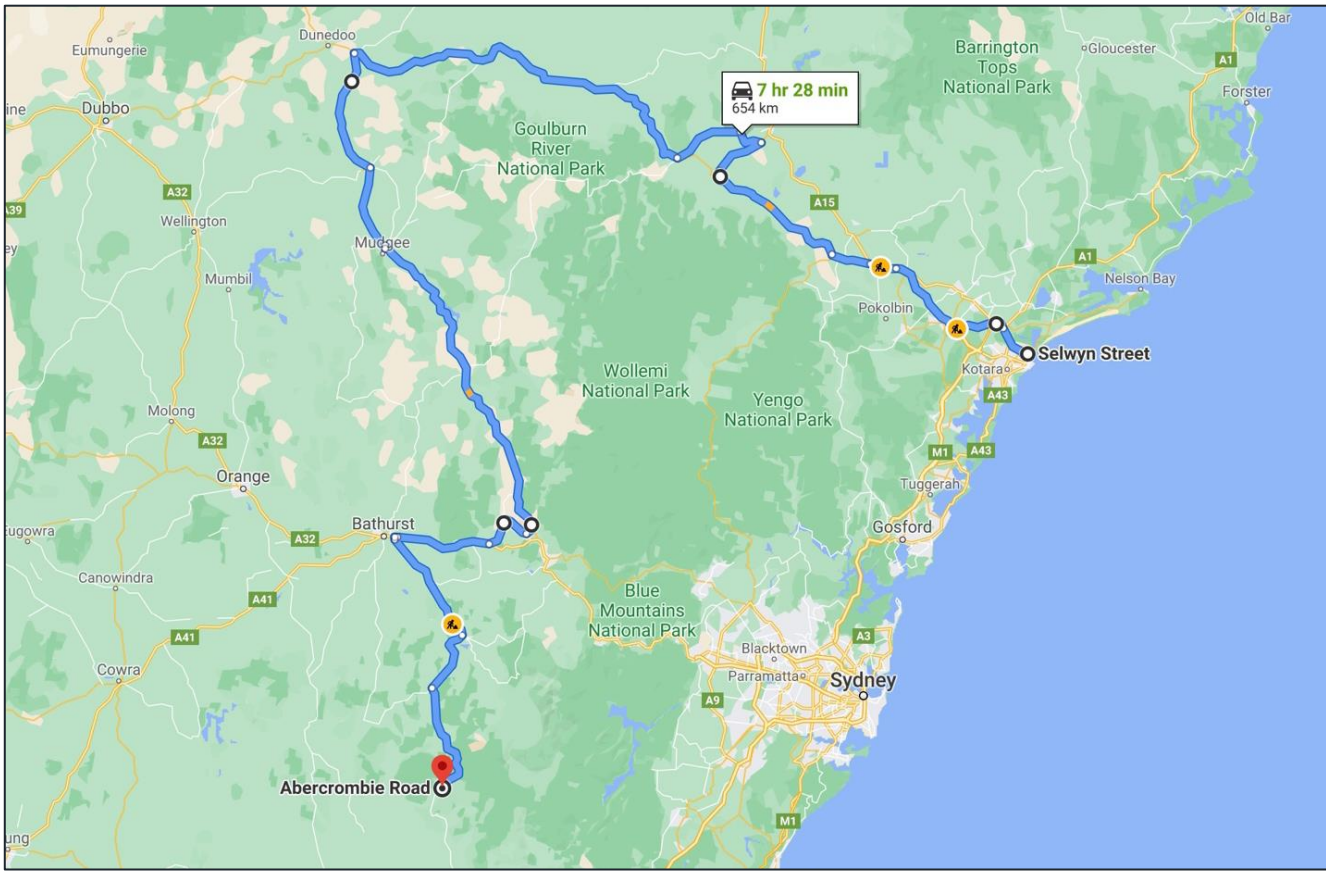


Figure 6. Google Map of Route Survey B: Loads up to 5.9 metres in height (Source: RJA & Google Maps, 2021)

| Route Option | Route Title | Distance | Route Description | GPS Link |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Route Survey C: Option for blades longer than 68 metres | · Newcastle to Paling Yards via Dubbo | · 694 km | · This route occurs via Selwyn street, George Street, Industrial Drive, Maitland Road, New England Highway, John Renshaw Drive, Hunter Expressway, Golden Highway, Newell Highway, Obley Road, Banjo Paterson Way, Mitchell Highway, Northern Distributor Road, Mitchell Highway, Bradwardine Road, Eglinton Road, Durham Street, Great Western Highway, Littlebourne Street, O,Connell Road, Abercrombie Road.,Connell Road, Abercrombie Road. | · https://goo.gl/maps/mayUKaGHk8evRTru7 |

| Route Option | Route Title | Distance | Route Description | GPS Link |
|---|---|---|---|---|

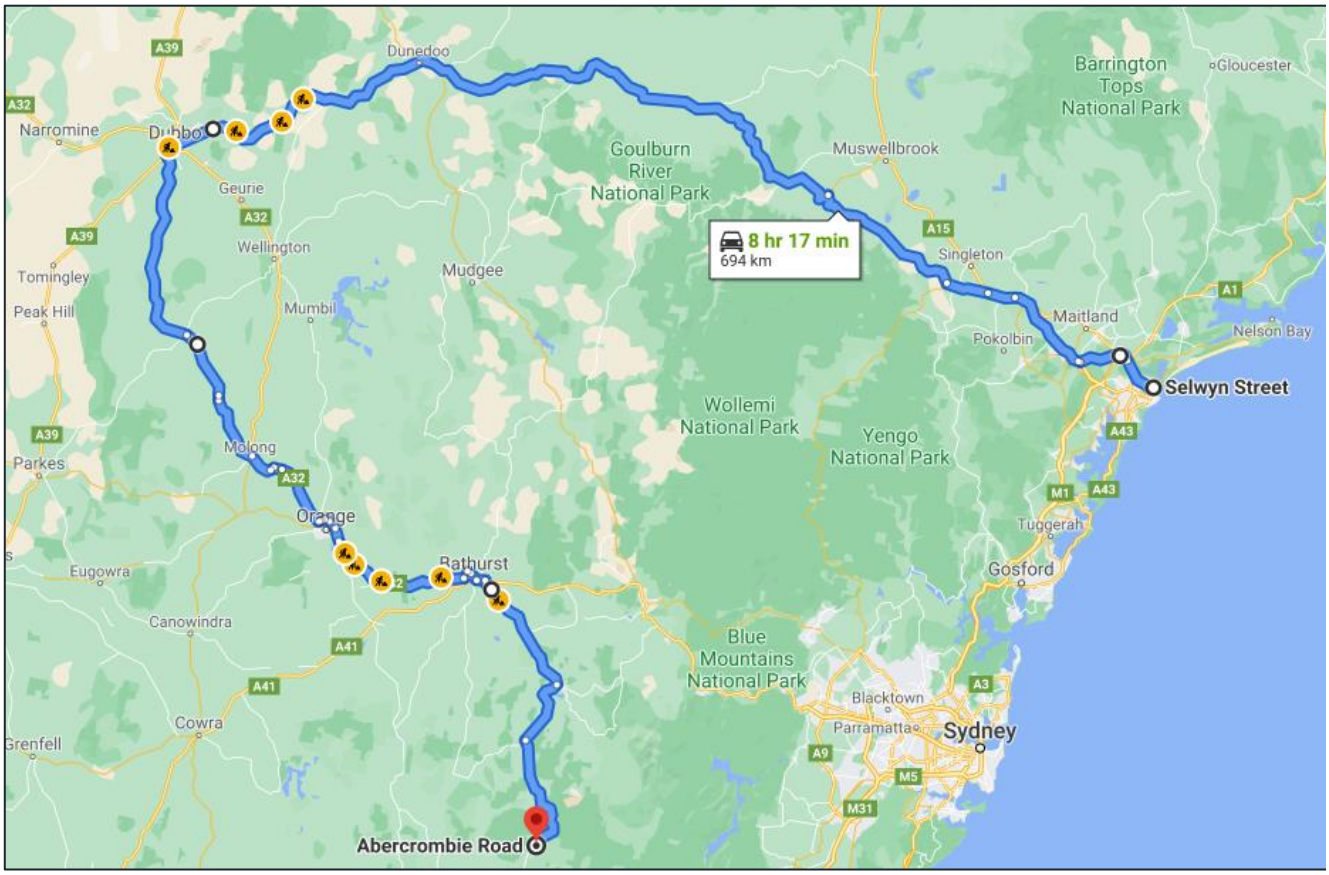


Figure 7. Google Map of Route Survey C: Blades longer than 68 metres (Source: RJA & Google Maps, 2021)

## 3.5 Project Considerations & Alternatives

The following section provides a high-level analysis of the feasible alternatives considered for the project, including the relevant consequences of not carrying out the development.

Table 18. Project Considerations and Alternatives Summary

| Considerations | Description |
|---|---|
| Do Nothing | · One alternative is to not proceed with the project. Such a "Do Nothing" approach has a number of significant consequences, which will forego the project benefits outlined in section 1.2 of this document. These include:<br>o Not contribute to the reduction of pollutants emitted by fossil fuels and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by approximately 900 000 tonnes per annum;<br>o Not contribute working towards Australia's Net Zero emissions target by 2050;<br>o Have no economic benefits, including $550-600million capital investment and 400 full-time job positions during construction and 4 long term jobs during operation;<br>o Have not benefit to the NSW Government in helping to achieve its net Zero Plan Stage (2020-2030) net-zero emissions target; |

| Considerations | Description |
|---|---|
| | o Not support the NSW Electricity Strategy in drawing private investment into renewable energy generation in the state. |
| Alternative Energy Sources | · Since the 1970s, alternative renewable technologies have been researched, promoted and developed, to varying extents in many nations. Other forms of renewable energy include:<br>o solar energy, including solar thermal energy;<br>o hydro energy;<br>o ocean energy, including tidal and wave energy;<br>o geothermal energy; and<br>o bioenergy<br>· The likely degree of adoption and commercial viability of these forms of renewable energy is difficult to ascertain, as most depend on technological advances and overcoming major barriers. With the exception of solar energy, all are in fairly early stages of development and not necessarily 'market ready'. None have benefited from several decades of operation like wind power. Wind is the only proven energy source used internationally for decades.<br>· Each of these alternatives has their own environmental and social impacts and many are simply incompatible with the climate and topography of the locality. Wind speeds, population density, land use, vegetation and transmission lines combine to make the Paling Yards locality and surrounding region ideally suited to wind energy.<br>· It is considered that wind energy is the most commercially viable renewable energy and is the best technology option for the site. |
| Wind Farm Location | · The location of a wind farm is dependent on a number of location criteria:<br>o Proximity to existing electrical grid and transmission lines<br>o Population density and distance to residential areas<br>o Strength of wind source for sustained periods of time<br>o Road access and transport options<br>o Size of land holdings, including willing landowners<br>o Proximity to airports<br>o Flora and fauna constrains<br>o Other environmental concerns (i.e., hydrology, typology, etc.).<br>· The great Dividing Range in NSW presents consistent wind resource, as is evident of a number of existing wind farms in the central and Southern Tablelands.<br>· More remote locations do not possess the transmission and related infrastructure necessary to ensure a projects viability. |
| Project Layout: Alternatives Considered | · The original wind farm project (2002-2009) considered 60 wind turbines at the location. After conducting the various specialist studies and assessments (2009-2014), the number of turbines was reduced to 55. Following community consultation and the completion of further site investigations (2014-2020), the number of turbines were further reduced to 52.<br>· The most recent site investigations and new technology becoming available prompted GPG to further reduce the number of turbines to a total of 47. This was also necessitated by locating turbines further away from involved dwellings, avoiding potential heritage items on-site, using existing access tracks, and the proximity of the larger new generation turbines to public roads.<br>· Note that the turbine numbering system has been updated from our previous correspondence and plans. The current layout options display the updated Turbines P1 – P47 in Appendix B.<br>· GPG has considered two different turbine suppliers for the site of the PYWF. In early 2021 three different turbine options were being considered, but this has been narrowed down to only two suppliers. |

| Considerations | Description |
|---|---|
| | · Each of the below supplier's turbines has different dimensions, the number of turbines required, power generation capability, tower hub heights, and other technical requirements that GPG has considered in developing a feasible wind farm development at the site.<br><br>Table 19. Summary of WTGs being considered by GPG (Source: GPG, 2021)<br><br>· Each of the environmental and community impacts assessment for the Project has been conducted under a 'worst-case scenario' (the largest turbine model). Each of these assessments has been done to ensure that the supporting studies and community and stakeholder involvement covers all aspects of the proposed development, investigating the most significant scale of potential impacts should the Project be undertaken at the PYWF site.<br>· GPG has noted that the Siemens SG170 is the larger turbine option for the Project, which would feature a generation capacity of up to 6.6MW per turbine.<br>· Specific turbines have been removed from the Project due to various technical and locational considerations, including placement to other turbines, location in close proximity to involved dwellings, and siting along public roads. The layout includes a Wind Turbine Schedule, which provides the turbine number, location and height above sea level.<br>· The proposed layout mapping is provided within Appendix B. |
| Transmission: Alternatives Considered | · The Great Dividing Range in NSW presents a consistent wind resource that sees the area appropriate for wind energy investment as evidenced by the number of wind farms planned, proposed or built within the Central and Southern Tablelands.<br>· GPG has been active in the region and currently operate two other Wind Farms in the area (Crookwell 2 and Crookwell 3). GPG involvement in the area is based on a long history of wind monitoring and existing relationships with local land holders.<br>· The subject site is also favoured by the proximity of the existing 500kV high voltage power line, which passes the area approximately 2km to the east and north-east of the site.<br>· Several options were investigated for the connection of the Project to the electricity grid, including:<br>o North-eastern option: an overhead powerline connection of approximately 9km to on-site substations (two substations) and both collector substation and the connection substation are located within the project boundary; or<br>o Southern option: a 55km overhead powerline connection to the approved Crookwell 2 Wind Farm substation, connecting to the Yass to Bannaby 330kV transmission line. This option has three sub-options.<br>· The project layout assessment has established that the northern connection option is the most feasible and will lower impacts on the environment and the community. On this basis, approval is only being |

