

Stockyard Hill Wind Farm

EPBC 2016/7746

22 May 2019 to 21 May 2020

Annual Compliance Report 2020



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Prepared by: Goldwind Australia (GWA)

For: Stockyard Hill Wind Farm Pty Ltd



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ABBREVIATIONS

Approval Holder	Stockyard Hill Wind Farm Pty Ltd (ABN 71 118 119 501)
BB	Bush Broker
EMP	Environmental Management Plan (approved by DELWP under SHWEF permit)
Commencement	As per the Definitions in Approval
CTA	Credit Trade Agreement
DAWE or Department	Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment administering the EPBC Act 1999
DELWP	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
EPBC	Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999
EPBC 2016/7746	EPBC Approval No. 2016/7746
EPC	Engineer, Procure and Construct
GSM	Golden Sun Moth <i>Synemon plana</i> listed under EPBC Act 1999
GWA	Goldwind Australia Pty Ltd (ACN 140 108 390)
Ha	Hectare
kV	Kilovolt
LA	Landowner Agreement
Minister	The Minister administering the EPBC Act 1999
MW	Megawatt
O&M	Operations and Maintenance (Phase of Development)
OMS	Offset Management Strategy
SCADA	Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition
SHWF	Stockyard Hill Wind Farm
SHWEF	Stockyard Hill Wind Energy Facility comprising 149 wind turbines and associated facilities
SLL	Striped legless lizard <i>Delmar impar</i> listed under EPBC Act 1999
Strategy	See OMS, Offset Management Strategy
The Land	Project land as shown in Planning Permit and EPBC Referral/Approval documents
The Proponent	Stockyard Hill Wind Farm Pty Ltd (SHWFPL)
SHWFPL address	Stockyard Hill Wind Farm Pty Ltd Level 25, Tower 1, 100 Barangaroo Avenue, Barangaroo NSW 2000

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section	Title	Page
	Distribution	2
1	Introduction.....	7
1.1	Purpose of this document	7
2	Summary details of SHWEF Project, Location and Context	9
2.1	Project Context.....	9
2.2	Project Locality and Setting.....	9
2.3	Associated Planning Approvals.....	10
2.4	SHWEF Project Land	10
3	Details of SHWEF Project and Development Status.....	12
3.1	Approved Action.....	12
3.2	Details of Wind Turbines	12
3.3	Substation details	12
3.4	Other permanent infrastructure	13
3.5	Temporary construction infrastructure.....	13
3.6	Status of SHWEF Works.....	13
4	EPBC Approval Conditions and Proponent Responses	15
4.1	Overview of the EPBC Approval requirements	15
4.2	Condition 1a – Striped Legless Lizard Habitat	15
4.3	Condition 1b – Golden Sun Moth Habitat	15
4.4	Condition 2a – Covenant secured for Striped Legless Lizard Habitat.....	15
4.5	Condition 2b – Implementation of SLL Offset Management Strategy.....	16
4.6	Condition 3a – Covenant secured for Golden Sun Moth Habitat.....	16
4.7	Condition 3b – Implementation GSM Offset Management Strategy.....	17
4.8	Condition 4 – Notify Commencement.....	18
4.9	Condition 5 – Maintain records of all activities.....	18
4.10	Condition 6 – Annual Compliance Reporting	18
4.11	Condition 7 – Revision of Strategies.....	18
4.12	Condition 8 – Revocation of choice under Condition 7.....	19
4.13	Condition 9 – Condition 7 may not apply if including change to environmental offsets.....	19
4.14	Condition 10 – Minister advises revised strategy has a new or increased impact	19
4.15	Condition 11 – Minister may notify that Condition 7 does not apply for specified time.....	19

4.16 Condition 12 – Conditions 7 and 8 not limit the operation of Section 143A of EPBC Act..... 20

4.17 Condition 13 – Not Commenced after 5 years of Approval Date..... 20

4.18 Condition 14 – Publish all strategies on website..... 20

4.19 Condition 15 – Provision of Strategies to public upon request..... 20

5 Implementation of the Management Strategies 21

6 Conclusions..... 21

7 References..... 21

8 Appendices 21

Appendix A – Stockyard Hill Wind Farm – Details of Compliance with Conditions of EPBC Approval

Appendix B - Stockyard Hill Wind Farm – EPBC Act Compliance Reporting – SMEC August 2020

Appendix C - Stockyard Hill Wind Farm – Attachments for DAWE but not for Website

Figures

Figure 2.1 – Stockyard Hill Wind Farm – General Layout at 2020

Tables

Table 1.1: EPBC Condition 6 - Annual Compliance Reporting Requirements

Table 1.2 – Summary of Compliance for Conditions of Approval and Management Plans

Table 2.1 - Details of planning and environmental approvals for SHWEF

Table 2.1 - SHWEF Groups of Wind Turbines and Associated Infrastructure

Declaration of Accuracy

This Annual Compliance Report relates to the Stockyard Hill Wind Farm located in Western Victoria between Beaufort and Skipton.

The Annual Compliance Report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Condition 6 of the EPBC Approval, issued under the Environment Protection Biodiversity and Conservation Act 1999, in respect of the following Action:

Stockyard Hill Wind Farm, Wind Energy Facility and associated infrastructure, southwest Victoria (EPBC 2016/7746)

This Report:

- *has been prepared for submission to the Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment in accordance with the submission requirement of Condition 6 of the Approval and based on the anniversary of commencement of the Action, 22 May 2018;*
- *addresses each of the Conditions of the Approval and Management Strategies to describe the status of compliance with the respective requirements;*
- *provides an accurate account of the respective matters for the Approval and does not intentionally misrepresent circumstances; and*
- *Is made publicly available (except as indicated for Appendix C) through publication on the Stockyard Hill Wind Farm website (www.stockyardhillwindfarm.com).*

Jeff Bembrick

Development Compliance Manager, Goldwind Australia, on behalf of Stockyard Hill Wind Farm Pty Ltd.

