

# Palmer Wind Farm

## COMMUNITY SUBMISSIONS SUMMARY

### PROJECT SNAPSHOT

This document provides a summary of the submissions (also known as representations) received during the public notice period of the Palmer Wind Farm Variation Application. It also provides Tilt Renewables' responses to the key topics raised. This Summary should be read in conjunction with the Palmer Wind Farm Response to Representations Report and other technical documents.

### What is the Project?

**The Palmer Wind Farm (the Project) is a wind generation project which will provide a reliable and affordable source of electricity and help reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with energy generation.**

The Project will have a capacity of 288 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy, and will be able to power around 142,000 homes. The Project includes the installation, operation and decommissioning of the wind farm.

The Project is located in the eastern Mount Lofty Ranges, South Australia, approximately 50km east of the Adelaide CBD.

The Project will bring investment and benefits for the surrounding community, including 200+ jobs during construction. Tilt Renewables have also committed to a local community benefit programme of over \$7 million across the life of the project.

In summary, the Project includes:



**Up to 40 wind turbines**



**Internal roads and tracks**



**Temporary construction facilities, including site offices**



**Electrical infrastructure to connect the project to the electricity grid, including substations and other supporting infrastructure**

### Why is the Project needed?

Both the Commonwealth and SA Governments have made commitments to increase renewable energy generation and reduce carbon emissions. The Project will help provide cleaner, cheaper and reliable electricity while also reducing greenhouse gas emissions and the impacts of climate change.

The area surrounding Palmer is a good location for a wind farm because the wind resource is strong and consistent. It is close to the existing electricity grid and is on cleared farmland where grazing can co-exist with a wind farm.

## About the Project

### The Varied Project

The Project was approved in 2015 but we have made improvements to the design. 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 required a variation to our existing development plan consent.

The changes we made are:			
Reduction in <b>wind turbines</b> from	<b>103 to up to 40</b>	↓	(60% decrease)
Increase in <b>tip height</b> from	<b>165 m to up to 220 m</b>	↑	(33% increase)
Increase in <b>turbine power</b> from	<b>3.6 MWs to 7.2 MWs</b>	↑	(100% increase)
Indicative <b>Project capacity</b> from	<b>300 MWs to 288 MW</b>	↓	(4% decrease)
Reduction in <b>Project Area</b> by over	<b>5,000 hectares</b>	↓	(40% decrease)

### Public Exhibition Period

The Variation Application was placed on public notification for 15 business days from 10 October 2024 until 30 October 2024. The public were provided the opportunity to submit a representation about the Variation Application. They could say whether they support or object to the variation, and provide specific feedback.

### How many submissions were received?

340 submissions were made on the Varied Project Application, of which nine (9) submissions (3%) were in support and 331 (97%) objected to the Varied Project. Two (2) submissions were received from South Australian regulatory bodies.

While this report summarises all 340 submissions, the State Planning Commission found 280 submissions to be valid. Submissions were found invalid if they did not provide relevant information or if they raised issues not relevant to the Planning and Design Code.

During the public notification period, submissions were received from:

