



Joule Logic

Renewable Energy and Environment Specialists

Cattle Hill Wind Farm Eagle Mortality Offset Plan (EMOP)

*Developed to satisfy the requirements of Condition FF15 of the State Environment
Protection Notice No. 9715/1 for the Cattle Hill Wind Farm*

and

in part, Conditions 16, 17, 18 and 19 of the Commonwealth Approval EPBC 2009/4839

Date	Revision	Prepared	Reviewed	Approved
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Definitions

In this Eagle Mortality Offset Plan, the following definitions apply:

Cattle Hill Wind Farm	Comprising 48 wind turbines and 150 MW capacity
Central Highlands Region	is that described in Environment Protection Notice No. 9715/1 as the area north of Bothwell, east of Bronte Park and surrounds, south of Liawenee and west of the Great Western Tiers
Commissioning	Means the testing of turbines and is taken to be completed when 90% of the turbines are being operated in the course of normal commercial operations
DPEMP	Development Proposal and Environmental Management Plan
Director	Director of the Tasmanian Environment Protection Authority, holding office under Section 18 of EMPCA and includes a person authorised in writing by the Director to exercise a power or function on the Director's behalf.
DPIPWE	The Tasmanian Department of Primary Industry, Parks, Water and Environment
EMOP	Eagle Mortality Offset Plan
EMPCA	Tasmanian <i>Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994</i>
EPN	Environment Protection Notice
EPBCA	Commonwealth <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>
EPA	Tasmanian Environment Protection Authority
TLC	Tasmanian Land Conservancy
The Land	Defined as that situated immediately to the east of Lake Echo and off Bashan Rd, approximately 3km southwest of Waddamana in central Tasmania and includes part or all of the following titles: 135246/1; 29897/1; 29897/3; 29897/5; 248810/1; 135247/1; 135247/2; 29888/4; 29897/6 (as defined in the EPN 7925/1)
The Proponent	Wild Cattle Hill Pty Ltd (ACN 610 777 369))
NRM	Natural Resource Management
WTE	Tasmanian wedge-tailed eagle (<i>Aquila audax fleayi</i>)

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1. Introduction

1.1 This Plan

This Eagle Mortality Offset Management Plan (EMOP) has been developed to satisfy the requirements of Condition FF15 of the State EPN 9715/1 for the Cattle Hill Wind Farm. The EMOP must be submitted to the Director for approval at least one year prior to the commencement of commissioning activities, or by a date specified in writing by the Director.

Given the overlap with the Commonwealth EPBC Approval (2009/4839) Conditions 16, 17, 18 and 19 this EMOP has been developed to also satisfy, in part, these requirements.

1.2 The Project

The Cattle Hill Wind Farm occupies privately-owned land situated east of Lake Echo in Tasmania's Central Highlands approximately 93 kilometres to the north-west of Hobart (Figure 1). The wind farm consists of 48 wind turbines and associated infrastructure.

The wind farm site is approximately 4,121 hectares and is bounded by Lake Echo to the west and grazing and forestry land to the north, east and south. The small unpopulated settlement of Waddamana is located to the north east. The site is currently used for grazing, small forestry operations and hunting and comprises nine lots owned by two land owners.

The project was approved by Tasmanian State Regulators in April 2012 and by the (now) Commonwealth Department of Environment and Energy in December 2014.

An Environment Protection Notice (EPN 9715/1) was issued by the Director of the Tasmanian Environment Protection Authority on 19 September 2017, superseding the original EPA Permit issued in 2012.

