

Referral of proposed action

Project title: Moorabool Wind Farm– Additional Development Footprint

1 Summary of proposed action

In 2009 WestWind Energy Pty Ltd lodged a referral (EPBC 2009/4907) to determine if the Moorabool Wind Farm was a 'controlled action'. The project was determined not to be a 'controlled action', subject to it being carried out in the following 'particular manner':

- 1. The placement of turbines, laydown areas, access roads, and other infrastructure must avoid any occurrences of Matted Flax-lily and Spiny Rice Flower plants on the proposed wind farm sites;*
- 2. Matted Flax-lily and Spiny Rice Flower plants located within 10 metres of construction activities must be fenced prior to construction and clearly identified as 'no go' areas to avoid inadvertent disturbance during construction.*

A copy of the EPBC 2009/4907 decision is located in Attachment A.

Since this time and in response to further community consultation, three additional parcels of land have been added to the project area and the project layout modified so that these parcels are proposed to be developed and used for the following infrastructure:

- one wind turbine;
- sections of access track; and
- sections of underground electricity cable.

Accordingly the amended action (Moorabool Wind Farm – Additional Development Footprint) is being referred. The map in Attachment B illustrates the proposed action.

1.1 Short description

The proposed action involves the addition of a wind turbine, sections of access track and electricity cable to the proposed Moorabool Wind Farm. The balance of the project is already the subject of an EPBC Act Referral decision (EPBC 2009/4907) and is not being re-Referred.

1.2 Latitude and longitude

location point	Latitude			Longitude		
	degrees	minutes	seconds	degrees	minutes	seconds

Latitude				Longitude		
Location Point	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
A	-37	37	42	144	09	40
B	-37	37	42	144	11	01
C	-37	38	31	144	11	01
D	-37	38	31	144	09	40

1.3 Locality and property description

The site of the proposed action is located approximately 6 km east of Mount Egerton and approximately 6 km south west of Ballan, 30 km east of Ballarat and 95km north west of Melbourne.

This proposed action is located on cleared agricultural land which is privately owned. The proposed action is located on allotments which are bounded by Ballan-Egerton Road to the north and the Moorabool River-East Branch to the west. Agricultural land is located to the east and south of these allotments. The action is located to the north west of the previously referred Moorabool Wind Farm, and forms a small proportion of the north western section of the permitted Moorabool Wind Farm site.

1.4 Size of the development footprint or work area (hectares)

The anticipated development footprint for the proposed action is approximately 13.5ha.

1.5 Street address of the site

The following table shows the following affected lots and their address.

Lot	Address
Lot 1 of PS519828	359 Ballan-Egerton Road, Ballan 3342
Lot 2 of PS519828	Ballan-Egerton Road, Ballan 3342
Lot 4 of TP671194	Egerton–Bungeeltap Road, Mount Wallace 3342

1.6 Lot description

as above

1.7 Local Government Area and Council contact (if known)

The project is located entirely within Moorabool Shire.

Moorabool Shire Council
PO Box 18,
Ballan VIC 3342,
(03) 5366 7100

1.8 Time frame

Construction of the proposed action is expected to commence in the first quarter of 2017 and be completed by the fourth quarter 2019.

1.9 Alternatives to proposed action

X	No alternatives are proposed. The proposed infrastructure forms part of a larger wind energy proposal that has been designed to maximise the efficient generation of electricity and to avoid environmental values on the land.
	Yes, you must also complete section 2.2

1.10	Alternative time frames etc	X	No, it is proposed to meet the project timing outline at 1.8.
			Yes, you must also complete Section 2.3. For each alternative, location, time frame, or activity identified, you must also complete details in Sections 1.2-1.9, 2.4-2.7 and 3.3 (where relevant).
1.11	State assessment	X	No, the proposed action does not meet the criteria for a referral under the Victorian <i>Environment Effects Act 1978</i> . Planning Permit No. 2009012877 was issued by the Victorian Minister for Planning on the 29 October 2010. A copy of the planning permit is located in Attachment C. This permitted the action for which this Referral is being made as a component of the larger Moorabool Wind Farm permit.
			Yes, you must also complete Section 2.5
1.12	Component of larger action		No
		X	Yes, you must also complete Section 2.7. The action is part of the proposed Moorabool Wind Farm. Refer to 11.1.
1.13	Related actions/proposals	X	No
			Yes, provide details:
1.14	Australian Government funding	X	No
			Yes, provide details:
1.15	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park	X	No
			Yes, you must also complete Section 3.1 (h), 3.2 (e)

2 Detailed description of proposed action

2.1 Description of proposed action

The proposed action involves the construction of:

- one wind turbine;
- sections of access track; and
- sections of electricity cable.

