

Raptor Bird Strike

What has been considered with respect to raptor bird-strike?

The huge increase in rotor area proposed will increase bird strike, including killing more wedge-tailed eagles. The EIS admits the main increase in swept area will be at heights that wedge-tailed eagle fly.

The developer summarises the opinion of its consultant.

“The Wedge-tailed Eagles (WTE) and other high-flying raptors may be at increased in risk of collision from the larger and higher turbines. However, overall the risk to the WTE from collision with turbines was considered to be low given the low population assessed as using the area, the low frequency with which these flights occur and the non-threatened status of the mainland Australian sub-species of the eagle”

From the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage website, the wedge-tailed Eagle mates for life, so the death of one is effectively the death of two for the purpose of breeding.

Further, the wedge-tailed eagle is protected in NSW by the Biodiversity Conservation Act of 2016. How does this proposed increase in blade in any way conform to or support this act, and its intent to preserve native birds?

The wedge-tailed eagle is an important part of the rural landscape, though it doesn't seem to matter to the developer, where the fiscal bottom line is the drive, hidden behind a pretentious façade of “green intent”.