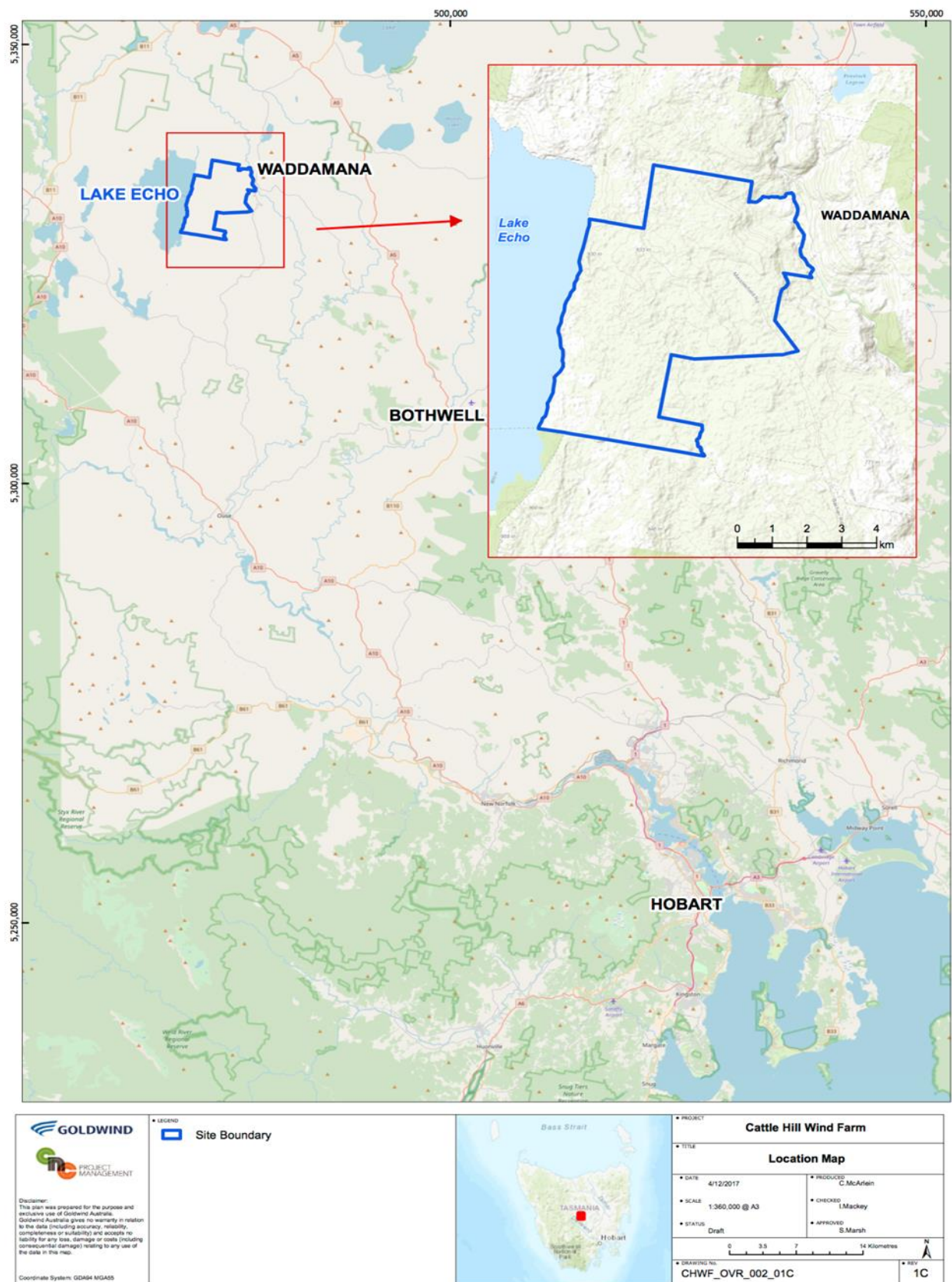


Figure 1: Location of Cattle Hill Wind Farm

1.3 The Proponent

The Proponent for the Cattle Hill Wind Farm is:

Wild Cattle Hill Pty Ltd

ACN 610 777 369

Suite 2, Level 23,

201 Elizabeth Street,

Sydney NSW 2000

1.4 The Person Responsible

The Person Responsible under EPN 9715/1 for Cattle Hill Wind Farm is Wild Cattle Hill Pty Ltd.

1.5 Relevant Permit Condition

The Eagle Mortality Offset Plan (EMOP) has been developed to satisfy the requirements of Condition FF15 of the State approval EPN 9715/1 for the Cattle Hill Wind Farm. This Condition states:

