

Palmer



WIND FARM

Community Engagement Summary

The Palmer Wind Farm (the Project) will help secure the reliability of Australia's electricity grid while reducing Australia's carbon footprint by generating up to 288MW of clean energy. That's enough to power up to 144,000 South Australian homes. The Project will also bring investment and benefits to the surrounding community.

Recent advances in turbine technology mean we can significantly reduce the Project area with fewer, taller turbines and bigger setbacks from existing dwellings. This change will more than halve the number of turbines required and reduce the Project area by over 5,000 hectares.

This report provides a summary of the feedback Tilt Renewables received regarding the Project from community members in 2023 and provides answers to the key questions raised.






Tilt Renewables will continue to consult with neighbours and the broader community throughout the development of the Project.

In 2024, we will talk to the community as the Project continues through the planning stage and gets ready for construction.

How we engaged in 2023

In 2023, Tilt Renewables engaged with the community through written, online, telephone, and face-to-face communications.

In 2023, we:

-  Answered 50 phone calls
-  Received and responded to a total of 383 emails
-  Distributed 2 newsletters to 650 people
-  Held 30+ meetings with community and stakeholders
-  Welcomed 116 people to our Drop-in sessions

Hover over the QR code below to visit the **Palmer Wind Farm website** for more information.



Engagement in 2023

In 2023, Tilt Renewables continued to engage our neighbours, prioritising those closest to the turbines before broadening engagement to the wider community.

Since the Project was first approved in 2015, advances in wind farm technology have meant we were better able to respond to concerns about the number of turbines.

We **reduced the number of turbines from 103** (in 2019) to **up to 40** (in November 2023), while creating a similar amount of clean energy.

This reduction has reduced the Project area by over 5,000 hectares. For further information the changes to the Project design, please see the Project website www.palmerwindfarm.com.au.

Key engagement activities in 2023 included:

- Advertisements, to promote the drop-in sessions, in the Barossa Leader and Murray Valley Standard in May and October 2023.
- Briefings and letters to Mid Murray Council and councillors.
- Briefings to local community groups.
- Five drop-in sessions altogether, held in Palmer, Tungkillo and Mount Pleasant. The sessions were held on the following dates:
 - 29th of May 2023
 - 15th November 2023
 - 16th of November 2023
- E-newsletter updates to the email distribution list.
- Letters to more than 650 neighbours adjoining the proposed wind farm site in February and October.
- Meetings and phone calls with neighbours.
- Updates to the project website www.palmerwindfarm.com.au.



Community feedback

Across 2023, community members and stakeholders asked many questions and gave feedback on the Varied Project design, and how construction and operations will impact them. The below table outlines key community feedback and questions, and how the Project has responded to each.

Feedback	Project Team Response
The Approved and Varied Project design Key feedback included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interest in the difference between the Approved and Varied Project design, including the increased setbacks from dwellings and increased turbine heights. Support for the overall Project and the need to generate more renewable energy. Support for reduction in the Project area and reduction in turbines. Support for moving the northern turbines further south from property boundaries. 	<p>We are proposing to improve the design of the Project by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reducing the maximum number of turbines from 103 to 40. Reducing the Project area by more than 5,000 hectares. Significantly reducing the impacts of the Project, particularly in the northern half of the Approved Project. <p>The Varied Project has been designed in accordance with the South Australian Planning and Design Code. The code includes minimum setback requirements from wind turbines to non-associated dwellings of at least 1.5 kilometres. A non-associated dwelling is a dwelling we do not have an agreement with for the development or operation of the Project.</p>
Location of the Project Why is the Project located near Tungkillo, Palmer and Mount Pleasant?	<p>The location is ideal for a wind farm because it:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has a good wind resource close to where the power can be used. Has an existing switchyard avoiding the need to build new transmission lines outside the wind farm. Avoids the Barossa Character Preservation Overlay to the North west of the Project area.
Visual assessments Would the Project result in less or more visual impact with fewer, taller turbines?	<p>Wind turbines change the landscape, and we appreciate that some people moved to the region hoping the landscape would not change.</p> <p>Overall, the Varied Project has significantly less visual impacts than the Approved Project. A landscape and visual impact assessment has confirmed that the Varied Project will reduce visual impacts for hundreds of dwellings through the removal of all turbines north of Angas Valley Road. The higher turbines will, however, have a greater visual impact on the area very local to the Project. To understand the degree of visual change to the landscape between the Varied Project and to the Approved Project, you can look at photomontages comparing the two designs from different viewpoints. These photomontages are available on the Palmer Wind Farm website.</p>
Noise levels What level of noise can surrounding residents expect?	<p>Wind turbines generate noise through the movement of the blades through the air, producing a swishing sound. The mechanical components within the turbines also create noise.</p> <p>South Australia has mandatory noise limits for wind farms to protect nearby residents around the wind farm. We have designed the wind farm to meet this noise criteria. During operations we will do more independent noise monitoring to confirm the predicted noise modelling. In the unlikely event the noise is more than the criteria, we would be required to ensure the wind farm operates within the noise criteria.</p> <p>For further information on noise levels, please see our Palmer Wind Farm website and look for the <i>Varied Design - Operational and Construction Noise November 2023</i> Factsheet.</p>

