

Meering West Wind Farm

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

Meering West Wind Farm Pty Ltd as trustee for the Meering West Wind Farm Trust

Reference: 527201

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2026-04-15

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Glossary

Acronym	Definition
Aurecon	Aurecon Australasia Pty Ltd.
CHMP	Cultural Heritage Management Plan
CMA	Catchment Management Authority
DEECA	Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action
DTP	Department of Transport and Planning
EMP	Environmental Management Plan
EPA	Environmental Protection Authority
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>
EVC	Ecological Vegetation Class
FP-SR	First Peoples-State Relations
GHG	Greenhouse Gases
GIS	Geographic Information System
GW	gigawatt
ha	hectares
HSE	Health, Safety and Environmental
km	kilometres
kV	Kilovolt
LGA	Local Government Area
m	Meters
MW	Megawatts
MWh	Megawatt hours
The Project	Meering West Wind Farm Project
The Proponent	Meering West Wind Farm Pty Ltd as trustee for the Meering West Wind Farm Trust
Project Area	The area in which construction will take place and for which approvals will be sought.
VNI West	Victoria to New South Wales Interconnector West

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1 Introduction

Aurecon Australasia Pty Ltd (Aurecon) has been engaged by Meering West Wind Farm Pty Ltd as trustee for the Meering West Wind Farm Trust to facilitate the environmental and planning assessments and approvals for the Meering West Wind Farm Project (the Project), located near Meering West in Northern Victoria.

This includes the development of an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) outline how potential environmental impacts during the construction and operation of the Project will be avoided, minimised and managed so that they are environmentally acceptable.

This (draft) document outlines the preliminary approach to management of environmental impacts during the construction and operational phases.

1.1 Purpose & Scope

The purpose of this EMP is to set out clear commitments from the Proponent on how potential environmental impacts during the construction and operation of the Project will be avoided, minimised and managed so that they are environmentally acceptable.

This EMP outlines how the site will be managed through construction and sets out future operational and maintenance requirements, including:

- Measures to minimise the amenity and environmental impacts of the construction, operation and decommissioning of the facility
- Suggested organisational responsibilities and procedures for staff training and communication
- A construction component that includes procedures to manage dust and noise emissions, erosion, mud and stormwater run-off and procedures to remove temporary works, plant, equipment, buildings and staging areas and reinstate the affected parts of the site, when construction is complete
- Complaints management processes.

This document should be treated as a “live” document that is reviewed and updated on an as needs basis. Alternatively, additional management plans may be prepared that align to this EMP once planning permit conditions are known and the construction method and operations are further defined.

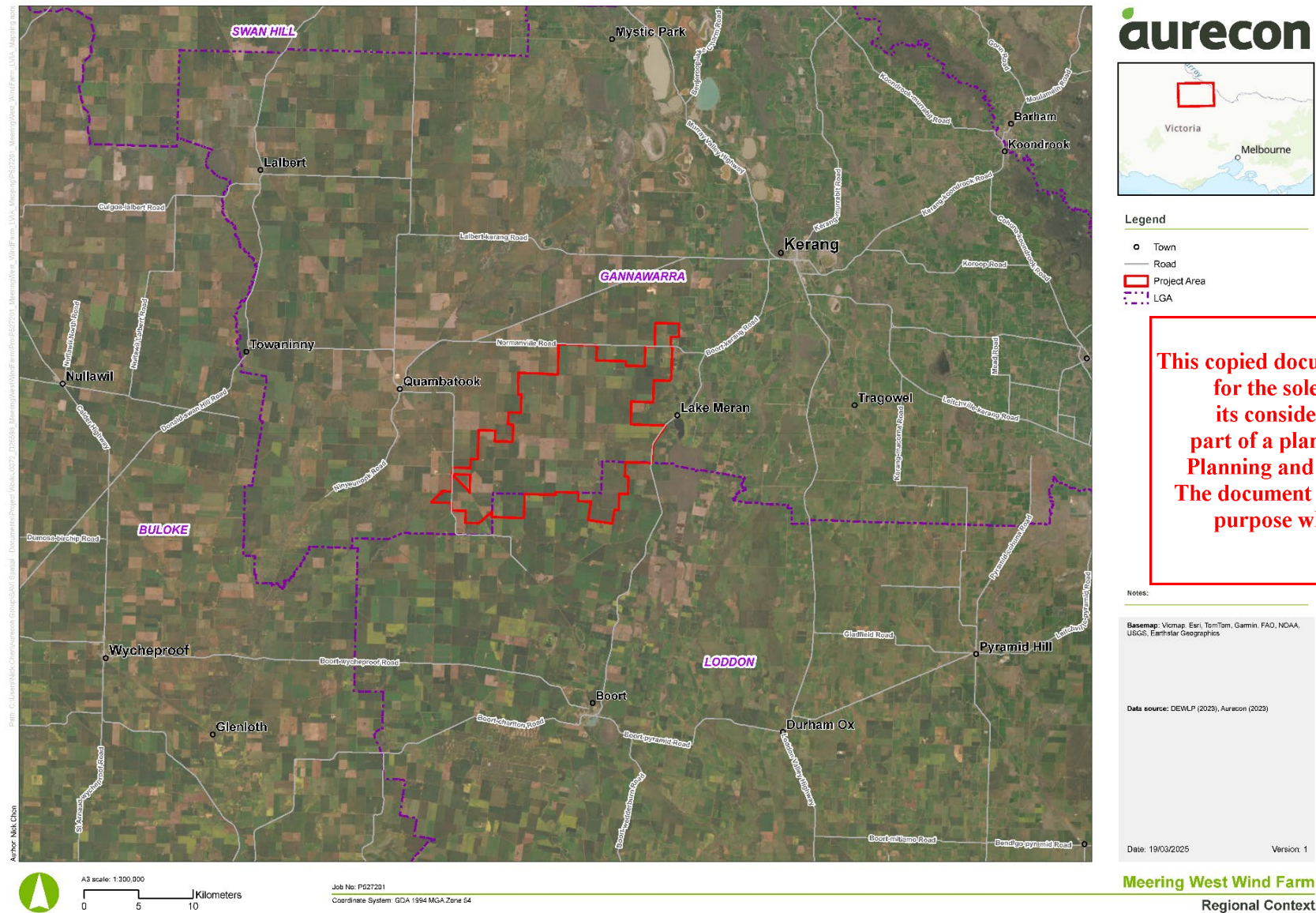
2 The Project

The Project is expected to have an installed generation capacity of up to 1.5 Gigawatts (GW) and comprise up to 164 wind turbines. Ancillary infrastructure will include a 1,000 Megawatt (MW) Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), terminal station, collector station, underground electrical cables, overhead internal powerlines and an operations and maintenance facility. Temporary works and plant includes construction compound and two concrete batching plants

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Figure 2-1 Regional Context

2.1 Project Description

The Project includes the following permanent and ancillary infrastructure, further details on the project infrastructure is shown in Table 2-1 and Figure 2-2.

