

# Cattle Hill Wind Farm

EPBC 2009/4839

13 August 2019 to 13 August 2020

## Annual Compliance Report 2020



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Prepared by:

Goldwind Australia (GWA)

For:

Wild Cattle Hill Pty Ltd



Wild Cattle Hill Pty Ltd



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## ABBREVIATIONS

<b>Cattle Hill Wind Farm</b>	Comprising 48 wind turbines and up to 150 MW capacity
<b>CEMP</b>	Construction Environmental Management Plan (approved by EPA under Condition CN2 of EPN 10105/1)
<b>Central Highlands Region</b>	Area north of Bothwell, East of Bronte Park and surrounds, South of Liawenee, West of the Great Western Tiers
<b>CHC</b>	Central Highlands Council
<b>CHWF</b>	Cattle Hill Wind Farm
<b>Commission(ed/ing) (EPBC)</b>	the date the wind farm commences the generation of electricity for sale
<b>Commissioning (EPN)</b>	EPN 10105/1 defines commissioning as 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.
<b>DAWE or Department Director</b>	Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment ( <i>previous DoEE, Energy and Environment</i> ) Director, Tasmanian Environment Protection Authority, holding office under Section 18 of EMPCA. Includes a person authorised in writing by the Director to exercise a power or function on the Director's behalf.
<b>DPEMP</b>	Development Proposal and Environmental Management Plan
<b>DPIPWE</b>	Tasmanian Department of Primary Industry, Parks, Water and Environment
<b>EMOP</b>	Eagle Mortality Offset Plan
<b>EMPCA</b>	Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994
<b>EPA</b>	Tasmanian Environment Protection Authority
<b>EPBC</b>	Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999
<b>EPBC 2009/4839</b>	EPBC Approval No. 2009/4839
<b>EPC</b>	Engineer, Procure and Construct
<b>EPN</b>	Environment Protection Notice 10105/1 (issued by Tasmanian EPA on 13 March 2019)
<b>ERP</b>	Emergency Response Plan
<b>First Full Operations</b>	First time when all turbines allowed to simultaneously operate and generate up to maximum output
<b>FOMP</b>	Flora Offset Management Plan
<b>HB</b>	Hazell Brothers
<b>GWA</b>	Goldwind Australia Pty Ltd (ACN 140 108 390)
<b>Ha</b>	Hectare
<b>IDF</b>	IdentiFlight System
<b>kV</b>	Kilovolt
<b>MW</b>	Megawatt
<b>NVA</b>	Natural Values Atlas
<b>O&amp;M</b>	Operations and Maintenance (Phase of Development)
<b>OEMP</b>	Operations Environmental Management Plan (approved by EPA under Condition G11 of EPN 10105/1)
<b>PCR</b>	Powerchina Australia Development Pty Ltd
<b>SCADA</b>	Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition
<b>TasNetworks</b>	Own, operate and maintain the electricity transmission and distribution network in Tasmania.
<b>TFS</b>	Tasmanian Fire Services
<b>The Land</b>	Project land, Central Tasmania, east of Lake Echo and off Bashan Rd, approximately 3km southwest of Waddamana, including part or all of titles 135246/1; 29897/1; 29897/3; 29897/5; 248810/1; 135247/1; 135247/2; 29888/4; and 29897/6
<b>The Proponent</b>	Wild Cattle Hill Pty Ltd (WCHPL) ACN 610 777 369
<b>VDC</b>	Van Diemen Consulting
<b>WTE</b>	Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagle ( <i>Aquila audax fleayi</i> )
<b>WBSE</b>	White-bellied Sea-eagle ( <i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i> )
<b>WCHPL</b>	Wild Cattle Hill Pty Ltd ACN 610 777 369, L25, 100 Barangaroo Avenue, Barangaroo NSW 2000

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## Declaration of Accuracy

*This Annual Compliance Report relates to the Cattle Hill Wind Farm located in Central Highlands of Tasmania.*

*The Annual Compliance Report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Condition 27 of the Approval issued under the Environment Protection Biodiversity and Conservation Act 1999,*

***Cattle Hill Wind Farm, Tasmania - EPBC 2009/4839***

*This Report:*

- *has been prepared for submission to the Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment in accordance with the submission date specified in the Department's email of 17 May 2019.*
- *addresses each of the Conditions of the Approval and management plans 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*
- *Is made publicly available through publication on the Cattle Hill Wind Farm website ([www.cattlehillwindfarm.com](http://www.cattlehillwindfarm.com)).*