Wind Turbine

The proposed turbine will be no more than 150 m above foundation level (to the top of the sweep of the rotor blade tip). The turbine will be mounted on a tubular steel and/or concrete tower, located on a concrete foundation. The proposed turbine will also contain a crushed rock hard stand measuring approximately 50 m by 40 m. The hardstand will enable the erection of a crane during construction, decommissioning and in the case of heavy maintenance.

Section of access track

The proposed access tracks will be 4 to 7 m wide. The tracks will be no less than 4 metres on straight and 7 metres on curves. Tracks will be constructed to approximately 400 to 600 mm deep. Of this approximately 250 mm to 350 mm of aggregate road base material will be used as a base, topped off with approximately 150 mm of compacted gravel. The road base aggregate is poured in and compacted/levelled before the top layers of gravel are applied and shaped and compacted to form a final surface. Approximately 920 m of additional track is proposed to be constructed.

Sections of electricity cable

The proposed electrical cable will be located in a trench approximately 1.2 m below the natural surface of the ground in accordance with the approved planning permit. The cabling will be bored under the existing Barwon Water aqueduct. Cabling will connect the proposed turbine (shown on the maps as BUWT06) to adjacent wind turbines BUWT04 and BUWT09. The additional section of underground electricity cable will be approximately 695 m long.

The proposed action will be constructed in accordance with the requirements of Planning Permit No. 2009012877. This permit contains detailed requirements for the work to be carried out in accordance with an Environmental Management Plan that will address and manage any construction and operational impacts resultant from the proposal.

2.2 Alternatives to taking the proposed action

There are no alternatives to the proposed action. This proposed action forms a smaller component of the Moorabool Wind Farm. The Moorabool Wind Farm was determined to be the most appropriate location assessed from various sites across Victoria, South Australia, New South Wales, Tasmania and Western Australia due to:

- Suitable wind resource;
- Supportive landholders;
- Low population density;
- Appropriate distance from sensitive ecological, historical and visual locations;
- Proximity to electricity network connection;
- Suitable land in terms of:
 - Terrain and geology;
 - Land area;

- Compatible land uses;
- Local government zoning and overlay controls;
- Existing ecological conditions;
- Land tenure (it is freehold land); and
- Access to the site.

2.3 Alternative locations, time frames or activities that form part of the referred action

There are no alternative locations.

2.4 Context, planning framework and state/local government requirements

Planning and Environment Act 1987 and Moorabool Planning Scheme

In Victoria, a planning permit is required to use or develop land for a 'wind energy facility.' Planning permits are also required for the removal of native vegetation in Victoria. The proposed action is within a section of a broader wind farm which has been assessed against the provisions of the Moorabool Planning Scheme and the *Policy and Planning Guidelines for Wind Energy Facilities*.

In October 2010, Planning Permit No. 2009012877 was issued for the use and development of a wind energy facility:

'Comprising 107 generators and associated infrastructure and other works including: aviation safety lighting, substations, access tracks, underground and overhead cabling, permanent anemometers, amenities buildings, car parking and bicycle facilities, temporary construction facilities including concrete batching plant, buildings and works, removal of native vegetation, two business identification signs and alterations to an access point to a Road Zone Category 1'.

This included the additional infrastructure subject to this Referral. For wind energy facilities, the Victorian Minister for Planning is the responsible authority for assessing deciding wind energy applications.

Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2007 and Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006

A Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) has been undertaken in accordance with requirements under the *Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2007* and the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*. The CHMP was approved on 14 October 2010.

