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27/11/2015

Secretary
Department of Planning & Environment

Dear Secretary,

TransGrid support for Project Modification – White Rock Wind Farm

TransGrid supports the proposed modification to the Project Application for the White Rock Wind Farm.

TransGrid was not involved in the development of the original approved 132kV transmission line alignment for the White Rock Wind Farm (approved 10 July 2012). Since being commissioned, TransGrid has been working closely with Goldwind to examine alternatives and refine and optimise the Environmental Assessment's 132kV transmission line alignment for the White Rock Wind Farm Project to mitigate impacts from the alignment. The optimised alignment is generally in accordance with the original approved alignment (refer to Attachment A.1.1), and it has multiple benefits including:

- Reduced vegetation removal (1.87ha)
- Reduced work on steep-sloped areas
- Reduced number of structure sites (-1) and poles (-3) required
- No additional discernible visual impacts (Green Bean Design, 2015)
- Reduced access track requirements due to closer proximity to wind farm access tracks

Table 1 presents a comparison between the two alignments to demonstrate the benefits associated with the optimised alignment:

Table 1 Summary of impact changes between the approved and proposed optimised 132kV transmission line alignments

	Original Approved Alignment	Optimised Alignment for Modification	Change due to Optimised
Native vegetation removal	8.52 ha	6.65 ha	1.87ha
Structure sites	31	30	-1
Number of poles and foundations	51	48	-3

	Original Approved Alignment	Optimised Alignment for Modification	Change due to Optimised
Excavation at structure sites:			
- Minimal*	12	18	+6
- Moderate*	10	9	-1
- Extensive*	9	3	-6
	31	30	-1
*Refer to Attachment A.1.2 for examples of each			

Vegetation estimates have been assessed by an ecologist (RPS, 2015) with a comparison between the two alignments provided in Table 2. Access tracks for the optimised alignment are expected to be constructed within the allocated vegetation estimates provided in Table 2.

Table 2 Summary of impacts to native vegetation (extract from RPS, 2015)

Transmission Line Alignment	Yellow Box Woodland (ha)	Ribbon Gum – Mountain Gum Woodland (ha)	Scattered Native Vegetation	Total Native Vegetation Impacted (ha)
Original approved alignment	1.74	6.41	0.37	8.52
Optimised alignment for Modification	1.04	5.33	0.28	6.65
Change due to Optimised	-0.70	-1.08	-0.09	-1.87

Overall, TransGrid considers that the new alignment delivers the optimal environmental impact of the feasible alternatives. TransGrid fully supports the proposed modification.

Yours faithfully

H. Wagland 27/11/2015

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A.1.1 Figure showing the approved and proposed optimised 132kV Transmission Line alignments

Refer to map sheet 18 of 18 in White Rock Wind Farm Modification Application 3

A.1.2 Excavation examples for establishing transmission structures

Example of minimal excavation

Example of moderate excavation

Example of extensive excavation