Jeff Bembrick



*Development Compliance Manager, Goldwind Australia, on behalf of Wild Cattle Hill Pty Ltd.*

*09 November 2020*

# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Purpose of this document

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

- **Project:** Cattle Hill Wind Farm
- **Proponent:** Wild Cattle Hill Pty Ltd (ACN 610 777 369)
- **EPBC Approval:** EPBC 2009/4839
- **Condition no. 27:** – Second report under requirements of Condition 27
- **Report period:** 13 August 2019 to 13 August 2020
- **Project phase:** Construction phase for all of reporting period

The report has been prepared by Goldwind Australia on behalf of Wild Cattle Hill Pty Ltd (WCHPL). The report has also been subject to review by Powerchina Australia Development Pty Ltd as the majority shareholder in WCHPL.

The report has been prepared in accordance with Condition 27 of EPBC Approval, EPBC 2009/4839, to fulfil the requirements of Condition 27. Table 1.1 lists the requirements of Condition 27 and the sections of this report where each requirement is addressed.

**Table 1.1: EPBC Condition 27 - Annual Compliance Reporting Requirements**

EPBC Approval Condition 27 Reporting Requirements	Response details
Within 90 days of each anniversary of the commencement of the action, the person taking the action must:	Due for submission by 11 Nov 2020
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• publish a report on its website addressing:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ compliance with each of the conditions of this approval, including</li> <li>○ implementation of any management plans as specified in the conditions.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	This report with details as described in Section 4 and Appendix A
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	Submission of this report to DAWE and accessibility on CHWF Website
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unless otherwise directed in writing by the Minister the report must include a chapter that outlines how each injured or sick wedge-tailed eagle was rehabilitated in accordance with the requirements of condition 19. This must include:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. how the injured or sick wedge-tailed eagle was identified for rehabilitation</li> <li>b. the nature of injuries and/or sickness at the commencement of rehabilitation</li> <li>c. the actions taken to rehabilitate the wedge-tailed eagle including the location and costs of rehabilitation and qualification and experience of persons involved in rehabilitation; and</li> <li>d. potential survival in the wild.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Not required this report period.</p> <p>No sick or injured WTE during the report period.</p>



A summary of compliance status for the Approval Conditions is shown in Table 1.2.

**Table 1.2 – Summary of Compliance for Conditions of Approval**

Condition	Compliance Status	Management Plan	Date Approved	Comment
1	Compliant	Layout complies	Report Period	Complete
2	Compliant	Construction works complied	Report Period	Complete
3	Compliant	Records are maintained	Not applicable	Ongoing
4	Not applicable	No WF operations for period	Report Period	Future
5	Not applicable	No WF operations for period	Report Period	Future
6	Revoked			
6A	Compliant	CAD Plan approved	28 May 2018	Review
6B	Compliant	Commissioning from 19/11/19	Achieved	Complete
6C	Not due yet	Assessment commenced	In progress	18 months
7	Revoked			
8	Revoked			
9	Revoked			
10	Not applicable	No eagle collisions for turbines		Ongoing
11	Not applicable	Not due yet, by 5 August 2022		Future
12	Compliant	Physical search records kept		Ongoing
13	Compliant	Roads signposted for 40 kmph		Ongoing
14	Compliant	Site staff conduct reviews		Ongoing
15	Compliant	Searches done since 19/11/19		Ongoing
16	Compliant	DAWE approved plans 8/01/19	8 Jan 2019	Ongoing
17	Compliant	First payment 24 October 2019	29 Oct 2019	Annual
18	Not due yet	Due after 5 years, i.e. 8/01/24		Future
19	Compliant	No WTE mortality or injury	Report Period	Ongoing
20	Not due yet	After ten years, i.e. 5 Aug 2030		Future
21	Revoked			
22	Compliant	Weed Management Plan	14 Dec 2017	Section 4.18
23	Compliant, In progress	Flora Offset Strategy Flora Offset Management Plan	15 Mar 2018 10 Aug 2018	Section 4.19
24	Compliant	No new threatened species	Report Period	Ongoing
25	Compliant	Notifications complete	Report Period	Complete
26	Compliant	All required records are kept	Report Period	Ongoing
27	Compliant	Annual Compliance Report	11 Nov 2019	Complies
28	Not applicable	No direction from Minister	Report Period	Ongoing
29	Not applicable	No revisions	Report Period	Ongoing
30	Not applicable	No requests from Minister	Report Period	Ongoing
31	Not applicable	Action commenced within 5yrs		Complete
32	Compliant	Website is maintained	Report period	Ongoing
33	Not applicable	No public requests	Report Period	Ongoing



## 2 SUMMARY DETAILS OF CHWF PROJECT, LOCATION AND CONTEXT

### 2.1 Project Context

Cattle Hill Wind Farm (CHWF) is being developed in the Central Highlands of Tasmania to the east of Lake Echo and to the southwest of the Village of Waddamana. Construction commenced in 2018 and is now well advanced with all wind turbines installed and commissioning of turbines occurring from November 2019 to end of April 2020 and the wind farm's first full operations was achieved by 05 August 2020.