- 1** *At least one year prior to the commencement of commissioning activities, or by a date specified in writing by the Director, an Eagle Mortality Offset Plan must be submitted to the Director for approval.*
 - 1.1** *The Eagle Mortality Offset Plan is approved only when the Director indicates in writing that the submitted document adequately addresses the requirements of parts 2 and 3 this condition to his or her satisfaction.*
 - 1.2** *The Director's approval will not be unreasonably withheld or delayed.*
- 2** *The plan must be prepared in accordance with any reasonable guidelines provided by the Director.*
- 3** *Without limitation, the plan must include details of the following:*
 - 3.1** *an undertaking to attempt to place a 20 hectare conservation covenant around one additional Wedge-tailed Eagle nest for every one detected Wedge-tailed Eagle collision that occurs in excess of five at the Cattle Hill Wind Farm;*
 - 3.2** *measures to be undertaken if the placing of the conservation covenants specified in 3.1 becomes unachievable;*
 - 3.3** *an undertaking to make financial contributions to research commensurate with the scale of the mortalities;*
 - 3.4** *a table containing all of the major commitments made in the plan;*
 - 3.5** *an implementation timetable for key aspects of the plan; and*
 - 3.6** *a reporting program to regularly advise the Director of the results of the plan.*
- 4** *The person responsible must not operate the wind farm other than in accordance with the approved Eagle Mortality Offset Plan.*
- 5** *In the event that the Director, by notice in writing to the person responsible, either*

approves a minor variation to the approved plan or approves a new plan in substitution for the plan originally approved, the person responsible must implement and act in accordance with the varied plan or the new plan, as the case may be.

The EMOP has also been developed to satisfy in part Conditions 16, 17, 18 and 19 of EPBC Approval 2009/4839, which states¹:

16. No less than 6 months prior to the expected commissioning of the wind farm, provide to the Minister for approval, a plan to conduct or fund research to inform the long term conservation of the wedge-tailed eagle for example, funding research, nest productivity monitoring and mortality rates. The wind farm must not be commissioned until the plan is approved and implemented. The research plan must include but not be limited to:

- a. a detailed outline of proposed research activities to be undertaken or funded including, aims, methods, effort, milestones, key deliverables, reporting style, publication format and location and public accessibility of completed research;*
- b. a demonstration that proposed research is consistent with published recovery objectives and will inform the long term management and conservation of the species;*
- c. an outline of how research will be conducted in a manner which compliments or is collaborative with other research being undertaken by species experts, government, research and educational bodies;*
- d. a breakdown of research components to be funded in annual \$75000 equivalent increments;*
- e. funding arrangements and responsibilities;*
- f. the qualifications and experience of persons undertaking the research or minimum qualifications and experiences required of persons proposed to undertake research;*
- g. how research will be published and made publically available within the life of the plan; and*
- h. a peer review conducted by a suitably qualified expert demonstrating that the proposed research plan is consistent with the objectives at condition 16(b) and (c) and is achievable within identified timeframes and resources.*

Note 1: The Minister may determine that a plan, strategy or program approved by the Tasmanian Government in accordance with EPA conditions FF5, FF6, FF13, FF14 and FF15 satisfies the requirements for the Plan required under conditions 16 and 17.

17. Commence the implementation of the approved research plan prior to the commissioning of the wind farm. The person taking the action must ensure that no less than \$75 000 equivalent in funding is expended annually on implementing the

¹ Note that the Commonwealth Approval includes the definitions: \$25,000 equivalent means \$25,000 GST exclusive and adjusted annually from 2014 for inflation. \$75,000 equivalent means \$75,000 GST exclusive and adjusted annually from 2014 for inflation.

research plan, with the first \$75 000 equivalent committed prior to commissioning of the wind farm.

18. On each fifth anniversary of the approval of the research plan, or at the direction of the Minister, the person taking the action must engage a suitably qualified expert to review the effectiveness and relevance of the research plan required by condition 16. Within 90 days of each five year anniversary, the person taking the action must provide a report to the Minister outlining any recommendations and alternative measures to offset impacts to the wedge-tailed eagle. The Minister may require the person taking the action to implement the recommendations and alternative offsetting arrangements.

19. For each actual wedge-tailed eagle mortality or injured wedge-tailed eagle that cannot be re-released into the wild, occurring above 2 actual mortalities or injured wedge-tailed eagles that cannot be re-released in to the wild in any calendar year, fund a raptor or wildlife centre to rehabilitate an injured or sick wedge-tailed eagle and re-release that wedge-tailed eagle into the wild at an ecologically suitable location to the satisfaction of a suitably qualified expert. If no wedge-tailed eagle can be rehabilitated for re-release into the wild, an extra \$25 000 equivalent per mortality or injury must be expended towards the implementation of the research required by conditions 16 and 17 in that calendar year.

Note 2: The Minister may determine that satisfaction of Tasmanian EPA condition FF15 - 3.3 satisfies the requirements of this condition.

