



# **DUNDONNELL WIND FARM**

*Year 4 Annual Report*

*(EPBC 2012/6557)*

April 2023





## Dundonnell Wind Farm

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Dundonnell Wind Farm Pty Ltd  
ACN 133 651 019

GPO Box 16080  
Collins Street West  
Melbourne  
Victoria, 8007  
Australia

Phone: +61 3 9654 3066

**[tiltrenewables.com](http://tiltrenewables.com)**



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## 1.0 Introduction

The Commonwealth approved the Dundonnell Wind Farm (the Project) (EPBC 2012/6557) on 26 August 2016 subject to a number of conditions. The approval was granted following assessment via an Environment Effects Statement accredited assessment process, under the Bilateral agreement between the Commonwealth and Victoria.

The purpose of this document is to demonstrate that there has been compliance with the conditions of the EPBC approval for the Project (EPBC 2012/6557) (the Approval) and to satisfy Condition 13 of the Approval, which states:

*Within three months of every 12-month anniversary of the commencement of construction of each stage, the approval holder must publish a report on their website addressing compliance with each of the conditions of this approval, including implementation of any management plans as specified in the conditions. Documentary evidence providing proof of the date of publication and non-compliance with any of the conditions of this approval must be provided to the Department at the same time as the compliance report is published. The approval holder must continue to publish the report until such time as agreed to in writing by the Minister.*

The approval holder is the Dundonnell Wind Farm Pty Ltd (DDWFPL) which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Tilt Renewables Australia Pty Ltd (Tilt Renewables).

The Proposed Action as described by EPBC 2012/6557 (detailed in Section 2) involves the construction of a wind energy facility and associated infrastructure including a transmission line. Action commenced for each of these stages as follow:

- **Wind Energy Facility** – Action commenced on the wind energy facility stage on 16 January 2019 as notified by DDWFPL to the Department of Environment (the Department) in a letter dated 25 January 2019.
- **Transmission Line** – Action commenced on the transmission line stage on 21 February 2019 as notified by DDWFPL to the Department in a letter dated 4 March 2019.

The first, second and third annual reports (Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 Annual Reports respectively) were prepared to satisfy Condition 13 of the Approval, demonstrating how the Project had complied with the conditions of the Approval each year since the Approval had been granted. The Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 Annual Reports are available on [Tilt Renewables' website](#).

This is the fourth annual report (Year 4 Annual Report), outlining how the Project has continued to comply with the conditions of the Approval from May 2022 to April 2023.

## 2.0 The Action

The proposed action as described by EPBC 2012/6557 is:

*To develop and operate the Dundonnell Wind Farm, including the installation of up to 104 wind turbines and associated infrastructure, a powerline corridor and site access road; at Dundonnell, approximately 225 kilometres west of Melbourne, Victoria [see EPBC Act referral 2012/6557 and the variation request letter dated 3 July 2013].*

### 2.1 The Project

The Project is located in western Victoria, approximately 23km northeast of Mortlake and, approximately 225km west of Melbourne (Figure 1). It is entirely within the Shire of Moyne.

The wind energy facility stage of the Project is located on 11 farming properties, with 12 host landholders. Most dwellings within 2km of the permitted turbine locations (including four host landowner dwellings and three of four neighbour dwellings)<sup>1</sup> participate in the project.