21 August 2020

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of this document

This Annual Compliance Report describes the activities undertaken and relevant performance in respect of:

- **Project:** Stockyard Hill Wind Farm – Wind Energy Facility and associated infrastructure
- **Proponent:** Stockyard Hill Wind Farm Pty Ltd (ABN 71 118 119 501)
- **EPBC Approval:** EPBC 2016/7746
- **Condition No. 6** – Year 2 report under requirements of Condition 6 of the Approval.
- **Report period:** 22 May 2019 to 21 May 2020.
- **Project phase:** Construction phase for all of current reporting period

The report has been prepared by Goldwind Australia on behalf of Stockyard Hill Wind Farm Pty Ltd.

The report has been prepared in accordance with Condition 6 of EPBC Approval, EPBC 2016/7746, to fulfil the requirements of Condition 6. Table 1.1 lists the requirements of Condition 6 and the sections of this report where each requirement is addressed.

Table 1.1: EPBC Condition 6 - Annual Compliance Reporting Requirements

EPBC Approval Condition 6 Reporting Requirements	Details
Within three months of every 12 month anniversary of the commencement of construction, the approval holder must publish a report on their website	Due Date is by 22 August 2020
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The report to be published on the website must address: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ compliance with each of the conditions of this approval, including ○ implementation of any strategies specified in the conditions. 	See below:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ compliance with each of the conditions of this approval, including 	Section 4, and Appendix A
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ implementation of any strategies specified in the conditions. 	Section 4, and Appendix A
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentary evidence providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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. 	See below:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ proof of the date of publication, and 	Email/Letter to Department
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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. 	As per this report. No instances of non-compliance.
Report must remain published for the life of the approval	Ongoing requirement
Continue to publish reports until such time as advised in writing by Minister	Ongoing requirement

A summary of compliance status for the Approval Conditions and Management Strategies is shown in Table 1.2 and is expanded on in Section 4 and Appendices A (Compliance Tracker) and B (SMEC Report).

Table 1.2 – Summary of Compliance for Conditions of Approval and Management Plans

Condition	Compliance Status	Requirement	Date Completed
1a	Compliant	Clear less than 42.16 ha SLL habitat	In report period
1b	Compliant	Clear less than 1.57 ha GSM habitat	In report period
2a	Compliant	SLL Covenant secured	Previous report
2b	Compliant	Implement SLL Offset Management Strategy	Ongoing
3a	Compliant	GSM Covenant secured	Previous report
3b	Compliant	Implement GSM Offset Management Strategy	Ongoing
Administrative			
4	Compliant	Notify Commencement	4 June 2018
5	Compliant	Maintain records of all activities	Ongoing
6	Compliant	Annual Compliance Reporting	Ongoing - Annual
7	Compliant	Revision of Strategy – (Envisaged in Year 3)	Contemplated in next period
8	Not Applicable	Revoke choice under Condition 7	NA this period
9	Not Applicable	Exclusions to Condition 7 applicability	NA this period
10	Not applicable	Ministers decision on revised strategy	NA this period
11	Not applicable	Notify time Condition 7 does not apply	NA this period
12	Not applicable	Conditions 7, 8 not intended to limit operation of Section 143A in respect of revised strategy	Noted
13	Compliant	Not commence after 5 years of Approval without written agreement of Minister. (Approval dated 18 August 2017)	Commenced on 22/5/2018 (less than 5 years)
14	Compliant	Publish all strategies on the website	At time of submission
15	Not applicable	Provide copy of any strategy to members of public upon request within reasonable time	No requests to date
Definitions	For information		Noted
Offset Management Strategies for Year 2			Status Year 2
2b SLL	2.1	Undertake fencing repairs as required	Complies
	2.2	Conduct site preparation works for weed works	Complies
	2.3	Monitor populations of pest animals and conduct control works if required	Complies
3b GSM	2.1	Conduct weed control	Complies
	2.2	Monitor populations of pest animals and conduct control works if required	Complies
	2.3	Conduct monitoring for GSM	Complies
	2.4	Maintain fences	Complies
	2.5	Monitor biomass density and implement stock grazing regime or develop ecological burn/fuel reduction plan if appropriate	Complies
	2.6	Monitor and assess works, prepare 2 Yr report	Complies

2 SUMMARY DETAILS OF SHWEF PROJECT, LOCATION AND CONTEXT

2.1 Project Context

Stockyard Hill Wind Farm (SHWEF) is being developed in Western Victoria between the towns of Beaufort and Sipton. Construction activities commenced in May 2018 with commencement of the Action under the EPBC Approval EPBC 2016/7746, notified on 4 June 2018, as having commenced from 22 May 2018.

The construction is now well advanced with the wind farm scheduled to be operational towards the end of 2020. At the end of the 2020 annual report period (21 May 2020), all civil works had been formed and the installation of wind turbines was 60% completed (89 of the 149 wind turbines installed).

When operational, the wind farm's 149 Goldwind wind turbines will collectively produce approximately 530 MW of electricity sourced from the wind energy resources available at the site.

Once operational, SHWEF will providing a significant contribution to Victoria's renewable energy target and national greenhouse gas emissions reductions.

2.2 Project Locality and Setting

SHWEF is located in western Victoria, approximately 35 kilometres west of Ballarat (Figure 2.1). The site is within a sparsely settled rural lands within the Victorian Volcanic Plains and within the Pyrenees Shire Council municipality. The land where the turbines are located ranges in height from approximately 325 metres to 430 metres above sea level and within Glen Hopkins CMA. It spans parts of two bioregions, Central Victorian Uplands and Victorian Volcanic Plain Bioregion.

The site spans a wide area, approximately 25 kilometres from north to south and approximately 20 kilometres from east to west. The wind turbines are grouped in four discrete geographic areas North, East, West and South as indicated in Figure 2.1. Distribution of the turbines by Turbine Group is shown in Table 2.1 and Figure 2.1.

Table 2.1 SHWEF Groups of Wind Turbines and Associated Infrastructure

Turbine group	Number of wind turbines	Wind Turbine Numbering	Other infrastructure within each Group
North	15	WTG 1-15	access tracks, underground cabling, 1 permanent met mast, substation and internal OHL
West	54	WTG 16-69	access tracks, underground cabling, 3 permanent met masts, substation and internal OHL, 4 new access to RDZ1, Site compound, O&M buildings and Fire suppression water tank
East	43	WTG 70-112	access tracks, underground cabling, 2 permanent met masts, substation, 7 new access to RDZ1, Site compound, O&M buildings and Fire suppression water tank
South	37	WTG 113- 149	access tracks, underground cabling, 2 permanent met mast, substation, Site compound, and O&M buildings and Fire suppression water tank
Total	149	1 to 149	

The SHWEF site is accessible by sealed and unsealed roads, normally associated with low to moderate traffic levels, some of which have been upgraded in parts, for the project access requirements.