2.1.1 Permanent core and ancillary infrastructure

- Up to 164 wind turbines with adjoining hardstand
- An operations and maintenance building, including a car park and an office
- Internal access tracks
- 1000 MW / MWh Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)
- A terminal station connecting to VNI West
- Collector stations
- Permanent meteorological monitoring mast
- Underground electrical cables
- Internal above ground power lines.

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2.1.2 Temporary ancillary infrastructure:

- A construction office and compounds, including site offices, car parking, storage and amenities
- Two concrete batching plant
- Temporary civil works
- Laydown areas

Table 2-1 Key Parameters

Feature	Parameters	Quantity
Turbines		
Maximum Hub Heights	194 m	164
Maximum Blade Length	84.6 m	
Maximum Tip Height	280 m	
Rotor Swept Area	23,235 m ²	
Clearance (space between ground and lowest point of blade)	80-104 m	
Indicative Cut-in wind speed	3 m/s	
Indicative Cut-out wind speed	25 m/s	
Assessed Sound Power Level (STE)	107.8 dB(A)	
Ancillary Infrastructure - Permanent		
BESS	Up to 8 ha	1
Operation and maintenance building	Up to 4 ha	1
Terminal station	Up to 4 ha	1
Collector station	Up to 4 ha	3
Permanent meteorological monitoring masts.	N/A	1

Feature	Parameters	Quantity
Ancillary Infrastructure – Temporary		
Construction compound	Up to 10 ha	1
Concrete batching plant	1 ha	2
Hardstand area	50m x 40m	164

2.2 Construction and Operational information

The anticipated construction phase for the Project is anticipated to last for approximately 4 years and the operational life of the Project is expected to be approximately 40 years, further information is provided in Table 2-2.

Table 2-2 Construction and Operational Information

Construction Phase	Proposed timing
A - Establish site offices, compounds and concrete batching batch plants	1-2 weeks
B - Commence gate installation, commence track construction, commence turbine foundation excavations and hard stands	18 months
C - Commence electrical work, cables, collectors, internal powerline, the terminal station	18 months
D - Turbine installation	24 months
E - Final commissioning and site demobilisation	6 months
G - Operation of wind farm	40 years
I - Decommission and make good	12 months

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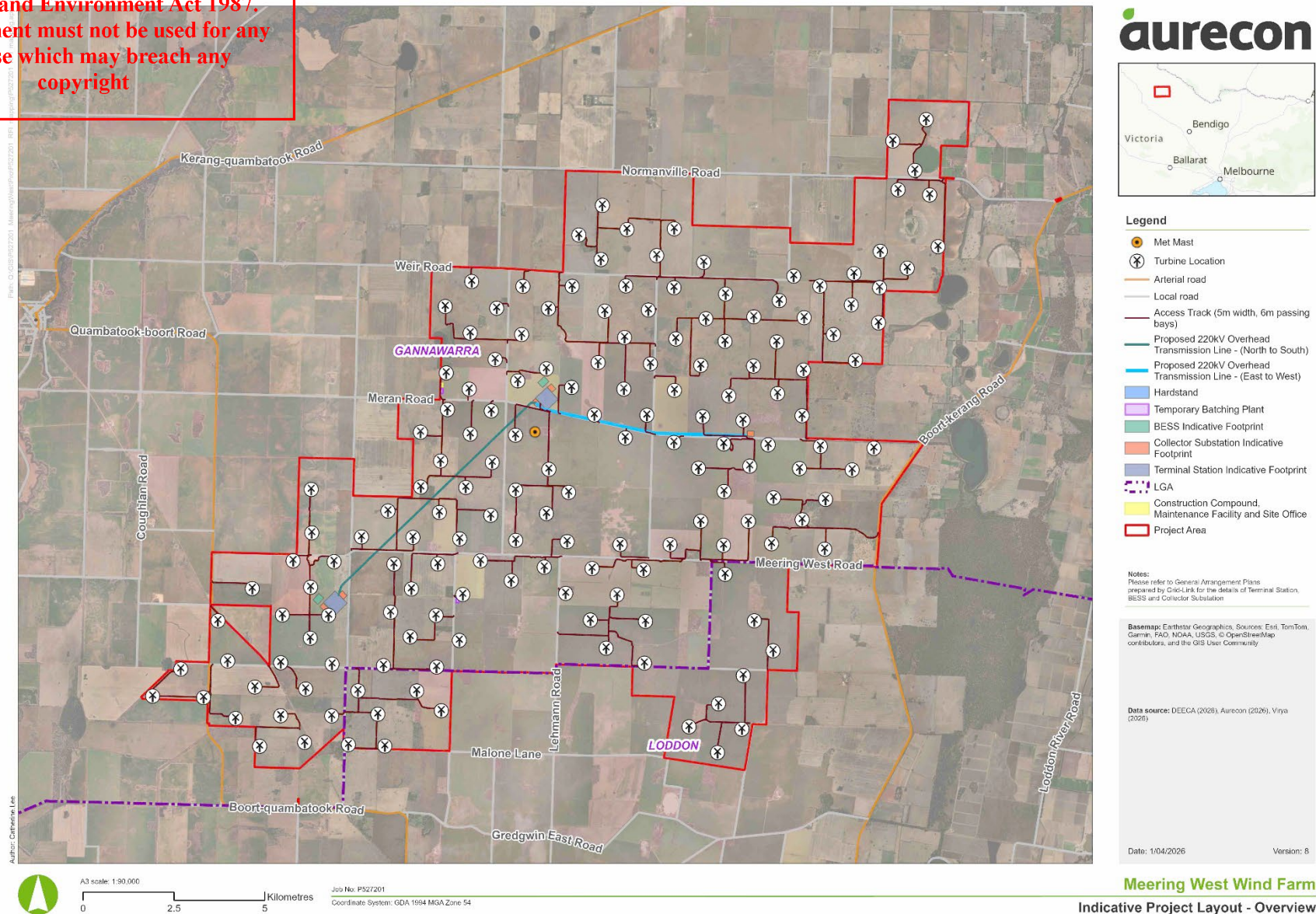


Figure 2-2 Indicative Project Layout

3 Roles and Responsibilities

The Project will have general roles and responsibilities for environmental management in the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Project. The roles and responsibilities outlined in Table 5-1, below are suggested and are subject to future change.