This plan also satisfies Commitments 42, 112, 125 and 129 of the DPEMP, which state:

42 states:

In the event that the average number of eagle deaths exceeds the number predicted within the CRM and detailed in Sections 6.8.3.1 and 6.8.5 (of the DPEMP) and committed to in footnote and commitment number 22 (of DPEMP), the wind farm operator will develop and Eagle Action and Offset Plan (EAOP), in conjunction with the Tasmanian EPA. The EAOP will directly target the cause of this circumstance and may include measures listed in Section 6.8.6 of the DPEMP.

112 states:

The final list of natural values, and the magnitude of the residual impact from the wind farm development, will not be comprehensively known until the final wind farm layout has been developed. Once the final layout is known, then discussions related to required and acceptable offsets can be held with the EPA. The proponent recognises that some offsets may be required, the sizes, nature and locations of which will need to be defined and agreed with the relevant authority.

125 states (satisfied in part by this Plan and FF14):

An Eagle Action and Offset Plan (EAOP) will be developed and submitted to the EPA one month prior to the commencement of onsite construction activities. The EAOP

will be guided by DPEMP Commitment 42, Section 6.8.6 of the DPEMP and actions may include offsets such as:

- Nest and territory covenanting;
- A commitment to implement Action 6.2 Analyse and prepare data on eagle biology and management for publication out of the Threatened Tasmanian Eagles Recovery Plan: 2006-2010. Although the Recovery Plan is to the end of 2010 in effect the actions are still relevant until a new plan is prepared²; and
- Financial contributions to raptor rescue centres³.

129 states (which is satisfied by Condition FF14):

NP Power commits to placing a 20 hectare protection zone around five eagle nests within the first year of the Cattle Hill Wind Farm operation and one eagle nest for every one detected eagle collision that occurs in excess of five at the Cattle Hill Wind Farm. A collision is defined as the detection of a Wedge-tailed Eagle carcass or injured Wedge-tailed Eagle.

1.6 Guidelines for the EMOP

The guidelines for the Eagle Mortality Offset Plan (EMOP) were endorsed by the Tasmanian EPA on 22nd September 2017. They state that the EMOP must contain the following:

- *Introduction, containing the following:*
 - *Brief description of the project and its location.*
 - *The proponent and the Person Responsible.*
 - *The permit condition it satisfies.*
- *Definition of relevant terms.*
- *Objective of the EMOP.*
- *Scope – species covered by the Plan, geographic extent of the Plan.*
- *Management actions to achieve the stated objective. This needs to include:*
 - *An undertaking to place a 20ha conservation covenant around one additional Wedge-tailed Eagle nest for every one detected WTE collision that occurs in excess of five at the Cattle Hill Wind Farm;*
 - *Measures to be undertaken if the placing of the conservation covenant specified above becomes unachievable;*
 - *An undertaking to make financial contributions to eagle research commensurate with the scale of the mortalities.*
- *Performance indicators. The EMOP will detail the implementation of the actions in a table and the time frames when these will be submitted to the Director or his/her delegate.*
- *Reporting. A commitment to provide all results of the management actions in an Annual Environment report to the Director or his/her delegate, which will be made publicly available.*

² This aspect of the commitment is managed through Condition FF14.

³ This commitment has been superseded in EPN 9715/1 by contributions to research funds.

2. Objective of the EMOP

The objective of the EMOP is to offset the impact of WTE mortalities (or injured WTE that cannot be released into the wild) due to collisions with wind turbines at the Cattle Hill Wind Farm above the prescribed amounts described in EPN 9715/1 Condition FF15, part 3 and EPBC 2009/4839 Condition 19. It does this via a process for establishing covenants on WTE nests and the alternative, establishing a Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagle Research Fund to support critical studies into the sub-species. The Fund is designed to allow other proponents or organisations to contribute to it.

Research supported by the Fund will be consistent with the published recovery objectives of the “Threatened Tasmanian Eagles Recovery Plan 2006-2010” or a subsequently approved version of the Recovery Plan. The DoEE have indicated they require the fund to support key scientific research on the sub-species and not other activities.

3. Scope

The relevant species is the Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagle *Aquila audax fleayi* (WTE).

The geographic extent of the plan is Tasmania.