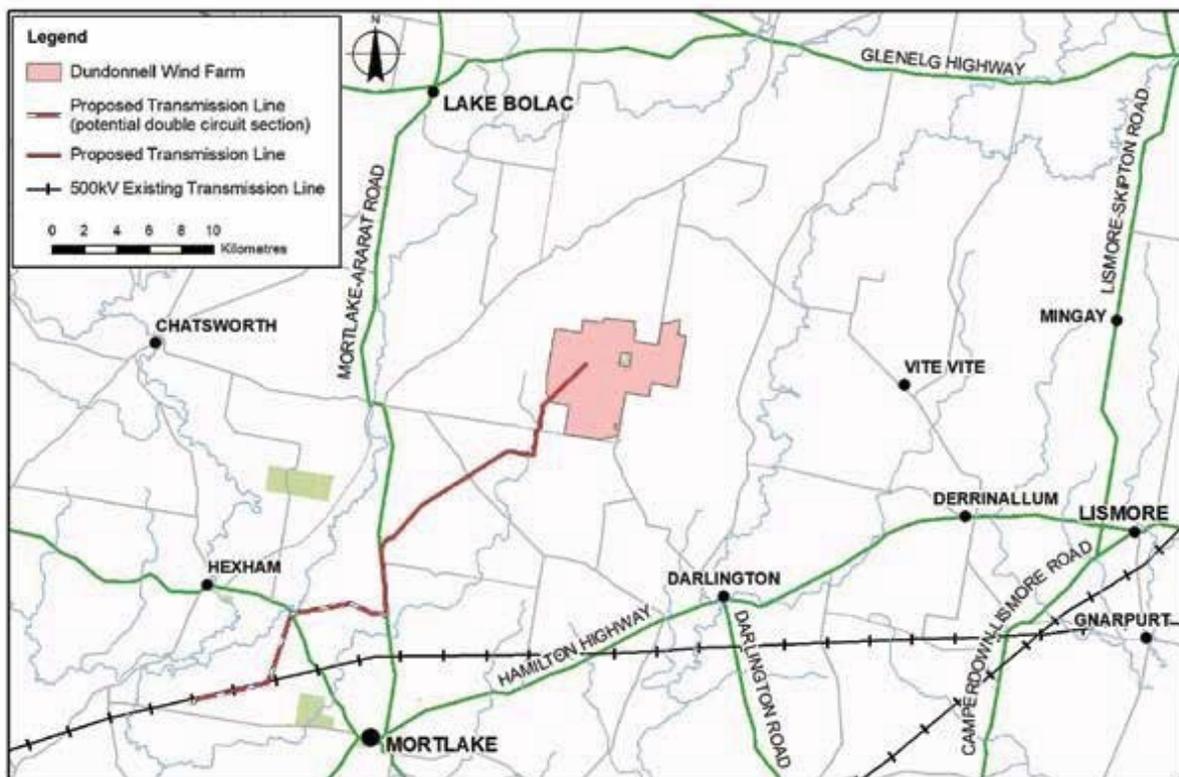


Figure 1: Site Location

The wind energy facility includes 80 turbines, with a blade tip height up to 189m, and an installed capacity of 336 MW.

The transmission line stage of the project includes a 220kV transmission line which connects the wind energy facility to the off-site Blue Gums Substation. The transmission line is approximately 38 km in length, at a maximum height of 42m and is established within an easement approximately 50m in width. DDWFPL has

<sup>1</sup> Additionally, there are four dwellings under specific commercial arrangements, either owned by the Proponent or under option to be purchased by the Proponent.

entered into agreements with 15 landholders to host the transmission line easement.

The wind energy facility site, transmission line easement and adjoining areas are primarily pastoral land used for grazing. Existing infrastructure at the wind energy facility site and on the surrounding land is predominately agricultural in nature and includes isolated homesteads, sheds, access tracks and fencing.

## 2.2 Works Undertaken (During Reporting Period)

The following activities have been undertaken since publication of the Year 3 Annual Report:

- Completion of commissioning and certification with testing results approved by the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) and final practical completion achieved on 17 June 2022.
- All 80 wind turbines fully operational

Construction of the connection assets, i.e., 38 km of 220 kV transmission line, augmentation inside the existing Mortlake Power Station switchyard (MOPS), and the 500/220kV Blue Gums Substation (BGS), was completed in early 2020.

### 3.0 Approval Conditions Compliance

Table 1 below demonstrates how the Project has continued to be compliant with the conditions of the Approval.