**12%** from the local area  
(Palmer, Tungkillo, and Mount Pleasant);

**44%** from the remainder of South Australia

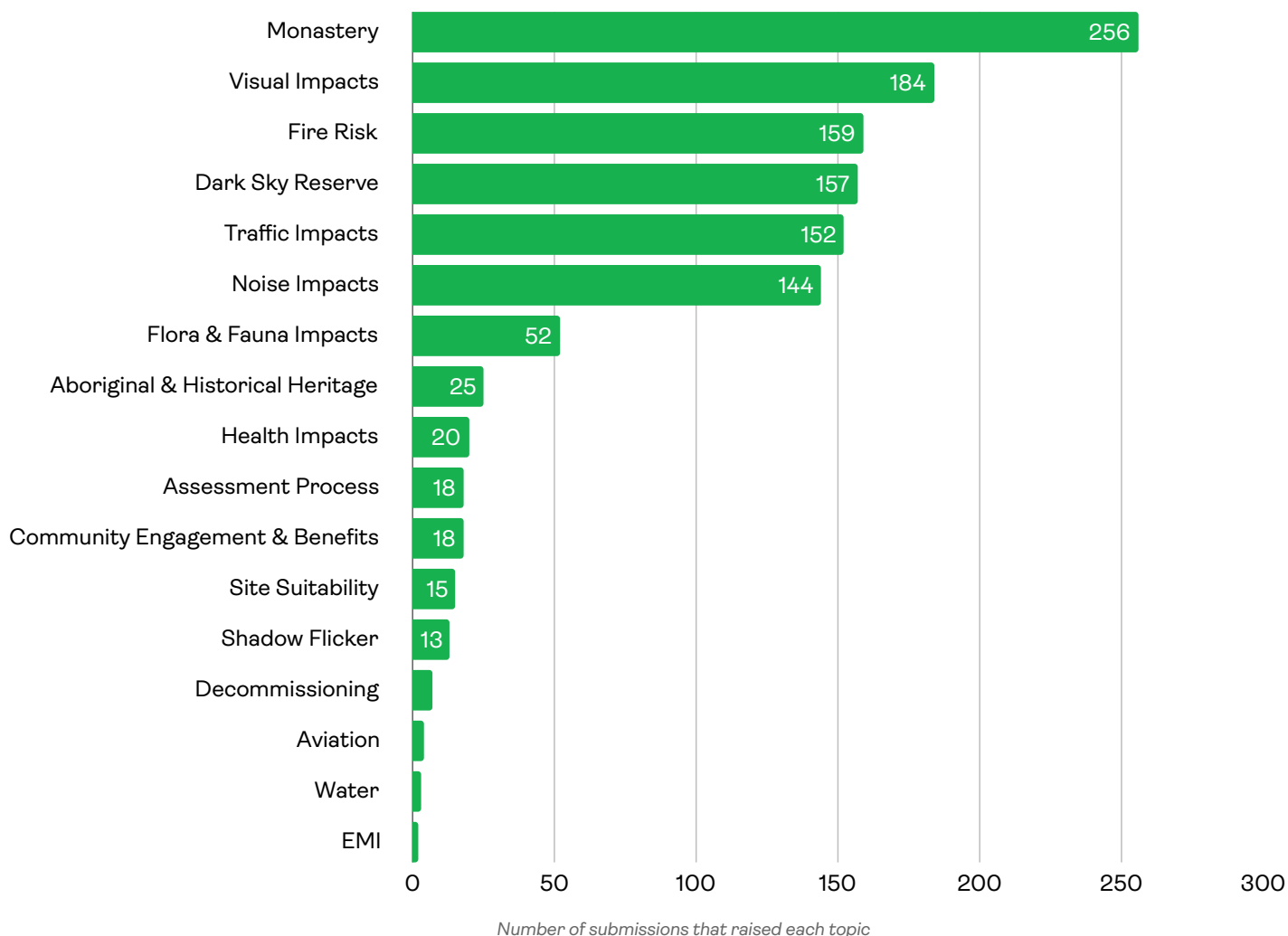
**43%** from interstate

*\*See these statistics on the Geographical map of submissions on the following page.*



## What topics were raised?

Tilt Renewables read and analysed all submissions to understand key issues and themes raised in relation to the Variation Application. Feedback was grouped into key themes which are shown on the graph below.



239 submissions (71%) were identified as supporters of the Monastery because they sent in the same letter or used similar wording based on a common template. Supporters of the Monastery raised six key concerns about the Project. These are the top six themes in the graph above.

## Tilt Renewables response to topics raised - 1/2

The following table provides a response to the top themes raised during the public notice period.

