

Your reference : 08_0252
Our reference : SF17/30100; DOC18/616733
Contact : Mr Jason Scarborough; (02) 6333 3816

Ms Natasha Homsey
Environmental Assessment Officer
Department of Planning & Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

27 August 2018

Dear Ms Homsey

Flyers Creek Wind Farm MP 08_0252 – Modification No. 4

I refer to your email to the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) of 10 August 2018 that contained an Environmental Assessment (EA) for a proposed modification to the Flyers Creek Wind Farm Project Modification No. 4 (Mod 4). The modification proposed:

- increases in the maximum wind turbine envelope (ie. the overall height, hub height, rotor diameter and blade length of the wind turbines), and
- includes a 132 kV transmission line and switching station to enable the project to connect to the electrical grid.

The EA accompanying the Mod 4 proposal has identified that the increase in the wind turbine envelope is likely to generate a slight increase in predicted noise levels at most receivers compared to the project currently approved. The EPA's assessment of the Mod 4 proposal has focused on the noise assessment associated with the increase in wind turbine envelope.

Noise Assessment

The EPA has reviewed the EA and can provide the following comments on the noise assessment undertaken for the Mod 4 proposal:

- The predicted noise levels from the operation of the larger, higher-power turbines for Mod 4 are in some cases lower at a given receiver than the predicted noise results from the smaller, lower-power turbines described in Flyers Creek Wind Farm Mod 3.
- The proponent states that the larger wind turbines used for Mod 4 have a higher worst-case sound power level. The Mod 3 results predict higher noise levels (particularly for receivers 23, 77, 78 and 95) for 8 m/s wind speeds than those provided in the Mod 4 Noise Assessment. The above results are contrary to expectation.

Recommendations

Regardless of the above comments, the EPA can support the proposal outlined in Mod 4, subject to the current approval noise limits being slightly altered to reflect the criteria in Table 3-1 of the Mod 4 Noise Impact Assessment.

The EPA would expect the proponent to carefully manage the operation of the larger turbines to ensure their noise emissions meet the criteria in Table 3-1 of the Mod 4 Noise Impact Assessment at the potentially nearest affected receivers. It is the EPA's experience that noise from wind turbines can be managed by measures such as sector management during operation of the wind farm to achieve its nominated noise limits.

Should you have any queries regarding this matter, please contact Mr Jason Scarborough at the Central West (Bathurst) Office of the EPA by telephoning (02) 6333 3816 or email central.west@epa.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



DARRY CLIFT
Head Regional Operations Central West
Environment Protection Authority