4. Relevant Conditions and Environmental Management Plans

The following Conditions are relevant to the Eagle Mortality Offset Plan:

- EPN Condition FF13 (Long-term Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagle Nest Productivity Survey). The survey mentioned in Condition FF13 is no longer being pursued by the Forest Practices Authority so it is intended that compliance with Condition FF13 can be achieved via research initiated through this EMOP.
- EPN Condition FF14 (Eagle Mortality offsets), in the respect that the approach outlined in this EMOP will be the same used to satisfy the requirements of FF14, parts 1 1.1 and 1.2.
- Commonwealth Condition 16 (a plan to conduct or fund research to inform the long-term conservation of the wedge-tailed eagle), in the respect that the strategy to fund research is that described in [Section 5.2](#) below.
- Commonwealth Condition 17, in the respect that this represents the amount the Fund will be paid each year for ten years.
- Commonwealth Condition 18 (review of the research plan), in the respect that the review of the research Fund will be undertaken by the Panel, described in [Section 5.2.2](#) and Appendix 1.
- Commonwealth Condition 19, in the respect that additional funds will be paid to the Fund if there are more than two WTE mortalities or eagles injured that cannot be released to the wild.
- Commonwealth Condition 20. If it can be demonstrated that after 10 years of operation that the wind farm is not impacting the wedge-tailed eagle, request approval from the Minister to cease implementing Condition 17.

5. Actions

The WTE Research Fund will be established prior to commissioning of the wind farm and will be seeded with \$75,000 (plus CPI since 2014, in fulfilment of EPBC Condition 17). In fulfilment of the EPBC Condition 16, an additional \$75,000 (plus CPI since 2014) will be added to the Fund each year for at least nine years (i.e. a total of 10 years) or until permission is received from the Minister or his/her delegate to cease the Fund (according to EPBC Condition 20).

In addition to this, if the cumulative WTE collision rate (that is, collisions with wind turbines at the Cattle Hill Wind Farm) exceeds five as per EPN Condition FF15 3 (3.1), or in accordance with EPBC Condition 19 exceeds two WTE mortalities per year or injured WTE per year (that cannot be released back to the wild) each additional WTE that is found to collide after this will be offset through either:

- a 20 ha covenant being placed on a nest and associated nesting habitat (FF15 3 (3.1)); or
- a contribution of \$50,000 (plus CPI since 2014) in accordance with EPBC Condition 19 and EPN Condition FF15(3.3) will be made to a WTE Research Fund.

The following sections (5.1 and 5.2) outline how the above mechanisms of covenants and Research Fund payments will be applied.

5.1 Covenants

Covenants are being established around five (5) eagle nests in accordance with EPN Condition FF14. The Tasmanian Land Conservancy (TLC) has been engaged for this purpose and the same process (described below) will be used to offset each WTE collision with wind turbines in excess of five in accordance with Condition FF15 3 (3.1). Each covenant will be at least 20 ha in size. The process for achieving a covenant will be:

- Contracting the Tasmanian Land Conservancy (TLC), or similarly suitable Service Provider, to follow the below process to achieve a covenant:

A Conservation Covenant is an instrument that can be attached to a land title for a specific purpose under the Tasmanian Nature Conservation Act 2002. The process the TLC uses to attach the conservation covenant is outlined below including the agreed process with the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE).

Property (area) assessment

The TLC field officer undertakes a site visit to confirm the vegetation communities present and record species within the assessment area. An assessment is made of the eagle nest and its condition and potential viability. An assessment, mapping and development of recommendations regarding management issues such as weeds, fences, tracks, firewood is undertaken. This is done in consultation with the landowner to ensure there is no confusion about the management prescriptions that will be contained within the conservation covenant and nature conservation plan.

The information gathered is used to generate a Property Assessment Form (PAF). The process within the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE) is outlined below.

DPIPWE Process

Contracted Services

The Agent (Tasmanian Land Conservancy Inc.) will liaise with landowners to determine the agreed terms of the covenant. The Agent will present landowners with example covenant and nature conservation documents as provided by the Contractor.

The Agent will present covenant proposals to the Contractor with supporting data sufficient for review and consideration by the Contractor and the Property Assessment Group. Covenant proposals must have appropriate covenant design and management prescriptions and have conservation values of appropriate significance to support a recommendation for covenanting under the Nature Conservation Act 2002. The Agent will ensure that the subject property is free of caveats, encumbrances and agreements registered on the land title that would hinder or be inconsistent with the intent and terms of a conservation covenant.

Subject to approval by the Property Assessment Group The Crown (the Contractor) will enter into restrictive conservation covenants, under the Nature Conservation Act 2002, with landowners who have agreed to register a perpetual conservation covenant on part/s of their property as required by XXXX.