What topics were raised?	How has this been addressed?
<p><b>Impact to Bodhipala Monastery’s ability to operate as a place of worship</b></p>	<p>The Project was approved before Bodhipala Monastery purchased the property. The wind farm was well known to the Monastery management committee as they signed a Neighbourhood Deed with Tilt Renewables when they purchased the land.</p> <p>Tilt Renewables aims to have positive relationships with our neighbours. During the engagement for the Varied Project, we agreed to remove three turbines which were closest to the Monastery. The closest turbine is now approximately 2.5km from the Monastery buildings. The Project will comply with all noise and shadow flicker limits impacting the Monastery dwelling.</p> <p>We believe the Project will have very little impact on the day-to-day operations of the Monastery. We are committed to working with the Monastery through construction and operations to manage their concerns or any impacts.</p>
<p><b>Visual impacts</b></p>	<p>Tilt Renewables acknowledges that wind turbines change the landscape. We appreciate that some community members moved to the region hoping that the landscape would not change. However, the Project has an existing Development Plan Consent. The Variation Application only seeks to reduce impacts wherever possible.</p> <p>Based on the visual assessment completed for the Project, the use of larger but fewer turbines will reduce visual impact overall. Tilt Renewables acknowledges there is an increased visual impact for those close to the Varied Project from taller turbines.</p>
<p><b>Noise impacts</b></p>	<p>Wind farms make noise. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has mandatory noise limits for wind farms to protect nearby residents. The wind farm must comply with this, or it cannot operate.</p> <p>To make sure the noise limits are met, we design the wind farm so that turbines are not too close to dwellings. There are no turbines proposed to be located closer than 1.5km from any non-associated dwellings. Therefore, the Project will meet the relevant EPA noise criteria for all surrounding dwellings.</p>
<p><b>Flora and Fauna impacts</b></p>	<p>The Project aims to reduce the impacts to flora and fauna. This will be done by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reducing the project area</li> <li>• reducing the number of turbines</li> <li>• increasing the distance between turbines and raptor nests</li> <li>• minimising woodland habitat disturbance.</li> </ul> <p>The South Australian Native Vegetation Council has confirmed its support for the Project. They acknowledged that while some clearance of native vegetation will be required, the Project is located primarily on extensively cleared land of relatively low biodiversity value. The Federal Environment Department reviewed the Project and are confident that the Project will not significantly impact any Matters of National Environmental Significance.</p>

## Tilt Renewables response to topics raised - 2/2

What issues were raised?	How has this been addressed?
<b>Impact on the ability to fight fires</b>	The Country Fire Service has confirmed that fires can and have been fought aurally in South Australia. The Project will be able to respond quickly to bushfires in cooperation with the CFS and can stop turbines in their preferred position to allow aerial firefighting. The Project will also make access tracks and any water tanks available to the CFS for their use during firefighting.
<b>River Murray International Dark Sky Reserve</b>	The Aviation Impact Assessment confirmed that lighting on turbines is unnecessary for aviation safety in this location. Tilt Renewables advocated for a lighting-free solution to protect the integrity of the International Dark Sky Reserve. This resulted in the Panel deciding the Project did not require a condition for lighting on turbines.
<b>Traffic impacts during construction</b>	The Varied Project significantly reduces construction-related trips compared to the Approved Project. A comprehensive Traffic Management Plan will be prepared to ensure safe, efficient traffic flow while minimising impacts to local roads. The Plan will prioritise safety and outline how disruptions to the community will be communicated. We will engage community to find out the busy periods and do our best to avoid them.
<b>Protecting Aboriginal and historic heritage</b>	The Varied Project has been designed to avoid all heritage sites. We have also committed to robust heritage monitoring during construction. All heritage assessments previously and in the future involve representatives of Peramangk People. Heritage SA has confirmed that the Project complies with heritage standards.

## Planning Assessment Outcome

**Our Variation Application has now been approved by the State Commission Assessment Panel.**

The varied planning consent was granted on 27 February 2025. The varied planning consent will be available on the Plan SA Development Application Register.

It will take Tilt Renewables six or more months to prepare secondary approvals and finalise contracts. When these are complete construction will be able to begin.

Tilt Renewables will continue to consult with our neighbours and the broader community.

### Questions?

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

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