The CHMP identified a number of management recommendations as follows:

- Site induction prior to construction to explain methodology and actions to be taken in the event of any Aboriginal Heritage being not otherwise previously surveyed being discovered.
- Checklists to ensure review and compliance procedures with the CHMP
- Fencing of all sites previously surveyed in the desktop and complex assessment under the CHMP
- Soil excavations be stockpiled to the original source and backfilled within 6 months
- Specific measures to avoid disturbing known sites, including rerouting cabling, soft engineering features for track design
- Hand excavation for all salvage excepting for some bulk salvage previously approved under the CHMP.
- Methodologies for the recording of all artefacts and the retention of excavation materials for assessment by a cultural heritage advisor.

2.5 Environmental impact assessments under Commonwealth, state or territory legislation

The proposed action does not meet the criteria for a referral under the Victorian *Environmental Effects Act 1978*.

There are no other Commonwealth or state environmental impact assessments relating to the properties described in 1.6.

2.6 Public consultation (including with Indigenous stakeholders)

Since 2009, a significant amount of public consultation has occurred and continues to this day. Public consultation has included discussions with:

- Landowners who are hosting wind farm infrastructure;
- Immediate project neighbours;
- Moorabool Shire Council and State Government departments and agencies;
- Wathaurong Aboriginal Corporation;
- Local community groups, business and environment groups.

The site of the proposed action (subject to this Referral) has been subject to statutory public notice in 2010 when Planning Permit No. 2009012877 was on public notice.

2.7 A staged development or component of a larger project

The proposed action forms a small part of the larger Moorabool Wind Farm. The larger component was considered under referral EPBC 2009/4907 Moorabool Wind Farm. Referral EPBC 2009/4907 was determined to not be a controlled action (subject to conditions).

3 Description of environment & likely impacts

3.1 Matters of national environmental significance

3.1 (a) World Heritage Properties

Description

The proposed action will not impact on any World Heritage Properties.

Nature and extent of likely impact

No impact.

3.1 (b) National Heritage Places

Description

The proposed action will not impact on any National Heritage Places

Nature and extent of likely impact

No impact.

3.1 (c) Wetlands of International Importance (declared Ramsar wetlands)

Description

The proposed action will not impact on any Wetlands of International Importance

Nature and extent of likely impact

No impact.

3.1 (d) Listed threatened species and ecological communities

Description

Listed ecological communities have not been identified within the proposed development footprint which is subject to this referral.

Five EPBC listed ecological communities (based on the DEWHA 2009 and DotE 2016a EPBC Act Protected Matters Search Tool) were reported as likely to occur near the development footprint (BL&A 2010, 2016). These include:

- Natural Temperate Grassland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain (recorded); and
- Grassy Eucalypt Woodland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain (determined likely to occur but not recorded).
- Grey Box (*Eucalyptus microcarpa*) Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands of South-eastern Australia;
- Seasonal Herbaceous Wetlands (Freshwater) of the Temperate Lowland Plains; and
- White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland.

The field survey has determined that these listed ecological communities do not occur within the proposed action area (BL&A 2016; p.7). Additionally the field survey identified that no listed threatened species were present within the proposed action area (BL&A 2016; p.8 & 11).

Nature and extent of likely impact

The proposed action will not impact on any threatened species and ecological communities.

3.1 (e) Listed migratory species**Description**

The proposed wind turbine and development footprint is located on high ground and away from wetlands and creeks.

The use of the development footprint and its surrounds by migratory species listed on the Commonwealth EPBC Act is likely to be very low and significant impacts on regional populations of these species are not expected to occur (BL&A 2009a).

Three EPBC Act listed migratory species were considered to potentially occur within the general area (BL&A 2009a) these are:

- Cattle Egret (Migratory)
- Eastern Great Egret (Migratory)
- White-throated Needletail (Migratory)

Nature and extent of likely impact

The turbines within the proposed action are situated on high ground, 390 metres away from wetlands and creeks and therefore no significant impacts on these species is expected (BL&A 2016; p.11). Habitat likely to support migratory species is located well away from the proposed footprint, does not support important populations and significant impacts are not expected to occur as a result of the proposed action (BL&A 2009; p.83).

3.1 (f) Commonwealth marine area**Description**

The proposed action will not impact on Commonwealth marine areas.