The wind farm comprises 48 Goldwind wind turbines that can collectively produce 148.5 MW of electricity sourced from the wind energy resources available at the site (144 MW maximum allowed output to Grid).

CHWF can power approximately 63,500 Tasmanian homes, which increases Tasmania's renewable energy generation capacity by approximately 5% and, provides a significant contribution to Tasmania's target of becoming fully self-sufficient with renewable energy by 2022.

### 2.2 Project Locality and Setting

CHWF is located in Tasmania's Central Highlands, approximately 93 kilometres north-west of Hobart and 110 kilometres from Launceston (Figure 2.1). The site is within a sparsely populated and relatively isolated part of the Central Highlands Council municipal area, on land which ranges in height from approximately from 700 to 900 metres above sea level (Figure 2.1).

The site is approximately 35 kilometres south of the township of Miena and is bordered geographically by Lake Echo to the West, and the Ouse River Valley to the east, where the former Waddamana Power Station remains as a heritage site and museum. Waddamana village is about 3km to the northeast and contains a collection of vacant residences that in the past provided accommodation for the Waddamana power station workforce. The Waddamana Power Station and associated infrastructure, penstocks, canals, pipelines and access network are part of the local area heritage and receive low level of visitation by tourists to the region.

The CHWF site is accessible by unsealed roads from the northeast, east and south, normally associated with very low traffic levels.

The wind farm occupies an area of approximately 4,121 hectares of privately-owned land (Section 2.4).

Lake Echo to the west of the project area, is a Hydro Tasmania asset and together with Ouse River also provides recreational fishing opportunities for the community and sporting groups.

Grazing and forestry land are located to the north, east and south and are associated with scattered rural housing. The project area itself comprises ten lots, owned by two landowners, and has been historically used for cattle grazing, forestry and hunting.

Parts of the biodiversity values for the project area are protected under an existing Tasmanian Conservation Covenant. Additional parts of the project area are also being set aside for conservation purposes (as part of biodiversity offset provisions of the Commonwealth and State Approvals) arising from the project's unavoidable impacts on biodiversity.

An existing TasNetworks high voltage electricity transmission easement crosses the site and allows the wind farm to connect to the transmission network with the addition of only minor new overhead line infrastructure between the wind farm substation and the existing 220 kV line easement. Operation and maintenance of the TasNetworks transmission lines requires occasional visitation by TasNetworks and its contractors to the project locality.

