

12 August 2016

**Herbert Smith Freehills**

Attention Ms Michelle Keen – Special Counsel  
[michelle.keen@hsf.com](mailto:michelle.keen@hsf.com)  
Mr Tom Mouritz, Solicitor  
[tom.mouritz@hsf.com](mailto:tom.mouritz@hsf.com)

Reference No: 15023 / L7

**RE: Stockyard Hill Wind Farm  
Landscape & Visual Assessment**

Further to your instructions, the letter below sets out my assessment as to the visual impact of a further increase in wind turbine rotor diameter from 140 m to 142 m.

The initial application to amend the permit was accompanied by 'Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment to accompany an Application to Amend Planning Permit No. PL-SP/05/0548' prepared by ERM including photomontages which illustrated the variation between the approved layout (132 m high and 104 m diameter) and the then proposed amended turbine dimensions (180 m high, 140 m diameter).

The assessment found that looking at the difference between the photomontages depicting wind turbines at 132 m and at 180 m high and with rotor diameters that vary from 104 m (approved) to 140 m and with the same background and lighting, the difference in visual impact is negligible. Similar differences will occur in different light situations with no change in the height or rotor diameter. Similar variation in the scale will also be apparent if a viewer moved forward or backward from the viewpoint locations.

The real visual impact of the wind farm is the presence of tall vertical structures with sweeping blades in a landscape that is typically a rural landscape. This impact was assessed by the Panel with respect to the original application and the impact was, on balance, found to be acceptable.

The level of impact brought about by the proposed amendment application and as shown in the photomontages would not alter the impact levels that was approved by Planning Permit No. PL-SP/05/0548. The proposed amendment does not alter the quantum of the impact, that is the impact would not change from low to medium, or from medium to high as a result of a change from 104 m diameter to 140 m diameter.

Given this analysis of a much greater change, a further increase in the rotor diameter from 140 m to 142 m would be completely imperceptible.

The proposed change in rotor diameter will not result in a change in height. The overall height will remain at maximum height of 180 m.

The ERM assessment found that the proposed alteration in wind turbine diameter from 104 m to 140 m will result in a negligible alteration to the level of visual impact that was assessed and approved. The change in wind turbine rotor diameters from 140 m to 142 m will make no difference to this conclusion.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

for XURBAN  
Allan Wyatt – *Landscape Architect*



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Urban Design  
Landscape Architecture  
Visual assessment

Suite 1103 / 408 Lonsdale Street  
Melbourne 3000  
Victoria Australia  
Telephone: +61 3 9642 8040  
Web: [xurban.com.au](http://xurban.com.au)

ABN: 18831715013

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