Nature and extent of likely impact

No impact.

3.1 (g) Commonwealth land**Description**

The proposed action will not impact on Commonwealth Land

Nature and extent of likely impact

No impact.

3.1 (h) The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park

Description

The proposed action will not impact on Great Barrier Reef Marine Park

Nature and extent of likely impact

No impact.

3.1 (i) A water resource, in relation to coal seam gas development and large coal mining development**Description**

The proposed action is not a coal seam gas or large coal mining development.

Nature and extent of likely impact

Not applicable.

3.2 Nuclear actions, actions taken by the Commonwealth (or Commonwealth agency), actions taken in a Commonwealth marine area, actions taken on Commonwealth land, or actions taken in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park

3.2 (a)	Is the proposed action a nuclear action?	X	No
			Yes (provide details below)

If yes, nature & extent of likely impact on the whole environment

3.2 (b)	Is the proposed action to be taken by the Commonwealth or a Commonwealth agency?	X	No
			Yes (provide details below)

If yes, nature & extent of likely impact on the whole environment

3.2 (c)	Is the proposed action to be taken in a Commonwealth marine area?	X	No
			Yes (provide details below)

If yes, nature & extent of likely impact on the whole environment (in addition to 3.1(f))

3.2 (d)	Is the proposed action to be taken on Commonwealth land?	X	No
			Yes (provide details below)

If yes, nature & extent of likely impact on the whole environment (in addition to 3.1(g))

3.2 (e)	Is the proposed action to be taken in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park?	X	No
			Yes (provide details below)

If yes, nature & extent of likely impact on the whole environment (in addition to 3.1(h))

3.3 Other important features of the environment

3.3 (a) Flora and fauna

The development footprint is part of an altered agricultural landscape supporting a low diversity and abundance of common native and introduced bird species (BL&A 2009; p.3).

Figure 2 in the attached BLA report (2016) illustrates that the site of the proposed action is devoid of native vegetation.

No flora or fauna species of environmental significance were recorded on or near the development footprint.

3.3 (b) Hydrology, including water flows

The action is located within the Moorabool River (Sheoaks) Special Water Supply Catchment. The catchment is also known as East Moorabool River Catchment. The catchment and storages supply Geelong with potable water.

The East Branch of the Moorabool River runs roughly north to south and forms the western-most boundary of the subject site. The river is supplied by a number of unnamed waterways.

The proposed action is at its closest, approximately 600 m away from the Moorabool River East Branch. Some smaller unnamed watercourses exist through the site which are not impacted by the proposed action footprint.

3.3 (c) Soil and Vegetation characteristics

Surface geology of is dominated by basalt from the Newer Volcanic Group. Non marine alluvial sediments such as sand and silty clay occur along parts of the East Branch of the Moorabool River.

The soils on-site have been derived from the basaltic flows and provide a rich agricultural resource. Accordingly, the proposed site has been extensively cleared of native vegetation in order to enable agricultural activities to occur.

Vegetation that does remain on site is scattered and fragmented. The riparian zones of the East Branch of the Moorabool River are the only places where significant stands of native vegetation remain in the subject site. None of this vegetation is an EPBC Act listed community and none is impacted on by the proposed action.

3.3 (d) Outstanding natural features

The site is not located in proximity to any known outstanding natural features including caves. The proposed action will have no impact on outstanding natural features.

3.3 (e) Remnant native vegetation

Native vegetation does not exist in the proposed development footprint subject to this referral.

Remnant native vegetation exists 980 metres to the west of the proposed action that will be unaffected by the proposal (BL&A 2016; p.4). This vegetation is primarily associated with the Moorabool River East branch and associated tributaries (BL&A 2016; p.7).

BL&A (2009a) mapped High, Medium and Low quality vegetation, as well as vegetation not assessable at the time of survey, across the broader Moorabool Wind Farm site (including the proposed additional properties). The proposed development layout (subject to this referral) does not intersect with any previously map native vegetation and a field assessment, undertaken in 2016 has confirmed this (BL&A 2016).