| | Turbine Option 1 | Turbine Option 2 |
|---|---|---|
| Manufacturer | Siemens Gamesa SG 6.6-170 | Vestas V162 |
| No of Turbines | 47 | 47 |
| Tower Hub Heights | 155m | 149m |
| Rotor Blade Length | 83.5m | 79.35m |
| Total Height (To Blade Tip) | 240m | 230m |
| Maximum cord | 4.5m | 4.3m |
| Turbine Capacity | 6.6MW | 6.2MW |
| Total Expected Capacity | Up to 310MW | Up to 291MW |
| Swept Area | 22,698m² | 20,612m² |

| Considerations | Description |
|---|---|
| | sought for the northern connection option. The preferred option was selected based on the following criteria:<br>o Length of the transmission route; and<br>o minimisation of vegetation loss.<br>· The preferred northern route represents a reasonable balance between avoiding native vegetation loss, reducing the impact to the community and the economic viability of the route.<br>· The proposal is for an overhead powerline. While an overground connection may increase the Project's visual impact, it reduces impacts on native vegetation, as disturbance can be generally restricted to the base of electricity poles and some clipping of tree canopies. This is in contrast to the underground cabling, which is likely to disturb the vegetation along its path. |

# Statutory Context

## 4 Key Statutory Requirements

This section outlines the statutory framework in relation to the relevant commonwealth, state, and local government legislation.

### 4.1 Relevant Commonwealth Legislation

Table 20. Commonwealth Legislation Summary

| Legislation | Description | Comment |
|---|---|---|
| Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 | · *The Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999 (EPBC Act)* requires that the Commonwealth Government assess and approve any development proposal that may impact upon any of the following nine 'matters of national environmental significance':<br>o World heritage properties.<br>o National heritage places.<br>o Wetlands of international importance (listed under the Ramsar Convention).<br>o Listed threatened species and ecological communities.<br>o Migratory species protected under international agreements.<br>o Commonwealth marine areas.<br>o Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.<br>o Nuclear actions (including uranium mines).<br>o A water resource, in relation to coal seam gas development and large coal mining development.<br>· The project is not within a world heritage property or area; does not contain wetlands | · A referral for a windfarm development across the Project site was submitted to the Commonwealth Department of Environment and Heritage in February 2005. In March 2005, the Minister declared that the action was not a controlled action and approval under Part 9 of the EPBC Act was not required. The need for the current Project to be referred will be confirmed following additional assessment although it is noted that ecological desktop and field studies undertaken to date have not revealed any additional matters of significance.<br>· As identified within the Preliminary Biodiversity Values Assessment (ERM 2021), further assessment and analysis within the biodiversity report and matters of listed national environmental significance assessment will aim to confirm whether any threated species have potential to be impacted by the proposal. The assessment will also consider potential impacts of habitat fragmentation, as well as potential mortality and injury of species from turbine strike.<br>· In the event that the proposed windfarm development will have or is likely to have a significant impact on one or more matters as |

| Legislation | Description | Comment |
|---|---|---|
| | of international importance; is not within either a Commonwealth marine area or the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park; and the proposal does not involve a nuclear action, coal seam gas, or coal mining.<br>· The primary nationally environmental significant matters for this Project are considered to be any listed threatened species, ecological communities and migratory species. | listed, a referral will be submitted to the Australian Government Minister for the Environment.<br>· The Project will also be referred to the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment for comment.<br>· Refer to Appendix F for a copy of the biodiversity assessment by ERM. |
| Native Title Act 1993 | · The Native Title Act 1993 (NT Act) recognises the rights and interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in property matters relating to land and waters according to their traditional laws and customs.<br>· The Native Title Act 1993 (NT Act) facilitates the recognition and protection of Native Title. Under this Act, a claim can be made to the Federal Court to determine the native title. | · The EIS will include a review of the potential for Native Title.<br>· A review of the *NSW Sharing and Enabling Environmental Data* (SEED) online mapping tool currently indicates that there are no Native Title claims over the project site. |
| Civil Aviation Safety Regulations 1998 | · The Civil Aviation Safety Regulations 1998 require that the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) must be informed of any proposal to build a structure greater than 110m above the Australian Height Datum (AHD). This process allows CASA to assess the impact of any structure on aircraft movements and identify any associated requirements, including the need for markings or lighting. | · An Aviation Impact Assessment was prepared by Aviation Projects. The report assesses potential aviation impacts, provides aviation safety advice and informs and documents consultation with relevant aviation agencies.<br>· The following Agencies have been consulted:<br>o Airservices Australia<br>o Department of Defence<br>o NSW Rural Fire Service<br>o Oberon Council<br>o Royal Flying Doctor Service of Australia<br>· No objections were received.<br>· Please refer to Appendix L for a copy of the full assessment report. |

## 4.2 Relevant NSW Legislation

The NSW environmental planning instruments that have been considered for the Project as part of this Scoping Report are summarised in the following table.

Table 21. NSW Government Legislation Summary

| NSW Legislation | Description | Comment |
|---|---|---|
| Environmental Planning and | · The EP&A Act serves as the planning framework when assessing any | · The Project triggers Clause 20 of Schedule 1 of *State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) (State and Regional Development) 2011* as it proposes development for electricity generating works with |

| NSW Legislation | Description | Comment |
|---|---|---|
| Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act) | development proposal's environmental and planning merits.<br>· Part 4 (Division 4.7) and Section 4.36 of the EP&A Act, the NSW Government identifies certain types of development that are of state significance (State Significant Development or SSD).<br>· Section 4.41 of the *EP&A Act* lists authorisations which are not required for SSD projects that are authorised by a development consent, which includes:<br>o *Fisheries Management Act 1994*: a permit under Section 201, 205 or 219.<br>o *Heritage Act 1977*: an approval under Part 4, or an excavation permit under Section 139.<br>o *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*: an Aboriginal heritage impact permit under Section 90.<br>o *Rural Fires Act 1997*: a bush fire safety authority under Section 100B.<br>o *Water Management Act 2000*: a water use approval or a water management work approval. | a capital investment value of more than $30 million.<br>· Further, all SSD projects must comply with all the relevant Plans and policies indicated by the SEARs. Each of these matters is expected to be identified and assessed in detail during the preparation of the EIS. |
| State Environmental Planning Policy (State and Regional Development) 2011 | · Clause 20 of Schedule 1 of State Environmental Planning Policy (State and Regional Development) 2011 (SRD SEPP) states the following classification for potential SSD projects under Division 4.7 of the EP&A Act: *"development for the purpose of electricity generating works or heat or their co-generation (using any energy source, including gas, coal, biofuel, distillate, waste, hydro, wave, solar or wind power) that have a capital investment value of more than $30 million"* | · As the Project is for the purpose of electricity generating works and will have a capital investment value of more than $30 million, it is therefore classified as SSD. |
| State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) 2007 | · The *State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) 2007* (ISEPP) states that development for the purposes of electricity generating works, including solar and wind power, may be conducted on any land in the prescribed rural, industrial, or special use zones. | · The Project is located on land currently zoned as RU1 Primary Production and includes various permitted land uses with and without consent. Under the Oberon Local Environmental Plan 2013, land zoned for RU1 Primary Production is a prescribed rural zone pursuant to the ISEPP. The Project is therefore deemed permissible with consent. |
| National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 | · *The National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NPW Act)* governs the establishment, preservation, and management of national parks, historic sites, and other areas. The NPW Act also provides the basis for the legal protection and management of | · Detailed flora and fauna studies and cultural heritage investigations will be prepared as part of the EIS, which will inform compliance with this Act.<br>· Refer to the attached appendices for copies of the draft and preliminary report. |

| NSW Legislation | Description | Comment |
|---|---|---|
| | threatened native flora and fauna and Aboriginal sites within NSW. | |
| Water Management Act 2000 | · *The Water Management Act 2000 (WM Act)* purpose is for the sustainable and integrated management of the State's water for the benefit of both present and future generations. A controlled activity approval under the *WM Act* is required for certain types of developments and activities conducted in or near a river, lake or estuary. | · Section 4.41 of the *EP&A Act* confirms that SSD does not require approvals under the *WM Act* as per Section 89 (water use), Section 90 (water management work) or Section 91(2) (controlled activity). However, Section 91(3) states that aquifer interference activities are not exempt from requiring approval.<br>· An assessment of the potential for the project to impact on aquifer interference activities in accordance with the *Aquifer Interference Policy* will be undertaken as part of the EIS.<br>· A detailed assessment of the implications of this Act and whether any controlled activity approval is needed will be carried out as part of the EIS. |
| Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 | · The *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (and *Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2018*) provides greater biodiversity protection, particularly threatened species and threatened ecological communities. | · The proposal will require an assessment following the Act to identify and describe biodiversity values within the project boundary. It will include preliminary recommendations regarding avoidance, mitigation and / or additional evaluation for biodiversity values at the site. |
| Heritage Act 1977 | · The *Heritage Act 1977* aims to protect and preserve items of non-indigenous heritage significance. The Act provides for the protection of items of local, regional and state heritage significance. | · The northern portion of the Project is located approximately 2km west of the Greater Blue Mountains Area. The Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2000.<br>· The implications of this Act on the Project will be assessed as part of the EIS.<br>· The EIS will also assess indirect and cumulative impacts to the world heritage area. |
| Roads Act 1993 | · Section 138 of the *Roads Act 1993* prohibits many activities, such as conducting work on or over a public road, unless consent has been obtained from the appropriate roads authority to carry out these activities. | · It is expected that consent will be needed under this Act for the temporary closure of roads during construction, and this will be further investigated as part of the EIS. |
| Rural Fires Act 1997 | · The main objectives of the *Rural Fires Act 1997* are to:<br>o Prevent, mitigate and suppress bush and other fires in NSW;<br>o Coordinate bush fire-fighting and bush fire prevention throughout the State;<br>o Protect people from injury or death and property from damage as a result of bush fires; and<br>o Protect the environment. | · Bush fire risk will be discussed within the *Hazards and Risk Assessment* to be prepared as part of the EIS. |

| NSW Legislation | Description | Comment |
|---|---|---|
| Crown Lands Act 1989 | · Part 4 of the *NSW Crown Lands Act 1989* provides circumstances whereby Crown Lands may be leased or sold, and licenses over Crown Land may be granted. | · There is a network of public roads in the area and the electrical cabling may be installed under such roads to connect the turbines to the substations. If the final cable network does require installation of cables under public road(s), the Department of Lands would be consulted to determine the best means of gaining consent to install such underground cable crossings. |
| Other State Environmental Planning Policies | · SEPP (Primary Production and Rural Development) 2019<br>· SEPP (Koala Habitat Protection) 2021<br>· SEPP No. 33 – Hazard and Offensive Development<br>· SEPP No. 55 – Remediation of Land | · Other state environmental planning Policies will be considered in the preparation of the EIS.<br>· SEPP No 33 is considered as part of this report and the full SEPP 33 Assessment is included under Appendix J. |

## 4.3 Relevant Local Planning Instruments

The table below provides a summary of the relevant local government planning instruments that need to be considered as part of the project.

