



13 July 2016

Rachael Joiner
Director, Planning Services and Impact Assessment
8 Nicholson Street
East Melbourne VIC 3000

Dear Rachael,

STOCKYARD HILL WIND FARM - APPLICATION FOR NATIVE VEGETATION REMOVAL AND TO CREATE AND ALTER ACCESS TO ROAD ZONE CATEGORY 1

RESPONSE TO FURTHER INFORMATION REQUEST (APPLICATION NO. PA1600101)

Thank you for your letter dated 7 June 2016, requesting further information in relation to the application for native vegetation removal and to create and alter access to Road Zone Category 1, associated with the Stockyard Hill Wind Farm.

Stockyard Hill Wind Farm Pty Ltd has considered your letter and our response is provided in the Table 1 below. Supplementary information is also attached, including:

- Stockyard Hill Wind Farm, Submission to Support Planning Permit Application (External Overhead Powerlines), Map Book – Key Figures and Plans, 5 July 2016 (Attachment A); and
- GHD, letter re Stockyard Hill Wind Farm, Traffic assessment for external overhead power line installation, 28 June 2016 (Attachment B).

Table 1 – Response to Further Information Request Summary

Request / Response
<p>A revised planning assessment report, or where appropriate revised annex or map, to include the following information.</p>
<p>a) <i>Single A3 plan showing the proposed locations of: the full transmission line, areas of vegetation to be removed and the six new / altered access points to RDZ1</i></p> <p>The External Overhead Powerlines Overview Plan has been prepared to which illustrates the proposed locations of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the full length of the overhead powerlines;• areas of vegetation to be removed; and• the six new / altered access points to RDZ1. <p>This plan is consistent with Figure 2 and 3 of <i>Stockyard Hill Wind Farm, Submission to Planning Permit Application (External Overhead Powerlines), May 2016</i>.</p> <p>This plan is provided within the supplementary map book provided (Attachment A).</p>
<p>b) <i>Individual A3 plans showing details of each of the proposed six new/altered access points to RDZ1 – including showing distances to intersections and other access points to the RDZ1.</i></p> <p>Five plans have been prepared which show details of each of the proposed six new/altered access points to RDZ1 – including showing distances to intersections and other access points to the RDZ1, as well as the and new access along an unused section of Old Geelong Road.</p> <p>These plans are provided within the supplementary map book provided (Attachment A).</p>

Request / Response

- c) A3 plan/s showing locations of vegetation proposed to be removed – including locations of the 42 native vegetation patches within the overhead transmission line alignment and remnant patches of vegetation and 38 trees proposed to be removed.**

The location of removal of native vegetation is provided in Figure 5 of the Biodiversity Assessment (Appendix A of *Stockyard Hill Wind Farm, Submission to Planning Permit Application (External Overhead Powerlines), May 2016*), and within the supplementary map book provided (Attachment A).

- d) Within figures 5 a, b, c, d, e & f of Appendix A (Biodiversity Assessment) clarify if the 'trees impacted' and 'vegetation impacted' are those which are provided for removal.**

The total disturbance footprint of the route comprises approximately 83.4 ha which is results from earthworks to accommodate pole foundations and ancillary powerlines installation activities including the creating of access tracks and hardstands (the exact location of these activities within the disturbance footprint will be determined during detailed design). Additionally, removal of vegetation within a 36-46 m corridor (which has a height greater than 3 m) to ensure appropriate safety clearance has been taken into consideration.

Trees within the 36-46m safety clearance corridor have been identified as being 'impacted.' Whilst this may not involve the removal of the tree (e.g. it may involve lopping only) they have been assumed 'lost' in accordance with *Permitted Clearing of Native Vegetation – Biodiversity Assessment Guidelines* and offset requirements calculated.

- e) Amend Section 4.1 (Access to Category 1 roads) of your submission to provide further details of each of the six new/altered access points to RDZ1. This information should include details of the road being accessed (material, condition, rates of traffic), analysis of safety concerns and proposed mitigations and the types and numbers of vehicles using the accesses during construction and ongoing post-construction. It would be preferred to detail this information in the form of a separate Traffic Management Plan.**

A traffic assessment has been undertaken by GHD (GHD, letter re *Stockyard Hill Wind Farm, Traffic assessment for external overhead power line installation, 28 June 2016*) for the six new/altered access points (Attachment B). The assessment found that expected construction traffic volume at each access is expected to be very low, and that the preparation of a traffic management plan (potentially as a condition of the planning permit) could effectively mitigate any impacts, including sight distance requirements, clearance underneath existing powerlines, road surface conditions etc.

- f) Figure 4 – Regional Context Plan on page 16 of the wind farm application at A3 scale.**

Figure 4 – Regional Context Plan of *Stockyard Hill Wind Farm, Submission to Support Application to Amend Planning Permit No. PL-SP/05/0548, May 2016* is provided within the supplementary map book provided (Attachment A).

SHWFPL is hopeful that the information contained within this letter and the attachments will assist the Department in its assessment of the permit amendment application.

The amendment application and this further information response was carefully prepared in consultation with the Department (and other agencies) and it is respectfully requested that the assessment of the application can now proceed without further delay.

If you would like to discuss this matter further or require any additional information, please contact Cara Layton, Approvals Adviser on (03) 8627 9207 / cara.layton@originenergy.com.au. Alternatively, my contact details are below.

Yours sincerely,



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