Table 5-1: Roles and Responsibilities

Role	Responsibility
Environment Representative (ER)	• Manage the development, implementation and annual review of the EMP • Manage the implementation and input into the continuous improvement of the environmental management system • Manage the implementation of the environmental aspects • Ensure the Project specifications requirements are addressed
Site / Project Manager (PM)	• Govern environmental management across the Project. • Support a proactive approach to environmental management. • Ensure the effectiveness of environmental management on all work activities. • Ensure environmental responsibilities are defined and appropriately and competently resourced. • Ensure environmental risks are identified and managed in accordance with this plan. • Ensure the risk management framework is thoroughly implemented throughout the project. • Ensure the environmental management systems and compliance strategies are in place and are effective.
Site / Project Supervisor (PS)	• Ensure workers are made aware of their environmental responsibilities. • Fulfil the requirements of the risk management processes and consult workers when identifying, assessing and applying controls to hazards. • Ensure workers are provided with appropriate resources, training and education in the environmental management system.
Site Workers (W)	• Comply with environmental management system requirements; including the EMP. • Actively support and participate in environmental consultation and other activities (including training). • Assist Project managers and supervisors in applying appropriate environmental measures. • Report hazards, incidents and opportunities for environmental improvement.

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4 Environmental Risk Assessment

The Proponent will identify and manage key environmental Impacts associated with programs of work including business as usual activities; critical and key risk work activities; organisational changes; asset management; change management; emergency management and safety in design.

Responsibilities and accountabilities will be assigned to key project personnel throughout the project lifecycle to ensure the environmental Impacts are identified and controlled. The Proponent will be able to demonstrate that decisions are made using a risk-based approach.

The following assessments have been used to inform the Risk Assessment.

- Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Report
- Telecommunications Assessment Report
- Shadow Flicker and Blade Glint Assessment Report
- Surface and Ground Water Assessment Report
- Preliminary Traffic Impact Assessment Report
- Hazard and Risk Assessment Report
- Aeronautical Impact Assessment Report
- Cultural Heritage Management Plan (Biosis)
- Stakeholder Consultation Report (Capire)
- Ecology Report (Biosis)

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Relevant requirements from landowner agreements have also been considered.

This Section and Risk Register should be reviewed and updated as technical studies are completed and as information comes to hand following planning assessment.

4.1 Risk Assessment

Project wide environmental risks and opportunities are required to be assessed throughout the project and have been documented in an Environmental Risk Register (provided in Appendix A) that have been based on the applicable technical assessments undertaken for the Project.

The following environmental risk assessment process has been adopted for the Project. The register shall be kept as a “live” document and updated through the construction of the Project.

The process follows:

- **Identifying the risk/aspect:** key risks for construction activities should be identified taking into consideration the outcomes from previous environmental assessments i.e. updated ecology information and updated Aboriginal heritage information.
- **Analysing the risk/aspect (determining likelihood/consequence):** each risk shall be assessed for potential unmitigated impact using a likelihood (i.e. the chance of something happening) and the consequence (i.e. outcome of an event affecting objectives) scoring system. An aspect has been deemed a “Significant Environmental Aspect” under ISO 14001:2014 if the risk is greater than or equal to 16 in the risk matrix.
- **Evaluating the risk/aspect:** The mitigated risk score shall be determined using the mitigated likelihood and consequence. Each impact is assigned a risk category which range from “Low” (low likelihood and consequence) to “extreme” (high likelihood and consequence). A risk category identified as having an extreme or high risk (a significant impact) may be downgraded if appropriate environmental controls and measures are implemented and maintained. Proactive planning, installation and maintenance of appropriate environmental controls and ongoing monitoring will reduce the risks associated with each environmental impact identified.
- **Treating the risk:** after the initial risk assessment, environmental control measures have been determined using the environmental best practice and the recommendations mentioned in the EA and updated environmental information.

4.2 Risk Treatment

This EMP (refer Section 6) contains measures to avoid and/or control the environmental impacts associated with that aspect of the project. The controls and safeguards provided in the EMP sub plans would be used, where relevant, to:

- Control the occurrence of the identified environmental impacts
- Protect the environment from harm
- Safeguard the local community
- Satisfy the environmental requirements of the Project and relevant agencies
- Comply with relevant environmental laws and regulations.

The hierarchy of controls in this EMP are outlined below:

- Eliminate the risk;
- Substitute the control to minimise likelihood of risk occurring;
- Isolate the risk to minimise likelihood of environmental harm;
- Engineer an appropriate control to minimise likelihood of environmental harm; and
- Administer the risk by using a control such as a checklist, signage or a procedure.

The timing of installation of control measures will be critical to ensuring that environmental obligations are met within the required timeframe and that controls are effective in achieving their purpose. A range of monitoring, measurement and reporting activities (Section 9) are required to be undertaken throughout the construction phase of the Project.

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4.2.1 CEMP

The construction contractor will be required to develop a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) for construction activities. The CEMP will use the hierarchy of controls in managing hazards and risk to demonstrate that the risks are eliminated so far as is reasonably practicable. Where it is not reasonably practicable to eliminate the risk, then controls to mitigate the risks as best as possible will be implemented.

The CEMP must include controls that are aligned to those in this EMP, while also addressing address the construction specific risks that can only be determined once a construction methodology is known. The Contractor will be also responsible for developing detailed Site Environmental Plans (SEPs) that include the following:

- Location and scope of works to be managed;
- Location and nature of key site features such as significant structures, access tracks, laydown areas, sensitive receptors, and ecological and heritage features, waterways and extent of any contaminated soil;
- Pre-construction works for mitigating environmental risks, such as sediment controls, site fencing and protection of sensitive areas (e.g. no go zones);
- Location and nature of key environmental controls to protect sensitive receptors with high-level explanatory text describing the controls;
- Nature and frequency of monitoring to be undertaken, including any locations of monitoring point (as relevant); and,
- Key site contacts, and process for notification of a potential environmental hazard or incident.

SEPs must be regularly reviewed and updated by the Contractor as site conditions change so they reflect the current site condition and controls to be implemented. SEPs must be reviewed by the IEA prior to works commencing.

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5 Environmental Management Controls

The Project Manager and Environmental Representative will demonstrate that where different stakeholders are responsible for different project phases, during the transition between phases, there will be a formal handover of environmental risk management information between the stakeholders.

The Contractor / Operator for the site will further develop a process for ensuring that all legislative requirements will be addressed throughout the construction and operational phases, including:

- Identify applicable environmental legislation;
- Establish a mechanism to enable personnel access to the legislation; and
- Implement a process to stay current with legal compliance requirements.

The relevant controls have been made specific to each phase, as follows:

- C – Design and Construction phase only
- O – Operational phase only
- Both – Applies to both D&C and Operational phases.

This Section and the Risk Register should be reviewed and updated as technical studies are completed and as information comes to hand following planning assessment.