Community feedback

Feedback	Project Team Response
River Murray International Dark Sky Reserve What does the Project mean for the Dark Sky Reserve?	<p>We acknowledge that any potential aviation lighting may impact the Dark Sky Reserve.</p> <p>The Aviation Impact Assessment prepared for the Varied Project confirmed that aviation lighting is not required for the wind turbines. However, the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) is yet to provide their recommendations for the Project. CASA may recommend the installation of obstacle lighting on the wind turbines. Once we receive recommendations from CASA, we will provide the community with an update.</p>
Engagement with First Nations Peoples Have we been engaging First nation communities about the Project?	<p>First Nations peoples, and the Traditional Owner Corporations that represent them, are critical stakeholders for the Project. We want to ensure the Project involves the Peramangk People and protects Aboriginal cultural heritage.</p> <p>We will continue to engage with relevant representatives of the Peramangk People throughout the approvals process and during the construction phase of the Project.</p>
Impacts on flora and fauna How will the Varied Project impact wildlife, in particular birds (i.e. raptors)?	<p>During the planning for the Varied Project, we commissioned several ecological assessments to check historically recorded Wedge-tailed Eagle and Peregrine Falcon nest locations, and where they currently visit and nest.</p> <p>We continue to meet our existing commitments for protecting raptor birds and have increased buffers from the identified nests and suitable habitat.</p>
Transport network What will happen to local roads during construction?	<p>Wind farm construction generates heavy and light vehicle traffic when materials, machinery and turbines are being delivered to site. Special consideration must be made for Over Size Over Mass (OSOM) deliveries carrying turbine blades and other components. The proposed OSOM route from Port Adelaide to the wind farm site is via Sturt Highway. A transport impact assessment has been prepared for the Varied Project.</p> <p>A Traffic Management Plan (TMP) will be developed in consultation with road authorities to ensure that construction traffic is appropriately managed and uses approved roads only. Some roads may be upgraded before works begin so they are fit to carry trucks and oversize vehicles. As we progress through the next stage of planning, we will engage with community to plan around community events, school bus routes and other important activities.</p>
Emergency services How will the Project work with emergency services?	<p>The Project is expected to significantly improve emergency services access to the site by improving access tracks. Once operational, we will be able to immediately halt the turbines for safe aerial firefighting.</p> <p>The Country Fire Service (CFS) is an important stakeholder and will be consulted as part of the development of the relevant management plans for the Project. We have a long history of working with the Country Fire Service (CFS) and other emergency services at our wind farms. You can read more about fire management at wind farms in our fact sheet on the Palmer Wind Farm website.</p>

Further info?

If you would like further information, the following factsheets are available on the [Palmer Wind Farm website](#):

- Varied Design - Project Summary November 2023
- Varied Design - Visual Impact November 2023
- Varied Design - Operational and Construction Noise November 2023
- Varied Design - Noise Contour Map November 2023
- Varied Design - Zone of Theoretical Visual Influence map
- Fire Management for Wind Farms

Next steps for 2024

In 2024, we will continue to engage stakeholders, neighbours and the local community as we progress approvals to get the Project ready for construction.

Later in 2024, we will schedule drop-in sessions for the local community to:

- Speak with our Project team.
- Hear updates on the Project's progress.
- Provide feedback as the Project nears the start of construction.
- Discuss possible community benefits.

Sign up to receive updates:

Opt-in by hovering over the QR code or jump on the Project webpage and complete the form. Alternatively, send us an email or call us and we'll add you to the list.



Questions?

If you have any questions, get in touch by calling: 1800 WE TILT (938 458)

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