

STOCKYARD HILL WIND FARM

Overhead Powerlines Planning Permit Application SUMMARY GUIDE

Origin Energy (via subsidiary entity Stockyard Hill Wind Farm Pty Ltd) is developing the Stockyard Hill Wind Farm (SHWF) project in south-west Victoria.

This guide relates to the proposed overhead powerlines (and associated works) which are an important element in enabling the delivery of renewable energy from the SHWF Wind Energy Facility (WEF) to the national electricity grid.

Origin is seeking planning permits for native vegetation removal and new or altered access points to Category 1 (VicRoads) roads required to construct these powerlines. The overhead powerlines (which are defined as a Minor Utility Installation within all Victorian planning schemes) do not require a planning permit.

This guide has been prepared to provide a summary of the Planning Permit Application.

PROPOSED OVERHEAD POWERLINES

The overhead powerlines are proposed to extend approximately 75 kilometres (in total length) between the WEF and the terminal station (south of Lismore) (see Figures 2 & 3). The overhead powerlines will cross land in the Pyrenees and Corangamite Shires.

**Figure 1 –
Example of a 132 kV Powerline**



The construction will comprise five key phases - creation of access (including a series of new or altered access points), installation of foundations, installation of poles, stringing of wires and commissioning.

An example of a pole similar to what is proposed is shown in Figure 1, whilst a diagram showing the clearance requirements for the powerline is shown on Figure 4.

