

9 August 2024

**Mallee Wind Farm (2023/09500) - Section 156 Request for a Variation to a Proposal**

██████████ | Assessment Officer

Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water  
Ngunnawal Country,  
John Gorton Building, King Edward Terrace,  
Parkes ACT 2600, GPO Box 3090

Dear ██████████,

This letter requests a Variation to Proposal for the Mallee Wind Farm (2023/09500) in accordance with Section 156 of the Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act. The following sections provide information regarding the requested variation as required by EPBC Act Regulations 5.07 and 5.08.

**1. Details of the proposed variation to the action**

The details of the proposed variation to the action are outlined in Table 1 below.

*Table 1 Overview of the proposed Variation to Mallee Wind Farm (2023/09500)*

<b>Project Element</b>	<b>Original Referral</b>	<b>Variation to Proposal</b>
Wind turbines	Up to 150 wind turbines. Maximum tip height 280m. Maximum hub height 170m.	Less than 150 wind turbines. Maximum tip height 280m. Maximum hub height 180m.
Direct Impacts	Development corridor of approximately 3,758 ha proposed in the Scoping Phase. Actual disturbance area estimated to be in the order of 600 ha.	Substantial reduction to a disturbance footprint approximately 450 ha.

Land within the Project Area	Six Land Parcels were included within the Project Area: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lot 7 / DP 1256363</li> <li>• Lot 1726 / DP763664</li> <li>• Lot 1727 / DP763667</li> <li>• Lot 3805 / DP 763156</li> <li>• Lot 1 / DP 756995</li> <li>• Lot 3 / DP 756993</li> </ul>	Addition of two (2) Land Parcels to the Project Area: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lot 3 / DP 1182353</li> <li>• Lot 1 / DP 1233260</li> </ul> <p>These Land Parcels have been included with an additional landholder that would host turbines as part of the proposed activity.</p> <p>See Appendix Figure 2.</p>
Workforce accommodation	Potential accommodation facilities for the project workforce.	A Temporary Workforce Accommodation (TWA) Camp is proposed within the project area. Further details of the proposed TWA are provided in Section 1.1 below.
No other variations are proposed.		

### 1.1 Temporary Workforce Accommodation

TWA facilities for non-local construction employees (where skills cannot be sourced locally) are proposed within the Project Area. The accommodation facility will be established early in the construction phase of the project and would accommodate up to 300 workers.

The indicative location of the accommodation facility is shown in Figure A2 (see Appendix A1).

The accommodation facility site would occupy a land area of approximately 3.5 ha and will include:

- modular and relocatable single rooms/quarters
- office building(s)
- mess area (including stores, kitchen and dining area)
- laundry facilities
- toilet and shower facilities
- car and shuttle bus parking area
- a medical centre or first aid room staffed by personnel with suitable first-aid/medical training

- recreation areas.

The layout of the accommodation facilities will be determined during detailed design. The facilities will use modular and relocatable single rooms/quarters and will be 'scaled up' and 'scaled down' based on construction workforce requirements.

During construction, the accommodation facilities will require water, telecommunications, sewage treatment, electricity, diesel, grease and waste management. This includes the following:

- Potable water will be delivered by truck, and stored in tanks that are connected to the units and communal infrastructure. Rainwater tank/s will be installed to capture water that can be used for non-potable functions such as toilet flushing, laundry, vehicle washing and landscape irrigation.
- An on-site sewage treatment plant will be installed and will produce treated wastewater that can be used during construction of the project. Subject to appropriate treatment, treated water may be used to supplement rainwater captured for non-potable functions such as toilet flushing. Any wastes associated with the sewage treatment plant that are not suitable for re-use on-site will be disposed of off-site to a suitably licenced facility.
- The cellular network will be used for telecommunications during construction.
- Electricity may be sourced from the local distribution network (where available), on-site using solar panels/batteries and diesel generation where access to the grid is unavailable.
- Diesel will be delivered and stored within bunded storage tanks that comply with the relevant standards.
- The accommodation facilities kitchens will be equipped with a grease trap that will be pumped out regularly.
- The accommodation facilities will generate putrescible waste, recyclable waste and general waste. Waste will be collected and stored in waste bins that are emptied and removed by truck to licensed landfill and recycling centres, which have the required capacity, at least weekly. No waste will be deposited on site.
- Minimal night lighting is expected to be required at the TWA and would be limited to locations within the camp where it is essential for safety reasons. Where lighting is required low brightness lights will be used that would not be visible to off-site receptors.