The Contracted Services are:

- 1. The Contractor will write a letter of proposal to participating landowners and provide copies of draft covenant, draft nature conservation plan and draft CPR plan and request formal advice of their acceptance of the proposal and authorisation for the Contractor to seek third party consents as required (with any bank fees or other costs being met by the landowner).*
- 2. On receipt of advice from the landowners, the Contractor will request finalisation of the CPR Plan.*
- 3. The Contractor will invoice the Agent for the covenanting fee and covenant consideration payable to the landowner.*
- 4. On receipt of the covenanting fee and consideration the Contractor will provide the covenant and nature conservation plan to the landowner for execution and return to the Contractor.*
- 5. On receipt of the signed covenant and nature conservation plan, the Contractor will lodge a priority notice on land title/s and seek any third party consents as required.*
- 6. On receipt of third party consent, the Contractor will seek execution of the covenant on behalf of the Crown and request an invoice from the landowner.*
- 7. Upon execution of the covenant and nature conservation plan and receipt of the landowners invoice, the Contractor will lodge the covenant at the Land Titles Office and submit the landowners invoice for payment by the Crown.*
- 8. Upon registration of the covenant, copies of the registered covenant and fully signed nature conservation will be forwarded to the landowner.*

9. The Contractor will advise the Agent on completion of stages 4, 5 & 8.

This process takes around 60-90 days. Upon receipt of agreement by the landowner to the draft documents DPIPWE create final documents and post them to the landowner for signature. Upon receipt of the signed documents DPIPWE arrange for signing by the relevant administrative officer and documents are sent to the Land Titles Office for registration on the land title. At this point final payment can be made to the landowner.

There are costs associated with the establishment of a covenant, including:

- Costs for DPIPWE to process the covenant
- Costs for TLC or similar to identify and secure covenants on nests
- Incentive payments to the land owner

Many land owners are unwilling to place covenants around nests, due in part to the restrictions on activities they can undertake in the covenant (TLC pers. comm.), therefore it may not be possible to achieve the covenants, hence an alternate offset via a Research Fund is outlined below.

5.2 Tasmanian WTE Research Fund

A Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagle (WTE) Research Fund (The “Tasmanian WTE Research Fund”) will be established which will be an independent research fund managed by NRM South (or a similarly suitable organisation). NRM South or other third party selected to administer the Fund will have demonstrated a long-term capability and capacity to do so effectively and accountably. The Research Fund will be established prior to commissioning of the wind farm and will be available for other entities to contribute funds. The design of the fund has been informed by the learnings of a similar fund, described in Dovers et al. (2017)⁴.

Detail of payments to be made by the proponent to the Fund are outlined in Table 5.1 below.

Table 5.1: Schedule of Payments to the WTE Research Fund

Timing for payment to WTE Research Fund	Amount of payment to WTE Fund by Proponent	Source of payment requirement
Pre-commissioning	\$75,000 one-off payment (CPI adjusted from 2014)	EPBC Condition 17 and EPN FF13 (1.2)
Annual for further nine years or until the Minister or his/her delegate determines it can cease.	\$75,000 per year (CPI adjusted from 2014)	EPBC Condition 17.

⁴ Dovers S, Whinam J, Krogh M, Young A, Crawford M-A. 2017. Lessons for collaborative research in a changing operating environment. *Ecological Management and Restoration* 18(2): 120-3

Timing for payment to WTE Research Fund	Amount of payment to WTE Fund by Proponent	Source of payment requirement
As required, in respect of WTE collisions with wind turbines (after first 5 or 2 per year)	\$50,000 (CPI adjusted from 2014)	FF15 3 (3.1) > 5 collisions or EPBC Condition 19 > 2 collisions per year

5.2.1 Purpose of the Fund

The primary purpose of the Fund is to support high quality ecological or other relevant scientific research on Tasmanian WTE, the results of which will assist with the management and protection of the sub-species. The intention is that the Fund continues for the medium term (at least 10 years), hence not all funds will be expended each year. Research will be supported that is scientifically rigorous, conducted by high quality scientists, and which is in accordance with the objectives of the Threatened Tasmanian Eagles Recovery Plan 2006-2010 or any subsequent eagle Recovery Plan.

Payments from the EPN 'portion' of the monies (that is, when the number of WTE collisions exceeds that prescribed in Attachment 3 of the EPN, described in EPN condition FF15 3 (3.1)) may also be used to fund other WTE-related projects as appropriate, such as educational programs or community science initiatives.