Table 22. NSW Government Legislation Summary

| Council Legislation | Description | Comment |
|---|---|---|
| Oberon Local Environmental Plan 2013 | · The subject site is located within the Oberon Local Government Area, and the site is subject to the Oberon Local Environmental Plan 2013 (OLEP). The OLEP sets the provisions for land-use planning and development permissibility within the Oberon Local Government Area. | · The Project site is primarily zoned as RU1 Primary Production under the OLEP, 2013.<br>· Other land zonings of the Project site located at the north western and a portion southern boundary adjacent to the Abercrombie River National Park are zoned E1 National Parks and Nature Reserves. To the north of the proposed transmission line are several lots zoned for RU3 Forestry, along with other southern located lots zoned RU2 Rural Landscape.<br>· The proposed Paling Yards Wind Farm Project, classified as "*electricity generating works*" under the State and Regional development SEPP 2011 and Infrastructure SEPP 2007, is permissible within the zone subject to development consent.<br>· A detailed assessment of the Project against each relevant objective outlined for the RU1 Primary Production zone will be included in the EIS. |
| Oberon Shire Council Development Control Plan (Part O Wind Power Generation 2005) | · Oberon Shire Council has prepared and adopted the *Wind Power Generation DCP* to give the community and developers guidelines for future wind farm developments. | · The proposed Paling Yards Wind Farm Project is expected to comply with the provisions of the *Oberon Shire Council Wind Power Generation DCP*.<br>· Note that in general, under Clause 11 of the SEPP (State and Regional Development) 2011, Local Council DCPs do not apply to SSD projects. |

| Council Legislation | Description | Comment |
|---|---|---|
| | · Council adopted the DCP on 13 September 2005 and further amended it on 11 September 2007.<br>· The objectives of Part O – Wind Power Generation includes:<br>o Provide development controls that align with the LEP;<br>o Provide development that will relate well to its surroundings;<br>o Promote and encourage a high quality of design and amenity;<br>o Restrict development to the Rural 1(a) (or RU1) zone only;<br>o Provide for well-considered development that is environmentally and economically sustainable;<br>o Minimise the likelihood of added costs to local ratepayers as a result of the development; and<br>o Promote sustainable energy. | |
| Central West and Orana Regional Plan 2036 | · Provides the overarching framework to guide subsequent and more detailed land use plans, development proposals and infrastructure funding decisions for the Central West and Orana Region. | · The plan acknowledges that renewable energy generation will create a more sustainable energy future for the region.<br>· Growth in wind energy, solar energy and bioenergy generation will promote local jobs in smaller communities and development opportunities for associated industries.<br>· Wind generation opportunities are focused around the tablelands and slopes of the Central West. |

## 4.4 Statutory Requirements

This section provides an overview of the key statutory requirements for the project. These statutory requirements are categorised as per the guidelines of the Department's *State Significant Development Guidelines – Preparing an Environmental Impact Statement.*

Table 23. Statutory Requirements Summary

| Matter | Description | Comment |
|---|---|---|
| Power to Grant Consent | · The legal pathway under which consent is being sought.<br>· Under the EP&A Act, all SSD projects require development consent from either the Independent Planning Commission or the Minister. | · GPGA is seeking State Significant Development consent for the Project under Division 4.7 of Part 4 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.<br>· As per the NSW Government's 'State Significant Development Guidelines' dated July 2021, this Scoping Report has been prepared and submitted to the Secretary of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) |

| Matter | Description | Comment |
|---|---|---|
| | | to obtain the Secretary's *Environmental Assessment Requirements* (SEARs).<br>· The SEARs will guide the preparation of an *Environmental Impact Statement* (EIS) as part of the SSD application for the Project. |
| Permissibility | · The proposed development is permissible on the land under the current zoning.<br>· The *State Environmental Planning Policy (State and Regional Development) 2011* declares the development to be SSD. | · The subject site is located within the Oberon Local Government Area, and the site is subject to the Oberon Local Environmental Plan 2013 (OLEP). The OLEP sets the provisions for land-use planning and development permissibility within the Oberon Local Government Area.<br>· The Project site is zoned as RU1 'Primary Production' under the OLEP, 2013.<br>· The proposed Paling Yards Wind Farm Project, classified as "*electricity generating works*" under the *State and Regional development SEPP 2011 and Infrastructure SEPP 2007*, is permissible within this zone, subject to development consent.<br>· A detailed assessment of the Project against each relevant objective outlined for the RU1 Primary Production zone will be included in the EIS. |
| Other Approvals | · A requirement for occupiers to notify NSW Workcover of any dangerous goods stored in accordance with the provisions of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000*;<br>· A licence to supply electricity under the *Electricity Supply Act 1995* from the Department for Energy, Utilities and Sustainability; and,<br>· Construction and occupation certificates under the EP&A Act, including a Construction Certificate and Occupation Certificate from a relevant certifying authority. | · A list of other approvals have been considered in section 4.2, 4.2 and 4.3 of this report.<br>· Additional approvals may be required for the Project as directed by the SEARs. |
| Other Approvals if not SSD | · As per section 4.41 of the EP&A Act, the certain authorisations are not required for SSD that is authorised by a development consent. | · A permit under section 201, 205 or 219 of the *Fisheries Management Act 1994 ;*<br>· An approval under Part 4, or an excavation permit under section 139, of the *Heritage Act 1977 ;*<br>· An Aboriginal heritage impact permit under section 90 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 ;*<br>· A bush fire safety authority under section 100B of the *Rural Fires Act 1997 ;*<br>· A water use approval under section 89, a water management work approval under section 90 or an activity approval (other than an aquifer interference approval) under section 91 of the *Water Management Act 2000 ;*<br>· Division 8 of Part 6 of the *Heritage Act 1977* does not apply to prevent or interfere with the carrying out of State significant |

| Matter | Description | Comment |
|---|---|---|
| | | development that is authorised by a development consent granted.<br>· Refer to section 4.2 and Table 21 for more information. |
| Pre-Conditions to Exercising the Power to Grant Consent | · Pre-conditions need to be complied with and exercised before the relevant authority may grant consent for the project.<br>· Conditions relevant to the setting of the SEARs. | · An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) must be prepared in accordance with the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Regulation 2000*.<br>· The EIS will be prepared having regard to the Department's *State Significant Development Guidelines – Preparing an Environmental Impact Statement*.<br>· It is expected that a full list of requirements to comply with before submitting the EIS will be issued as part of the SEARs. |
| Mandatory Matters for Consideration | · The impacts of key issues are to be assessed to provide confidence that the proposal will be undertaken within the NSW guidelines and as per the SEARs.<br>· These key issues will be reviewed through the preparation of the EIS to ensure all information / data are captures. | · Demonstration how the proposal has been developed to avoid or minimise likely adverse impacts<br>· Key issues for consideration will include:<br>o Community and stakeholder engagement and feedback<br>o A description and assessment of the biophysical and socio-economic environment that is to be impacted by the proposal<br>o Assessment of cumulative impacts of the proposal and other approved, commenced and / or planned projects.<br>o Biodiversity impacts related to the proposal are to be assessed in accordance with the *Biodiversity Conservation Act, 2016*.<br>o Heritage impacts related to the impact of the proposal on aboriginal places and objects, including local heritage items, environmental heritage as per the *Heritage Act 1977*, and listed heritage sites as per the National and World Heritage lists.<br>o Noise and vibration caused by the construction and operation of the proposal.<br>o Socio-economic impacts and opportunities as a result of the proposal.<br>o Transport and traffic assessment, which is to include network connectivity, safety and efficiency and impacts on the network capacity.<br>o Preparation of a visual impact assessment as per the requirements of the Wind Energy: Visual Assessment Bulletin, December 2016.<br>o Waste management and minimisation during construction and operation.<br>o Environmental, social and engineering risks.<br>o Geology, soil and water assessment, to consider erosion, landform modification, soil conditions, impacts on water quality and rehabilitation of the site and surrounding area.<br>o Potential impacts on communication and broadcasting signals.<br>o The decommissioning and rehabilitation of the site. |

| Matter | Description | Comment |
|---|---|---|
| | | ○ Other matters as to be identified in the SEARs and with the preparation of the EIS.<br>· Consider the objectives of the proposal in conjunction with the Oberon Local Environmental Plan 2013 objectives for the RU1 Primary Production zone:<br>○ To encourage sustainable primary industry production by maintaining and enhancing the natural resource base.<br>○ To encourage diversity in primary industry enterprises and systems appropriate for the area.<br>○ To minimise the fragmentation and alienation of resource lands.<br>○ To minimise conflict between land uses within this zone and land uses within adjoining zones.<br>○ To enable other forms of development associated with primary production activities, which may require an isolated location or which support tourism or recreational activities.<br>· Environmental benefits as a result of the project. |

# Community Engagement

## 5 Community & Stakeholder Engagement

This following section describes the community and stakeholder engagement undertaken for the project to date. It includes reference to the initial consultation done as part of the original application between 2011-2020. It also provides an overview of the consultation objectives, target groups and further actions following SEARs.

### 5.1 Consultation Objectives

ERM has prepared a *Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan* (CSE Plan) to inform and support the Project's community engagement process.

The objectives of the CSE Plan are to:

- Provide a guide for the planning and implementation of communications and stakeholder engagement in support of approval for the Project;
- Indicate the intended communications and engagement activities to be undertaken during the planning phase;
- Identify and classify stakeholders with interest in the Project;
- Develop and implement a clear action plan for future engagement approaches across all stakeholder groups;
- Outline communication tools, channels and a timeline for implementation;
- Provide clear, consistent and compelling messaging about the benefits of the Project;
- Identify opportunities for stakeholders and the community to raise concerns and provide feedback;
- Identify opportunities to build positive sentiment across local media, residents and stakeholders;
- Identify opportunities to reduce or mitigate the risk of community opposition to the Project; and
- Provide ongoing opportunities for Project representatives to engage with stakeholders.

### 5.2 Primary Stakeholder Groups

The CSE Plan undertaken by ERM has identified the following parties as part of the "Primary Stakeholder Groups":

Table 24. Primary Stakeholder Groups (Source ERM, 2021)

| Stakeholder and IAP2 engagement level | Specific parties | Form of consultation<br>Potential Interests / Concerns |
|---|---|---|
| Host landowners<br>*IAP2 engagement level: Consult* | · Landowners with the potential to host infrastructure, have already engaged in discussion or have already agreed to host infrastructure. | · Individual consultation.<br>· Access to private land. Noise and other operational impacts including impacts on livestock, visual amenity, health and safety, security. Construction disruption. Remuneration, land value. |
| Immediate neighbours<br>*IAP2 engagement level: Consult* | · Neighbouring dwellings within 5km of the Project site and along the transmission corridor. | · Individual consultation.<br>· Access to private land. Local character. Noise and other operational impacts including impacts on visual amenity, property values, health and safety, security and privacy. Construction disruption, impacts of construction traffic. |
| Surrounding communities<br>*IAP2 engagement level: Consult* | · Community members who live outside of a 5km radius of the Project site and the transmission corridor, including Porters Retreat and Curraweela and surrounds. | · Community consultation.<br>· Community wellbeing. Economic benefits / impacts. Impacts of construction traffic. Impacts on visual amenity, health and safety, property values. |
| Aboriginal communities<br>*IAP2 engagement level: Consult* | · Traditional Owners (TO's), Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs), Aboriginal groups and Land Councils<br>· Aboriginal Affairs NSW, AbSec | · Targeted community consultation<br>· Project approval<br>· Ongoing management of cultural values.<br>· Potential for impacts to cultural heritage values. |
| Approving authority<br>*IAP2 engagement level: Consult* | · Department of Planning, Industry and Environment | · Community feedback.<br>· Environmental impacts, Project approval, regulatory compliance. |
| Local Council<br>*IAP2 engagement level: Consult* | · Oberon Council:<br>· Cr Kathy Sajowitz (Mayor)<br>· Gary Wallace (General Manager)<br>· Elected Councillors<br>· Planning division<br>· Upper Lachlan Shire Council (adjacent LGA)<br>· John Stafford (Mayor)<br>· Colleen Worthy (General Manager)<br>· Elected Councillors<br>· Planning division | · Community consultation<br>· Jobs, economic impacts / benefits, opportunities for tourism and other industry benefits. Community wellbeing, impact on local residents and businesses, impact on local roads and infrastructure.<br>· Note NSW Local Elections were recently held and the list of representatives and / or officials may be subject to change. |

## 5.3 Secondary Stakeholder Groups

The CSE Plan identified the following parties as part of the "Secondary Stakeholder Groups":

Table 25. Secondary Stakeholder Groups (Source: ERM, 2021)

| Stakeholder and IAP2 engagement level | Specific parties | Form of consultation<br>Potential Interests / Concerns |
|---|---|---|
| Local community organisations and businesses<br>*IAP2 engagement level: inform* | · Local business (especially tourism or agriculture), Country Women's Associations, Lions and Rotary Clubs, local action groups, tourism organisations, Central West Orana and Far West NSW Business Chamber | · Community consultation<br>· Community wellbeing. Business opportunities, social and economic impacts. Environmental impacts. Local Indigenous and European heritage objects and values. |
| State and Federal elected members<br>*IAP2 engagement level: engage* | Federal:<br>· Hon Andrew Gee MP (NAT), Member for Calare<br>· Hon Angus Taylor MP (LIB), Minister for Energy and Emissions<br>· Hon Sussan Ley MP (LIB), Minister for the Environment<br>· Hon Barnaby Joyce, MP (NAT), Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development<br>State:<br>· The Hon Paul Toole MP (NAT), Member for Bathurst, Minister for Regional Transport and Roads<br>· The Hon Rob Stokes (LIB), Minister for Planning and Public Spaces<br>· The Hon Matthew Kean MP (LIB), Minister for Energy and Environment<br>· The Hon Stuart Ayres MP (LIB), Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney. | · Community consultation<br>· Economic impacts / benefits on region, job creation, training opportunities. Community sentiment, community wellbeing. Impact on local residents and businesses. Impacts on local roads and infrastructure. |
| State and Federal representatives and agencies<br>*IAP2 engagement level: engage and inform* | Federal:<br>· Dept. of Agriculture, Water and the Environment<br>· Dept. of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources<br>· Dept. of the Prime Minister and Cabinet<br>· Dept. of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications<br>· Dept. of Defence<br>· Civil Aviation and Safety Authority (CASA)<br>· Airservices Australia<br>· Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO)<br>· Office of the National Wind Farm Commissioner | · Community consultation<br>· Project approval, regulatory compliance. Environmental impact. |

| Stakeholder and IAP2 engagement level | Specific parties | Form of consultation<br>Potential Interests / Concerns |
|---|---|---|
| | State<br>· Environment, Energy and Science Group (EES):<br>· NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA)<br>· Energy, Climate Change and Sustainability<br>· Biodiversity Conservation Division (BCD)<br>· National Parks and Wildlife Service (Abercrombie National Park)<br>· Crown Lands<br>· DPIE Water<br>· Water NSW<br>· NSW Telco Authority<br>· Natural Resources Access Regulator<br>· Transport for NSW<br>· Destination NSW<br>· NSW Dept of Industry – Resources and Energy<br>· NSW Rural Fire Service<br>· Local Land Services – Central Tablelands<br>· Regional NSW<br>· Jobs NSW | |
| Local media outlets<br><br>IAP2 engagement level: inform | · Newspapers (also online): Oberon Review, Goulburn Post, The Post Weekly, Town and Country, Western Advocate<br>· Radio: ABC Central West, hit105.9 Central West, Triple M 105.1 Central West, 100.7 SBS National<br>· Social media: Facebook – Visit Oberon, Oberon NSW 2787 Community Page, Oberon, Bathurst, Lithgow and Surrounds, Oberon Community Page, Goulburn Community Noticeboard, What's on in Goulburn NSW | · Community involvement and events<br>· Community wellbeing.<br>· Local employment.<br>· Project updates. |