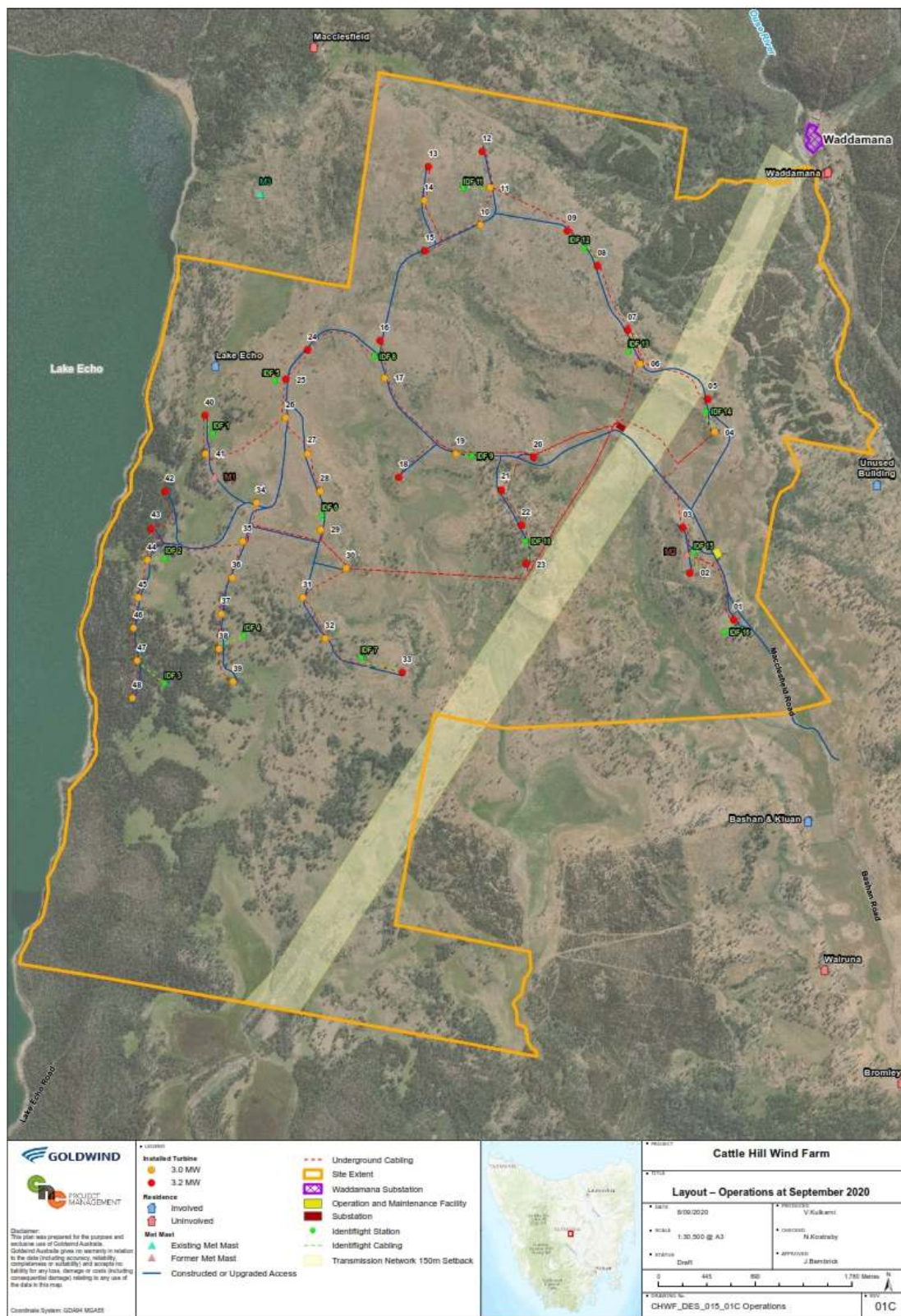


Figure 2.1 – Cattle Hill Wind Farm Project Post-Construction Layout at September 2020

### 2.3 Associated Planning Approvals

In addition to the EPBC approval for the CHWF Project, the development has required approvals from Tasmanian State and Local regulators as shown in Table 2.1.

**Table 2.1 – Details of planning and environmental approvals for CHWF**

Jurisdiction	Regulator	Approval No.	Infrastructure
Commonwealth	Department of Energy and Environment	EPB 2009/4839	CHWF
State	Environment Protection Authority	EPN 10105/1	CHWF
Local	Central Highlands Council	DA 2010/19, as amended	CHWF
Local	Central Highlands Council	DA 2017/56	Identiflight System
Local	Central Highlands Council	DA 2017/57	Met Masts
Local	Central Highlands Council	DA 2018/09	Roadworks permit
Local	Central Highlands Council	DA 2018/31	Off Site Road Upgrades
State	DPIPWE – Covenant Authorisations for construction works	By letter from DPIPWE	Allows specified impacts within Covenant area
State	DPIPWE – Permits to Take (PTT) in relation to Threatened Species or Products of Wildlife.	Various	Allows specific impacts under the Terms and Conditions of the PTT.

The planning permit for CHWF, DA 2010/19, was obtained from Central Highlands Council (CHC) under the Tasmanian *Land Use and Planning Approvals Act 1993* and as amended by the Resource Management and Planning Appeal Tribunal (RMPAT). The Permit comprised two parts, that issued by CHC and Part B issued by EPA. Current form of Part B is EPN 10105/1.

Environment Protection Notice (EPN) 10105/1 was issued by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) on 13 March 2019 under the Tasmanian *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994*. The EPN varies the environmental conditions of Permit No. DA 2010/19.

### 2.4 CHWF Project Land

The land on which the CHWF is located is situated immediately to the east of Lake Echo and accessed from Bashan Rd, approximately 3km southwest of Waddamana, and includes part or all of the following land titles (defined in approvals DA2010/19, EPN 10105/1, and EPBC 2009/4839). These titles are held by two landowners (Landowner 1 and Landowner 2), as follows:

- Landowner 1 - 135246/1; 29897/1; 29897/3; 29897/5; 135247/1; 135247/2; 29888/4, 29897/6.
- Landowner 2 - 248810/1.