On-site sewerage collection/treatment infrastructure will continue to be used during operation.

**2. The reasons for the proposed variation**

Through the preparation of the NSW Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) significant refinements have been made to avoid and minimise the environmental impacts of the project. These changes result in a significant reduction in the project’s impacts and are illustrated in the Figures provided in Appendix 1. This outcome is achieved despite the introduction of two (2) additional lots to the Project Area i.e. the footprint is smaller than what was included in the EPBC Act Referral (EPBC 2023/09500).

**3. How the impacts of the proposed variation on matters of national environmental significance compare with those of the original proposal**

With respect to Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) these changes would reduce the project’s overall impacts and no additional (or new) impacts to MNES would be introduced as a result. The potential for the elements of the proposed Variation to impact upon MNES is described in Table 2 below.

Table 2 Summary of Variation Impacts to MNES

<b>Project Element</b>	<b>Variation to Proposal</b>	<b>Impacts on MNES</b>
Wind Turbines	Less than 150 Wind Turbines required. Slight increase in maximum hub height from 170m to 180m. No change in maximum tip height of 280m.	A reduction to less than 150 wind turbines will result in a lower likelihood of impacts to MNES from operational turbines. The slight increase in hub height would not alter the extent or type of potential impacts to MNES utilising the project area.
Direct Impacts	Substantial reduction to a disturbance footprint approximately 450 ha.	The proposed variation would result in a smaller area of direct impacts. This would reduce impacts to MNES listed threatened species and communities.
Land within the Project Area	Addition of two Land Parcels to the Project Area: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lot 3 / DP 1182353</li> <li>• Lot 1 / DP 1233260</li> </ul>	The additional land parcels would host wind turbines and ancillary infrastructure within cleared cropping land that does not provide habitat for listed threatened species or communities. The land parcels are adjacent to the existing project area. Works within the land would result in no additional impacts or proximity to MNES including World Heritage Properties, National Heritage

		Properties, listed threatened species, communities or migratory species.
Workforce accommodation	A TWA Camp is proposed within the project area.	The TWA would be entirely within the original project area and involves activities already contemplated within the project's referral. The TWA would be sited within cleared cropping land that does not provide habitat for listed threatened species or communities. Therefore the TWA is not expected to result in any additional impacts to MNES.
No other variations are proposed.		

**4. If applicable, the impacts of the proposed variation on matters of national environmental significance not considered in the referral or assessment of the original proposal**

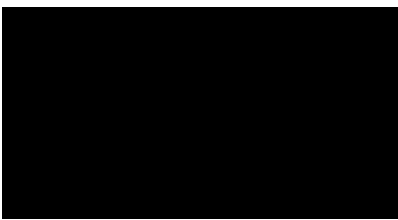
There would be no change to the EPBC Act controlling provisions for the proposed action, which are:

- i. World Heritage Properties (sections 12 and 12A)
- ii. National Heritage Places (sections 15B and 15C)
- iii. listed threatened species and communities (sections 18 and 18A)
- iv. listed migratory species (sections 20 and 20A).

**Closing**

This letter is provided to request a Variation to Proposal for the Mallee Wind Farm (2023/09500) in accordance with Section 156 of the EPBC) Act. Should you have any questions regarding this letter please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