## 5.4 Tertiary Stakeholder Groups

The Plan identified the following parties as part of the "Tertiary Stakeholder Groups":

Table 26. Tertiary Stakeholder Groups (ERM, 2021)

| Stakeholder and IAP2 engagement level | Specific parties | Form of consultation<br>Potential Interests / Concerns |
|---|---|---|
| Local schools, religious organisations, clubs | Schools and religious organisations in the local area that are likely to be impacted, have an interest in the | Community wellbeing. Impact on local residents and businesses. Economic impacts / benefits. Impacts on local roads and infrastructure. |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| *IAP2 engagement level: inform* | Project or could offer a community partnership opportunity | |
| State and national media<br>*IAP2 engagement level: inform* | National and state newspapers, radio and television | Community discontent / protests. Safety concerns. Environment or heritage impacts. Project milestones. |

## 5.5 Engagement Carried Out

Section 3 of ERM's CSE Plan summarises the community consultation and stakeholder engagement work completed between the initial project kick-off from mid-2004 to the withdrawal from the previous SSD application in June 2020.

During this period, the top five critical areas of interest expressed by the community and stakeholders in response to the 2014 wind farm application were concerning:

- Noise and vibration;
- Landscape and visual impacts;
- Property values;
- Traffic and roadworks; and
- Environmental concerns.

Most of the interests generated were within a 5km geographic context from the stie.

There was ongoing consultation with all stakeholders up to the withdrawal of the original application in 2020.
As mentioned earlier, a new round of engagement commenced in January 2021 to inform the community about the new Paling Yards Wind Farm Project.

Notice of intent to proceed with the wind farm at the current location was issued by GPG. In January-February 2021 GPG undertook a doorknock and mail-out to all properties within a 5km radius of the site. The initial engagement aimed to notify the local community of GPG's intent to proceed with the new SSD application at Paling Yards. In addition to this, several landowners were contacted and informed of the proposed Project.

The table below provides a breakdown of the consultation undertaken.

Table 27. Consultation Breakdown

| Type | Date Commenced | Duration | Done by |
|---|---|---|---|
| Previous Application: | | | |
| Initial Consultation | May-Jun 2011 | 14 days | Union Fenosa |
| Community Consultative Committee | Nov 2012 | 14 days | Union Fenosa |
| Community Engagement | May-Jun 2014 | 28 days | Union Fenosa |
| Current Application: | | | |
| Notice of Intent to owners within 5km radius, including:<br>o Letter drops, door knocks<br>o Emails and phone calls<br>o Newsletter<br>o Site meetings | Jan 2021 | N / A | GPG |
| Additional letter drops to dwellings within a 5km radius done, including:<br>o Letter drops, door knocks<br>o Emails and phone calls | Feb 2021 | N / A | GPG |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| ○ Newsletter<br>○ Community survey<br>○ Discussions around neighbour agreements | | | |
| Site visits and discussions with all involved landowners, including:<br>○ Letter drops<br>○ Emails and phone calls<br>○ Site meeting and face to face discussions<br>○ Discussions around agreements. | July 2021 | N / A | GPG |
| GPG engaged with neighbours to discuss neighbour agreements:<br>○ Letter drops, door knocks<br>○ Emails and phone calls<br>○ Face to face meetings | Aug 2021 | ongoing | GPG |
| Initial Consultation as per CSE Plan – Newsletter circulated to all owners within 5km radius (including Oberon Council and Upper Lachlan Shire Council). | Aug 2021 | 28 days | GPG / KJA |
| Early engagement with Aboriginal communities and representatives as part of the cultural and heritage assessment | Sept 2021 | Ongoing | ERM / KJA |
| Project update sent to Oberon City Council and Upper Lachlan Council | Sept 2021 | N / A | GPG |
| A community feedback survey was undertaken. | Sept 2021 | 28 days | KJA |
| Notification and registration to Aboriginal representatives for heritage field survey | Sept 2021 | Ongoing | ERM |
| Aviation Impact Assessment circulated to relevant stakeholders for comments (Airservices Aus, CASA, Dept Defence, NSW Rural Fire Services, Oberon Council, Royal Flying Doctor Services) | Sept 2021 | 28 days | Aviation Projects |
| Newsletters and emails to Oberon Council and Upper Lachlan Shire Council General Managers | Oct 2021 | Ongoing | GPG / KJA |

*Notes:*

- Community engagement between July – November 2021 has been limited by the COVID-19 regulations and measures across NSW. The team have been unable to undertake any face-to-face information sessions and doorknocks.
- ERM / KJA / GPG will schedule a Gateway meeting with DPIE to discuss the early consultation done and feedback received. This is expected to be occur in early 2022.

Below is a summary of the key issues raised and comments received during consultation between January 2021 and November 2021:

Table 28. Key Issues and Comments (Source: Tract, 2021)

| Topic / Concern | Feedback Received |
|---|---|
| Visual Impact | · Landscape and visual impact concerns due to 240m high turbine blades and impacts on public and private views.<br>· Protection of the natural landscape is important.<br>· Loss of business (tourism) due to the visual impact of the wind farm |
| Noise | · Possible noise exceedances due to the large turbine rotors and blades.<br>· Potential noise impacts during construction and other operations. |

| Topic / Concern | Feedback Received |
|---|---|
| Approval Process | · Interest from the community to better understand the approval process and timeframes for determination<br>· Access to information and application updates was considered important. |
| Economic and social impacts | · The general support for the proposed project based on the economic opportunities for the local area.<br>· Interest in the additional jobs that would be created as a result of the project.<br>· Loss of business during construction of the wind farm<br>· Understanding the operation life of the wind farm. |
| Traffic and transport | · Traffic concerns during construction of the wind farm – increase in localised traffic |
| Environment | · Concerns regarding the potential impact of the wind farm on existing flora and fauna. |
| Climate change | · Support for clean energy and the overall contribution to the reduction in emissions caused by fossil fuels<br>· Contributing to the State's net zero emissions target. |
| Other | · Health impacts due to the development and its proximity to residential dwellings.<br>· Impacts on broadcasting and television signals.<br>· Insufficient community engagement during the early stages of the project.<br>· Ongoing discussions on the draft cultural and heritage assessment report |

The above comments and feedback received were mostly identified as being submitted by community members and stakeholders within a 5km radius of the site.

## 5.6 Further Communication and Engagement Tools

The table below includes a list of ERM's recommended communication and engagement tools that will be used to facilitate further stakeholder and community engagement.

Table 29. Communication and Engagement Tools (Source: ERM / GPG, 2021)

| Engagement Tools | Description |
|---|---|
| Stakeholder database | · A stakeholder database has been established and is being maintained to capture stakeholder feedback, concerns and inquiries, and responses and commitments made. |
| Project website | · A Project website is in place and ready to provide information to stakeholders once SEARs is received. The website is likely to include:<br>o General Project information<br>o A map of the Project site<br>o Contact information<br>o Fact sheets<br>o Project updates<br>o Construction updates<br>o Media releases<br>o High quality images and visual of the Project<br>o Additional relevant Project documentation |

| Engagement Tools | Description |
|---|---|
| | ○ Details about upcoming events such as information sessions<br>○ Links to social media platforms and other relevant websites.<br>· An intermim website is currently avialable - http: / / globalpower-generation.com.au / Projects > NSW > Paling Yards> Project documents |
| Project email address | · A Project email address has been established and will be provided to stakeholders and the community during the life of the Project. The registered email address is:<br>info@globalpower-generation.com.au<br>· The email will have an auto-response acknowledging receipt of the email and advising a response timeframe. Enquiries will be responded to within two business days. |
| Project phone line | · A Project information phone line will be established shortly which will be available to stakeholders and the community during the life of the Project.<br>· The phone line should be available during regular business hours. Outside of business hours, a recorded message and voice mail facility should be available so callers can leave a message. |
| Project postal address | · A Project postal address should be established and available to stakeholders and the community during the life of the Project. This is in recognition of the median age of residents in the local area and to mitigate any digital connectivity concerns for regional and remote areas. |
| Frequently Asked Questions | · A Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document that aims to answer common stakeholder questions about the Project will be prepared. The FAQ document will be available on the Project website. |
| Image library | · High-resolution Project images and maps will be developed and kept on file for use on the Project website and provided to media outlets. These will be updated during the life of the Project. |
| Fact sheets | · Relevant fact sheets will be prepared for distribution at community engagement activities to provide tailored Project information on various topics. These will also be published on the Project website. Fact sheets should include:<br>○ Generic wind energy fact sheet<br>○ Wind farms and renewable energy<br>○ Wind farms and the electricity grid<br>○ Wind farm visual and noise impacts<br>○ Wind farm health and safety<br>○ Wind farm consturction. |
| Letters | · Letters will be used for formal engagement with directly affected stakeholders. Letters could include relevant updates on the Project and critical details such as event / meeting timing and contact details. Letters can be sent out digitally and / or via mail. |
| Newsletters | · The newsletter should be restarted to provide relevant updates on the Project, community benefits and upcoming engagement activities. Newsletters should be published every six months initially and then quarterly during the construction phase. Initial newsletters will target residences within proximity to the Project site. |
| Media releases | · Media releases will be issued to communicate key project messages, milestones and announcements. Copies will be provided to relevant media outlets and key stakeholders. |
| Face-to-face meetings | · Face-to-face meetings can take various forms, including door knocks, public meetings, stakeholder briefings, and site visits. How many meetings are delivered will be determined as the Project evolves. |

| Engagement Tools | Description |
|---|---|
| Community information events | · Local community information sessions will commence in the scoping and approvals phase and include pop-ups at local community events. Community feedback will be actively sought using presentations, face-to-face conversations and surveys. |
| Project boards | · A range of Project boards will be designed for use at community events to help inform the community. |
| Construction updates | · During the construction phase, regular and required construction updates and notifications will be provided to the community via the website and to affected stakeholders by email. |
| Advertising | · Advertising will be used to promote major Project events, milestones and announcements. The Project will consider advertising in local newspapers and on the radio. |
| Social media monitoring | · Monitoring of social media channels should be undertaken to understand the sentiment and key areas of interest about the Project within the local community. |
| Community Consultative Committee (CCC) | NSW planning guidelines encourage the establishment of CCCs to enable engagement with the community and stakeholder groups on State significant developments. These should be independently chaired with up to seven community and stakeholder representatives, a council representative, and three representatives from the proponent. The CCC should meet regularly, with the frequency to be determined. DPIE will decide whether a CCC should be established for a significant State project. If DPIE decides a CCC is warranted, it will require the proponent to develop the committee either:<br>· Early in the assessment process through the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) for the Project; or<br>· Following approval through the conditions of approval for the Project. |

The engagement plan provides an overview of a proposed Communication and Engagement Action Plan. It includes the objectives for each phase while also discussing the planned (and completed) engagement activities.

Refer to Appendix E for a copy of the preliminary CSE Plan provided by ERM.

# 6 Proposed Assessment of Impacts

## 6.1 Assessment Matters

As part of this section, an assessment of impacts and the related information critical for setting the SEARs will be provided. Each section has been categorised in accordance with the Departments SSD Guidelines – *Categories of Assessment Matters.* The categories and matters for assessment have been listed below in paragraph form in order to provide the reader with an easier understanding and breakdown of the assessment matters.

### 6.1.1 Access, Traffic and Transport

SLR Consulting has been engaged by GPG to summarise the traffic engineering inputs and describe the existing road environment for the Paling Yards Wind Farm Project as part of the Scoping Report process. SLR Consulting notes that the content provided within this Scoping Report is to provide preliminary additional traffic and transport information to be incorporated into the Scoping Report as a background. A copy of the preliminary traffic assessment is attached as Appendix D.

