



APPENDIX E PROJECT CONSISTENCY LETTERS



30 October 2024

Reference: SSD-50629707

Kurtis Wathen
NSW Department of Planning and Environment

Dear Kurtis,

Subject: The Plains Wind Farm Revised Project Layout for EIS Response to Submission and Project Amendment Report

Engie Australia Pty Ltd ('ENGIE' or the 'Applicant') proposes to construct, operate, maintain and decommission The Plains Wind Farm (the 'Project') located south of Hay in the Riverina Murray Region of New South Wales (NSW).

In support of the SSD application (SSD- 50629707), an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was prepared for the Project. The EIS was publicly exhibited between 8 May 2024 and 4 June 2024 by the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI).

Following exhibition of the EIS, the Project has been revised in response to the submissions received, further consultation with the local community, agencies and stakeholders, and constructability considerations. Following design optimisation, a revised turbine layout is being proposed, as shown in **Figure 1** and **Table 1**.

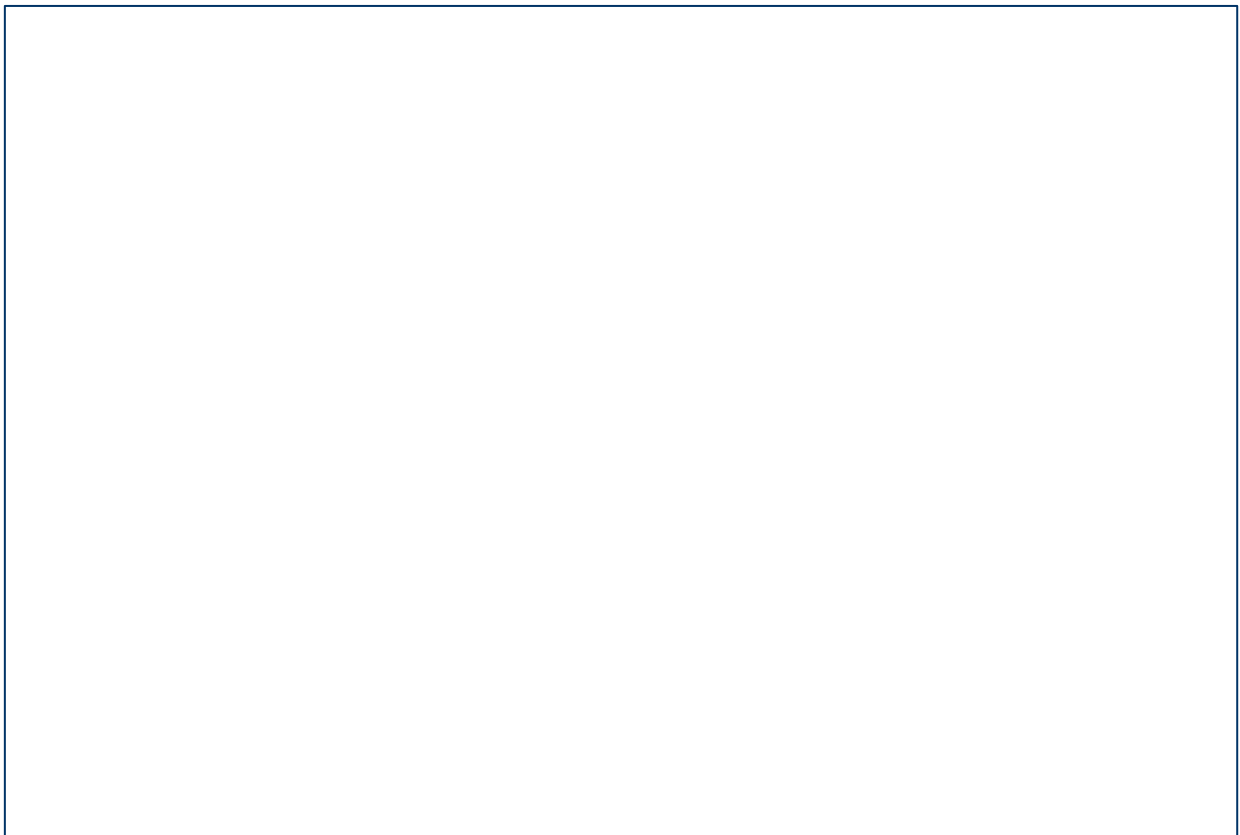


Figure 1 **Proposed new layout of the wind farm**

Table 1 Project Amendments

Project Element	Project (EIS)	Project Amendment	Environmental Benefits
Project Area	53,894 ha	46,431 ha	Amendments to the Project elements maximise the use of existing public and internal access tracks and minimise vegetation clearance required where possible. The Project continues to avoid locations of raptor nesting sites, remnant woodland habitat and ephemeral wetlands. The Project also continues to largely avoid Plains-wanderer habitat. Changes to the Project design including ongoing design optimisation will avoid impacting Aboriginal sites, a buffer of 200 m will also be provided to recorded PADs, and a buffer of 100 m will be provided to recorded hearths.
Wind Turbines	188 WTGs 1,350 MW Hub height up to 180 m Tip height up to 270 m Blade length up to 90 m	171 WTGs 1,230 MW Hub height up to 180 m Tip height up to 270 m Blade length up to 90 m	
Development Footprint	1,997 ha	1,887 ha	
Substation	At least 1 x 330 kV main substation and 2 x 132 kV collector substations	At least 1 x 330 kV main substation and 2 x 132 kV collector substations	
Site access road	Four (4) access points off Cobb Highway and a portion of West Burrabogie Road	Four (4) access points off Cobb Highway and a portion of West Burrabogie Road	
Potential Ports	Port of Geelong for larger plant and equipment Port of Adelaide for wind turbine components	Port of Geelong for larger plant and equipment Port of Adelaide for wind turbine components	

The design and layout change provides benefits to the design of the project by improving electrical efficiencies using overhead lines and collector substations as well as maximising location for wind turbines in the prevailing wind direction and reducing the spacings between turbines to reduce the overall track length and associated project footprint.

The revised project layout has also considered the extensive biodiversity and heritage surveys that have been undertaken across The Plains Renewable Energy Park and the avoidance of key constraints. The hybrid nature of the project and the changing preferences for key outputs in the South-West Renewable Energy Zone will continue to cause iterations in project design through the project amendment phase.