3.3 (f) Gradient (or depth range if action is to be taken in a marine area)

Much of this land comprises a plateau which rises towards Mt Wallace (481m) which is outside the subject site to the east. The Moorabool River East Branch runs in the lowest part of the western extremity of the site, approximately 420 – 440 m height above sea level. The site generally slopes towards the Moorabool River East Branch. A main drainage line exists roughly east to west through the northern portion of the subject site, flowing into the Moorabool River East Branch.

3.3 (g) Current state of the environment

The area of the proposed action is highly modified from its natural condition. It is used for agricultural purposes and accordingly has been cleared of native vegetation.

3.3 (h) Commonwealth Heritage Places or other places recognised as having heritage values

There are no identified Commonwealth Heritage Places or other places recognised as having heritage values.

3.3 (i) Indigenous heritage values

Moorabool Wind Farm Cultural Heritage Management Plan identified Site 7722-0807 [VAHR] Ballan Complex 26. This site consists of an artefact within the field.

The CHMP has put in place management measures to ensure that the site is not disturbed as a result of the proposed action. The measure includes recommending the BUWT06 turbine be positioned away from the site and that construction activities be confined to the minimum footprint possible. (Heritage Insight 2010; p.594).

The CHMP has also put in place measures to establish on-going methodologies for managing established and yet to be found indigenous artefacts through the construction and operation of the wind farm. The CHMP will ensure that Indigenous heritage values are protected and appropriately managed in accordance with the approved CHMP.

3.3 (j) Other important or unique values of the environment

The area of the proposed action does not have any recognised important or unique environmental values.

3.3 (k) Tenure of the action area (eg freehold, leasehold)

The tenure of the action area is freehold.

3.3 (l) Existing land/marine uses of area

The site is primarily used for agriculture, predominately grazing and cropping.

3.3 (m) Any proposed land/marine uses of area

Other than the proposed use of a small proportion of the subject properties for a wind energy facility, the land will continue to be used for its current agricultural pursuits.

4 Environmental outcomes

Ecological assessment has been undertaken to assess any likely impacts to MNES from the proposed action. The assessment involved:

- Comparison of the initial and expanded layouts in the additional properties on the Moorabool Wind Farm;
- Collation and review of previous literature documenting MNES known or predicted to occur on the additional properties on the Moorabool Wind Farm site;
- Updated likelihood of occurrence assessment for MNES;
- A field visit to the site in February 2016 to conduct a survey for EPBC listed flora species and communities, including an up-to-date ground truthing of the previous vegetation mapping; and
- Assessment of the potential impacts of the inclusion of the additional properties and proposed layout change on MNES.

(BL&A 2016; p.1)

The assessment determined that there will be no impact on matters of national environmental significance (BL&A 2016), and there will be no outcomes based conditions required to be addressed as a result of the proposed action.

5 Measures to avoid or reduce impacts

The current ecological assessment (BL&A 2016) determined that there will be no impact on matters of national environmental significance.

However, to minimise impacts on the environment generally, planning permit 2009012877 contains the following conditions. These include:

- Condition 1 h) requires the locations of scattered native trees and patches of native vegetation to be identified on developments where it is within 25m of proposed buildings and works;
- Condition 4 d) requires ecological surveys at the appropriate times of the year before development starts to ensure that the development footprint does not impact on native vegetation;
- Condition 5 prior to any native vegetation removal, requires a Spiny Rice Flower survey to be carried out between April and August within the development footprint, and further approval if identified;
- Condition 7 requires temporary fencing around native vegetation which is to be retained;
- Condition 15 requires an Environmental Management Plan; and
- Condition 31 requires a bird and bat management plan to monitor potential impacts for two years following operation. Amongst other matters, this condition requires monitoring of EPBC listed avifauna species.

6 Conclusion on the likelihood of significant impacts

6.1 Do you THINK your proposed action is a controlled action?

<input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/>	No, complete section 5.2
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes, complete section 5.3

6.2 Proposed action IS NOT a controlled action.

The area subject to the proposed action is devoid of native vegetation and is highly modified from its natural state. Ecological assessments by BL&A between 2009 and 2016 (summarised in BL&A 2016) have determined that:

- No EPBC listed species are present on the site;
- Migratory EPBC listed birds species which may be present in the area will not be impacted significantly by the proposed action; and
- No impacts will occur to MNES as they don't occur in the development footprint.