Figure 2 – Proposed Powerline Route

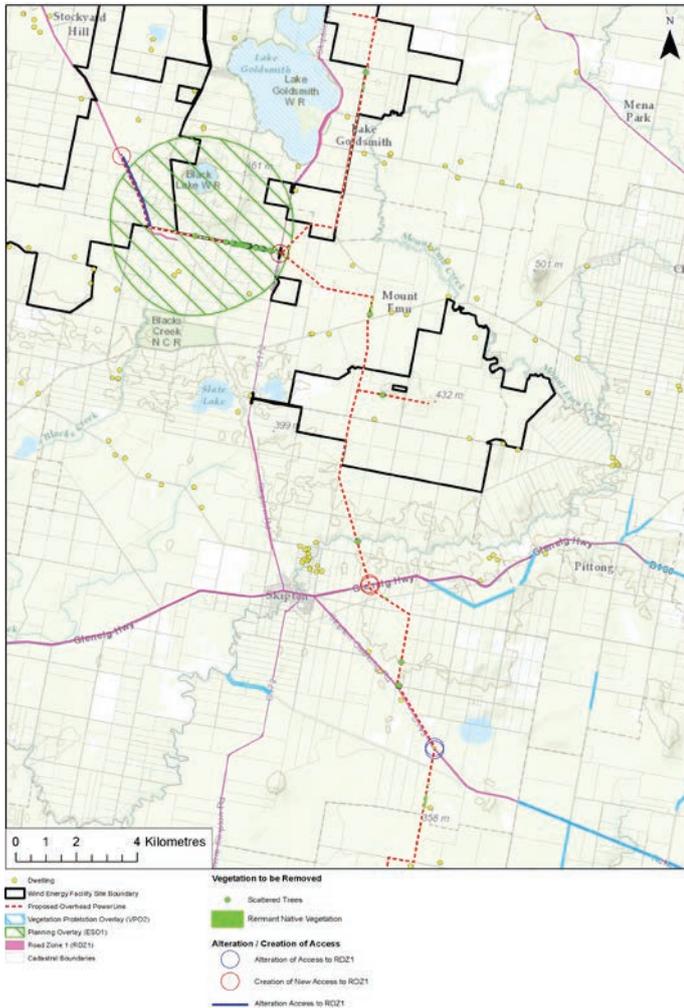


Figure 3 – Proposed Powerline Route

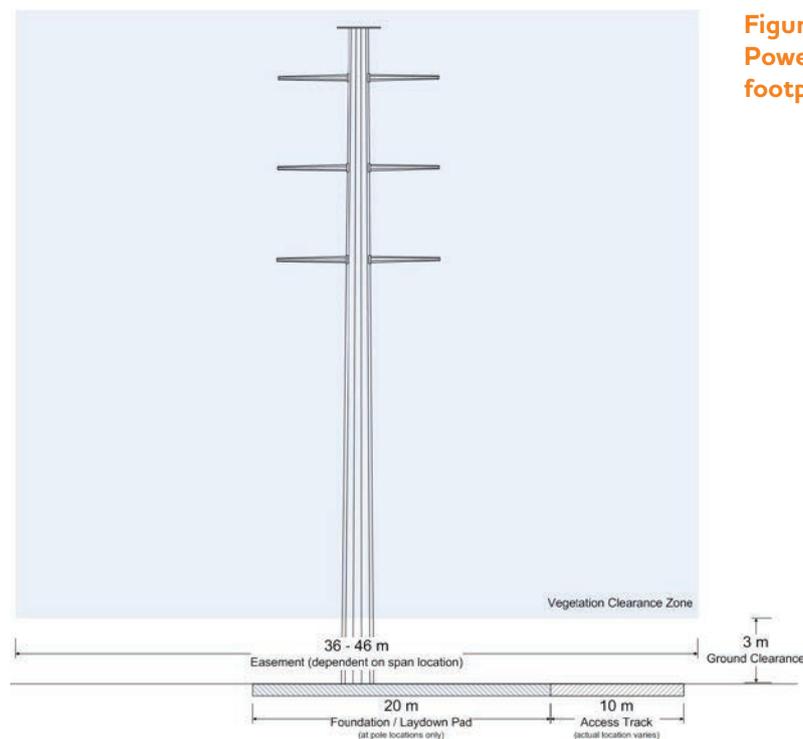
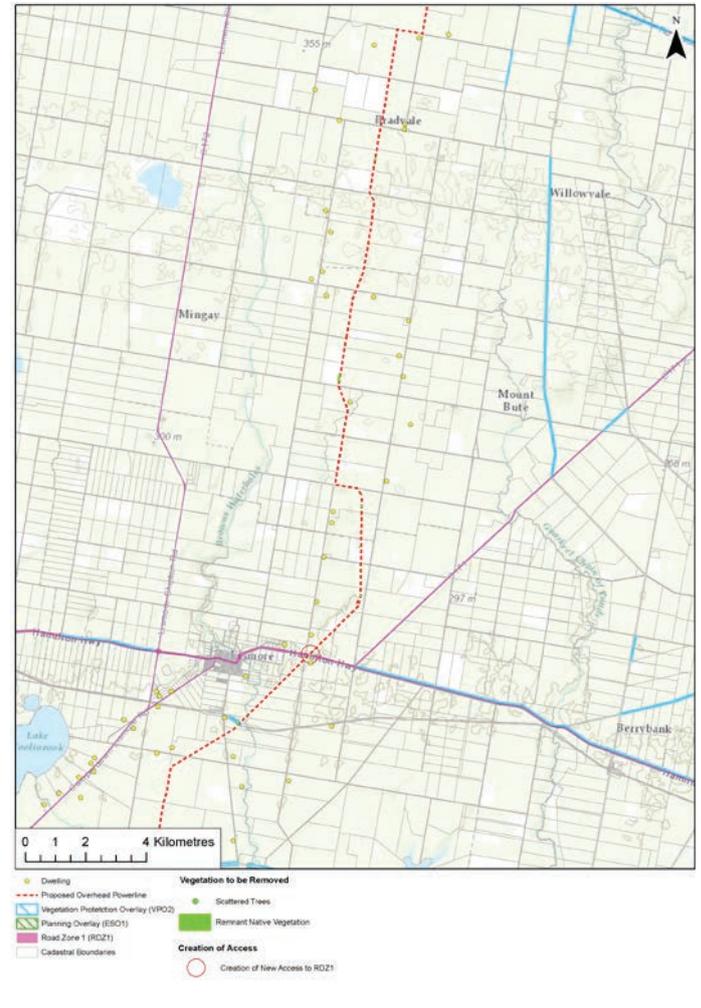


Figure 4 – Powerline disturbance footprint

The following describes the proposal (where a Planning Permit is required), including the change in access to Category 1 (VicRoads) roads and for native vegetation removal.

Access to Category 1 roads

In order to construct the proposed overhead powerlines a number of new or altered access points are proposed to Category 1 (VicRoads) roads at 6 locations (see Figures 2 & 3) including:

- Skipton Road – one point south of Dunnets Road
- Glenelg Highway – two points either side of the highway (north/south) to the east of Skipton.
- Rokewood-Skipton Road – alteration to two existing access points off Rokewood-Skipton Road
- Hamilton Highway – one point on the north side of the highway, to the east of Middletons Road and Skipton

Additionally, the overhead powerline access track is proposed to stretch along a section of an unused government road (Old Geelong Road) between Stockyard Hill-Wangatta Road and Dunnets Road.

The proposed changes to the access points are considered relatively minor and unlikely to have an impact on the operation of the road and on public safety. These access points will be used for the construction of the proposed overhead powerlines in accordance with a Traffic Management Plan to ensure that there is limited impact on the public, including public safety.

Native vegetation removal

The total disturbance footprint of the route comprises approximately 83.4 hectares. Whilst the route has been selected to avoid the majority of native vegetation, there will be 3.5 hectares of native vegetation impacted.

In total this includes removal of:

- 38 trees
- 0.89 hectares of vegetation

The extent of native vegetation proposed to be removed is not considered to be significant and is considered to have a low to moderate contribution to Victoria's biodiversity.

To protect the remaining vegetation a number of measures will be used including:

- Fencing retained areas of native vegetation
- Lopping or trimming trees rather than removing them
- Informing all contractors of ecologically sensitive areas prior to commencing work
- Implementing Tree Retention Zones to prevent indirect losses and/or
- Placing construction stockpiles, machinery, roads, and other infrastructure away from ecological sensitive areas.

CONSULTATION

Origin continues to consult with the community through a number of forums including regular newsletters, meetings, project website and community 1800 number and has also sought to engage with all residents directly affected by the proposed overhead powerlines.

State and Local Government agency stakeholders were consulted during the development of the proposed overhead powerlines route. Several of these agencies also provided feedback during the drafting of the Planning Permit Application.

THE PLANNING PROCESS

Since the commencement of the project, Origin has been informing and listening to the local community.

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning can be contacted on **136 186**.

For more information visit www.stockyardhillwindfarm.com.au or call our project hotline on **1800 753 730**.

Stockyard Hill Wind Farm Pty Ltd is a subsidiary entity of Origin Energy

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