**Table 1: Approval Conditions Compliance**

No.	Approval Condition	Compliance	Comments
1	<p>The approval holder must not impact more than:</p> <p>a. 1.572 hectares of natural temperate grassland of the Victorian volcanic plain;</p> <p>b. 2.057 hectares of seasonal herbaceous wetlands (freshwater) of the temperate lowland plains;</p> <p>c. 5 spiny rice-flowers.</p>	Condition fully satisfied	<p>All major construction activities (e.g., those involving ground disturbance) have now been completed.</p> <p>The Project has not exceeded the thresholds specified in Condition 1 of the Approval.</p> <p>Risks to native flora and fauna from construction activities, including the species and communities listed in Condition 1 of the Approval, were, and continue to be managed (where still required) via the mitigation measures outlined in the wind energy facility stage Environmental Management Plan (EMP) and transmission line stage EMP, which were prepared in accordance with the relevant planning permit (Planning Permit No. 2015/23858 and Planning Permit No. PL15/075),</p> <p>These measures have included, and where necessary still include (but are not limited to) the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restriction of activity in areas of native vegetation not permitted for removal per the Endorsed Site Works and Native Vegetation Removal Plans.</li> <li>• Sediment and containment traps in addition to erosion control barriers.</li> <li>• Restricting vehicle traffic to designated tracks.</li> <li>• Clearly identifying 'no-go' areas on all construction drawings.</li> <li>• Demarcating 'no-go' areas with bunting and flagging.</li> </ul> <p><i>No update for current reporting period.</i></p>
2	<p>Prior to commencement of construction of the wind energy facility stage, to compensate for the impact of up to 0.666 hectares of natural temperate grassland of the Victorian volcanic plain the approval holder must secure an offset consistent with the EPBC Act Environmental Offsets Policy that contains at least 2.46 hectares of natural temperate grassland of the Victorian volcanic plain.</p>	Condition fully satisfied	<p>A single offset site was secured by DDWFPL (Cressy Offset) DDWFPL prior to the commencement of the action, via a Credit Trading Agreement (Trust for Nature) executed 13 December 2018.</p> <p>The single offset site meets the requirements of condition 2 and 3, relating to both the wind farm stage and transmission line stage.</p> <p>Furthermore, the offset site forms one contiguous area containing 5.86 hectares of natural temperate grassland of the Victorian volcanic plain and 6 hectares of seasonal herbaceous wetlands (freshwater) of the temperate lowland plains.</p> <p><i>No update for current reporting period.</i></p>
3	<p>Prior to commencement of construction of the transmission line stage, to compensate for the impact of up to 0.906 hectares of natural temperate grassland of the Victorian volcanic plain and up to 2.057 hectares of seasonal herbaceous wetlands (freshwater) of the temperate lowland plains the approval holder must secure an offset consistent with</p>	Condition fully satisfied	<p><i>No update for current reporting period.</i></p>

No.	Approval Condition	Compliance	Comments
	<p>the EPBC Act Environmental Offsets Policy that contains at least:</p> <p>a. 3.4 hectares of natural temperate grassland of the Victorian volcanic plain; and</p> <p>b. 6 hectares of seasonal herbaceous wetlands (freshwater) of the temperate lowland plains.</p>		
4	<p>The approval holder will ensure that the offsets required by conditions 2 and 3 will form one contiguous area containing 5.86 hectares of natural temperate grassland of the Victorian volcanic plain and 6 hectares of seasonal herbaceous wetlands (freshwater) of the temperate lowland plains when both conditions have been implemented.</p>	Condition fully satisfied	
5	<p>Prior to commencement of construction of each stage, the approval holder must provide the Department with:</p> <p>a. Written evidence demonstrating that an offset consistent with the requirements separately outlined in conditions 2 and 3 has been secured.</p> <p>b. A report prepared by a suitably qualified expert detailing the baseline vegetation quality of the offset site(s).</p> <p>c. Shapefiles capturing the spatial attributes of the offset site(s).</p>	Condition fully satisfied	<p>DDWFPL provided the Department with the information in accordance with condition 5 on 15 January 2019, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Written evidence demonstrating that the offset (as confirmed to be consistent with requirements of Conditions 2-4) has been secured, in the form of the executed Credit Trading Agreement.</li> <li>- A report prepared by a suitably qualified expert detailing the baseline vegetation quality of the offset site, in the form of the Offset Management Plan (which was previously reviewed by the Department) and which forms part of the Credit Trading Agreement.</li> <li>- Shapefiles capturing the spatial attributes of the offset site.</li> <li>- Following the site audit in December an updated signed revision of the Offset Management Plan was provided to the Department.</li> </ul> <p><i>No update for current reporting period.</i></p>
6	<p>By the 10 year anniversary of the commencement of construction of each stage, the approval holder must demonstrate that the offset site(s) has increased the baseline vegetation quality of natural temperate grassland of the Victorian volcanic plain and seasonal herbaceous wetlands (freshwater) of the temperate lowland plains by at least 2 value points each, consistent with the Department's offsets assessment guide.</p>	Condition to be satisfied	<p>This condition is required to be satisfied by the 10-year anniversary (16 January 2029) of the commencement of construction of each stage.</p> <p><i>No update for current reporting period.</i></p>
7	<p>The increase in baseline vegetation quality required in condition 6 must be verified in writing by a suitably qualified expert independent of the offset manager. The suitably qualified expert must prepare a report that details the results of an assessment that demonstrates that this increase has occurred. The report must be provided to the Department and be made available on the approval holder's website</p>	Condition to be satisfied	<p>This condition is required to be satisfied within 20 business days of the 10-year anniversary (16 January 2029) of the commencement of construction of each stage.</p> <p><i>No update for current reporting period.</i></p>