Apart from a change in the location of the wind farm infrastructure within The Plains Renewable Energy Park boundary, all other aspects of the project description provided within the EIS remain unchanged. Importantly, no additional environmental aspects or additional sensitive receivers have been identified for assessment specific to the new proposed location.

The project amendment report for the wind farm, will include updated technical assessments and survey efforts. The areas that require updates have been summarised in the table below.

Table 2 Updated Technical Assessments

Technical Report	Updates Required
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Survey Work	Additional ACHAR for the Broken Hill Bypass Road as well as further ACHAR surveys on the project site to cover the new project layout.
Aviation Assessment	An updated assessment to determine if the conclusion and recommendations change based on the new project layout.
Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment	An updated noise report to confirm that the project is still compliant and updated noise contours produced based on the new [project layout.
Electromagnetic Interference and (Telecommunications) Assessment	An updated assessment to determine if the conclusion and recommendations change based on the new project layout.
Hazard Risk Assessment	An updated assessment to determine if any new hazards and risks arise based on the new project layout.
Landscape and Visual Assessment (LVIA)	A revision of wireframes and photomontages and updates to the LVIA report.
Traffic and Transport Impact Assessment (TIA)	Responding to Transport for NSW submission as well as updating the report to include any changes required for the new solar farm location.
Agricultural Impact Assessment (AIA)	Updating the impact calculation numbers in the report to account for the new solar farm area.
Economic Impact Assessment Report	Minor updates to the report to account for the location change of the solar farm.
Flood Impact Assessment	A revised conclusion and assessment based on the updates to the solar farm from the initial modelling that has been complete.
Social Impact Assessment (SIA)	Minor updates to the SIA to update impacts and mitigations based on any changes to the new solar farm location.
Bushfire Assessment	An updated assessment to revise the assessment and conclusion for the amendment solar farm area.
Biodiversity Assessment Report (BDAR)	Updated field surveys to cover the new project layout and an updated BDAR to be submitted. Further surveys along the haul route for biodiversity.

No additional non-associated dwellings will be impacted by changed wind farm layout.

ENGIE's lead EIS consultant, ERM, has reviewed the change in project layout and consider that the proposal is consistent with that included in the EIS, as:

- The proposed infrastructure remains the same;
- The investigation area size remains the same;
- Access from Cobb Hwy remains the same;
- There are no additional non-associated dwellings within 5 km or 8 km of the project; and
- There are no additional environmental aspects to those identified for consideration in the EIS.

The new location will be presented in the Response to Submission and Project Amendment Report currently being prepared and will be supported by the full suite of technical assessment reports.

If you have any questions, please contact Aref Taleb at 0482 796 765 or at aref.taleb@engie.com

Yours sincerely,

Aref Taleb
Development Manager at Engie ANZ