SLR Consulting summarises the following key traffic-related issues identified for the Project. These are noted as the critical matters for consideration in the traffic assessment for the Paling Yard Wind Farm Project EIS:

- The initial estimates related to heavy vehicle volumes would result in an increase of less than 5% of existing heavy vehicle traffic volumes in the short-term (during construction of the Project).
- Whilst Great Western Highway is currently understood to operate with a certain level of spare capacity, the scale of the potential traffic volume increases will nevertheless still likely warrant further consideration as part of the EIS.
- In particular, assessment is likely to be required at the location(s) where Project traffic accesses Great Western Highway via the lower order road network (i.e., at Littlebourne Street intersection based on the current routes). This assessment will need to determine if intersection upgrade works are warranted to maintain the safety and efficiency of the road network.
- Special access requirements may be required for a limited number of over-dimension indivisible movements associated with large equipment transport.
- Given the lower order nature of the other roads within the vicinity of the Project site, including Littlebourne Street, O'Connell Road and Abercrombie Road, it is expected that any lower-order roads ultimately facilitating access to the site would experience significant traffic volume increases for at least a short-term period.

A detailed traffic and transport assessment is expected to be conducted by SLR Consulting as part of the EIS assessment process to ensure that the potential traffic impacts associated with the Paling Yards Wind Farm Project are managed and mitigated appropriately. This assessment will include:

- Description of the Project activities and any associated staging.
- Estimation of the construction material and workforce requirements of the Project.
- Preparation of detailed traffic generation forecasts (light and heavy vehicle) beyond nominal guidance presented herein.
- Detailed review of existing road conditions, including collation of relevant traffic count data and interrogation of crash data.

- Identification of an access strategy utilising lower order roads that are either currently fit-for-use to carry Project traffic or could be made fit-for-use. In addition, the access strategy will need to consider the fitness-for-use of any existing points of access from the lower order road network to the highway network. The fit-for-use assessment will consider safety, efficiency, and asset integrity considerations.
- Complete swept path assessments to ensure that over-dimensional vehicle movements can be accommodated.
- Identify the specific road upgrades or maintenance commitments required to ensure that the local and classified road network can safely and efficiently accommodate the traffic generated by the Project.

A full assessment of the blade transport was discussed in section 3.4. The Blade Transport Assessment is also available under Appendix C. Below is a summary of next steps to be carried out as part of the EIS:

- Complete a detailed survey and assessment of Route C to capture any required modification for blade transport.
- Completion of a detailed traffic and transport assessment to ensure all vehicles and proposed modification works are able to be accommodated when transporting the wind turbine equipment to the Paling Yards Wind Farm site.
- This detailed assessment is to determine specifics relating to the following matters for consideration:
    - Bridge assessments for the capacity of the listed loads;
    - Preferred blade transport route is to be checked and validated by an authorised scoping company for impacts to overhead utilities;
    - Identification of vegetation along Wybong Road, Main Street, Steeple Flats, Range Road, O'Connell Road and Abercrombie Road sections which will require pruning and possible removal; and
    - Council roads evaluated for capacity and potential major / minor road works, including those relating to Wybong Road, Main Street, Steeple Flats, Range Road, O'Connell Road, Abercrombie Road and Victoria Pass.

### 6.1.2 Biodiversity

GPG engaged ERM to investigate the impacts to threatened species and ecological communities that may arise from the construction and operation of the Project as listed under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*. (BC Act) ERM completed the most recent field survey effort of the site in February 2021.

ERM has prepared a Preliminary Biodiversity Values assessment to inform the Scoping Report, which identifies and describes the key biodiversity values within the Project Site. The Biodiversity Study Area has been defined as a 100m buffer to all project infrastructure for the Preliminary Biodiversity Values assessment. The objective of this assessment was to confirm the key ecological values that may be relevant to the Project and to determine preliminary recommendations for avoidance or mitigation of potential impacts along with the requirement for additional assessment. A copy of the full assessment and survey results is available under Appendix F.

The general landscape within the Project site itself is a largely cleared, agricultural landscape (improved pasture) with small remnant woodland and derived grasslands. Many of these small vegetation patches and tree lines maintain connectivity to surrounding bushland, including the Abercrombie Rivers National Park and will be a crucial consideration in the EIS.

Abercrombie National Park borders the site to the west and south. To the east of the site is the Wiarborough Nature Reserve and Blue Mountains National Park. Other land uses in the locality include rural and agricultural industries, including wool, lamb and beef cattle. The key landscape features and biodiversity values within the Project site are summarised in the attached report.

The assessment found the following findings for threatened ecological vegetation communities:

- Only one of the five recorded vegetation communities has an association with the BC Act listed White Box - Yellow Box - Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland threatened ecological community (TEC).
- Further assessment and analysis within the EIS will confirm if this plant community type within the Project Site is consistent with the EPBC Act listed *White Box - Yellow Box - Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived*

*Native Grassland TEC*. The EPBC listing has specific condition criteria that will need to be assessed, specifically if these patches have >50% native ground cover.

- Further management and mitigation measures will be detailed in the EIS and the supporting *Biodiversity Development Assessment Report* (BDAR) undertaken in accordance with the *Biodiversity Assessment Methodology* (BAM).

The assessment also found that no threatened flora species have been recorded within the Project site despite numerous surveys undertaken between 2013 and 2021. A summary of the known threatened fauna species confirmed within the Project site is listed in the attached report. ERM notes that the potential impacts on threatened species and ecological communities will need to be further considered as part of the EIS to be prepared under Part 5 of the NSW EP&A Act.

Operational wind farms pose a collision risk to birds and bats where rotor strikes can cause injury or death. Fatalities and injuries are usually caused by a collision with the moving blades (blade strike) or the turbine infrastructure. The EIS and further environmental assessments will assess potential collision risks to both birds and bats.

Based on the results of the desktop assessment and the field surveys undertaken between 2013 and 2021, a preliminary assessment of *Matters of National Environmental Significance* (MNES) within the Project site has been provided in the table below.

Table 30. Preliminary Assessment of Matters of National Environmental Significance (Source: ERM, 2021)

| MNES | Relevance to the Project Boundary |
|---|---|
| World Heritage Properties<br>National heritage properties | The northern portion of the Project is located approximately 2km west of the Greater Blue Mountains Area.<br>The Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2000. It is 1 million hectares (10,000 km$^2$) of national park and wilderness dominated by temperate eucalypt forest. The area supports exceptional biodiversity including a number of rare plants. It's also highly valued for its Aboriginal heritage and its outstanding geological features.<br>The EIS will assess indirect and cumulative impacts to the world heritage area. |
| Wetlands of international importance | There are no wetlands of international importance within the Project site. The closest records (as identified within the Protected Matters Search Tool (PMST)) are:<br>· Banrock station wetland<br>· Hattah-kulkyne Lakes<br>· Riverland<br>· The Coorong, and Lakes Alexandrina and Albert Wetland |
| Threatened species and ecological communities | No EPBC listed threatened species have been recorded within the Project site.<br>Further assessment and analysis within the BDAR will confirm if this PCT 654 within the Project Site is also consistent with the EPBC Act listed White Box - Yellow Box - Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland TEC.<br>The EPBC listing has specific condition criteria that will need to be assessed, specifically if these patches have >50% native ground cover. |
| Migratory species | Known to occur:<br>· No migratory species have been recorded within the Project site.<br>Likely to occur:<br>· Fork-tailed swift (Apus pacificus)<br>· White-throated Needletail (Hirundapus caudacutus)<br>· Black-faced Monarch (Monarcha melanopsis)<br>· Yellow Wagtail (Motacilla flava)<br>· Satin Flycatcher (Myiagra cyanoleuca)<br>· Rufous Fantail (Rhipidura rufifrons) |

| | |
|---|---|
| Commonwealth marine area | Not identified within the Project boundary or within 50 km radius |
| The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park | Not identified within the Project boundary or within 50 km radius |
| Nuclear actions | Not Applicable |
| Water resources | Abercrombie River |

A referral for a windfarm development across the Project site was submitted to the Commonwealth Department of Environment and Heritage in February 2005. In March 2005, the Minister declared that the action was not a controlled action and approval under Part 9 of the EPBC Act was not required (EPBC Reference 2005/2018). The need for the current Project to be referred will be confirmed following additional assessment, although it is noted that ecological desktop and field studies undertaken to date have not revealed any additional MNES, and the current windfarm development has not been referred.

Further assessment and analysis will be undertaken as part of the EIS. Should the PYWF wind farm development as proposed have, or is likely to have, a significant impact on one or more MNES, a referral to the will be submitted to the Australian Government Minister for the Environment (the Minister).

The desktop assessment and field surveys undertaken by ERM to date have highlighted a range of known and potential biodiversity constraints. To effectively avoid and minimise impacts associated with the Project, the following management recommendations are suggested:

- Commit to a nil net loss of TECs within the Project boundary;
- Minimise loss of existing native vegetation; and
- Aim to minimise habitat loss for threatened species within the Project's boundary.

The following steps are considered essential in ensuring an adequate assessment of biodiversity values is continued throughout future stages of the Project:

- Prepare and submit a BDAR in accordance with the BAM;
- Prepare a detailed assessment of MNES;
- Conduct detailed habitat mapping and native vegetation mapping for all direct impact areas (e.g., the development footprint); and
- Conduct further targeted seasonal fauna and flora surveys in (some of which were undertaken during October 2021) for species considered likely or potentially occurring within the Project boundary in accordance with relevant federal or State survey guidelines.

### 6.1.3 Decommissioning and Waste

WSP has prepared a *Decommissioning and Rehabilitation Plan* (DRP) on behalf of the proponent to identify an appropriate methodology for decommissioning the Paling Yard Wind Farm facility, and the rehabilitation of the site once the Project reaches the end of its useful economic life. The full report is attached as Appendix K.

The operational life of the Palings Yards Wind Farm is expected to be of at least 30 years. Megawatt-scale wind turbine generators available on the market today have a design life expectancy of 20 to 30 years depending on site conditions. The tubular steel towers supporting the generators are of simple design and with basic routine maintenance could serve many years beyond the life expectancy of the generators.

The decommissioning process is explained in the DRP and highlights the likely sequencing for dismantling and decommissioning of each wind turbine tower.

WSP also outlines that all waste management will be undertaken in accordance with the EPA NSW waste legislation such as *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*, *Protection of the Environment Operations Waste Regulation*

*2014*, *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2001* and the relevant guidelines. WSP proposes to utilise the waste minimisation hierarchy of avoid / reduce / reuse / recycle / dispose as the overarching principle for the Project.

As part of the EIS and approval process, the DRP may need to be revised due to the following:

- Modification to the condition of the Paling Yard Wind Farm planning approval;
- Deficiencies being identified;
- Changing environmental requirements;
- Change in environmental planning or energy legislation; and
- Improvements in knowledge and / or renewable energy technologies.

### 6.1.4 Social Impact

A Phase 1 Social Impact Assessment (SIA) was prepared based on the information available at the time, and as part of the Scoping Report to be submitted to DPIE in support of an application for SEARs. A copy of the Phase 1 report is attached as Appendix I.

As an initial preliminary assessment of social impacts, this SIA provides DPIE with sufficient understanding of the Project's potential social impacts and the means by which these social impacts will be identified, assessed, and managed. These aspects are expected to be further developed as part of the Phase 2 SIA within the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as guided by the SEARs.

The Phase 1 SIA methodology as structured by ERM has been as follows:

- Outlining the Project's 'Social Locality';
- Providing an initial understanding the existing baseline conditions in the Project's Social Locality;
- Providing a preliminary assessment of the social impacts that may result from the Project;
- Describing changes to the Project design that have already occurred in response to stakeholder inputs;
- Providing an overview of the anticipated stakeholder engagement activities that will inform the Phase 2 SIA; and
- Outlining the SIA approach to be followed as part of delivering the Phase 2 SIA.

Table 31. Preliminary Social Impact Assessment Findings (Source: ERM, 2021)

| Description of Impact | Impact Categories | Project Phase |
|---|---|---|
| · Impacts on social infrastructure and availability of services due to increased population / increased demand for services | · Way of life, community, accessibility, health and wellbeing | · Construction |
| · Impacts to recreational pursuits in the National Park and Conservation Reserve | · Way of life, community, accessibility, health and wellbeing | · Construction and Operation |
| · Psychological impacts on people with an interest in environmental conservation (i.e., distress caused by threats of infrastructure on bats and avifauna) | · Way of life, community, accessibility, health and wellbeing | · Construction and Operation |
| · Increased economic activity within the region | · Way of life, livelihoods | · Construction |
| · Diversification of income streams for involved landowners | · Way of life, livelihoods | · Operation |

| Description of Impact | Impact Categories | Project Phase |
|---|---|---|
| · Impacts to existing agricultural operations, including efficiency of aerial agricultural applications in the vicinity of Project | · Way of life, livelihoods | · Operation |
| · Impacts to telecommunications | · Way of life, livelihoods | · Operation |
| · Construction traffic impacts to community safety and amenity | · Way of life, community, accessibility, health and wellbeing | · Construction |
| · Perceived impacts to land values | · Way of life, livelihoods | · Life of project |
| · Construction noise impacts | · Way of life, community, health and wellbeing, surroundings | · Construction |
| · Operational noise impacts | · Way of life, community, health and wellbeing, surroundings | · Operation |
| · Visual amenity impacts | · Way of life, community, culture, health and wellbeing | · Operation |
| · Perceived health impacts, including from electromagnetic interference, shadow flicker, blade throw and noise | · Way of life, community, culture, health and wellbeing | · Operation |

The identified potential impacts will be verified by key stakeholder feedback in Phase 2. It is expected that the Phase 2 SIA that will be incorporated into the EIS will provide a detailed analysis of the potential impacts and incorporate key stakeholder feedback. The Phase 2 SIA will elaborate potential cumulative impacts in view of recent and proposed wind farm and other large-scale projects in the Project's Social Locality.