5.2.2 Structure of the Fund

The Fund will be established under NRM South (their role is documented in Appendix 1) or a similarly suitable organisation if NRM South is unable to fulfil the role. It will operate as a not for profit Fund. Any interest accrued by the Fund will be reinvested into the Fund to support research. NRM South (or a similarly suitable organisation) will charge the Fund the following administrative fee:

- An establishment fee of 15% (assuming base \$75,000) to cover all set up costs and administration
- A reduced ongoing management fee of 8%
- A proportionate establishment and ongoing fee would be levied against other contributions outside those by other contributors
- An annual review of fees based on the following assumptions:
 - Assumes < 10 research applications
 - Assumes < five contracting transactions
 - Assumes two meetings a year
- Reasonable costs associated with advertising a funding round

A panel will be established to oversee the Fund and to select research for funding. The panel will comprise:

- A representative from the Fund Administrator
- A representative from DPIPWE

- At least two scientists experienced in wildlife ecology

The Panel will be chaired by a scientist experienced in commissioning biological research (see Appendix 1 for NRM South's, or a similarly suitable organisation's role). A representative from the Commonwealth Department of Environment and Energy and the EPA or their delegate may attend meetings from time to time as an observer.

Panel members will be reimbursed for any reasonable travel costs and will be eligible to receive a retainer⁵ for attendance at meetings. Where appropriate, the panel will meet via video or telephone conference to minimise travel and accommodation costs. Panel members will be appointed for three years. Payments to Panel members will be administered by NRM South (or a similarly suitable organisation).

The DPIPWE panel member will be involved as part of their normal employment duties and will not receive reimbursements for costs or a retainer.

The panel will meet (in person, by phone or video link) approximately twice yearly to:

1. Review funding applications and select those to be supported
2. Monitor the progress of the research of grant recipients
3. Determine whether to accept research reports (i.e. whether they are fulfilling the requirements of their support)

Members of the panel and their direct family members are not eligible to receive funds from the WTE Research Fund. Members must disclose real and perceived conflicts of interest of which they are aware.

In the event of a dispute between panel members about which applications to support, a final decision will be made by the Administrator of the fund.

5.2.3 Research Priorities

Suitably qualified researchers⁶ will be eligible to apply for funds to support relevant research on WTE consistent with the below priorities. Critical research that can demonstrate a sound experimental design and statistical rigour will be viewed most favourably.

The initial priorities for funding support are:

- Demography of the WTE. This could include studies into the size of the state population (such as an evidence-based population census), fecundity, survival of different age classes, and immigration and emigration intra- and inter-state. Such ecological data could be used to update a Population Viability Analysis.
- The collection of data that will allow an evaluation of the sub-species conservation status against IUCN criteria.

⁵ The hourly rate of the retainer is yet to be confirmed, but will be based on the current State sitting fee rate.

⁶ Must hold a postgraduate degree in science and evidence of the successful publication of relevant, high quality research in peer-reviewed scientific journals or experience and qualifications deemed by the panel to be evidence of equivalent merit. However, proposals to support high quality Honours research will also be considered.

- Quantification of anthropogenic impacts to WTE, such as collisions with vehicles, powerlines, shooting or poisoning, and the development of mitigation measures to reduce these impacts.
- Disturbance to nesting WTE. This includes studies into determining the anthropogenic factors that impact on breeding, and quantification of these such as the distance, duration and types of factors that result in impacts to breeding success.
- Strategies to monitor nesting behaviour of WTE. Nests are currently very difficult to monitor due to the need to limit disturbance to breeding birds, hence automated strategies to monitor nests without disturbing eagles will be supported.
- Studies into why WTE collide with wind turbines and strategies to reduce collision rates. Published studies indicate WTE actively respond to and avoid wind turbines, but occasionally collide. Any insights into why they occasionally collide may assist with strategies to minimise collisions.
- Other scientific studies where it can be demonstrated that the research will provide a demonstrable benefit to the sub-species.

The priorities for funding support may be revised by the panel following review of the EMOP (see Section 7) and with the agreement of the Commonwealth Department of the Environment.

Studies on WTEs required for commercial developments (i.e. conditions of a permit) or studies that are the responsibility of Local, State (including Government Business Enterprises) or Commonwealth Government will not be supported.