5.1 Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

Potential impacts apply mostly to the construction phase, but some CHMP obligations may carry over to the operational phase.

The following objectives, targets and controls will be implemented for the Project.

Cultural Heritage	
Objective	Cultural heritage management measures fully implemented and no cultural heritage incidents. Consultation with all relevant stakeholders if any heritage / cultural items is located.
Target	No damage to cultural heritage or archaeological areas. No impact on areas outside the project areas.
Relevant Legislation	<i>Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006</i>

Implement all the requirements of the latest version of Approved CHMP #20208 - this includes (but is not limited to):

- CHMP must be kept onsite.
- All persons must be made aware of the procedures involved if any Aboriginal cultural heritage material is uncovered
- Process should Aboriginal cultural heritage material, values or remains be found.

The ER must ensure that the CHMP requirements are communicated to the PM & PS. The PM must implement the CHMP on site.

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5.2 Air Quality

The following objectives, targets and controls will be implemented for the Project.

Air Quality	
Objective	Minimal impact on air quality. Dust and atmospheric emissions comply with regulatory requirements. Maintain plant and equipment to ensure exhaust emissions minimised.
Target	No dust complaints. No sustained exhaust or toxic emissions.
Relevant Legislation	<i>Environment Protection Act 2017 & Regulations 2021</i> <i>Environmental Reference Standard</i> <i>Planning & Environment Act 1987</i>

Control		Responsibility	Phase
1	All activities with potential for dust generation must have reasonable and practical dust controls	PS / ER	C
2	All reasonable and practicable measures shall be taken to prevent or minimise the generation of dust	PS / ER	C
3	Contractors are responsible for implementing measures to prevent or minimize the generation of dust from their operations and monitoring the works to ensure the controls implemented are effective.	PS	C
4	Dust suppression may include but not limited to the following items: • Water cart or other water suppression methods • Binding Chemicals	PS / ER	C
5	The area of disturbed land will be kept to a minimum, and existing vegetated areas will be kept intact for as long as possible prior to clearing.	PS	C
6	As required, active exposed areas, materials and stockpile areas will be watered, treated or rehabilitated to minimise dust creation; and permanent and long-term (>28 days) stockpiles will be revegetated as soon as possible after formation.	PS	C
7	Construction activities will be reprogrammed or relocated, if necessary, during periods of strong winds if they produce excessive wind-blown dust.	PS / ER	C
8	Speed limits will be imposed on all vehicles (site limit 20km on unsealed roads and maintain relevant main road limits).	PS / ER	Both
9	All vehicles transporting material to and from the site will be covered.	PS / ER	C
10	Temporarily stop works if dust is visibly discharging or emitting nuisance airborne particles beyond site boundaries and impacting receptors. Resume works only when effective controls can be implemented, or weather conditions and air quality improve.	PS / ER	C

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5.3 Biosecurity (Weeds, Pests and Pathogens)

The following objectives, targets and controls will be implemented for the Project.

Biosecurity	
Objective	No introduction, release, movement or transportation of biosecurity matters onto the site, as a result of construction activities.
Target	No introduction of flora, fauna, and or organisms that may impact on the native ecosystem. No movement / transportation of flora, fauna, and or organisms that may impact on the natural environment.
Relevant Legislation	<i>Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994 (CaLP Act).</i>

	Control	Responsibility	Phase
1	All machinery and vehicles shall be cleaned down of all soil and vegetation material prior to entering individual properties forming the project. A risk-based assessment of the need to clean machinery and equipment of dirt (including possible treatment with PhytoClean or similar products to kill plant pathogens such as Chytrid Fungus and prevent the spread of weeds) should be done.	PM	Both
2	Development and implementation of a weed management strategy aimed at suppressing and eradicating existing weed populations and preventing establishment of new weeds during construction. The presence, extent and characteristics of invasive flora and fauna have been determined prior to the commencement of construction works. The presence of the invasive flora and/ or fauna will be managed throughout the course of the project. Any noxious weeds or building debris brought onto the site to be removed	ER	Both
3	When accessing construction sites, contractor and subcontractors will use only approved access tracks/roads. Width of access tracks should be the minimum extent necessary to reduce loss of vegetation and fauna habitat.	PM	C
4	The presence of any 'unknown' species to be reported for identification and necessary treatment and/ or eradication during the project.	PS	Both
5	Development and implementation of protocols for vehicle machinery hygiene to prevent pathogen spread during construction.	PM	
6	Control any declared noxious weeds in accordance with the prescribed measures under the CaLP Act, which may include: • application of a registered herbicide • cultivation • physical removal • mulching	PS /ER	Both
7	All associated chemicals required for the treatment of invasive species would be managed appropriately, by individual who are sufficiently trained in the use of such chemicals.	PS	Both
8	A monitoring program suitable for the level of environmental risk and the objectives of the mitigation measures will be followed.	PM / ER	Both
9	Topsoil from any adjacent properties must not be moved onto other properties	PM	C
10	Follow biosecurity measures that are reasonably required by the landholder	PM	Both

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5.4 Bushfire, Hazard and Emergency

The following objectives, targets and controls will be implemented for the Project

Bushfire	
Objective	Minimise the risk on farm businesses, neighbouring properties and local community. Safety of public and employees in the event of a fire.
Target	Ensure the safety of all workers and people in and around the project. Zero fire incidents within the project limits.
Relevant Legislation & Guidance	<i>Environment Protection Act 2017 & Regulations 2021</i> <i>Environmental Reference Standard</i> <i>Planning & Environment Act 1987</i> <i>Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004 (OHS Act) & Regulations 2017</i> <i>CFA Design Guidelines and Model Requirements: Renewable Energy Facilities (Version 4)</i>

	Control	Responsibility	Phase
1	Design to comply be in accordance the CFA Design Guidelines and Model Requirements: Renewable Energy Facilities: - Emergency access design - Fire water supply - Fire break requirements - Fire detection and suppression A 10 m fire break around the BESS and associated infrastructure is to be implemented as part of the Project's detailed design	PM	C
2	Prepare the following plans in accordance with the CFA Design Guidelines and Model Requirements: Renewable Energy Facilities: - A Risk Management Plan must be developed for the facility, in consultation with CFA, before development starts - An Emergency Plan must be developed for the construction and commissioning phase of the facility. - A Fire Management Plan must be developed for the facility, in consultation with CFA, before development starts.	PM	Both
3	A fire break must be established and maintained around the base of WTGs (i.e. a 10 m fuel exclusion zone)	PM	Both
4	All facilities, containers, storage sheds, vehicles and plant equipment will be fitted with a serviced fire extinguisher (relevant to works or area), which will be inspected and tagged every 6 months by a suitability qualified person.	ER	Both
5	Smoking will only be permitted in designated areas. These shall be clearly marked and communicated to site personnel.	PS	Both
6	Ensure construction lay down areas and construction sites are maintained in a tidy and neat condition to reduce the risk of fire hazards.	PS	C
7	Vehicular access to the Project will be via designated road access points only, to reduce the risk of exhausts causing grassfires.	PM	Both
8	All flammable materials will be kept in a segregated area and stored in accordance with AS1940. Dangerous Goods licence (if applicable) and appropriate storage/separation guidelines.	PS	Both
9	Work considered high risk hot works will not be undertaken on a Total Fire Ban Day. No hot work will be undertaken on a day rated catastrophic.	PM	Both
10	All workers to formally report all fire incidents to the proponent.	PM	Both