### 6.1.5 Heritage

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

The Desktop Heritage Assessment and preliminary Aboriginal heritage survey for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and has been prepared by ERM in accordance with the following guidelines:

- '*Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010*' (former Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water NSW, 2010);
- '*Code of Practice for the Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW*' (former Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water NSW, 2010); and
- '*The Australian International Council on Monuments and Sites, Charter for Places of Cultural Significance*' (The Burra Charter: The Australian ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance).

ERM's methodology in preparing the draft report includes:

- Desktop research and archaeological site database searches;
- Review of previous cultural assessments associated with the Project and Project site;
- Consultation with the local Aboriginal community;
- Field surveys of the development footprint (including 25m buffer for linear infrastructure and 100m buffer from wind turbine locations);
- Assessment of heritage significance;
- Heritage impact assessment; and

- Preparation of management and mitigation recommendations.

Findings in the report includes:

- ERM identified that a total of 26 registered Aboriginal sites were identified within the total search area, including 17 within the Project Area as indicated within Figure 8.
- One Stone Quarry site was recorded within the search area.
- A total of 14 new Aboriginal sites were identified within the Project Area during the survey including one culturally modified tree and a number of isolated finds and artefact scatters. The survey also included the inspection of four previously registered Aboriginal sites based on their proximity to the preliminary design footprint.

In consideration of these findings, the following recommendations are made by ERM to inform the EIS:

- A comprehensive investigation, to include pedestrian field survey, consultation with Aboriginal stakeholders, sensitivity mapping, and archaeological test excavation (as required) should be undertaken during the development application stage;
- The investigations are to be undertaken in accordance with all NSW legislation and relevant guidelines, including the *Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW (OEH 2011), the Code of Practice for the Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW (DECCW 2010),* and *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010 (DECCW, 2010);*
- Results of the investigations are to be detailed in an *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report* (ACHAR); and
- Upon completion of the ACHAR, a *Cultural Heritage Management Plan* (CHMP) should be prepared to ensure appropriate management of any identified cultural heritage throughout the construction process.

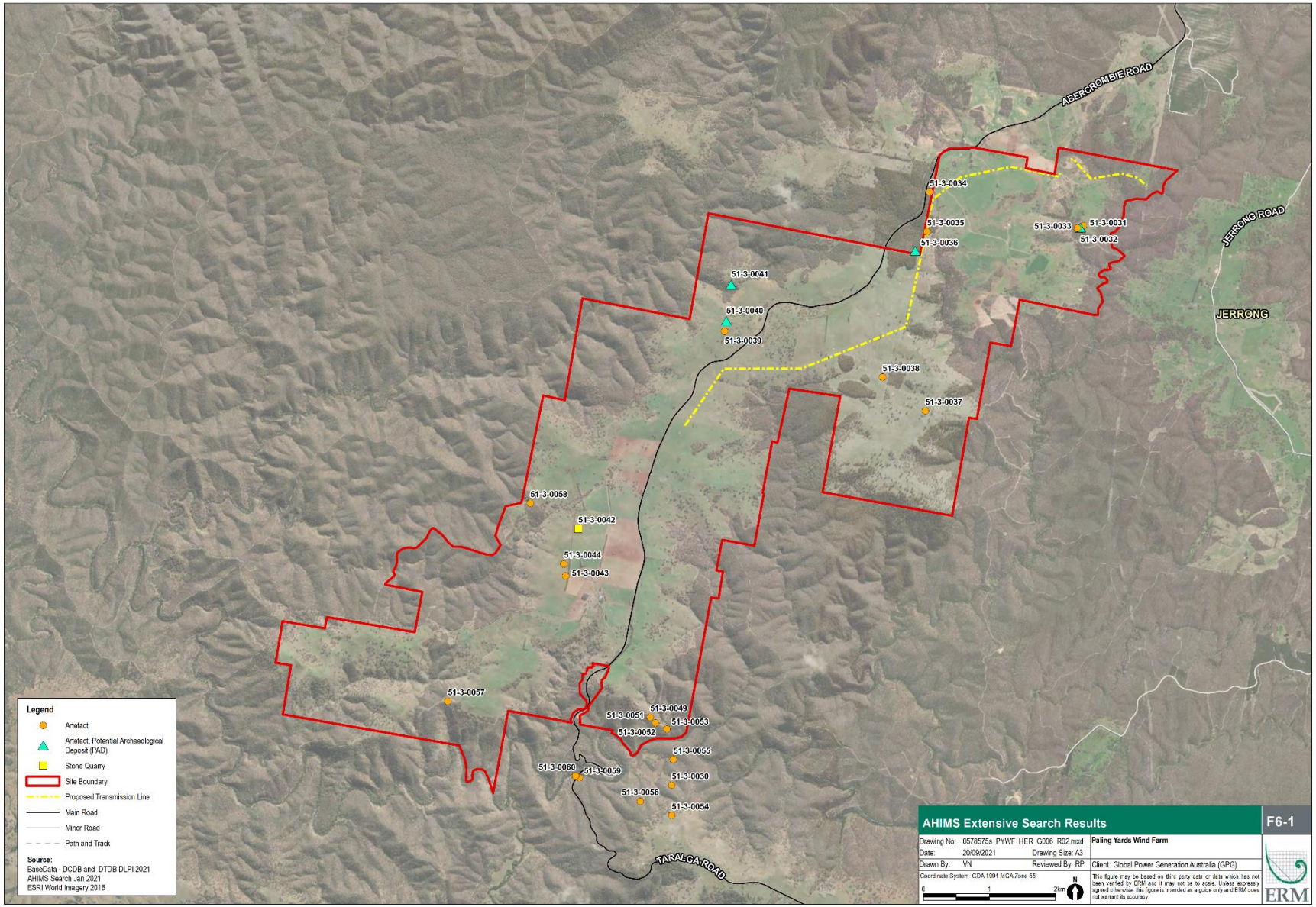


Figure 8. AHIMS Extensive Search Results (Source: ERM, 2021)

Non-Indigenous (Historic) Heritage)

A preliminary non-Aboriginal heritage survey was undertaken across the Project Area between 30 March and 1 April 2021. The Preliminary Non-Aboriginal Heritage Survey aimed to ground truth previously recorded historic heritage sites in the Project Area and identify any unknown sites that may be impacted by project. The Preliminary Non-Aboriginal Heritage Survey did not include the northern extent of the Project Area and was limited to the preliminary locations of the proposed turbines and access routes.

The preliminary survey found that:

- Two of the heritage sites were surveyed during the preliminary site survey, including 'Mingary Park Airfield' and 'Quobleigh basalt chimney and plantings'.
- Survey of the preliminary turbine and access route locations did not identify any heritage features or areas of archaeological potential. Survey of the Mingary Park Airstrip identified that the airstrip was no longer visible from ground level, although in aerial imagery the general alignment could be identified.
- Survey of the 'Quobleigh' basalt chimney and plantings identified that the chimney remains in good condition and there was still legible evidence of the approximate location of the former homestead visible on the ground surface. The chimney was situated close to a recently constructed home, indicating preference of this site for habitation.

In consideration of these findings, the following recommendations are made to inform the EIS:

- Although the preliminary research and survey by ERM indicates that the likelihood of additional historic heritage to be present across the Project Area is low, it is recommended that a non-Aboriginal (Historical) due diligence heritage assessment be prepared as part of the EIS to confirm initial review findings.
- The non-Aboriginal due diligence heritage assessment should include additional heritage survey of the northern portion of the Project Area, including three heritage items in this area previously identified in a survey. The survey should also include any portions of the EIS impact footprint not previously surveyed.
- The non-Aboriginal heritage assessment report should consider potential impacts to heritage and archaeology, as well as any intangible (social) values held by the community or relevant stakeholders. Preparation of the non-Aboriginal heritage report would involve detailed historical research, including analysis of historical aerial imagery, and physical inspection of the relevant areas of the project boundary.
- The preparation of the non-Aboriginal heritage assessment report would ensure compliance with all statutory obligations and best practice guidelines and would assist in the management of risk associated with inadvertent impact to heritage values.

### 6.1.6 Noise

As part of the scoping analysis of the site, a draft noise assessment report has been prepared by SLR Consulting. The noise assessment has been carried out for all dwellings within 10 kilometres of a turbine under the South Australia Environmental Protection Authority's noise guidelines, which have been adopted by the NSW Government.

For project involved receptor locations (involved dwellings), a noise assessment has been carried out under WHO Guidelines to ensure there is no unreasonable impact on amenity. The preliminary investigation included a worst case layout / turbine approach, which includes the largest model turbine (Option A).

The minimum noise criteria are:

- 35 dBA at relevant receivers in localities which are primarily intended for 'rural living,' e.g., rural–residential 'lifestyle' area; and
- 40 dBA at the relevant receivers in localities in other zones, e.g., intensive primary production areas.

The report attached as Appendix H provides detail on the noise assessment process and assumptions. A detailed list of the predicted noise levels to each of the identified dwellings is also provided and measured against the guidelines.

The preliminary noise predictions of a worst-case layout with no mitigation applied to indicate that:

- The minimum 35 dBA noise criterion is met for all non-involved receptors, except for Location 31 – a non-identified structure.
- The minimum 45 dBA noise criterion is marginally exceeded some of the involved receptors, with a predicted maximum potential exceedance of under 2 dBA.

Please refer to Figure 9 below for a visual illustration of the 'worst-case' noise model in relation to all sensitive receptors.

As part of the detailed noise impact assessment to be completed with the submission of an EIS, it is anticipated that the following will be undertaken:

- Baseline noise monitoring at nearby receptors to quantify the existing ambient noise environment. Background noise levels will be statistically regressed with wind speed. The background noise 'curve' is then used to determine the relevant noise criteria for each site across the entire operating wind speed range.
- Refinement of the noise model input assumptions, e.g., WTG model, WTG sound power level, ground terrain and hardness etc.
- Refinement and consolidation of the wind farm layout.
- Noise optimised operation of WTGs if required.
- Finalisation of Project involved land-holders.

The predicted marginal exceedance at the Project involved receptors 8, 8A, 9A, and 7A will need to be resolved during the detailed noise impact assessment for the EIS.

This detailed noise impact assessment could involve:

- Establishing ambient noise levels at these locations (typically, the criteria applied at Project involved locations is 45 dBA or Background + 5 dBA, whichever is the higher).
- Reducing the number of WTGs in proximity to these locations.
- Utilising noise optimised modes or substituting quieter WTGs in proximity to these receptors.
- Examining the potential for improved internal acoustic amenity through implementing building acoustic treatment.

