

Palmer Wind Farm

Fact Sheet
November
2023

Project Update Fact Sheet



The Palmer Wind Farm would help reduce Australia's carbon footprint by generating up to 288MW of clean energy when constructed. That's enough to power up to 144,000 South Australian homes. The project will also bring investment and benefits focused on 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 would more than halve the number of turbines required and reduce the Project area by over 5,000 hectares.

This factsheet summarises the proposed changes to the Approved Project, the expected environmental changes and proposed mitigation. Overall, the assessments to date have found the Varied Project would have a lesser environmental impact than the Approved Project due to the significant reduction in turbines, smaller level of ground disturbance and reduction in construction activities required.

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The Approved Project

The Palmer Wind Farm Project first received Planning Consent from the Mid-Murray Council in December 2015 for the construction and operation of 114 wind turbines and associated wind farm infrastructure. In 2019, the Project was authorised to proceed with up to 103 wind turbines.

The Varied Project - what changes are we proposing?

Recent advances in turbine technology mean we can significantly reduce the Approved Project area with fewer, taller turbines and bigger setbacks from existing dwellings. We have continued to refine the project following feedback from the community and the outcomes of the environmental assessments. The most significant change from the last update is the removal of the three turbines closest to the northern boundary of the Project.

Table 1 provides a summary of the proposed changes to the Varied design and Figure 1 shows the Varied design compared to the Approved Project.

Table 1: Proposed changes to the design

Item	Approved Design	Varied Design	Change
No. of Wind Turbines	Up to 103	Up to 40	60% decrease
Tip Height	165 metres	220 metres	33% increase
Maximum turbine power	3.6 MWs	7.2 MWs	100% increase
Indicative Project Capacity	300 MW	288 MW	4% decrease
Greenhouse gas emissions avoided annually	305,000 tonnes	292,800 tonnes	4% decrease

