



Our reference: EF13/9240: DOC14/43115-03
Contact: Kirsty Pearson 02 6229 7002

Ms Diane Sarkies
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NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
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Attention: Toby Philp

9 April 2014

Dear Mr Philp

**RE: Modification Request - Gullen Range Wind Farm –
Modification 1 (MP 07_0118 MOD 1) – Final Design layout of wind turbines**

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) received the above application to modify a project approval from the Department of Planning & Infrastructure on 2 April 2014. The application proposes to modify final wind turbine locations at the approved Gullen Range Wind Farm which is currently under construction.

The EPA understands this modification proposal is being considered under section 75W(2) of the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979* and thanks you for the opportunity to comment.

Supporting Information

The EPA has reviewed the supporting information for the proposed modification in the *Environmental Assessment* prepared by Goldwind Australia Pty Ltd and dated March 2014. This included the *Revised Noise Assessment* (RNA) prepared by Marshall Day Acoustics and dated September 2013 for the final turbine model(s) and turbine layout selected as required in Project Approval Condition 2.16. The report *Gullen Range Wind Farm - Modification of the Project Approval - Rp 003 2012154SYRNA* prepared by Marshall Day Acoustics and dated 25 March 2014 addresses concerns regarding potential increases in noise impacts on surrounding residences resulting from the relocation (micro-siting) of wind turbines in slightly different locations to the project approval.

Marshall Day Acoustics focused on addressing the 47 residences not associated with the wind farm within two kilometres of a wind turbine to demonstrate noise compliance with the final design wind turbine layout (ie. as built layout) and present the changes in noise impacts from the turbine location adjustments compared to the project approval.

Noise Impacts

The acoustic reports confirm that noise levels for the final design layout for all non-associated residences and across relevant integer wind speeds is compliant with the noise limits set out in the Project Approval Condition 2.15. The changes in predicted noise levels compared to the approved turbine layout are less than or equal to 0.4 dB for each integer wind speed for all nominated receivers, which is not significant in respect of audibility and noise impact. The EPA agrees that predicted noise levels for the final location of the 73 wind turbines are below the applicable noise limits at all relevant integer wind speeds, and can

assessed as having no significant increase in impact for each receiver nearest to the adjusted wind turbine location.

Qualification

It is worthwhile noting that the revised noise assessment is based on four turbines being operated in a curtailed sound power level mode for the hub height integer wind speed of 9 metres/second. The curtailed turbines are BAN 08, 13, 14 and 15. This reduced sound power level operation mode is proposed to be addressed by the wind farm operational procedures (ie. In the Noise Management Plan which forms part of the Operational Environmental Management Plan). The EPA understands Noise Management Plan has been approved by the Director-General of the Department of Planning & Infrastructure.

Conclusion

The EPA is satisfied that the current project approval conditions contain appropriate noise limits. The acoustic assessments predict that under all operating scenarios (and including the above qualification) these noise limits will be met during the operation of the Gullen Range Wind Farm, including the modified turbine locations. The difference in location of wind turbines between the final design layout and the layout in the project approval, in terms of noise impacts on surrounding (non-involved receivers) is not considered audible or significant.

I trust this information is of assistance. Should you have any queries or wish to discuss the EPA's response, please contact me or Kirsty Pearson on Ph: 6229 7002.

Yours sincerely



JULIAN THOMPSON
Unit Head – South East Region
NSW Environment Protection Authority