

May Patterson
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001



5 February 2021

Dear Ms May Patterson,

Re: Bango Wind Farm SSD6686 – Request to extend standard working hours (CoA 3.6)

Bango Wind Farm Pty Ltd (BWF) is writing in response to a request for information (RFI) received from the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) via Major Project Portal on 13th January 2021. The RFI was received in relation to a request that BWF submitted to the DPIE on 4th January 2021, to undertake out-of-hours works (OOHW) for Wind Turbine Generator (WTG) erection works.

Below are responses to each of the information requests:

1. Full schedule of works including date, time, activity proposed and duration of works, number of site personnel, equipment, machinery, transportation and lighting to be used;

Schedule of works

A schedule of WTG blade installation dates is provided in Attachment 1. Currently, blade installation activities are scheduled to be completed in June 2021. The schedule is a forecast only, and the schedule is likely to change according to the progress of works, weather conditions, or other potential project delays.

Dates and times of works

As noted in the previous request letter lodged with the DPIE on 4th January 2021, the dates and times of OOHW are not known, as timing is largely dependent on weather conditions. Project personnel monitor a 7-day wind forecast published by the Bureau of Meteorology in order to predict days on which winds restrict the carrying out of crane lifting activities. The 7-day wind forecast can be used to predict when OOHW may be required over the following 7-day period.

Similarly, the timing of the works cannot be accurately predicted at this time. However, BWF would schedule OOHW to commence no earlier than 4:00am and cease no later than 10:00pm. Importantly, the OOHW would only be conducted as required based on prevailing winds.

Site personnel

It is estimated that a crew of 15 to 20 personnel are required to undertake WTG erection works at a single WTG. If two WTGs are erected concurrently, 30 to 40 personnel would be required.

Equipment and machinery

Equipment and machinery required for WTG erection works is summarised within the Construction Noise Assessment report (Sonus, 2020) – refer to Attachment 2. The equipment and machinery includes:

- Crane
- Support crane
- Truck
- Light vehicles
- Lights
- Grinder
- Pressure washer
- Impact driver / torqueing equipment
- Self-propelled trailer
- Generators

Transportation

Personnel conducting the OOHW would arrive to the site between 3:00am and 4:00am, to commence the works activities from 4:00am at the earliest. Generally, there would be 2 to 3 personnel per light vehicle.

2. Outline the number of turbines stated as to be constructed;

As of the 5th of February 2021, there are six (6) WTGs that have already been fully erected with blades installed. There are forty (40) WTGs remaining to be erected at the Bango Wind Farm. The current schedule indicates that blades would be installed at the rate of approximately 2 WTGs per week.

3. Provide a copy of the construction noise assessment report, including any supporting noise monitoring data. Please ensure that all noise and vibration generating construction activities associated with the proposed out of hours works are identified and quantified in the construction noise assessment report. These include potential noise impacts associated with traffic movements along the access roads to remaining towers to be constructed, and/or concurrent activities occurring at the site compound (eg. generator to power lights);

The Out of Hours Construction Noise Assessment report (Sonus, 2020) is provided at Attachment 2.

As noted at Section 3, the noise assessment includes turbine erection and crane and vehicle movements between turbine sites along internal access roads.

The noise generating activities associated with WTG erection are outlined in Section 3 of the report. Table 2 lists the construction equipment and their associated noise levels that have been applied in the construction noise assessment. Table 3 summarises the construction activities involved in each construction 'phase' and provides an equivalent Sound Power Level for those activities. The Equivalent Sound Power Levels were used to predict the worst-case noise levels at non-associated residences (see Section 3.3) and associated residences (see Section 3.4).

Notes:

- Approved WTGs 115, 97, 49, 76, 94 & 104 have already been erected, and therefore no WTG erection OOHW are required at these locations.
- Associated receiver BAN100 is uninhabited, therefore noise impacts are not relevant to this receiver.

- Appendix C contains a table of all WTGs, including the approved WTG ID (per the NSW project approval) and corresponding WTG IDs used by the construction contractor.

4. Evidence of consultation with non-associated receivers/adjoining neighbours about the proposed OOHW including options to minimise impacts and proposed mitigation methods.

BWF have consulted with both associated and non-associated receivers within approximately 4km of the wind farm site. The notification material is included at Attachment 3, and the outcomes of consultation to date are summarised in Attachment 4.

BWF notes the measures to minimise impacts of the OOHW include but are not limited to:

- Only undertaking OOHW as required, according to forecast weather and wind conditions.
- Scheduling OOHW to commence no earlier than 4:00am and be completed no later than 10:00pm.
- Limiting OOHW to those which are predicted to result in low noise levels which are below the background noise level at non-associated receivers, as described in the noise assessment and the notification letter.
- Limiting OOHW to those which are predicted to result in noise levels <35dB(A) at associated receivers, as described in the noise assessment and the notification letter. This is compliant with the Environment Protection Licence 21286.
- Where lighting is required, this will be of low intensity and carefully positioned such that it does not shine above the horizontal or directly toward any residences.
- Where possible, using portable battery powered LED light towers to minimise noise.
- Prior notification of anticipated OOHW to be provided to the community via the project Facebook page, website, or direct notification as required.
- Review and reporting of the progress of the OOHW to the Secretary by 28th February 2021, including a summary of OOHW activities conducted to date and details of any additional community feedback or complaints.

If you require additional information or to further discuss, please contact me on 0414 934 538 or alana.gordijn@cwprenewables.com.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alana Gordijn", written in a cursive style.

Alana Gordijn
Environmental Officer
CWP Renewables

Attachment 1 – WTG erection schedule

Attached separately.

Attachment 2 – Out of Hours Construction Noise Assessment (Sonus, 2020)

Attached separately.

Attachment 3 – Consultation material

Attached separately.

Attachment 4 – Consultation summary

The letter notification included at Attachment 3 was distributed to both associated and non-associated receivers located within approximately 4km of the wind farm site. The letter was sent via email and/or post depending on the contact details available for each receiver. Emails were sent on 15th January 2021, letters were posted on 21st January 2021.

Associated receivers

- The OOHW notification letter was distributed to twenty-six (26) associated receivers, by post and/or email.
- Two (2) associated receivers have contacted the project to express that they have no objection to the proposed OOHW.
- One (1) associated receiver* has contacted the project noting that they object to the OOHW.
- The remaining associated receivers have not provided feedback to the project to date.

* A neighbour agreement is in place between Bango Wind Farm Pty Ltd and this non-associated receiver. The agreement covers construction noise impacts, including noise that may occur outside standard hours.

Non-associated receivers

- The OOHW notification letter was distributed to seventeen (17) non-associated receivers by post and/or email.
- One (1) non-associated receiver contacted the project noting they are happy with the progress of the work and have no objection to the proposed OOHW.
- The remaining non-associated receivers have not provided feedback to the project to date.

To date, the project has received one objection to the proposed OOHW. from an associated receiver that has signed a neighbour agreement that covers any impacts of construction, including noise impacts. Although this neighbour agreement permits noise impacts to occur at this residence, whether during or outside of standard hours, BWF will undertake further consultation with the associated receiver to provide more information about the proposed OOHW.

Further to the notification and consultation undertaken to date, the proposed OOHW will be discussed at an upcoming Community Consultation Committee meeting on 15th February 2021.