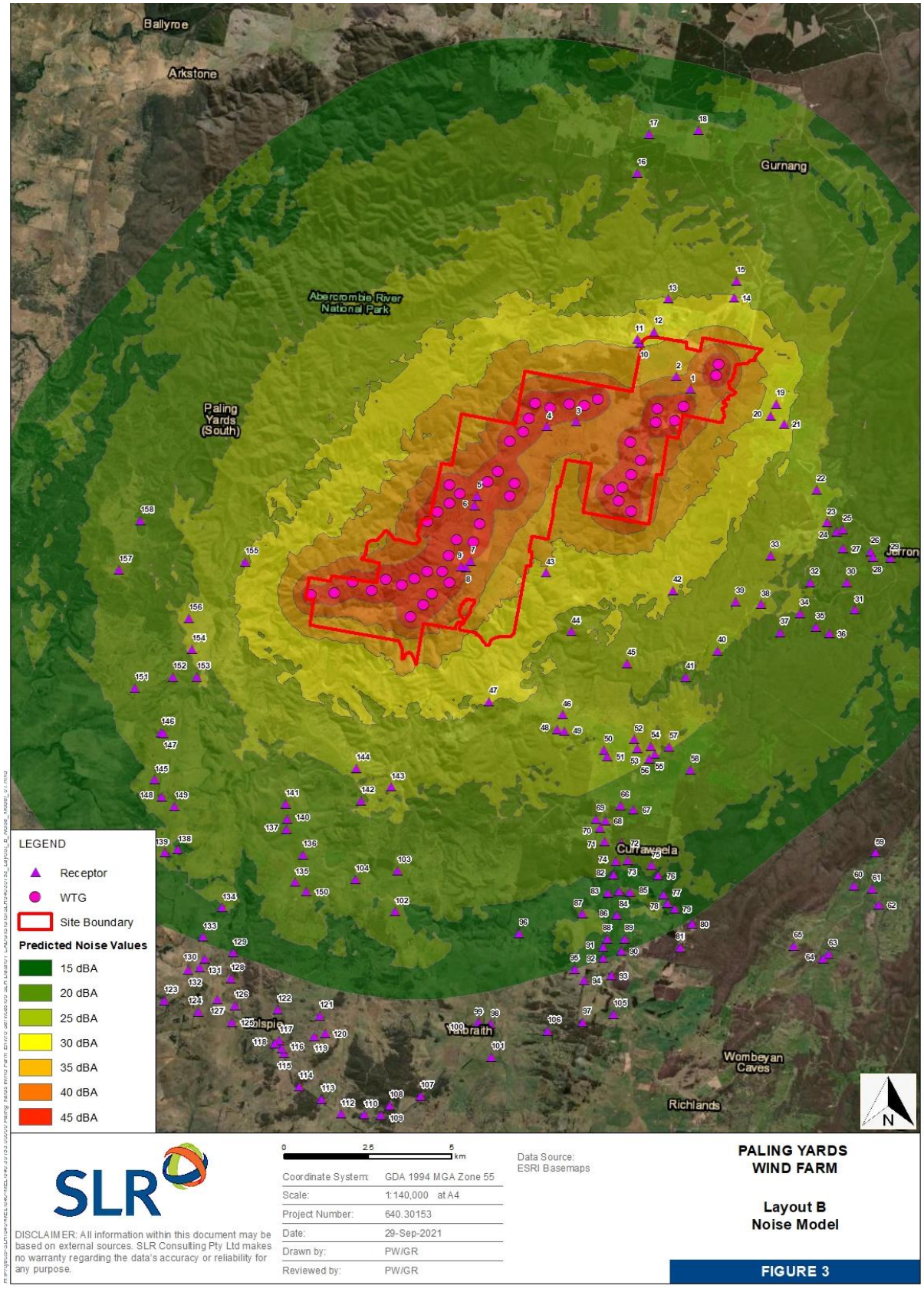


Figure 9. Predicted Noise Model for 'Worst Case' Turbine (Source: SLR, 2021)

### 6.1.7 Soil and Landform

As part of the previous application for the Paling Yards Wind Farm, URS Australia Pty Ltd was previously commissioned by Union Fenosa Wind Australia Pty Ltd in 2010 to assess potential geotechnical impacts in relation to the Paling Yards Wind Farm Project.

It was found by URS during their assessment that there would be no major geological issues that would prevent the construction of the proposed development, provided the recommendations and measures outlined within URS's geotechnical study were followed to mitigate any adverse geotechnical impacts. This included:

- Further detailed subsurface geotechnical investigation and analysis be conducted to provide information for the detailed design of footings, access road, slope stability and other associated infrastructure;
- Access roads to be designed to stay on the ridge crests and remain clear of potential land slips;
- If the crossing of a potential land slip is required, then the road formation should be designed to remove any potentially unstable material and found on stable bedrock;
- Site works, including excavation and filling should be planned to reduce the risk of high concentrated surface water runoff; and
- A Soil Erosion Management Plan should be prepared as part of the Construction Environmental Management Plan.

It was recommended by URS that further investigation be undertaken at a later stage where warranted. The EIS will determine appropriate geotechnical mitigation and management measures to be implemented to ensure that all potential soils and landform impacts are dealt with to address matters outlined within the SEARs, in accordance with all relevant planning legislation and the Wind Energy Framework.

### 6.1.8 Storage of Dangerous Goods

SwitchCo has prepared the SEPP 33 Assessment Report to provide screening assessment of the hazards associated with the storage of dangerous goods on the site in accordance with NSW State Environmental Planning Policy No. 33 – Hazardous and Offensive Development (SEPP 33) for the Project with an expected total capacity of up to 310 MW (while up to 329MW was considered as part of this assessment). A copy of the full report is attached as Appendix J.

SwitchCo investigated the permissible maximum quantities of hazardous materials that can be stored or transported without causing a significant offsite risk as stipulated in the SEPP 33 guidelines. It was found by SwitchCo that the SEPP 33 thresholds are not exceeded for any material. Further, SwitchCo found that the risks associated with storage and transportation of hazardous materials would be unlikely to be significant or pose a risk to public safety.

SwitchCo considered the Paling Yards Wind Farm Project to not be a hazardous or potentially hazardous industry under their SEPP 33 chemical screening. SwitchCo has outlined that a Preliminary Hazard Analysis (PHA) was not required for the Project. In considering the results of environmental impact statement report, type of the material stored, proposed mitigation measures for the Project, distance from nearby land users, SwitchCo concluded that no potentially offensive impacts were associated with the Project.

As part of the EIS and approval process SwitchCo expected the following management plans to be implemented to ensure that hazardous materials will not exceed the SEPP 33 Guidelines screening limits and ensure hazardous materials are stored appropriately and away from sensitive land uses:

- Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP); and
- Operational Management Plan (OMP).

### 6.1.9 Water

As part of the previous SSD application for the Paling Yards Wind Farm, ERM was commissioned by Union Fenosa Wind Australia Pty Ltd in 2010 to assess potential hydrological impacts in relation to the Paling Yards Wind Farm Project. It was found during their assessment that potential water-related impacts would be primarily associated with the construction stage of the Project.

Water usage requirements and potential impacts on water once the Project became operational were expected to be minimal. ERM noted that potential soil and water impacts relate to the following:

- Construction activities such as road and turbine construction;
- Trenching for service installation;
- Production and delivery of concrete (and managing concrete waste);
- Storage and handling, or incidental spills, of fuels, oils, concrete waste and other hazardous substances; and
- Inadequate management of the site compound facility's wastewater and sewage runoff.

A water and hydrological assessment will be prepared as part of the EIS and is to be carried out by ERM. The water and hydrological assessment is expected to investigate potential impacts relation to erosion and sediment, water availability, and potential pollution on watercourses during construction. ERM have previously noted that potential water-related impacts could be contained on site and prevented from impacting watercourses.

These measures are expected to be outlined in a detailed *Soil and Water Management Plan* (SWMP) prepared prior to the Project beginning construction.

The EIS will determine appropriate water-related mitigation and management measures to be implemented to ensure that all potential water and hydrological impacts are dealt with to address matters outlined within the SEARs, in accordance with all relevant planning legislation and the Wind Energy Framework.

### 6.1.10 Bushfire

A review of the NSW RFS Bushfire Prone Land mapping confirms that the Project site is recognised as being bushfire prone and while relatively cleared itself, the Project site is surrounded by steep, vegetated and in many cases inaccessible areas within the Abercrombie National Park, Wiarborough Nature Reserve and the Blue Mountains National Park.

The EIS will include a Bushfire Risk Assessment and will aim to identify potential hazards and risks associated with bushfires / use of bushfire prone land. The assessment will aim to demonstrate that the proposed wind farm can be designed, constructed and operated to minimise ignition risks and provide for asset protection consistent with the NSW Rural Fire Service Guidelines - Planning for Bushfire Protection 2019 and Standards for Asset Protection.

The general landscape within the Project site itself is a largely cleared, agricultural landscape (improved pasture) with small remnant woodland and derived grasslands. The topography is varied, with steep vegetated slopes in some areas. Many of these small vegetation patches and tree lines maintain connectivity to surrounding bushland, including the Abercrombie Rivers National Park which forms the western boundary.

The Bushfire Risk Assessment and mitigation strategies will be guided by the following factors that contribute to bushfire risk:

- fuels, weather, topography, predicted fire behaviour and local bushfire history;
- suppression resources, access (roads, tracks) and water supply; and
- values and assets.

The risk that the wind farm itself will cause a fire is minimal and the risk of fire starting as a result of a lightning strike may actually be reduced by the presence of wind turbines, particularly if they are located along a ridgeline. Wind turbines also have a variety of on-board control systems specifically designed to mitigate the risk of fire. The proposed upgrade of the internal road network would also increase the level of access available to firefighters along the entire length of this Project site and would assist to reduce the likelihood of a widespread fire.

Mitigation will be a combination of complementary strategies, all of which are required to provide the best possible protection outcome for the wind farm and the community. These will include the identification of fire management zones and will be defined as:

- An *Asset Protection Zone* is typically designed to separate a vulnerable asset from the bushfire hazard.
- *Strategic Fire Advantage Zones* provide a strategic fire advantage for the management of bushfires.

### 6.1.11 Visual Amenity

GPG engaged Moir Landscape Architecture (Moir) to undertake a preliminary *Landscape and Visual Assessment* for the Paling Yards Wind Farm Project. This preliminary assessment was prepared in accordance with the *Wind Energy: Visual Assessment Bulletin, December 2016* (the Visual Assessment Bulletin).and includes a summary of the methodology and key findings.

The visual assessment process is broken into two main stages:

- Phase 1: Preliminary Environmental Assessment (scoping)
- Phase 2: EIS (EIA)

The PVIA prepared by Moir forms part of Phase 1 and is submitted to support this Scoping Report. The following has been undertaken in the development of the PVIA:

- Desktop assessment:
  - Review of previous studies undertaken as part of the initial application
  - Application of the Preliminary Assessment Tools
  - Preparation of the Preliminary Zone of Visual Influence
  - Identification of key viewpoints and landscape features within 8km of the site boundary.
- Site Inspection during April 2021 and review of existing landscape character.

As part of the assessment, two Zones of Visual Influence (ZVI) for the PYWF were identified to illustrate the theoretical visibility of the proposed Project and assist in defining the visual catchment. The ZVIs were based on the Project's wind turbine layout with one analysis assessing a wind turbine blade tip height of 240m and the other assessing a hub height of 165m). The assessment was done for an area of approximately 8-10km from the Project. Moir outlines that in the assessment that, while the Project can be visible from further than 10km away, a general acceptance is that visibility impacts of the Project beyond 10km are greatly diminished.

The below Figure 10 illustrates the visibility of the turbines within an 8km radius of the site boundary.

The PVIA has been undertaken in accordance with the Visual Assessment Bulletin and will be submitted in addition to the Scoping Report in the request for Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs).

The PVIA provides preliminary assessment from public viewpoints. This preliminary assessment has been completed to illustrate the existing landscape character of the area. A total of six (6) Landscape Character Units have been identified and have been assigned Scenic Quality Ratings.

The PVIA recommends the following next steps:

- Utilise the landscape character assessment to prepare a detailed Visual Baseline Study.
- Identify any additional key features, key viewpoints valued by the community through consultation.
- Refine the Landscape Character Units and allow the community to provide feedback on the relative scenic quality ratings of LCUs.
- Determine the Visual Influence Zone of key viewpoints and assess against the objectives outlined in the Visual Assessment Bulletin.
- Assess each 'sensitive receptor' in detail to consider topography, vegetation and other screening factors.
- Determine the potential visual impact of each sensitive receptor and provide mitigation methods to reduce potential visual impacts.
- Require further detailed assessment from areas identified as having potential visibility in the Preliminary ZVIs.
- Provide graphic representations of the Project using GIS technology, including wire frame diagrams and photomontages.

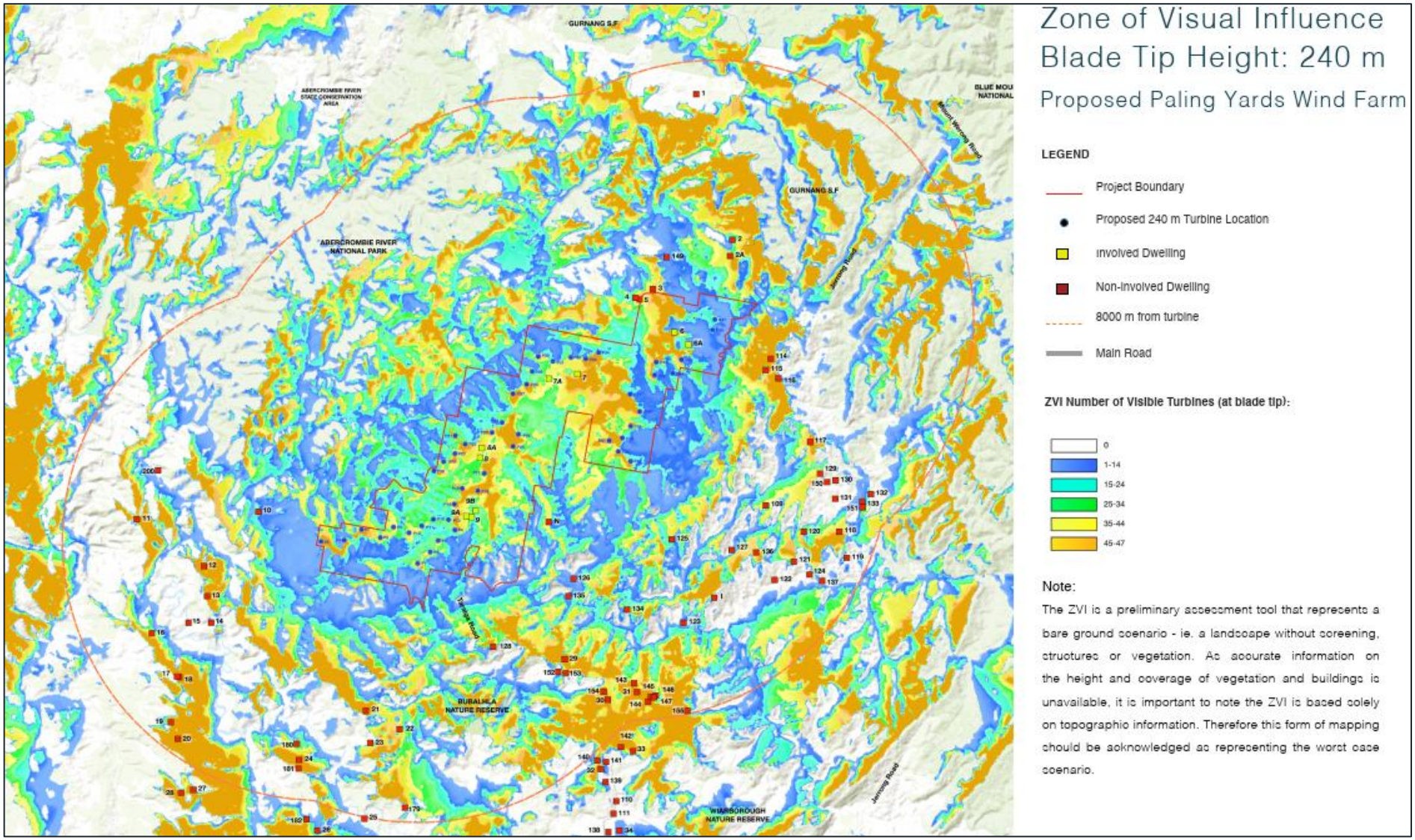


Figure 10. Extract of Zone of Visual Influence Map (Source: Moir, 2021)

### 6.1.12 Aviation

A detailed Aviation Impact Assessment has been prepared by Aviation Projects as part of the Scoping Report. Aviation Projects was engaged by GPG to prepare an Aviation Impact Assessment (AIA) to assess the potential aviation safety impacts associated with the proposal to support the proposed SSD application and formally consult with aviation agencies.