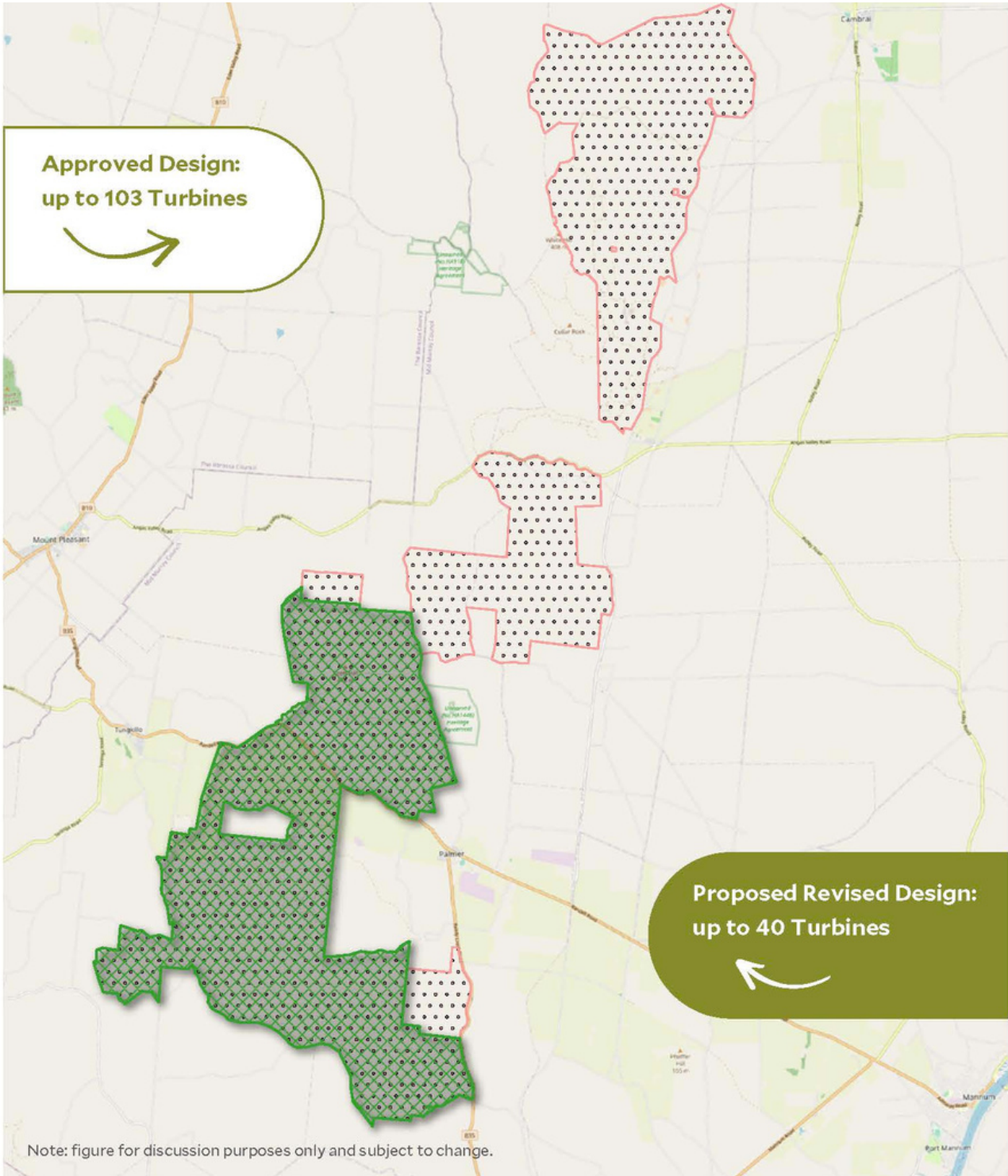
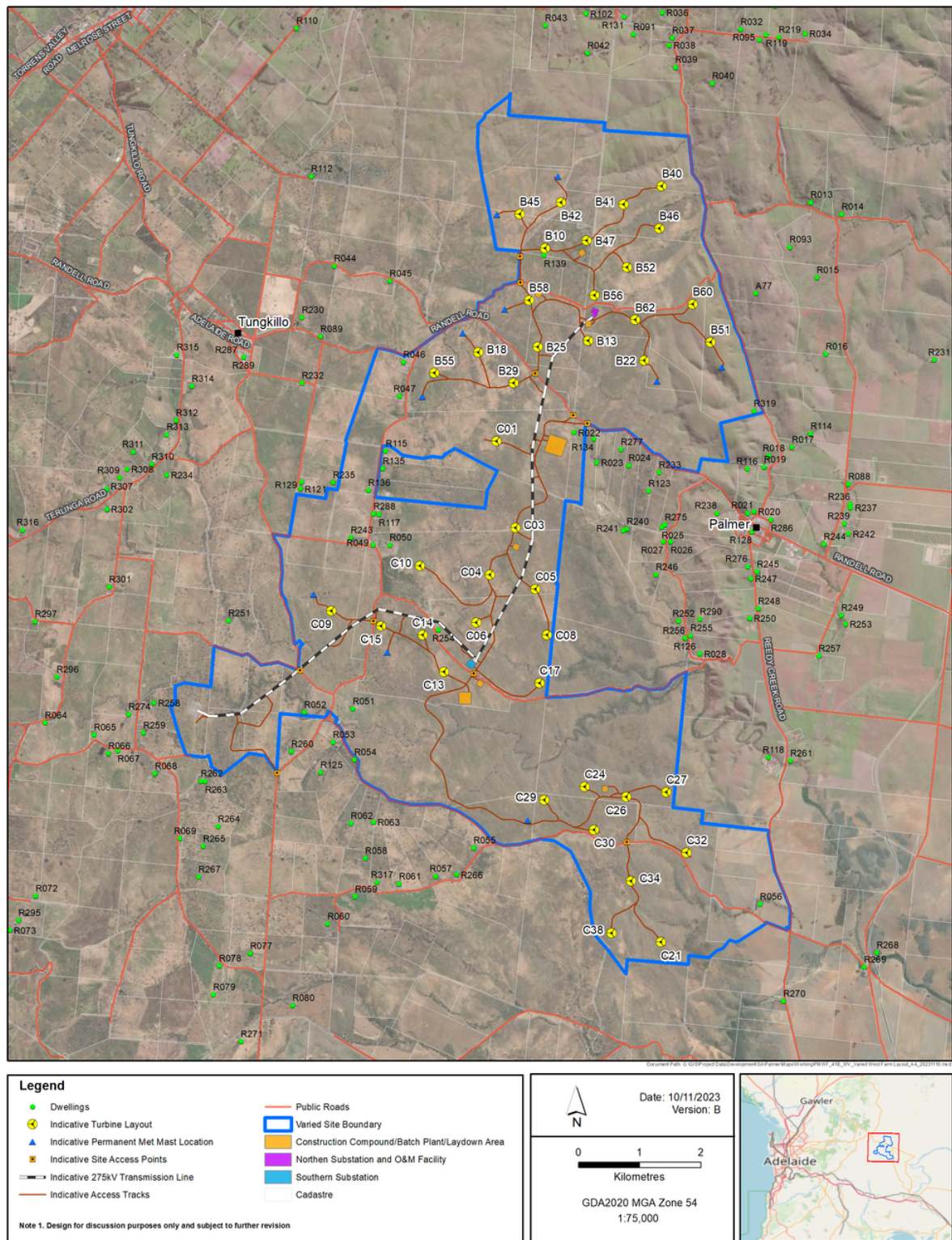


Figure 1: The Varied Project area

The Varied Design

Figure 2 shows the current version of the Varied Project with 40 turbines.



Palmer Wind Farm
Varied Project - Wind Farm Layout



Figure 2: The Varied Project design

What have we found?

The following tables summarise key assessment findings to date and how this compares with the Approved Project.