The following studies have been undertaken to inform determination:

- Brett Lane & Associates (BL&A) 2009a, Report No. 8147 (3.5): Moorabool Wind Project - Flora and Fauna Assessment, Bird, Bat and Wedge-tailed Eagle targeted surveys, consultant report prepared for WestWind Energy Pty Ltd.
- Brett Lane & Associates (BL&A) 2009b, Report No. 8147 (5.2): Moorabool Wind Project: Habitat Hectare and Net Gain analysis, consultant report prepared for WestWind Energy Pty Ltd.
- Brett Lane & Associates (BL&A) 2009c, Report No. 8147 (6.0): Moorabool Wind Project: Golden Sun Moth targeted survey, consultant report prepared for WestWind Energy Pty Ltd.
- Brett Lane & Associates (BL&A) 2010, Report No. 8147 (4.4): Moorabool Wind Project: Targeted flora surveys, consultant report prepared for WestWind Energy Pty Ltd.
- Brett Lane & Associates (BL&A) 2016, Report No. 8147 (9.2): EPBC Matters – Potential Impacts to MNES of Property Expansion, consultant report prepared for WestWind Energy Pty Ltd.

6.3 Proposed action IS a controlled action

Matters likely to be impacted

<input type="checkbox"/>	World Heritage values (sections 12 and 15A)
<input type="checkbox"/>	National Heritage places (sections 15B and 15C)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Wetlands of international importance (sections 16 and 17B)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Listed threatened species and communities (sections 18 and 18A)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Listed migratory species (sections 20 and 20A)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Protection of the environment from nuclear actions (sections 21 and 22A)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Commonwealth marine environment (sections 23 and 24A)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (sections 24B and 24C)
<input type="checkbox"/>	A water resource, in relation to coal seam gas development and large coal mining development (sections 24D and 24E)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Protection of the environment from actions involving Commonwealth land (sections 26 and 27A)

Protection of the environment from Commonwealth actions (section 28)

Commonwealth Heritage places overseas (sections 27B and 27C)

Specify the key reasons why you think the proposed action is likely to have a significant adverse impact on the matters identified above.

7 Environmental record of the responsible party

	Yes	No
<p>7.1 Does the party taking the action have a satisfactory record of responsible environmental management?</p> <p>Provide details</p> <p>The German parent company of WestWind Energy Pty Ltd has successfully developed, built and operated numerous wind energy projects in Germany with generally more stringent environmental issues to be managed. Under current legislation overseas, wind energy projects are assessed under the Bundesimmissionsschutzgesetz (Federal Emissions Protection Law), which includes so called Umweltverträglichkeitsprüfungen (Environmental Acceptance Examinations) and off-set measures due to impacts on the landscape, fauna and flora and other environmental considerations.</p> <p>Extensive ecological survey has been undertaken in order to meet domestic environmental legislation and to ensure WestWind's environmental management standards are maintained regarding minimising any impact to fauna, flora and landscape.</p> <p>WestWind has undertaken ecological survey from 2009 to 2016, to ensure that all construction and operational impacts are determined and effectively managed. As a result of these assessments, Westwind has avoided substantial impact on the natural landscape and broader environment through the effective siting of infrastructure in the landscape and the consideration of ecological communities. These measures are in line with the management ethos of Westwind projects, which seeks to place environmental considerations at the forefront of delivering clean energy projects.</p>	X	
<p>7.2 Has either (a) the party proposing to take the action, or (b) if a permit has been applied for in relation to the action, the person making the application - ever been subject to any proceedings under a Commonwealth, State or Territory law for the protection of the environment or the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources?</p> <p>If yes, provide details</p>		X
<p>7.3 If the party taking the action is a corporation, will the action be taken in accordance with the corporation's environmental policy and planning framework?</p>	X	

If yes, provide details of environmental policy and planning framework

WestWind Energy's Sustainability Policy is reproduced below.

WestWind Energy is a developer and operator of environmentally friendly electric power generators. WestWind Energy is committed to the operation of electricity generation facilities which minimise environmental impact both in construction and operation.

- WestWind Energy will manage its activities in an environmentally sustainable manner and to continuously improve their impact on the shared environment.