The wind farm is situated on privately-owned land which is used for pastoral purposes and has scattered residential development. The project area is subject to leases between SHWFPL and respective landowners allowing the wind farm activities to be undertaken in accordance with the commercial provisions of the respective leases.

The biodiversity values for the project area have been significantly reduced by many years of pastoral activities but, nevertheless include threatened flora species and native vegetation communities and a number of threatened fauna species. Parts of the project area have been set aside for conservation purposes as part of biodiversity offset provisions arising from the project's unavoidable impacts on the location's biodiversity and native vegetation credits have also been secured prior to commencement of construction. The secured offset credits relate to provisions of the EPBC Approval (Conditions 2 and 3) and the Victorian planning permit (Condition 18).

SMEC has also reviewed impacts on Threatened Species and Communities listed under the EPBC Act and details are provided in Appendix B (Section 3.3). It is noted that the impact on Natural Temperate Grasslands of the Victorian Volcanic Plain increased from an estimated 0.08 hectares to 0.121 hectares as described in Appendix B. The overall increase was assessed by SMEC as 0.041 hectares and was '*considered unlikely to constitute a 'significant impact' under condition thresholds the EPBC Act Significant Impact Guidelines (SEWPAC 2011).*'

2.3 Associated Planning Approvals

In addition to the EPBC approval for the SHWEF Project, the development is permitted under Planning Permit PL-SP/05/0548/B that has been issued by the Victorian Minister for Planning and amended on two occasions.

The Victorian planning permit for SHWEF, was initially issued by the Minister for Planning on 26 October 2010 and has been amended on two occasions, of most relevance in 2017 to provide for a project comprising 149 wind turbines on the layout shown in Figure 2.1 that has been micro-sited generally in accordance with the endorsed Condition 1 Development Plans for SHWEF (consistent with Condition 2).

A quarry was also established with the wind farm area under separate approvals and not within areas of mapped native vegetation.

A 132kV high voltage electricity transmission easement has also been constructed between SHWEF and a new 500 kV Terminal Station some 70 kilometres to the south of the wind farm project. The line has separate permits for native vegetation approval. The line has been constructed by AusNet Services and will be owned and operated by AusNet Services.

2.4 SHWEF Project Land

The land on which the SHWEF is located is rural land with mostly gently sloping terrain, where Stockyard Hill and Nanimia Hill are elevated features within the project area. The land does also rise to the north of the project area. Lower elevation areas occur between the turbine groups including the large expanse of Lake Goldsmith on the western side of the Skipton Road. The land in the vicinity of Stockyard Hill is characterized by the former volcanic structure at this location with a crater lake to the east of Stockyard Hill Road and land sloping away from the rim of the crater lake. There are also areas of irregular drainage pattern that is generally typical of areas of volcanic terrain in Western Victoria.

The locations of the four turbine groups are shown on Figure 2.1, the pink shaded areas are lands that are within the project area. The SHWEF infrastructure impacts only a small part of the project lands.