Payments from the EPN 'portion' of the monies (that is, when the number of WTE collisions exceeds that prescribed in Attachment 3 of the EPN, described in EPN condition FF15 3 (3.1)) may also be used to fund other WTE-related projects as appropriate, such as educational programs or community science initiatives.

Depending on the amount of money in the Fund and applications received, approximately 75% (as a guide) will be allocated to research grants each year, but this will depend on the applications received (multi-year studies may be supported). The remainder will accrue interest. The Fund will commence supporting research as early as possible after its inception, preferably in the first year of establishment.

Applicants will be expected to submit their research and data for publication in an open-access, peer-reviewed scientific publication (in line with the recommendation of Dovers et al. 2017) unless otherwise agreed by the panel. Failure to submit for publication may result in the panel not supporting further funding applications. Also based on the learnings in Dovers et al (2017), a symposium sharing the findings of the research will be organised and all relevant stakeholders invited. Costs of the symposium will be covered by the fund.

If there are no additional monies being contributed to the Fund after ten years, all funds will be allocated in the final year. If contributions are still being made after ten years, the Fund will continue until contributions cease, and then all remaining funds will be allocated.

5.2.4 Reporting and Payment

Successful applicants will be required to submit a progress report to the Panel on a six monthly basis and a final report at the end of the project. Failure to comply with these requirements will result in termination of support. Payments to the successful applicants will be in three stages:

- Partial payment at the commencement of the project
- Partial payment part way through
- Final payment upon acceptance of the final report

6. Reporting

The Administrator of the Fund (NRM South or a similarly suitable organisation) will provide to the Person Responsible (or their delegate) a summary of projects being funded, their progress and the financial details of the Fund, on an annual basis. These details will be included in the Cattle Hill Wind Farm Annual Environmental Review which will be made publicly available.

7. Review of the EMOP

The EMOP will be reviewed on a three yearly basis in line with the other State Environmental Management Plans. As required by EPBC Condition 18, a full review of the Fund will occur every five years and be reported to the Minister or his/her delegate. The ten year review will determine if the requirements of EPBC Condition 20 have been met.

8. Performance Indicators

Table 1 summarises actions in the EMOP, their implementation and the time frames.

Table 8.1: Implementation of actions and their time frames in the Eagle Mortality Offset Plan

Implementation/Action	How addressed	Time frame
Issue of Guidelines for the EMOP	Guidelines were endorsed by the Tasmanian EPA	22 Sept 2017
Covenants	Section 5.1	Pre-commissioning for FF14 (unless otherwise approved by the Director), post-commissioning for additional offsets
Research Fund	Section 5.2	First payment pre-commissioning, yearly thereafter for a total of ten years
Reporting	Section 6	Annually in the Annual Environment Report
Review of the EMOP	Section 7	3 years for the EPA and 5 years for the Commonwealth DoEE. After 10 years in relation to payments to Fund.

Appendix 1: Roles and Responsibilities

NRM South (or a similarly suitable organisation, who will establish a contract with the Proponent)

- Responsible for receipt, management and audit of WTE Research Fund.
- Assist with the identification and selection of panel members. The Panel members selected will be agreed by the Tasmanian EPA and delegate of the Commonwealth Department of Environment.
- Host, recruit and administer/support a panel, as prescribed by the EMOP, to prioritise, assess and distribute research funds – approximately two meetings per year.
- Administer reimbursement of panel members reasonable travel costs and hourly payment for attendance at annual meetings.
- Advertise, administer and coordinate research applications, and in conjunction with the panel develop and maintain the assessment process.
- Contract and administer the research funds on behalf of the research panel, including coordination of progress and final reports.
- Provide panel advice and reports to Goldwind Australia (or delegate) and any other contributors to the Fund for preparation and submission to the Regulator (if required).

WTE Research Fund Panel

- To meet approximately twice yearly.
- To establish criteria for the selection and quantum of research funds to be allocated annually.
- To ensure that NRM South advertise annually for grant applicants.
- To review grant applications received in relation to the previously established selection criteria, and select the successful applicants.
- To review the progress and final reports of grant recipients and determine whether to accept these.
- To notify NRM South of any grant recipients in breach of their funding responsibilities.
- To report meeting minutes to NRM South. This would at a minimum include:
 - Justification for the selection of successful applicants

- The amount of funding the recipients will be allocated and amount and spacing of part payments
- Comments on the progress reviews of grant recipients
- Any other relevant matters