Assessment	Description of Impact	Mitigation	Change from Approved Project
Aviation	The Project is not expected to impact on aviation activities in the region and is located outside of controlled airspace.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None required pending further consultation with aviation authorities. • Requirement to install obstacle lighting on tall structures yet to be determined with the Civil Aviation Safety Authority. 	No change
Ecology - Native Vegetation	Up to 14 vegetation associations recorded across the Project, including Pink Gum Woodland (NPW Act listed). Significant flora species within the Project area include Pink Gum, Slender Mint and Hairy Tails (National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 listed).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Siting of wind farm infrastructure to avoid or minimise impacts to high value native vegetation. • Micrositing wind farm infrastructure around threatened flora where achievable. • Progressive rehabilitation and revegetation of disturbed areas. • Seeking native vegetation clearance approval under the Native Vegetation Act 2003 for impact to native vegetation. 	Significantly reduced level of impact
Ecology - EPBC Act listed species and habitat	Occurrence of Peppermint Box Grassy Woodland and Iron-grass Natural Temperate Grassland Threatened Ecological Communities known to occur in Project area. Four fauna species likely or known to occur in the Project area, being Southern Whiteface, Hooded Robin, Grey-headed Flying-fox and Diamond Firetail.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoidance of all EPBC Act threatened ecological communities. • Undertake risk assessment to determine potential impact to bird species and implementation of a bird strike monitoring program during the operation of the Project. • Referral of the Project for a controlled action decision in accordance with the EPBC Act. 	Reduced level of impact
Ecology - Fauna	10 threatened fauna species listed under the NPW Act likely or known to occur in the Project area, comprising 9 bird species and one mammal (Common Brushtail Possum).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Siting of wind farm infrastructure to avoid or minimise impacts to high value habitat. • Pre-clearance assessment of site for fauna present prior to commencement of vegetation clearance and construction activities. 	Reduced level of impact

Assessment	Description of Impact	Mitigation	Change from Approved Project
Ecology - Wedge-tailed Eagle and Peregrine Falcon nests	Up to 10 Wedge-tailed Eagle and 4 Peregrine Falcon nests have been located in and around the Project area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid impacts by implementing a 1km protection buffer from wind turbines around each nest location and potential Peregrine Falcon Habitat. 	Reduced level of impact
Electromagnetic Interference (EMI)	Nil to negligible impact anticipated to fixed point-to-point radio links. Minimal interference is expected on existing radio and tv reception.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre- and post-construction assessments of television and radio reception near to the wind farm and rectification should interference be caused by the operation of the Project. Further consultation with service providers to minimise impacts to radio technology systems. 	Reduced level of impact
Heritage	Historic heritage sites were identified in the Project area (e.g. walls, drystone dams and historic structures), however the Project avoids each of these. Aboriginal heritage also has been confirmed within the Project area following extensive surveys, with no formally listed heritage sites occurring within the Project Area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are siting turbines and other project infrastructure to avoid all identified sites. In the event new sites are uncovered during the construction we will stop works in that location and work with state government and the Peramangk/MACAI People to manage unexpected finds appropriately. 	Reduced level of impact
Landscape & Visual	The Varied design would significantly reduce potential visual effects on dwellings to the north and northwest of the Project. For more information see the Landscape and Visual factsheet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the setback to neighbouring dwellings and townships around the wind farm compared to the Approved Project. Visual screening will be put in place around substations and the operations and maintenance facility We will minimise light spill from any required lighting of operational facilities (where required) 	Significantly reduced level of impact

Assessment	Description of Impact	Mitigation	Change from Approved Project
Noise	During operation, individual turbines will generate noise. However, with the proposed setbacks from dwellings, the level of noise at non-associated dwellings is expected to be below the required guideline levels. For more information see the Project Noise fact sheet.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further noise monitoring will be undertaken on the commencement of operations to confirm the Project continues to meet the required noise levels. 	No change
Planning	The Varied Design Project complies with all the relevant setback requirements in the P&D Code and relevant overlays, noting that the Project is proposed within the Gas and Liquid Petroleum Pipelines Overlay and a Heritage Adjacency Overlay.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Project's design has taken into account the general development policies of the P&D Code. Undertake further assessment and consult with relevant referral authorities to take into account the provisions of the planning overlays. Undertake a detailed heritage impact assessment for State State Heritage Places in close proximity to the Project. 	Significantly reduced level of impact
Shadow Flicker	No non-associated dwellings will experience shadow flicker as a result of the Project. There could be up to four associated dwellings with shadow flicker levels greater than guidelines. However, agreements with these landowners acknowledge that shadow flicker from wind turbines may be higher than the relevant guideline levels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No further mitigation required 	No change
Transport	The changes associated with the Varied Project have reduced the number of wind turbine components required to be delivered as part of the Project. The over-dimensional and heavy vehicle routes have also been simplified by the more compact wind farm design and be less reliant on the local road network.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The final project design will be reviewed to take into account driver safety issues and appropriate mitigation measures will be implemented to address site specific issues. A Traffic Management Plan will be developed in consultation with local council and state government to minimise the impact on the local road network 	Reduced level of impact

Next Steps for the Varied Project

We are currently updating the environmental assessments to reflect the recent reduction from 43 to 40 proposed turbines. We expect that this reduction in turbines means a reduction in potential impacts or no change.

Once completed we will then submit our Development Application Variation – with the public exhibition likely to occur in early 2024.