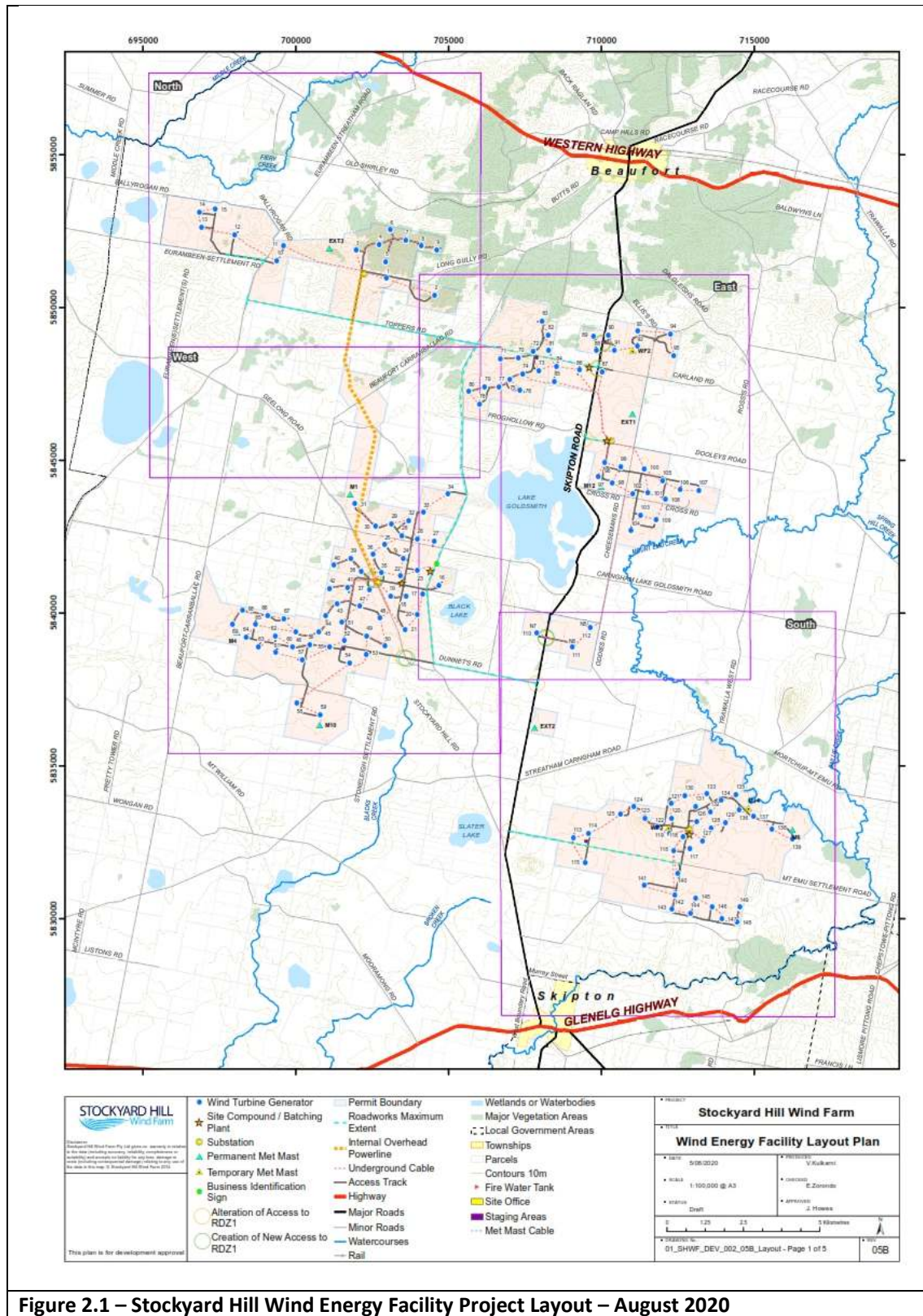


Figure 2.1 – Stockyard Hill Wind Energy Facility Project Layout – August 2020

3 DETAILS OF SHWEF PROJECT AND DEVELOPMENT STATUS

3.1 Approved Action

The EPBC Approval 2016/7746 allows the following Approved Action:

To develop and operate the Stockyard Hill Wind Farm and associated infrastructure in south-west Victoria, approximately 150 km west, northwest of Melbourne and approximately 35 km west of Ballarat [see EPBC 2016/7746]

The SHWEF layout (Figure 2.1) comprising 149 wind turbines, is currently being constructed generally consistent with:

- The referral for EPBC 2016/7746
- the Development Plans endorsed under the Victorian Planning Permit Condition 1 and, as modified in accordance with the Condition 2 micro-siting provisions.

The SHWEF project comprising 149 wind turbines has been subject to micro-siting that has not increased the impacts on biodiversity.

The details of the SHWEF project being implemented are outlined below in the context of the compliance reporting provided in this document.

3.2 Details of Wind Turbines

The project comprises 149 wind turbines. These are a combination of Goldwind's Permanent Magnet Direct Drive design (models GW140/3000, GW140/3400 and GW140/3570) with a total wind farm generating capacity of approximately 530 MW.

The wind turbines have key dimensions as follows:

- a maximum height (to highest point of rotor swept area) of 180 meters above ground level,
- a hub height of approximately 109 metres.
- The three bladed rotors are approximately 140 metres in diameter.

Near the base of each wind turbine tower are:

- an external kiosk-style 33kV transformer
- two banks of cooling fans. Cooling fluid circulates between the cooling fan units and the internal areas of the tower and turbine.
- A compacted hardstand area has been formed at each wind turbine site, for use by large cranes installing turbines and for component laydown during construction. These hardstands are retained for the operations phase in case large cranes are required for maintenance activities.

No aviation safety lighting is required on the wind turbines. Lighting is provided at the entry to each wind turbine tower. The wind turbines are off-white/grey with non-reflective finish as required by the Victorian Planning Permit.

3.3 Substation details

Three 132kV/33kV substations are located in the West, East and South Turbine Groups. A 33kV switchyard is located in the North Group and a 33kV transmission line provides connection of the North Group to the West Substation. The grid connection infrastructure (three substations and a

switchyard) are sited at locations that avoid impacts on native vegetation. These infrastructure elements comprise:

- Switch-rooms that receive 33 kV cables from each of the wind farm’s collector groups
- 33kV/132kV transformers are located at each of the three 33kV/132kV substations. The transformers are located in concrete bunds that provide containment for any oil spill or leakage
- landing gantry for conductors from substation to cut-in poles for the 132kV-kV transmission lines.
- Control rooms housing battery banks and electrical control equipment
- Various electrical protection and power quality equipment
- Security fencing around the substations
- Earthing grid below gravel cover for substation compounds, and
- Country Fire Authority (CFA) 4 m fuel reduction zone around the 3 substations and switchyard.

3.4 Other permanent infrastructure

The wind farm design also includes facilities as described below:

- Access track network from the site entry to all turbine sites and the substation sites (Figure 2.1), comprising approximately 101 km of trackwork.
- 33 kV collections circuits comprising 33kV underground cables between groups of turbines and the respective substation for the Group. Communications and control cables are co-located with the 33kV cables.
- An approximate 10 km section of 33kV overhead line links the North Group to the West Group.
- A Main Operations and Maintenance facility is located within the West Turbine Group adjacent, Stockyard Hill Road:
 - a compound surrounded by security fencing and including parking for service team
 - a building providing office desks, computer and communications facilities and amenities. As septic system is provided at the location
 - a warehouse with minor workshop
- Three remote facilities are necessary for the East, South and North Groups that provide meal room facilities and amenities for service personnel at these remote locations. Small Warehouses are also located at the East and South Substations
- None of the substation or O&M/remote facilities are located in areas of native vegetation.

3.5 Temporary construction infrastructure

The wind farm design also allowed for temporary construction infrastructure including:

- Construction compounds at each turbine group – to be removed when construction activities are completed. None are located in areas of native vegetation.
- Two batch plant sites (eastern and western sites) – Batch Plants now removed from site.

3.6 Status of SHWEF Works

Preliminary investigative works occurred in early 2018. Initial construction works commenced on 22 May 2018 (as per notification to DAWE on 4 June 2018). The project layout is shown in Figure 2.1. The full access network had been completed approximately 18 months later, by approx. end of 2019. Rehabilitation of the civil works has been ongoing and turbine installation works are continuing with

almost 80% of the wind turbines installed at the time of this report. Approximately 60% of wind turbines had been installed at the end of the current report period on 21 May 2020.

For the full reporting period, the project has been in the construction phase. Commissioning of wind turbines had not commenced by the end of the reporting period and was at initial phase at the time of submission of this report. Commissioning of turbines will continue over the latter half of 2020 and potentially into 2021. Full operations will commence in late 2020 or early 2021.