The AIA assesses the potential aviation impacts, provides aviation safety advice in respect of relevant requirements of air safety regulations and procedures, and informs and documents consultation with relevant aviation agencies. The AIA report includes an Aviation Impact Statement (AIS) and a qualitative risk assessment to determine the need for obstacle lighting and of applicable aspects for client review and acceptance before submission to external aviation regulators. The complete report is attached as Appendix L.

Based on the Project layout and overall turbine blade tip height limit of 240 m AGL, the blade tip elevation of the highest wind turbine, which is WTG PY-34 and PY-38, will not exceed 1295 m (4249 ft AMSL) and therefore:

- will not penetrate any obstacle limitation surfaces;
- will not penetrate any procedures for Air Navigation Services – Aircraft Operations;
- will not have an impact on nearby designated air routes;
- will not have an impact on prescribed airspace;
- is wholly contained within Class G airspace;
- is outside the clearance zones associated with aviation navigation aids and communication facilities.

As mentioned earlier, Aviation Projects consulted with the following stakeholders:

- Airservices Australia – Comments received
- Civil Aviation Safety Authority – To comment as part of EIS
- Department of Deference – Awaiting response
- NSW Rural Fire Service – Comments received
- Oberon Council – To comment as part of EIS
- Royal Flying Doctor Service – Comments received.

The report concludes by provided recommended actions resulting from the conduct of this assessment. This will be further assessed as part of the EIS.

### 6.1.13 Shadow Flicker

A Shadow Flicker Assessment will be undertaken by DNV as part of the EIS.

### 6.1.14 Telecommunications

Several telecommunication towers have been identified in the area. An electromagnetic field (EMF) assessment will be undertaken as part of the EIS process and is to be carried out by ERM.

## 6.2 Risk Assessment

The following table outlines the expected environmental and social risks identified in desktop assessments, on-site visits to the Project site and local adjoining lands, region-wide considerations and technical specialist consultant advice.

The table below prioritises each risk and assigns a high, moderate or low priority based upon a preliminary risk assessment. The table highlights the key issues and impacts, the current information and assessments undertaken or underway and potential mitigation options.

Table 32. Risk Identification and Assessment (Source: Tract, 2021)

| Risk Assessments | Priority | Key Impacts and Issues | Initial Assessment | Mitigation Measures |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Visual Amenity (Appendix F) | High | · Visual amenity impacts on immediate receptors and local communities.<br>· Visual amenity impacts on the surrounding landscape, vistas and scenic areas.<br>· Shadow flicker impacts.<br>· Lighting impacts. | · Preliminary Landscape and Visual Assessment conducted by Moir Landscape Architecture (Appendix G)<br>· Preliminary assessment following the Wind Energy Framework and Visual Bulletin Guidelines.<br>· A shadow flicker assessment is expected to be carried out as part of the EIS process by DNV. | · Mitigation measures include landscaping measures, wind farm orientation and turbine location and placement. |
| Noise and Vibration | High | · Operational noise impacts on receptors.<br>· Construction noise impacts on receptors.<br>· Traffic and road noise.<br>· Vibration noise as a result of operations and construction. | · Preliminary noise and vibration assessment conducted by SLR Consulting (Appendix H)<br>· Preliminary assessment in accordance with the Wind Energy Framework and Noise Bulletin Guidelines. | · Mitigation measures include specific turbine selection, turbine location in proximity to dwellings and other specified noise control methods. |
| Biodiversity (Appendix F) | High | · Vegetation clearing during construction, maintenance and operations.<br>· Loss and modification of existing vegetation and landscape that affects existing flora and fauna habitats.<br>· Impacts on threatened species and ecological communities.<br>· Bird and bat collisions as part of construction and wind farm operations. | · Preliminary biodiversity assessment conducted by ERM (Appendix F) | · Mitigation measures include adopting appropriate environmental management procedures following specialist advice.<br>· Additional surveys are to be done as part of EIS. |
| Access, Traffic, and Transport | High | · Increased traffic and congestion on local and regional road networks due to construction and | · Preliminary traffic and transport assessment conducted by SLR Consulting (Appendix D) | · Mitigation measures will be outlined within the detailed traffic assessment undertaken as part of the EIS to ensure |

| Risk Assessments | Priority | Key Impacts and Issues | Initial Assessment | Mitigation Measures |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | operation of the wind farm.<br>· Construction traffic impacts on the road surface.<br>· Transport and access impacts. | · Preliminary blade transport route study assessment conducted by Rex J Andrews (Appendix C) | that the safety and efficiency impacts of construction traffic can be appropriately managed or mitigated.<br>· Additional engagement with TFNSW and RMS will be undertaken to finalise the selected transport route. |
| Water | Moderate | · Water availability and potential pollution impacts to watercourses during construction.<br>· Erosion and sediment impacts. | · Previous geotechnical and hydrological studies and their findings were identified as part of the previous application for the Paling Yard Wind Farm.<br>· An updated hydrological assessment is expected as part of the EIS process and is to be carried out by ERM. | · Mitigation measures will be outlined as part of the EIS process |
| Soils and Landform | Moderate | · Erosion, landform modification and rehabilitation of the site and surrounding area. | · Previous geotechnical and hydrological studies and their findings were identified as part of the previous application for the Paling Yard Wind Farm.<br>· Further geotechnical and environmental assessment is expected as part of the EIS process and is to be carried out by ERM.<br>· An indicative disturbance footprint map has been prepared by GPG (Appendix O). | · Environmental Management Plan |
| Aboriginal Heritage | Moderate | · Potential impact on Aboriginal items and heritage. | · Preliminary heritage assessment conducted | · Cultural Heritage Management Plan |

| Risk Assessments | Priority | Key Impacts and Issues | Initial Assessment | Mitigation Measures |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Historic Heritage | Moderate | · Potential impact on heritage items and values. | by ERM. | · Seek Aboriginal community endorsement and recommendations<br>· Environmental Management Strategy (EMS), Environmental Work Method Statement (EWMS) or Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP). |
| Community Health and Wellbeing (Appendix D) | Moderate | · Potential impact on community health and wellbeing.<br>· Potential cumulative impacts resulting from wind farm operations. | · Preliminary Community and stakeholder engagement plan process by ERM (Appendix D).<br>· An electromagnetic field (EMF) assessment is expected as part of the EIS process. | · Community Stakeholder and Engagement Plan.<br>· A health Impact Summary will be included as part of the EIS. |
| Social and Economic (Appendix I) | Moderate | · Potential impacts and changes to existing land use.<br>· Potential economic impacts (positive and negative). | · Preliminary Social Impact Assessment conducted by ERM (Appendix I)<br>· Further social and economic assessment is to be expected as part of the EIS process | · TBC within the Phase 2 Social Impact Assessment report as part of the EIS process. |
| Cumulative Impacts (Appendix H) | Moderate | · Potential impact on community health and wellbeing.<br>· Potential cumulative view impacts resulting from wind farm operations.<br>· Transport and access impacts during construction.<br>· Environmental Impacts | · Preliminary Cumulative Impact Assessment by Tract (Appendix M). | · TBC with more details Cumulative Impact Assessment as part of the EIS process.<br>· Health Impact Summary to be provided.<br>· View analysis to be undertaken. |
| Hazards and Safety | Moderate | · Aviation safety.<br>· Bushfire and environmental hazards.<br>· Blade throw. | · Hazard and risk assessment to be conducted by SwitchCo (Appendix J) | · Bushfire Management Plan<br>· Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) and Operational |

| Risk Assessments | Priority | Key Impacts and Issues | Initial Assessment | Mitigation Measures |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | · NSW State Environmental Planning Policy No. 33 – Hazardous and Offensive Development (SEPP 33). | · Bushfire risk assessment conducted by ERM<br>· Aeronautical impact assessment conducted by Aviation Projects (Appendix L) | Management Plan (OMP).<br>· Other expected standard hazard practices are to apply. |
| Decommissioning and Rehabilitation | Low | · Waste and dust management.<br>· Decommissioning and rehabilitation. | · Decommissioning and rehabilitation assessment conducted by WSP (Appendix K). | · Updated Decommissioning and Rehabilitation Plan completed as part of the EIS process. |
| Bushfire | Moderate | · Bushfire presents a threat to human life and assets and can adversely impact ecological values. | · Site located on bushfire prone land<br>· Development to be designed and constructed to minimise bushfire risks. | · Bushfire Risk Assessment and mitigation strategies will be included in the EIS. |
| Telecommunications | Moderate | · Potential impacts to communication and broadcast signals. | · A telecommunications assessment may be expected as part of the EIS process. | · Site-specific measures include relocation of equipment. |

## 6.3 Key Factors to Consider

In order to identify the matters requiring further assessment as part of the EIS, and also the level of assessment that should be carried out, Tract has prepared the attached Factors for Consideration summary table (Appendix N).

The summary considers the scale and nature of the likely impacts of the project and the sensitivity of the receiving environment, as per the *SSD Guidelines* (2021).

# Appendices

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|---|---|
| Appendix A | Scoping Summary Table |
| Appendix B | Paling Yard Wind Farm Mapping Set |
| Appendix C | Blade Transport and Wind Turbine Route Study |
| Appendix D | Traffic Assessment |
| Appendix E | Community Stakeholder Engagement Plan |
| Appendix F | Biodiversity Assessment |
| Appendix G | Landscape and Visual Assessment |
| Appendix H | Noise Assessment |
| Appendix I | Social Impact Assessment |
| Appendix J | SEPP 33 Assessment |
| Appendix K | Decommissioning and Rehabilitation Plan |
| Appendix L | Aviation Impact Assessment |
| Appendix M | Preliminary Cumulative Impact Assessment - Scoping |
| Appendix N | Factors for Consideration |
| Appendix O | Indicative Disturbance Footprint |

# Appendix A Scoping Summary Table

Scoping Summary Table prepared by Tract Consultants

# Appendix B Paling Yard Wind Farm Mapping Set

PYWD Mapping Set prepared by Tract Consultants

# Appendix C Blade Transport and Wind Turbine Route Study

Blade Transport Study prepared by Rex J Andrews Engineered Transportation

# Appendix D Traffic Assessment

Preliminary Traffic Assessment and Scoping input by SLR Consulting

# Appendix E Community Stakeholder Engagement Plan

Preliminary Community Stakeholder Engagement Plan by ERM / KJA

# Appendix F Biodiversity Assessment

Biodiversity Values Assessment by ERM

# Appendix G Landscape and Visual Assessment

Preliminary Landscape and Visual Assessment by Moir Landscape Architecture

# Appendix H Noise Assessment

Preliminary Noise Assessment prepared by SLR Consulting

# Appendix I Social Impact Assessment

Preliminary Social Impact Assessment by ERM

# Appendix J SEPP 33 Assessment

SEPP 33 Hazard and Risk Assessment prepared by SwitchCo

# Appendix K Decommissioning and Rehabilitation Plan

Decommissioning and Rehabilitation Plan by WSP

# Appendix L Aviation Impact Assessment

Aviation Impact Assessment prepared by Aviation Projects

# Appendix M Preliminary Cumulative Impact Assessment - Scoping

Preliminary Cumulative Impact Assessment : Phase 1 – Scoping, prepared by Tract Consultants

# Appendix N Factors for Consideration

Factors for Consideration, prepared by Tract Consultants

# Appendix O Indicative Disturbance Footprint

Indicative Disturbance Footprint, prepared by Global Power Generation