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11	In order to reduce the bushfire risk further it is recommended that the following defendable space requirements are implemented around Project infrastructure for the duration of each fire season in perpetuity including: • Vegetation must be short cropped (<100 mm in height) and maintained during the declared fire danger period. • All leaves and vegetation debris must be removed at regular intervals during the declared fire danger period. • Within 10 m of a building, flammable objects must not be located close to the vulnerable parts of the building. • Plants greater than 10 cm in height must not be placed within 3 m of a window or glass feature of the building. • Shrubs should not be planted under the canopy of trees (if any trees are to be retained). • Individual and clumps of shrubs must not exceed 5 m² in area and must be separated by at least 5 metres. • Trees must not overhang or touch any elements of the building. • The canopy of trees must be separated by at least 5 m. • There must be a clearance of at least 2 m between the lowest tree branches and ground level. The above should also be incorporated into the landscape design around the Operations and Maintenance building. Additionally, vegetation should not be placed within proximity to the Operations and Maintenance building, and it is recommended to provide for non-combustible areas, including pathed or crushed rock roads and walkways, around the perimeter of the building. It is recommended that vegetation management measures around Project infrastructure and landscaping design treatments for the Operations and Maintenance building should also be undertaken in accordance with the CFA guidelines <i>Landscaping for Bushfire – Garden Design and Plant Selection</i> (CFA, 2022).	PM	O
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5.5 Chemical and Fuel Management

The following objectives, targets and controls will be implemented for the Project.

Chemical and Fuel Management	
Objective	Avoid / minimise potential human health and environmental effects from exposure to fuels and hazardous chemicals. Establish control measures to prevent and manage accidents, spills and other discharges of environmental hazardous chemicals and dangerous goods to the environment (e.g. water course, groundwater and soils).
Target	No spills, leakages and/or explosion events.
Relevant Legislation	<i>Environment Protection Act 2017 & Regulations 2021</i> <i>Environmental Reference Standard</i> <i>Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004 (OHS Act) & Regulations 2017</i> <i>Dangerous Goods (Storage and Handling) Regulations 2022</i>

	Control	Responsibility	Phase
1	All dangerous goods, as defined in the Australian Dangerous Goods Code, shall be stored strictly in accordance with all relevant Australian Standards and for liquids, a minimum bund volume requirement of 110% of the volume of the largest single stored volume within the bund. Sufficiently sized spill kits will be accessible on site at all times & placed close to storage and work areas.	PM	Both
2	Designated refuelling area to be marked on site map. The area will be fitted with but should not be limited to appropriate controls such as bunding, oil spill kits and drip trays. As required some vehicles/equipment can be filled in situ - drip tray and spill kit required if refuelling in this way.	PM	C
3	All spills >2L will be reported to Virya. Hazardous material shall not be stored or drained onto the ground, into watercourses or floodplains. Spills of any kind that are not reported or managed will be treated as a non-conformance.	ER	Both
4	All chemicals MUST have current Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS), current risk assessment and recorded in the MSDS register.	ER	Both
5	All flammable materials will be kept in a segregated area and stored in accordance with AS1940. Dangerous Goods licence (if applicable) and appropriate storage/separation guidelines.	PM	Both
6	All flammable materials will be kept in a segregated area and stored in accordance with AS1940. Dangerous Goods licence (if applicable) and appropriate storage/separation guidelines.	PM	Both

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5.6 Contaminated Land & Spoil Management

The following objectives, targets and controls will be implemented for the Project.

Contaminated Land & Spoil Management	
Objective	Avoid / minimise potential human health and environmental effects from exposure to contaminated land and spoil. Establish control measures to prevent and manage the identification and presence of existing contaminated land, groundwater, and stormwater.
Target	No dangerous contamination exposure to people or the environment.
Relevant Legislation	<i>Environment Protection Act 2017 & Regulations 2021</i> <i>Environmental Reference Standard</i> <i>Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004 (OHS Act) & Regulations 2017</i>

	Control	Responsibility	Phase
1	Prior to commencing works assess the potential for contamination in accordance with <i>National Environmental Protection (Assessment of Contaminated Sites) Measure 1999</i> . In the event there is potential for contamination to be present, intrusive investigations may be required to inform management of spoil.	PM / ER	C
2	Prepare a spoil management plan in the event contaminated spoil is uncovered.	PM / ER	C
3	Disposal of any material offsite, must be done in accordance with EPA Publication 1827.2 Waste classification assessment protocol and 1828.2 Waste disposal categories.	PM / ER	Both
4	Minimise period of stockpile inactivity. For stockpiles to be left inactive for longer periods (>28 days), establish vegetation or grass. Subsoil stockpiles may require an outer layer of topsoil to assist grass establishment.	PM / ER	C
5	Limit stockpile heights based on stability, manageability, dust and amenity impacts. More gentle slopes may be required for unstable soils.	PS /ER	C
6	Avoid exposing or excavating contaminated soil until it is necessary to do so. Stockpile contaminated soil separately to clean soil.	PS /ER	C

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5.7 Surface Water and Sediment

The following objectives, targets and controls will be implemented for the Project.