4 EPBC APPROVAL CONDITIONS AND PROPONENT RESPONSES

4.1 Overview of the EPBC Approval requirements

This report reviews compliance with:

- the 15 conditions of EPBC Approval 2016/7746 (Section 4 and Appendix A), and
- the implementation of any strategies required by this approval (Section 4, 5), specifically:
 - Striped legless Lizard Offset Management Strategy (Condition 2b)
 - Golden Sun Moth Offset Management Strategy (Condition 3b)

The review is supported by the SMEC Report of 21 August 2020 that provides the substantive evidence of compliance with the EPBC Approval Conditions and the Strategy requirements.

A summary of the compliance status for each of the Conditions is set out in Appendix A. The following parts of Section 4 provide further compliance details, additional to the summary detail in Appendix A.

A summary of compliance for implementation of management strategies is also described in Section 4 under Conditions 2b and 3b. Full details are provided in the attachments.

A number of conditions are not applicable to the current reporting period, as indicated in this report.

4.2 Condition 1a – Striped Legless Lizard Habitat

Condition 1a requires that:

The approval holder must not clear more than, 42.16 ha of habitat for Striped legless lizard.

SMEC, 2020 has reviewed the extent of final construction disturbance within the area of Striped Legless Lizard Habitat and reported that the total extent is 41.40 hectares, which is less than specified in Condition 1a by 0.76 hectares.

Accordingly, the works are compliant with requirements of Condition 1a.

4.3 Condition 1b – Golden Sun Moth Habitat

Condition 1b requires that:

The approval holder must not clear more than, 1.57 ha of habitat for Golden Sun Moth.

SMEC, 2020 has reviewed the extent of final construction disturbance within the area of Golden Sun Moth Habitat and reported that the total extent is 1.26 hectares, less than specified in Condition 1b by 0.31 hectares.

Accordingly, the works are compliant with requirements of Condition 1b.

4.4 Condition 2a – Covenant secured for Striped Legless Lizard Habitat

Condition 2a requires that:

To compensate for the loss of 42.16 ha of striped legless lizard habitat, the approval holder must secure the striped legless lizard offset with a covenant before commencement of construction;

In respect of securing a covenant for the Striped legless lizard offset, the details were reported in the 2019 Annual Compliance Report. In summary, the offset has been secured under a DELWP landowner agreement (BB-3036-LA01). As part of DELWP's oversight of the compliance with Offset management requirements, DELWP undertook a site audit in June 2019 and details are outlined in Section 3.1.2.3 of SMEC 2020 (Appendix B) and DELWP's audit record accompanies this report, for

the Department's (DAWE) information in respect of Conditions 2a and 2b. Requirements of Condition 2a have been complied with.

4.5 Condition 2b – Implementation of SLL Offset Management Strategy

Condition 2b requires that:

To compensate for the loss of 42.16 ha of striped legless lizard habitat, the approval holder must implement the Striped Legless Lizard Offset Management Strategy for the secured striped legless lizard offset.

Components of the implementation for Year 1 were reported in the 2019 Compliance Report. The relevant actions identified in the SLL Offset Management Strategy (EHP Feb 2018) for Year 2 are listed below with summary of SHWFPL response details. Further details are provided in SMEC 2020 (Appendix B). It is noted that SMEC was engaged by SHWFPL to undertake SLL monitoring in Years 1 and 2 and has also documented actions under the OMS in Appendix B. The landowner engaged Aus Eco Solutions to undertake direct seeding and rehabilitation works within the Offset Site. The landowner and SHWFPL are jointly involved with the implementation of the Strategy. DELWP also undertook a site audit in June 2020.

Year 2 Action 2.1 - Undertake fencing repairs as required surrounding offset area to ensure SSL offsite sites are secure.

Fencing has been maintained by the landowner during Year 2 and status reviewed by SHWFPL.

Year 2 Action 2.2 – Conduct site preparation works for weed works in Zones 1b, 1c, 2b and 3b.

As described in Section 3.1.2.2 (SMEC 2020) Appendix B, Aus Eco Solutions is providing native vegetation management improvements and monitoring and managing weeds.

Year 2 Action 2.3 – Monitor populations of pest animals and conduct control of works if required

As described in Section 3.1.2.2 (SMEC 2020), Aus Eco is assisting with monitoring and advice and the landowner is controlling rabbits and weeds including boom spraying. A controlled burn was arranged but not undertaken. Details of pest plant and pest animal management are provided in SMEC's 2020 report.

Monitoring for SLL was not a specific management action but was addressed by SMEC.

Details of monitoring for SLL are described in Section 3.1.2.1 of SMEC 2020.

Potential variation to OMS in Year 3.

The DELWP audit report has alluded to possible variations in the site management regime that may require variation of the OMS for Year 3. As required by Condition 7 any variation to the OMS would be notified to DAWE and DELWP and copies provided of the revised OMS.

Requirements of Condition 2b in relation to Year 2 Management Actions of the SLL OMS have been satisfied.

4.6 Condition 3a – Covenant secured for Golden Sun Moth Habitat

Condition 3a requires that:

To compensate for the loss of 1.57 ha of golden sun moth habitat, the approval holder must secure the golden sun moth offset with a covenant prior to commencement of construction. The golden sun moth offset must contain at least 9 ha of known golden sun moth habitat (Figure 2).

In respect of securing a covenant, for Golden Sun Moth offset, SHWFPL, entered into a Two-Party Agreement for an area 300 metres by 300metres (9 hectares) details of which were provided with

the First Year Annual Compliance Report. The agreement is referred to as Asset BBA-3027 – Landowner Agreement No LA02, Bush Broker Site Plan – BB-3027/LA02-01.

Requirements of Condition 3a have been complied with.

4.7 Condition 3b – Implementation GSM Offset Management Strategy

Condition 3b requires that:

To compensate for the loss of 1.57 ha of golden sun moth habitat, the approval holder must implement the Golden Sun Moth Offset Management Strategy for the secured golden sun moth offset.

Details of responses to Year 2 management actions specified in Table 2 of the Strategy are provided in SMEC 2020 (Appendix B) and key points are summarized below.

Year 2 Action 2.1 – Conduct weed control

Sections 3.2.2.1 and 3.2.2.2 of SMEC 2020 (Appendix B) provide details of weeds observed and required controls. The landowner is arranging for the required weed controls and is subject to site audits by DELWP.