To achieve this objective, WestWind Energy will:

- Conduct all activities in accordance with the relevant legislation, government policies, agreements and planning approvals
- Design, implement and audit programmes and works to responsibly minimise environmental impacts from the operation of its facilities
- Establish and monitor environmental targets and indicators aimed at continually improving environmental performance
- Work within a framework of sustainable development by using resources in a manner which maximises their value to both WestWind Energy and the general community
- Respond promptly and effectively to any known significant environmental impacts caused by operations under its control
- Educate and train personnel and contractors in their environmental obligations and responsibilities and educate and train employees to conduct their activities in an environmentally responsible manner
- Consult and inform other organisations and the general community of the environmental impacts of its activities
- Promote the efficient use of energy, raw materials and other resources within its operations
- Promote environmental awareness among employees, supplier and contractors
- Manage land under its care with sensitivity, having due regard for local environmental sensitivities
- Make this policy known and available to the public

7.4 Has the party taking the action previously referred an action under the EPBC Act, or been responsible for undertaking an action referred under the EPBC Act?

Provide name of proposal and EPBC reference number (if known)

- 2009/4907 Westwind Energy Pty Ltd/Energy generation and supply (renewable)/near Ballan, Moorabool Shire/VIC/Westwind Pty Ltd Moorabool Wind Farm Development, near Ballan , VIC
- 2007/3721 WestWind Energy Pty Ltd /Energy generation and supply (renewable)/Ballarat/VIC/Lal Lal Wind Farm
- 2005/2116 Westwind Energy/Energy generation and supply/Mt Mercer/VIC/Proposed Wind Farm

X

8 Information sources and attachments

(For the information provided above)

8.1 References

Brett Lane and Associates (2016). Re: Moorabool Wind Farm EPBC Matters – Potential Impacts to MNES of Property Expansion BL&A Ref. 8147.10. Brett Lane and Associates, Camberwell.

Brett Lane and Associates (2010). Moorabool Wind Project: Targeted flora surveys, consultant report prepared for WestWind Energy Pty Ltd. Report No. 8147 (4.4). Brett Lane and Associates, Camberwell.

Brett Lane and Associates (2009a). Moorabool Wind Project - Flora and Fauna Assessment, Bird, Bat and Wedge-tailed Eagle targeted surveys, consultant report prepared for WestWind Energy Pty Ltd. Report No. 8147 (3.5). Brett Lane and Associates, Camberwell.

Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (2009). Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999, Protected Matters Search Tool. Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts, Canberra, viewed 22nd December 2008, <<http://www.environment.gov.au>>.

DotE (2016a). Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999, Protected Matters Search Tool. Department of Environment, Canberra, viewed 6th January 2016, <http://www.environment.gov.au>

Heritage Insight (2010). Proposed Wind Energy Facility, Ballan, Victoria Cultural Heritage Management Plan – AAV Management Plan Identifier: 10832. Heritage Insight, East Richmond.

WestWind Energy (2010). Moorabool Wind Project Planning Permit Application Report. WestWind Energy Pty Ltd, Gisborne.

8.2 Reliability and date of information

Ecological field assessment has been undertaken in February 2016 to determine any likely impacts on MNES resultant from the proposed action. The information referred to in the above reports is considered reliable, and has been confirmed in ground-truthed survey and review which has verified all previous reporting undertaken regarding the project site.

The heritage management plan has been approved and is current for the proposed action.