Erosion and Sediment	
Objective	No impacts to surface water quality and or ecology values.
Target	No visible sediment entering the stormwater system from construction areas. No visible erosion.
Relevant Legislation	<i>Environment Protection Act 2017 & Regulations 2021</i> <i>Environmental Reference Standard</i> <i>Planning & Environment Act 1987</i> <i>Water Act 1989</i>

	Control	Responsibility	Phase
1	Divert clean stormwater around the site, where possible.	PS / ER	C
2	Manage truck and vehicle movements to limit the generation of sediment. Access during and immediately after periods of prolonged or heavy rainfall should be minimised.	PS / ER	C
3	Install sediment fences around sources of sediment (E.g. open earth areas, stockpiles, road areas, etc) to contain coarse soil and sediment. Conduct regular inspections to assess effectiveness of controls.	PS / ER	C
4	Reduce the amount of sediment entering the stormwater pits and kerb inlets using screens, filter traps and silt socks	PS / ER	C
5	Minimise clearance of vegetation and retain existing vegetation wherever possible, particularly along drainage lines and waterways, steep slopes and areas with unstable soils.	PS / ER	C
6	Manage earthworks to minimise volume and duration of stockpiled material, ensure stockpiles are located away from receptors such as waterways and drains, control transport of sediments by including bunding downslope of stockpiles.	PS / ER	C
7	Ensure permanent and associated temporary works do not increase flow velocities	PS / ER	C
8	Reinstate vegetation as soon as works in an area have finished (staged reinstatement). Maintain erosion controls until vegetation is considered to be established. When construction has ceased access tracks that are not required for operation should be remediated	PS / ER	C
9	Onsite amenities to be connected to approved septic systems or toilet tanks which are to be regularly emptied and inspected to avoid spills.	PM / ER	C
10	Contain and remove concrete slurry / washout from run-off in a suitable area and prevent it from entering stormwater networks and waterways. Where possible, concrete washout must be done offsite.	PS / ER	C

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5.8 Landscape & Visual Assessment

The following objectives, targets and controls will be implemented for the Project.

Noise	
Objective	Effectively manage construction and operational works such that the visual impacts to the local community and public are minimised.
Target	No community complaints through construction.
Relevant Legislation	<i>Planning & Environment Act 1987</i>

	Control	Responsibility	Phase
1	Prior to construction, assess the need for any temporary measures to screen construction compounds from sensitive receivers. This may include hoardings at compounds or screen landscaping at private residences.	PM	C
2	Keep vegetation removal and ground disturbance to the minimum amount necessary to construct the project.		C
3	Undertake all on site and off site landscaping in accordance with Planning Permit conditions and approved plans.	PM	Both
4	If required, develop and adopt a turbine shut-down protocol which will switch off the turbines causing shadow flicker so that the total actual duration at receptors is no more than the allowable limit.	PM	O

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5.9 Noise & Vibration

The following objectives, targets and controls will be implemented for the Project.

Noise	
Objective	Effectively manage construction activities to ensure noise and vibration impacts are minimised. Comply with the requirements of the contract for project and traffic noise and vibration. Ensure project equipment has adequate noise prevention safeguards and is maintained in good working order.
Target	No effect on adjoining properties as a result of noise or vibration from project activities. No breach of the noise and vibration limits. No complaints relating to noise or vibration arising from project Activities.
Relevant Legislation and Standards	<i>Environment Protection Act 2017 & Regulations 2021</i> <i>Environmental Reference Standard</i> <i>Planning & Environment Act 1987</i> New Zealand Standard NZS 6808:2010 Acoustics – Wind Farm Noise

	Control	Responsibility	Phase
1	Design to the minimum applicable noise limit of 40 dB LA90 at the nearest noise-sensitive locations for both the BESS and ancillary infrastructure	PM	C
2	A Pre-Construction Noise Assessment be prepared that reflects the final wind turbine selection, wind turbine numbers and design (including ancillary infrastructure). This should include background noise monitoring conducted at representative noise-sensitive locations within the predicted 35 dB LA90 noise contour consistent with NZS 6808:2010.	PM	C
3	Construction work must be conducted in accordance with EPA Publication 1834 (Section 4). Noise must be reduced as far as reasonably practicable.	PM / ER	C
4	Works will be only undertaken during normal working hours, which are: - Monday to Friday 7am to 6pm - Saturday 7am to 1pm - Sunday 9am to 1pm Low noise or managed impact works may occur outside of the above times, in accordance with EPA Publication 1834. Any other works outside of these areas must be justified as unavoidable.	PM / ER	C
5	All machinery and vehicles with internal combustion engines will be maintained to comply with relevant noise emissions standards and exhaust standards.	PS / ER	C
6	All site equipment to maintained to the manufacturers' recommendations.	PS / ER	C

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5.10 Traffic Management

The following objectives, targets and controls will be implemented for the Project.

Traffic	
Objective	Minimise impacts on existing road conditions due to traffic movements. Ensure construction activities provide safe and convenient access to local roads. Make good following construction Minimise impact on farm businesses (especially during harvest and sowing), neighbouring properties and local community.
Target	No incidents of damage of existing roads above daily wear and tear. No incidents of tracking soils onto public roads - adjacent roads to be kept clean and where required, restored to pre-construction condition in a timely manner.
Relevant Legislation	<i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i> <i>Road Management Act 2004</i>

	Control	Responsibility	Phase
1	Develop Construction Traffic Management Plans (CTMP) be developed and implemented to communicate and manage the routes which workers and heavy vehicles utilise during construction. This will reduce the risk of vehicles using sections of road which are not suitable for project access. The CTMP should address: - Over Dimension / Over Size Over Mass route audit and ensure appropriate permits are received, plan for escort vehicles if required and to minimise disruptions or delays the movements of OD/OSOM vehicles are recommended to be scheduled outside peak hours where possible. - Agreements with road authorities (Council and Department of Transport and Planning (DTP)) will ensure timely repairs of any damage in the road corridors by use of dilapidation surveys. - The frequency, volume and bus stop locations of school bus routes will be documented in a TMP and associated mitigation such as avoiding these routes at these times to reduce interaction	PM	C
2	All access points onto the public road network (and intersecting access tracks) are to be considered in regard to safe intersection sight distance, vehicle types and movements with appropriate mitigations adopted to facilitate safe access as necessary	PM	C

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5.11 Ecology

The following objectives, targets and controls will be implemented for the Project

Noise	
Objective	To reduce impacts to native vegetation and ecological values
Target	Retain native vegetation on site where possible and reduce impacts during construction.
Relevant Legislation	<i>Environment Protection & Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> <i>Environment Effects Act 1978</i> <i>Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988</i> <i>Planning & Environment Act 1987</i>