Year 2 Action 2.2 - Monitor populations of pest animals and conduct control works if required

Pest animal management has been undertaken by the landowner. One rabbit burrow was recommended to be collapsed. Investigation was recommended for effect of grazing by Eastern Grey Kangaroos.

Year 2 Action 2.3 – Conduct Monitoring for GSM for 2 years after commencement of strategy

Monitoring by SMEC occurred over 4 separate days between 21 November 2019 and 9 January 2020. A total of 88 male GSM were recorded which is lower than some previous years but not inconsistent with other Victorian sites for the report period.

Year 2 Action 2.4 - Maintain fences

The northern property fence was identified as requiring maintenance. Internal offset perimeter fencing to the north and east of the offset site has been removed given that a new offset site is now immediately adjoining the Site shown on Plan BB-3027/LA02-01.

Year 2 Action 2.5 - Monitor Biomass density implement stock grazing regime or develop ecological burn / fuel reduction if appropriate

The landowner has responsibility for managing these aspects. SMEC 2020 (Appendix B) has reviewed the Offset Site in respect of 4 zones and described condition and grazing requirements.

Year 2 Action 2.6 - Monitor and assess works and prepare two year progress report

Section 3.2 of the SMEC Report (Appendix B) provides details of the Offset management and GSM monitoring and also refers to a DELWP audit of the offset area.

Full details of responses to the Actions are provided in the appendices to this report.

Requirements of Condition 3b in relation to Year 2 management actions of the GSM OMS have been satisfied.

4.8 Condition 4 – Notify Commencement

Condition 4 requires that.

Within 14 days after the commencement of construction, the approval holder must advise the Department in writing of the actual date of commencement of construction.

SHWFPL submitted a letter to the Department, on 4 June 2018, notifying commencement of construction on 22nd May 2018.

No further requirements apply for Condition 4.

4.9 Condition 5 – Maintain records of all activities

Condition 5 requires that:

The approval holder must maintain accurate records substantiating all activities associated with or relevant to the conditions of approval, including measures taken to implement the strategy required by this 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 on the Department's website. The results of audits may also be publicised through the general media.

This is an ongoing requirement, is applicable for this reporting period and has been complied with.

4.10 Condition 6 – Annual Compliance Reporting

Condition 16 requires that:

Within three months of every 12 month anniversary of the commencement of construction, the approval holder must publish a report on their website addressing compliance with each of the conditions of this approval, including implementation of any strategies 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. Reports must remain published for the life of the approval. The approval holder must continue to publish reports until such time as advised in writing by the Minister.

In response to Condition 6, SHWFPL has:

- Prepared this second annual compliance report, required by Condition 6.
- Published this report on website as per link here: <https://stockyardhillwindfarm.com/>
- Provides evidence to the Department of proof of publication (email direct to Department).

4.11 Condition 7 – Revision of Strategies

Condition 7 requires that:

The approval holder may choose to revise a strategy approved by the Minister under conditions 2 and 3 without submitting it for approval under section 143A of the EPBC Act, if the taking of the action in accordance with the revised strategy would not be likely to have a new or increased impact. If the approval holder makes this choice they must:

- i. *notify the Department in writing that the approved strategy has been revised and provide the Department with an electronic copy of the revised strategy*
- ii. *implement the revised strategy from the date that the strategy is submitted to the Department; and*
- iii. *for the life of this approval, maintain a record of the reasons the approval holder considers that taking the action in accordance with the revised strategy would not be likely to have a new or increased impact.*

During the report period neither of the strategies approved under Condition 3 have been revised. It may be that SHWFPL revises one of the strategies within the 2021 report period, in which case, the requirements of 7(i), (ii) and (iii) will be addressed, as required by those conditions.

4.12 Condition 8 – Revocation of choice under Condition 7

Condition 8 requires that:

The approval holder may revoke their choice under condition 7 at any time by notice to the Department. If the person taking the action revokes the choice to implement a revised strategy, without approval under section 143A of the Act, the strategy approved by the Minister must be implemented.

Condition 8 was not triggered during the 2020 report period. Its requirements are noted by SHWFPL.

4.13 Condition 9 – Condition 7 may not apply if including change to environmental offsets

Condition 9 requires that:

Condition 7 does not apply if the revisions to the approved strategy include changes to environmental offsets provided under the strategy in relation to a matter protected by a controlling provision for the action, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Minister. This does not otherwise limit the circumstances in which the taking of the action in accordance with a revised strategy would, or would not, be likely to have new or increased impacts.

Condition 9 was not triggered during the 2020 report period. Its requirements are noted by SHWFPL.

4.14 Condition 10 – Minister advises revised strategy has a new or increased impact

Condition 10 requires that:

If the Minister gives a notice to the approval holder that the Minister is satisfied that the taking of the action in accordance with the revised strategy would be likely to have a new or increased impact, then:

- i. *Condition 7 does not apply, or ceases to apply, in relation to the revised strategy, and*
- ii. *The person taking the action must implement the strategy approved by the Minister.*

To avoid any doubt, this condition does not affect any operation of conditions 7 and 8 in the period before the day the notice is given.

Condition 10 was not triggered during the 2020 report period. Its requirements are noted by SHWFPL.

4.15 Condition 11 – Minister may notify that Condition 7 does not apply for specified time

Condition 11 requires that:

At the time of giving the notice the Minister may also notify that for a specified period of time that condition 7 does not apply for the strategies required under the approval.

Condition 11 was not triggered during the 2020 report period. Its requirements are noted by SHWFPL.

4.16 Condition 12 – Conditions 7 and 8 not limit the operation of Section 143A of EPBC Act

Condition 12 requires that:

Conditions 7 and 8 are not intended to limit the operation of section 143A of the EPBC Act which allows the person taking the action to submit a revised strategy to the Minister for approval.

Condition 12 is noted by SHWFPL.

4.17 Condition 13 – Not Commenced after 5 years of Approval Date

Condition 13 requires that:

If, at any time after 5 years from the date of this approval, the approval holder has not commenced the action, then the person taking the action must not commence the action without the written agreement of the Minister.

The project commencement occurred within 5 years of the approval date and there are no further requirements of the Condition that are applicable to the project.

4.18 Condition 14 – Publish all strategies on website

Condition 14 requires:

Unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the Minister, the approval holder must publish all strategies referred to in these conditions of approval on their website.