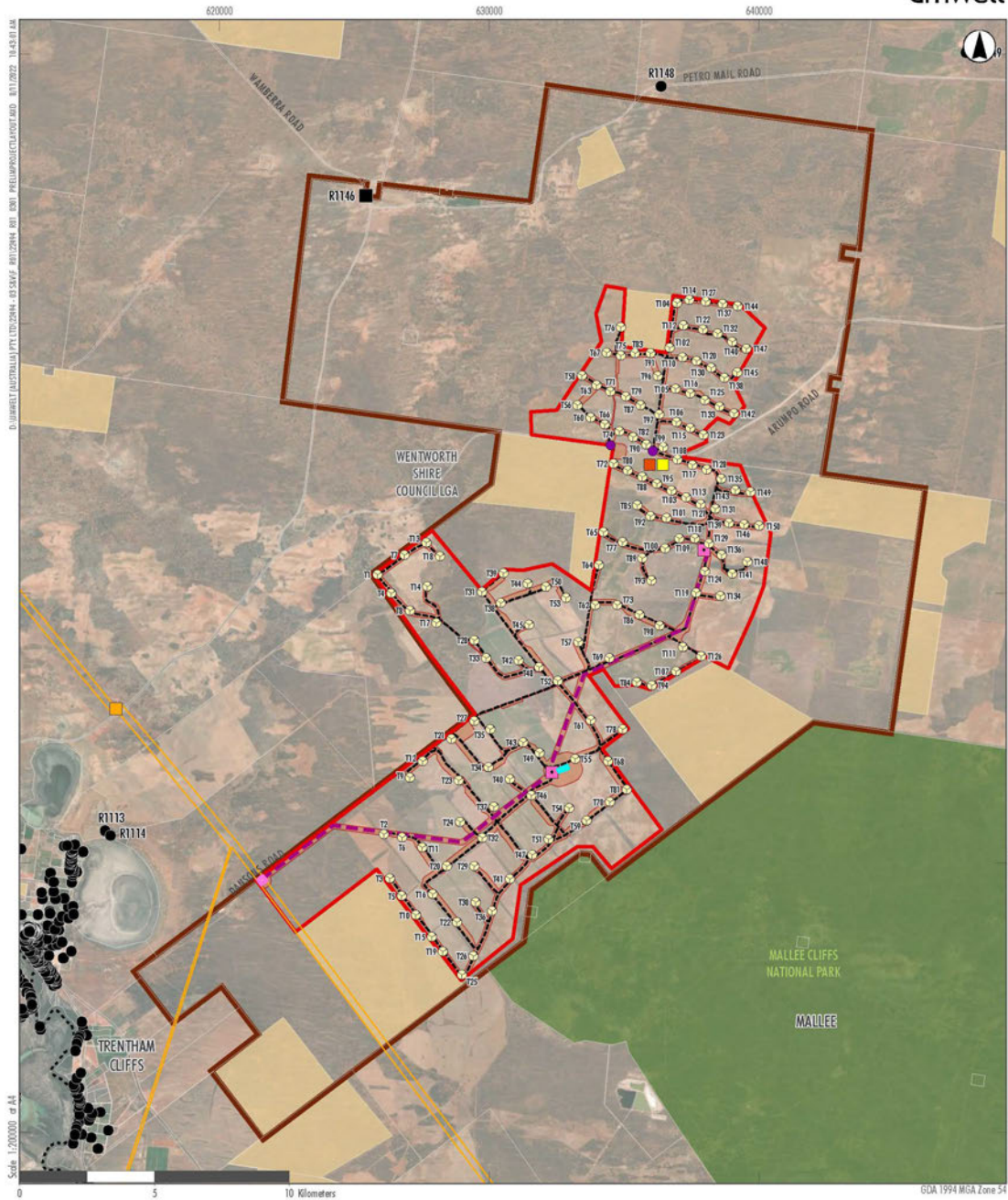
Sincerely,



Development Manager | Spark Renewables



# Appendix Figure 1 – Original Project Layout at Referral



- Legend**
- Project Boundary
  - Host Landholder Boundary
  - Lot Boundary
  - National Parks (NPWS Estate)
  - C2 Environmental Conservation - Land Zoning
  - Project EnergyConnect Corridor
  - Buronga Substation
  - Dwellings
    - Host Landholder Dwellings
    - Non-associated Landholder Dwellings
- Project Infrastructure**
- Potential Transmission Line
  - Potential Access Tracks
  - Potential Wind Turbine Generator Locations
  - Potential Internal Substation Locations
  - Operations & Maintenance Facility
  - Construction Site Compound
  - Site Entrances
- Development Corridor**
- Development Corridor
  - Potential BESS Location
  - Potential Switchyard Substation

FIGURE 3.1

Preliminary Project Layout

Image Source: ESRI (2022) Data source: DSFI (2020)

# Appendix Figure 2 – Indicative Revised Design Subject to Variation



## APPENDIX FIGURE 1.1

### Mallee Wind Farm Design Refinements

- Legend**
- Project Boundary
  - ▭ Disturbance Footprint (Indicative for clarity)
  - Wind Turbine Generators
  - ▲ Permanent Meteorological Masts
  - Access Points
  - Access Tracks Connecting Hardstands
  - Local Transport Route
  - HV Transmission Line
  - Temporary Workforce Accommodation (TWA)
  - Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)
  - Collector Substation and Switchyard
  - Construction Compound
  - Operations and Maintenance Facility
  - Switchyard
  - New Lot and DP since Scoping Phase
  - Lot and DP in Scoping Phase
  - NPWS Estate
  - Water Body
  - Watercourse
  - Road
  - Project EnergyConnect



0 2 4  
Kilometres

Scale 1:215,000 at A4  
GDA2020 MGA Zone 54

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