	Control	Responsibility	Phase
1	Locations of key habitat for any EPBC Act and FFG Act threatened fauna species outside the impact footprint (nests, hollow bearing trees, wetlands etc.) should be flagged on-site prior to construction. All such areas of habitat that are to be retained should be protected within clearly designated 'no-go' zones.	PM	C
2	Pre-existing access tracks should be utilised whenever possible and upon completion be reinstated to their pre-construction condition, or as otherwise agreed with the relevant landowner. Consideration for temporary and permanent access locations and use of existing roads/tracks/areas of disturbance where practicable.	PS	Both
3	The erection of a native vegetation / no go zone protection fence around all native vegetation to be retained on site and on any adjoining road reserves. Vegetation to be protected should be clearly identified within fenced and/or signed 'no-go' zones on-site for the duration of construction.	PS / ER	C
4	Consideration should be given to impacts to large and scattered trees at the project planning stage. Avoidance means the exclusion of any construction activity including storage of materials in areas where ground disturbance may impact the viability of adjacent tree, including Tree Protection Zones and Structural Root Zones. An assessment of tree impacts by a qualified arborist has been undertaken and it was determined that there will be no indirect losses to large or scattered trees if recommendations outlined in the arborist report are followed. Retain the tree protection zones of all native trees and mark on plan(s). All tree protection zones must comply with Australian Standard 4970 Protection of Trees on Development Sites.	PS / ER	C
5	Monitoring requirements for the rehabilitation / revegetation works and any vegetation / tree protection areas being retained on site.	PS / ER	C
6	Pruning or the removal of protected vegetation should only occur in accordance with the requirements of the relevant state legislation. Pruning of trees should be undertaken only by suitably trained personnel or an arborist.	PS / ER	C
7	Disturbing roots or compacting soil within tree protection zones should be avoided wherever possible unless deemed entirely necessary for the construction activities.		Both
8	The removal or disturbance of vegetation outside access tracks, agreed / approved temporary work areas should not be permitted unless separate additional regulatory approvals are obtained.	PM	Both
9	A record should be maintained of all native vegetation cleared for the project (including for subsequent operations and maintenance) as part of the associated offsetting program(s). The record should comprise spatial data showing accurate boundaries of actual clearing at the completion of construction. A final assessment should be done at the end of construction to confirm quantities of each vegetation type removed.	PM / PS	C
10	During operations - Weed control should be implemented in all areas of soil disturbance to decrease the risk of weed establishment	PM	O
11	During operations - Wind turbines 16, 10 and 05 to the north east, east and south-east of Salt Lake should be shut down and not operated when water is present in this wetland to minimize the risk of collision for EPBC Act listed shorebirds and FFG Act listed waterbirds that could travel between this wetland and the wetland system east of the proposed area	PM	O

12	A Bat and Avifauna Management (BAM) Plan should be prepared as a condition of planning approval to monitor, report on and manage impacts on threatened bird (avifauna) and bat species from the proposed wind farm. The BAM Plan will set out the management obligations for the proponent once the wind farm is approved and has commenced operation, and may specify triggers for applying adaptive management measures.	PM	O
13	Pruning of trees will be undertaken only by suitably trained personnel or an arborist	PM	C
14	Where possible, existing soil disturbance is to be utilised for all construction access / egress.	PM	C
15	Excavation inside undisturbed Notional Root Zones should be avoided as far as practicable.	PM	C

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5.12 Waste Management

The following objectives, targets and controls will be implemented for the Project

Noise	
Objective	To minimise waste generation. Wastes to be disposed of in a lawful manner which does not harm the environment.
Target	Re-use and recycle waste whenever practical and dispose of appropriately. Records of all waste transported and received at licensed landfill.
Relevant Legislation	<i>Environment Protection Act 2017 & Regulations 2021</i> <i>Planning & Environment Act 1987</i>

	Control	Responsibility	Phase
1	Methods for waste management and minimisation are identified and planned for at the planning stage of the project.	PM / ER	Both
2	This waste management and minimisation assessment should adopt the following hierarchy: ■ Avoidance ■ Resource recovery ■ Disposal	PM / ER	Both
3	Identify all waste streams and expected quantities prior to commencement of works and identify management measures to reduce, reuse, recover, recycle and dispose (listed in order of preference).	PS / ER	Both
4	Provide adequate waste separation facilities including waste disposal containers at appropriate locations to ensure segregation of wastes as far as practicable. Ensure waste facilities are adequately labelled.	PS / ER	Both
5	Maintain a tidy site and ensure bins are accessible for collection.	PS / ER	Both
6	Engage licensed contractor(s) for collection and recycling/disposal of specific materials (if required).	PM / ER	Both
7	Maintain records of waste recycling and disposal including mass/volumes of material, transport and location receipts.	PM / ER	Both
8	All known asbestos found onsite needs to be wrapped by an authorised person and removed by a licensed contractor with correct documentation issued (Waste Tracking Certificate).	PM / ER	Both

5.13 Decommissioning and Rehabilitation

A detailed decommission plan will be developed at least three months prior to the closure of the wind farm; however, the following decommissioning and rehabilitation principles will be implemented. The Project owner at the time of decommissioning will be fully responsible for the decommissioning and rehabilitation of the Project.

The following objectives, targets and controls will be implemented for the Project.

Noise	
Objective	Restore disturbed areas to the original site condition as far as reasonably practicable and / or in agreement with landholders
Target	Safely decommissioning of all above ground project infrastructure and removal from site. Re-use and recycle of waste whenever practical and dispose of appropriately.

Key decommissioning and rehabilitation principles	Responsibility	Phase
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1	The following decommission activities will be undertaken for site infrastructure: - Disconnect electrical connections. - Drain all hazardous chemical, fluids etc into appropriate containers and disposal of at a lawful place in accordance with EPA Victoria requirements - Dismantle wind turbine and remove above ground components from site. All wastes to be managed in accordance with the EPA Victoria waste hierarchy and reused or recycled where possible.	PM / ER	O
2	Access tracks - Access tracks and hardstands may be retained, subject to landowner requests - Remove access tracks that are no longer required and revegetate back to original condition (e.g. cropping).	PM / ER	O
3	Revegetation - Where areas are to be returned to pasture they will be seeded with a seed mix agreed upon with the landowners in order to maintain consistency with the surrounding agricultural uses and to mitigate colonisation of these areas by weed species. - Areas to be returned to trees and shrubs will be seeded with a native species mix promoting species diversity typical to the local area. - Revegetated area to be monitored for weeds	PM / ER	O

6 Training & Competency

6.1 Training requirements

Requirements for training, awareness and competency for environmental risks, impacts and controls are outlined in this section of the EMP. Environmental requirements would be communicated to personnel through a variety of communication methods.

The Contractor / Operator will be responsible for developing and implementing a project induction during the relevant stage of the Project that aligns to the below.

6.2 Project Induction

A project induction will be prepared and delivered for all personnel undertaking construction works. Project induction and/or training session content may include:

- Purpose, objectives, and key issues of the project
- Roles and responsibilities
- Project specific requirements
- The EMP and sub plans and consequences of non-compliance with the EMP
- Location of environmentally sensitive areas
- Processes for assessing environmental risk and preparing EWMS
- Protocols for engagement with project stakeholders or community members
- Significant environmental risks and impacts (actual or potential) associated with work activities
- Applicable procedures and documents for managing the environment
- Due diligence and duty of care requirements
- Relevant conditions of landholder leases, environmental licences and relevant conditions of approval such as planning permits and endorsed documents and CHMP.