In response to Condition 14, SHWFPL has published the following documents on the project website (<https://stockyardhillwindfarm.com/>).

- Cond 2b – Striped Legless Lizard Offset Management Strategy
- Cond 3b – Golden Sun Moth Offset Management Strategy
- Annual Compliance Report May 2018 to May 2019, published August 2019

A request to post this report on the SHWF Website will be made at time of its submission to the Department.

4.19 Condition 15 – Provision of Strategies to public upon request

Condition 15 requires that:

Unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the Minister, the approval holder must provide a copy of any strategy referred to in these conditions of approval to members of the public upon request, within a reasonable time of the request.

No such requests have been received for the reporting period and no copies of strategies needed to be provided. It is noted that the strategies referred to in the conditions of approval, are in accordance with Condition 14, published on the project website.

5 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

The compliance with requirements for Implementation of the Strategies specified in the conditions, specifically:

- Striped legless Lizard Offset Management Strategy (Condition 2b), and
- Golden Sun Moth Offset Management Strategy (Condition 3b)

is addressed in Section 4.5 (Condition 2b) and 4.7 (Condition 3b) with the supporting Appendices, particularly Appendix B (SMEC 2020) that provides details of the review of the implementation.

6 CONCLUSIONS

This report provides the relevant details required for satisfying requirements of Condition 6 of the EPBC Approval 2016/7746.

The report addresses:

- status of compliance with conditions of the EPBC approval, and
- status of implementation of the SLL and GSM Offset Management Strategies required by Conditions 2b and 3b of the approval.

SHWFPL concludes that all compliance requirements have been met for the Year 2 Period. No instances of non-compliance have been identified for the reporting period.

Based on results of Year 2 Actions and Assessments it is possible that variations to the Strategies are made in Year 3, and if so, the Department will be notified, and electronic copies of the revised strategies provided to the Department.

7 REFERENCES

DAWE	EPBC Approval 2016/7746 approved on 18 August 2017.
DELWP	Permit No: PI-SP/05/0548/B as amended 23 July 2018
SMEC	SHWF EPBC Act Compliance Reporting Year 2, 21 August 2020

Other references are referred to in the text of this report or its attachments, in relation to specific aspects addressed by this report.

8 APPENDICES

Appendix A – Table showing compliance status for each Condition of EPBC Approval 2016/7746.

Appendix B – SMEC EPBC Annual Compliance Reporting – Year 2, August 2020

Appendix C - Attachments direct to DAWE, not for Website due to privacy, commercial in confidence details or where consent of author not obtained to publish.

Appendix A - Stockyard Hill WF –EPBC Approval (EPBC 2016/7746) - Review of Compliance with Approval Conditions – Report August 2020

Ref	part	Details of Condition	Stage	Compliance	Details for demonstrating compliance for report period May 2019 to May 2020
1	The approval holder must not clear more than:				
	a	42.16 ha of habitat for striped legless lizard; and	Planning and Construction	Compliant	Civil works within areas of known striped legless lizard habitat were completed at the end of the reporting period. SMEC, 2020 has advised that the impact on the area of known striped legless lizard is 41.40 ha impacted and is less than the 42.16Ha allowed under Condition 1(a). Refer to the SMEC (August 2020)
	b	1.57 ha of habitat for golden sun moth,	Planning and Construction	Compliant	Areas of known Golden Sun Moth (GSM) habitat were to the extent practicably possible, avoided during construction. All civil works in the area of known GSM is complete and a recent survey concluded that approximately 1.26 ha was disturbed (less than 1.57 ha allowed under Condition 1(b). Refer to the SMEC (August 2020) (Appendix B).
2	To compensate for the loss of 42.16 ha of striped legless lizard habitat, the approval holder must:				
	a	secure the striped legless lizard offset with a covenant before commencement of construction; and	Before construction	Compliant	A Section 69 covenant was executed by the landowner and signed by DELWP.A Credit Trade Agreement is in place and was forwarded to DELWP prior to construction commencing. Evidence of securing the SSL offset was included as Attachment 2a of the 2019 Report.
	b	implement the Striped Legless Lizard Offset Management Strategy for the secured SSL offset.	Construction / Operations	Compliant - ongoing	Actions undertaken to date comply with Year 2 requirements for the SLL Offset Management Strategy, Table 6.10, Management Actions Table 4 include: 2.1 - Undertake fencing repairs as required surrounding offset area to ensure SSL offsite sites are secure – Fencing has been maintained 2.2 – Conduct site preparation works for weed works in Zones 1b, 1c, 2b and 3b. Various work undertaken to manage weeds 2.3 – Monitor populations of pest animals and conduct control of works if required The response to these actions is summarized in Section 4.5 of this report and details for these actions are provided in SMEC (August,2020), and Attachments.

Ref	part	Details of Condition	Stage	Compliance	Details for demonstrating compliance for report period May 2019 to May 2020
3		To compensate for the loss of 1.57 ha of golden sun moth habitat, the approval holder must:			
	a	secure the GSM offset with a covenant prior to commencement of construction. The GSM offset must contain at least 9 ha of known GSM habitat and	Before construction	Compliant	A Section 69 covenant has been executed by the landowner and signed by DELWP. A Credit Trade Agreement is also in place, which was forwarded to DELWP in advance of construction commencing. Evidence of securing the SSL offset was included as Attachment 3a of the 2019 Report.
	b	implement the Golden Sun Moth Offset Management Strategy for the secured golden sun moth offset.	Construction / Operations	Compliant	Management Actions undertaken to comply with Year 2 requirements for the GSM Offset Management Strategy included those listed in Table 2 of the Strategy for Year 2. A summary of responses is provided in Section 4.7 of this report and details in Appendix B: 2.1 - Conduct weed control – See SMEC 2.2.2.1 and 3.2.2 (Appendix B) 2.2 - Monitor populations of pest animals and conduct control works if required (See Appendix B) 2.3 - Conduct Monitoring for GSM after 2 years of commencement of strategy See Appendix B. A total of 88 male GSM were recorded for 2019/2020. 2.4 – Maintain fences – Reviewed and actions identified 2.5 – Monitor Biomass density implement stock grazing regime or develop ecological burn / fuel reduction if appropriate – See Appendix B 2.6 – Monitor and assess works and prepare two year progress report (See Appendix B)