8.3 Attachments

		✓ attached	Title of attachment(s)
You must attach	figures, maps or aerial photographs showing the project locality (section 1)		West Wind Energy 2016, Moorabool Wind Project 2016 EPBC Referral Overview Map
	GIS file delineating the boundary of the referral area (section 1)	✓	West Wind Energy 2016, Moorabool Wind Project 2016 EPBC Referral Detail Map Moorabool_WF_AdditionalProperties_GIS.zip
	figures, maps or aerial photographs showing the location of the project in respect to any matters of national environmental significance or important features of the environments (section 3)	✓	Brett Lane 8. Associates (BL8.A) 2016, Report No. 8147 (0.10): EPBC Matters – Potential Impacts to MNES of Property Expansion, consultant report prepared for WestWind Energy Pty Ltd. (Figure 2: Additional Properties and ecological values)
If relevant, attach	copies of any state or local government approvals and consent conditions (section 2.5)	✓	Planning Permit Granted by the Minister under Division 6 of Part 4 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 – Planning Permit No.: 2009012877
	copies of any completed assessments to meet state or local government approvals and outcomes of public consultations, if available (section 2.6)	✓	As above
	copies of any flora and fauna investigations and surveys (section 3)	✓	Brett Lane 8. Associates (BL8.A) 2016, Report No. 8147 (0.10): EPBC Matters – Potential Impacts to MNES of Property Expansion, consultant report prepared for WestWind Energy Pty Ltd. Brett Lane 8. Associates (BL8.A) 2010, Report No. 8147 (4.4): Moorabool Wind Project: Targeted flora surveys, consultant report prepared for WestWind Energy Pty

		<p>Ltd.</p> <p>Brett Lane 8. Associates (BL8.A) 2009a, Report No. 8147 (3.5): Moorabool Wind Project - Flora and Fauna Assessment, Bird, Bat and Wedge-tailed Eagle targeted surveys, consultant report prepared for WestWind Energy Pty Ltd.</p>
technical reports relevant to the assessment of impacts on protected matters that support the arguments and conclusions in the referral (section 3 and 4)	✓	As above
report(s) on any public consultations undertaken, including with Indigenous stakeholders (section 3)		

9 Contacts, signatures and declarations

Project title:

9.1 Person proposing to take action

1. Name and Title: Tobias Geiger, Managing Director
2. Organisation: WestWind Energy Pty. Ltd.
3. EPBC Referral Number (if known):
4. ACN / ABN: ABN: 94 109 132 201
5. Postal address: Office 5, Level 1, Nexus Centre, 12-14 Prince St., GISBORNE, VIC, 3437
6. Telephone: 03 5421 9999
7. Email: Geiger@w-wind.com.au
8. Name of designated proponent (if not the same person at item 1 above and if applicable): Moorabool Wind Farm Pty. Ltd.
9. ACN/ABN of designated proponent (if not the same person named at item 1 above): ACN: 135 829 846

COMPLETE THIS SECTION ONLY IF YOU QUALIFY FOR EXEMPTION FROM THE FEE(S) THAT WOULD OTHERWISE BE PAYABLE

I qualify for exemption from fees under section 520(4C)(e)(v) of the EPBC Act because I am:

Moorabool Wind Farm Pty. Ltd and WestWind Energy Pty.Ltd are small businesses with a turnover of less than \$2m per year.

If you are small business entity you must provide the Date/Income Year that you became a small business entity:

WestWind Energy Pty.Ltd – 8 July 2004
Moorabool Wind Farm Pty. Ltd - 12 March 2009

Note: You must advise the Department within 10 business days if you cease to be a small business entity. Failure to notify the Secretary of this is an offence punishable on conviction by a fine (regulation 5.23B(3) *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2000 (Cth)*).

COMPLETE THIS SECTION ONLY IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO APPLY FOR A WAIVER

I would like to apply for a waiver of full or partial fees under Schedule 1, 5.21A of the [EPBC Regulations](#). Under sub regulation 5.21A(5), you must include information about the applicant (if not you) the grounds on which the waiver is sought and the reasons why it should be made:

Declaration

I declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to this form is complete, current and correct.
I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence.
I agree to be the proponent for this action.
I declare that I am not taking the action on behalf of or for the benefit of any other person or entity.

Signature



Date

16/02/16

9.2 Person preparing the referral information (if different from 8.1)

Name

Phillip Burn (Alternate contact Adam Williams [email Adam.Williams@jacobs.com] and [phone 03 8668 3102])

Title

Senior Consultant – Environment and Planning

Organisation

Jacobs Group Australia.

ACN / ABN (if applicable)

37 001 024 095

Postal address

PO BOX 312, Flinders Land, Melbourne VIC 8009

Telephone

(03) 8668 3000

Email

phillip.burn@jacobs.com

Declaration

I declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to this form is complete, current and correct.
I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence.

Signature



Date 16/02/2016