No.	Approval Condition	Compliance	Comments
	within 20 business days of the 10-year anniversary of the commencement of construction of each stage.		
8	The approval holder must comply with planning permit conditions where they relate to monitoring, managing, mitigating, avoiding, offsetting, recording, or reporting on impacts to protected matters.	Currently compliant with condition	<p>The planning permit conditions which relate to monitoring, managing, mitigating offsetting, recording, or reporting on impacts to protected matters, include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Wind Energy Facility Stage</b> - Conditions 38 – 51 (Planning Permit No. 2015/23858) relating to the preparation and implementation of Environmental Management Plan.</li> <li>- <b>Transmission Line Stage</b> – Condition 10 and 11 of Planning Permit No. PL15/075 relating to the preparation and implementation of Environmental Management Plan.</li> </ul> <p>The wind energy facility EMP was endorsed on 8 January on 2019, and an amended plan endorsed on 31 July 2019.</p> <p>The transmission line EMP was endorsed on 21 January 2019.</p> <p>To date, the Project has complied with the relevant planning permit conditions relating to protected matters.</p> <p><i>No update for current reporting period.</i></p>
9	The approval holder must advise the Department in writing of any proposed change to planning permit conditions for which condition 8 applies, within 10 days of formally proposing a change or becoming aware of a proposed change.	Currently Compliant with condition	<i>No update for current reporting period.</i>
10	The approval holder must notify the Department in writing of non-compliance or potential non-compliance with any condition of this approval for which condition 8 applies, within ten (10) business days of becoming aware of the non-compliance or potential non-compliance.	Currently Compliant with condition	<p>There has been no non-compliance or potential non-compliance with any condition of this approval for which condition 8 applies.</p> <p><i>No update for current reporting period.</i></p>
11	Within 10 days after the commencement of construction of the wind energy facility stage and the transmission line stage, the approval holder must advise the Department in writing of the actual date of commencement of construction of each stage.	Condition fully satisfied	<p>The Department was notified of the commencement of construction of the wind energy facility (16 January 2019) and transmission line (21 February 2019) via letters dated the 25 January 2019 and 4 March 2019 respectively.</p> <p><i>No update for current reporting period.</i></p>
12	The approval holder must maintain accurate records substantiating all activities associated with or relevant to the conditions of approval and make them available upon request to the Department. Such records may be subject to audit by the Department or an independent auditor in accordance with section 458 of the EPBC Act, or used to verify compliance with the conditions of approval. Summaries of audits will be posted	Currently compliant with condition	<p>DDWFPL currently maintains records substantiating activities associated with the approval.</p> <p><i>No update for current reporting period.</i></p>

No.	Approval Condition	Compliance	Comments
	on the Department's website. The results of audits may also be publicised through the general media.		
13	Within three months of every 12-month anniversary of the commencement of construction of each stage, the approval holder must publish a report on their website addressing compliance with each of the conditions of this approval, including implementation of any management plans as specified in the conditions. Documentary evidence providing proof of the date of publication and non-compliance with any of the conditions of this approval must be provided to the Department at the same time as the compliance report is published. The approval holder must continue to publish the report until such time as agreed to in writing by the Minister.	Currently compliant with condition	<p>This report has been prepared to satisfy this condition.</p> <p>The Year 1 Annual Report was published on the Dundonnell Wind Farm website on 16 April 2020.</p> <p>The Year 2 Annual Report was published on the Dundonnell Wind Farm website on 6 April 2021</p> <p>The Year 3 Annual Report was published on the Dundonnell Wind Farm website on 7 April 2022</p> <p>The Year 4 Annual Report will be published on the same web site: <a href="http://www.dundonnellwindfarm.com.au">www.dundonnellwindfarm.com.au</a></p>
14	Upon the direction of the Minister, the approval holder must ensure that an independent audit of compliance with the conditions of approval is conducted and a report submitted to the Minister. The independent auditor must be approved by the Minister prior to the commencement of the audit. Audit criteria must be agreed to by the Minister and the audit report must address the criteria to the satisfaction of the Minister.	Currently compliant with condition	<p>The Minister is yet to direct DDWFPL to conduct an independent audit of compliance with the conditions of the approval.</p> <p><i>No update for current reporting period.</i></p>
15	If, at any time after five years from the date of this approval, the approval holder has not substantially commenced the action, then the approval holder must not substantially commence the action without the written agreement of the Minister.	Condition fully satisfied	<p>DDWFPL has substantially commenced the action that relates to the approval.</p> <p><i>No update for current reporting period.</i></p>