		<u>Administrative</u>	Stage	Compliance	Details demonstrating compliance May 2019 to May 2020
4		Within 14 days after the commencement of construction, the approval holder must advise the Department in writing of the actual date of commencement of construction.	At the start of construction	Compliant	A letter advising the Department was sent by David Rogers on 4 June 2018 advising commencement of construction activities in Dunnett’s Lane as of 22 May 2018.
5		The approval holder must maintain accurate records substantiating all activities associated with or relevant to the conditions of approval, including measures taken to implement the strategy required by this 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 on the Department’s website. The results of audits may also be publicized through the general media.	Construction / Operations	Compliant /Ongoing	Records are kept documenting implementation of the EPBC approval requirements and approved strategies. The required documentation will be maintained for the duration of the approval. The information provided with this report represents part of the records of activities, specifically in relation to Year 2.

		<u>Administrative</u>	Stage	Compliance	Details demonstrating compliance May 2019 to May 2020
6		Within three months of every 12-month anniversary of the commencement of construction, the approval holder must publish a report on their website addressing compliance with each of the conditions of this approval, including implementation of any strategies 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. Reports must remain published for the life of the approval and must continue to be published until advised in writing by the Minister.	Annually	Complaint	A record of compliance with the requirements of the EPBC approval, as provided in the 2019 Report has been placed on the SHWF Website. Arrangements for this report to be published on the SHWF website will be made at the same time as the report is submitted to the Department.
7		The approval holder may choose to revise a strategy approved by the Minister under conditions 2 and 3 without submitting it for approval under section 143A of the EPBC Act, if the taking of the action under the revised strategy would not be likely to have a new or increased impact. If the approval holder makes this choice they must:	At any time	N/A	Neither the current GSM or SSL strategy has been varied at the time of reporting but it is possible that one or both of these may need to be varied in the third reporting year. If varying either strategy, SHWFPL will notify the Department in writing and provide an electronic copy of the revised strategy.
	i	notify the Department in writing that the approved strategy has been revised and provide the Department with an electronic copy of the revised strategy;			
	ii	implement the revised strategy from the date that the strategy is submitted to the Department; and			
	iii	for the life of this approval, maintain a record of the reasons the approval holder considers that taking the action in accordance with the revised strategy would not be likely to have a new or increased impact.	Construction / Operations	N/A	Any changes to the proposed arrangements must have adequate records kept for the duration of the approval which substantiate the change. At this time, no changes have been made.
8		The approval holder may revoke their choice under condition 7 at any time by notice to the Department. If the person taking the action revokes the choice to implement a revised strategy. without approval under section 143A of the Act, the strategy approved by the Minister must be implemented.	At any time	N/A	Not applicable for Year 2 Reporting
9		Condition 7 does not apply if the revisions to the approved strategy include changes to environmental offsets provided under the strategy in relation to a matter protected by a controlling provision for the action, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Minister. This does not otherwise limit the circumstances in which the taking of the action in accordance with a revised strategy would, or would not, be likely to have new or increased impacts.	At any time	N/A	Not applicable for Year 2 Reporting

	<u>Administrative</u>	Stage	Compliance	Details demonstrating compliance May 2019 to May 2020
10	If the Minister gives a notice to the approval holder that the Minister is satisfied that the taking of the action in accordance with the revised strategy would be likely to have a new or increased impact, then:	At any time	N/A	Not applicable for Year 2 Reporting
	i Condition 7 does not apply, or ceases to apply, in relation to the revised strategy; and			
	ii The person taking the action must implement the strategy approved by the Minister.			
	iii This condition does not affect any operation of conditions 7 and 8 in the period before the day the notice is given.			
11	At the time of giving the notice the Minister may also notify that for a specified period that condition 7 does not apply for the strategies required under the approval.	At any time	N/A	Not applicable for Year 2 Reporting
12	Conditions 7 and 8 are not intended to limit the operation of section 143A of the EPBC Act which allows the person taking the action to submit a revised strategy.	At any time	N/A	Not applicable for Year 2 Reporting
13	If, at any time after 5 years from the date of this approval, the approval holder has not commenced the action, then the person taking the action must not commence the action without the written agreement of the Minister.	Construction/Operations	Compliant	N/A – the action has commenced (DAWE notified on 22 May 2018). No further requirements under this Condition
14	Unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the Minister, the approval holder must publish all strategies referred to in these conditions of approval on their website.	At any time	Compliant	Copies of the approved SSL and GSM strategies, are available on the Stockyard Hill Wind Farm Webpage https://www.stockyardhillwindfarm.com.au/planningprocess
15	Unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the Minister, the approval holder must provide a copy of any strategy referred to in these conditions of approval to members of the public upon request, within a reasonable time of the request	At any time	Complaint	To date, there has been no member of the public request a copy of any strategy referred to in EPBC Approval. However, copies of the strategies are available on the webpage and stored on Goldwind’s internal internet system too. Copies can be made available promptly on request.

APPENDIX B - Stockyard Hill WF – EPBC Act Compliance Reporting – SMEC August 2020

SMEC Report including Attachments in relation to **Striped Legless Lizard**, as follows:

Attachment 1: Simon and Trish Tayler, Offset management activities diary on site

Attachment 2: SMEC 2020a. Striped Legless Lizard (Delmar Impar) population monitoring (Year 2), Stockyard Hill Wind Farm, Victoria.

Attachment 3: SMEC 2020b. Native Vegetation Offset Register annual reporting and compliance BB-3036 LA01

And, including Attachment in relation to **Golden Sun Moth**, as follows:

Attachment 4: SMEC 2020c. Golden Sun Moth Population Monitoring Summary Report (Year 2)

APPENDIX C - Stockyard Hill WF – EPBC Compliance Reporting – SMEC August 2020

Additional documents referred to by SMEC and for supply to DAWE but not for posting on Website

The following documents are withheld from the items to be published on the SHWFPL website due one or more reasons listed below:

- They contain material that is ‘commercial in confidence’
- matters that are withheld due to potential breach of privacy requirements
- are documents provided by 3rd party where consent has not been obtained for public release