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- Incident management procedures (e.g. the action to be taken in emergencies, communication lines and contact details for emergency services and site representatives)
- Reporting procedure for environmental hazards, incidents and “near-miss” events.
- Training records for Contractor training will be maintained by the Contractor.

6.3 Pre-start briefings

Pre-start briefings are daily discussions that should be undertaken before work commences. These discussions should include types of work being completed, task breakdown, safety and environmental risks associated with the work, and measures to manage safety and environmental risks.

Pre-start briefings should consider the CEMP prepared for the activities planned to be undertaken. Pre-start briefings should also consider any additional environmental or heritage-related hazards that might arise during the undertaking of the work and discussions about any lessons learnt from previous incidents or near misses.

6.4 Toolbox training and targeted environmental training

Toolbox training is targeted training designed to help relevant information be communicated to the workforce and to provide a forum for feedback on issues of interest or concern. Toolbox training will generally be prepared and delivered by a representative of the Contractor, by the Proponent or by other authorised persons.

Specific topics for toolbox training may include:

- Protection of Aboriginal heritage and management of risks during construction and the unanticipated finds protocol.
- Management of erosion and sediment risks as well as weeds and pathogens during construction and operation.
- Protection of native vegetation and management of risks during construction.
- Management of asbestos and the unanticipated finds protocol.
- Lessons learnt from near misses or incidents.
- Any other relevant aspect of environmental risk or environmental management.

6.5 Competency requirements

Contractors are responsible for the selection, screening, training, and verifying competency of personnel, as well as maintaining and providing (when requested) all records of inductions and training of personnel.

All project personnel are required to have the following as a minimum for working on the site:

- General construction induction card
- Drivers licence
- Site induction
- Project induction
- Relevant licences or tickets for plant and machinery use
- Relevant tickets for project specific activities (i.e. working at heights permit, high voltage, confined space entry permits, etc).

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Copies of certificates of competency for the operation of plant will need to be provided and retained by the Contractor. Tickets and licences would need to be kept with relevant personnel and be made available for inspection if requested.

All records of inductions, licences, tickets, certificates and permits, should be recorded by the Contractor and be made available to the Proponent on request.

7 Environmental Incident Response

The following processes will be followed in the event of an environmental incident and / or community complaint.

7.1 Community Complaints

The Complaints Investigation and Response Procedure has been developed for the Project.

It will be implemented for both the construction and operational phases. It may be updated once further detail is known on the relevant contractor / operator and contacts and systems that will be in place for complaint management; however, the general principles outline below will apply throughout.

- Step 1: Receive & Register - If there is an inquiry, concern or complaint about the project, it can be made through the following means via an electronic contact form:

<https://meeringwestwindfarm.com.au>

- Step 2: Acknowledge - If the complaint is non-urgent, our nominated person be in contact in 3 business days to acknowledge that we've received the complaint. If it is urgent, we will respond within 24 hours. When we acknowledge your complaint, we will:

- provide a summary of the complaint
- clarify any issues or ask for more information
- say how we may investigate it
- say how long it may take us to respond.

- Step 3: Investigate - Investigate every complaint and make all reasonable attempts to resolve it. The project manager may do this or ask one of our staff to do it. Accurate records of the investigation will be kept including meetings, discussions and activities. When we investigate, we may:

- visit the site, especially if the complaint relates to property damage
- consult with our staff and contractors
- get relevant data and evidence (such as for a dust or noise complaint), including monitoring as required

- Step 4: Respond - after the complaint is investigated, we will contact the person with our results. This includes what we have found, and what we may do to resolve it.

- Step 5: Close - If the process has been completed appropriately, then we will close the complaint. If the process has been completed appropriately, then we will close the complaint. If you are not satisfied with the investigation and resolution, you have the right to request a review

- Step 5: Record – When a complaint has been closed the following will be logged:

- The process undertaken to investigate and resolve the complaint
- The proposed resolution
- Whether this was accepted and how it was implemented
- Whether or not the complaint was resolved to your satisfaction
- The reason why the complaint was closed.

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7.2 Emergency Contacts

Prior to construction, or the operation of the facility the contractor and operator will be responsible for developing an emergency contact list. This should detail important emergency contacts that may need to be notified in the instance of an emergency (including pollution incident) that may constitute material harm.

This must include a list of key internal contacts, phone (business and after hours) will be maintained and displayed at the site office. The Environmental Representative will maintain and regularly update the list of key contacts.

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7.3 Environmental Incident Response Procedure

Incident Occurs	■ Cease works in the area. ■ Establish the problem, primary areas impacted and any potential secondary areas impacted. ■ Advise the Environmental Representative.
Manage	■ Make the area safe. The safety of any person, either works or others involved, is the priority. ■ Minimise environmental damage as quickly as possible. In a spill situation, use sandbags, absorbent material, soil, an excavation or barrier to prevent the pollutant from reaching a watercourse or spreading. ■ Advise the Project Manager. ■ Clean up the problem. ■ Notify public authorities required by legislation, licences, conditions of approval or management plans.
After the Event	■ Develop and implement an action plan to prevent a similar incident occurring again. ■ Develop a rehabilitation plan to address any remaining environmental effects (if any). ■ Report to public authorities and stakeholders as required by legislation, licences, conditions of approval or management plans.

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8 Monitoring and Reporting

Monitoring, measurement, analysis and evaluation for the project is detailed and maintained as part of the EMP. If there are any updates or changes to environmental objectives and targets, internal and external audit requirements, internal and external inspections, non-conformance management, environmental performance tracking and monitoring, and reporting requires, the EMP will be updated to reflect the required change.

8.1 Inspections

The Contractor must undertake the following inspections during works (at a minimum):

- Daily site checks will be conducted during the construction period.
- Weekly site inspections, including completion of a record of completion.
- Monthly EMP compliance inspections and report.

8.2 Reporting

Environmental reporting for project will be undertaken to track and record environmental management and compliance for the life of the project.

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9 Auditing and Review

The Environmental Representative will review the EMP and its operation and implementation at least every six months from construction commencement. Between the scheduled reviews, a register of issues will be maintained to ensure that any issue raised by internal and external personnel associated with the project is recorded.

The purpose of the review is to ensure that the system is meeting the requirements of the standards, policies and objectives and if not to amend the EMP to meet the 'short falls'. A report will be provided to the Project Director with any recommendations for change to the system. The Project Director will review and approve changes to the system.

The review will consider:

- Site personnel comments
- Agency comments
- Audit findings
- Environmental monitoring records
- Complaints
- Inspections
- Details of corrective and preventative actions taken
- Environmental non-conformances
- Incident reports
- Changes in organisation structures and responsibilities
- The extent of compliance with objectives and targets
- The effect of changes in Standards and legislation.

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