### 3 DETAILS OF CHWF PROJECT AND DEVELOPMENT STATUS

#### 3.1 Approved Action

The EPBC Approval allows the following Approved Action:

*To develop a wind farm consisting of up to 100 wind turbine generators and associated infrastructure east of Lake Echo in Tasmania's Central Highlands as described in the referral received on 7 April 2009 and request for variation to proposal received 30 August 2010.*

Appendix B of the EPBC Approval (EPBC 2009/4839) shows the extent of the CHWF project area.

Appendix A of the EPBC Approval (EPBC 2009/4839) shows, the project layout based on the Design Report Layout December 2017 and, exclusion zones from Eagle Nests known at that time.

The CHWF layout that has been installed, is consistent with the Tasmanian planning approvals and the Design Report December 2017 approved by EPA 01 March 2018 and the EPBC Approval. The layout for the Design Report addressed all the relevant Commonwealth, State and Local planning matters.

The CHWF project comprises a lesser number of wind turbines, 48 instead of the 100 originally considered by the EPBC referral. The CHWF project has a reduced footprint but the installed turbines are larger than originally proposed enabling the project to take advantage of advances in technology that give greater wind turbine efficiency to deliver an improved wind farm performance but with reduced environmental impact.

The details of the CHWF project as implemented are outlined below. The proponent has kept the Department aware of the EPA approved Final Design for the project and subsequent minor variations required for the project that have been approved by the EPA. Changes to the project have simplified underground cabling arrangements, removing some parts of the cable routes and micro-siting other infrastructure to reduce impacts and, to improve practicality of implementation.

#### 3.2 Details of Wind Turbines

The project comprises 48 wind turbines. These are Goldwind's Permanent Magnet Direct Drive design with either 3 MW or 3.2 MW rating (26 by GW140/3000 and 22 by GW140/3200) with a total wind farm generating capacity of 148.4 MW (maximum output to Grid is capped at 144 MW).

The wind turbines have approximate dimensions as follows:

- a maximum height (to highest point of rotor swept area) of 170 meters above ground level,
- a hub height of approximately 100 metres.
- The three bladed rotors are 140 metres in diameter.

Near the base of each wind turbine tower are:

- an external kiosk-style 33kV transformer that incorporates switch gear;
- two banks of cooling fans. Cooling fluid circulates between the cooling fan units and the internal areas of the tower and turbine; and
- A compacted hardstand area has been formed during construction at each wind turbine site, for use by large cranes and for component laydown. 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 approved by CHC. The cover photo shows eight turbines on the eastern shore of Lake Echo.



### 3.3 Substation details

A substation is located near to the TasNetworks transmission easement that crosses the project area (see Plate 3.1). The Substation includes:

- a 33-kV switch room receives 33 kV cables from each of the wind farm's five collector groups
- a 33kV/220 kV transformer in concrete bund
- landing gantry for conductors from substation to cut-in poles for the 220-kV transmission line.
- Various electrical protection and power quality equipment
- Security fencing around the substation and surrounding site drainage
- Earthing grid below gravel cover for substation compound

### 3.4 Other permanent infrastructure

The wind farm design also includes:

- Access track network from the site entry to all turbine sites and the substation site (Figure 2.1)
- Five 33kV collections circuits comprising 33kV underground cables between groups of turbines and the substation. Communications and control cables are co-located with the 33kV cables.
- An Operations and Maintenance facility near the site entry and adjacent Macclesfield Road comprising:
  - a compound surrounded by security fencing
  - a building providing office desks, computer and communications facilities and amenities
  - a workshop and storeroom
- 16 Identiflight units located throughout the wind turbine layout in locations that provide optical coverage of all turbine sites and their surrounding areas.

Minor variations were made to the locations of access tracks and routes of 33kV cables and approved by EPA as minor modifications to the Design Report layout.

### 3.5 Temporary construction infrastructure

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

- Construction compound – now removed, after construction activities completed
- Two batch plant sites (eastern and western sites) – Now removed from site.
- Water Supply point for extraction from Lake Echo. No longer required.

### 3.6 Status of CHWF Works

Preparatory investigations and works occurred in early 2018 to prepare for construction that commenced on 13 August 2018. The project layout is shown in Figure 2.1. The full access network has been established now and the civil works contractor returns intermittently to address aspects of rehabilitation of disturbed areas including weed control, drainage work and revegetation.

For the full reporting period, the project has been in the construction phase with commissioning of wind turbines occurring from 19 November 2019. First Full Operations occurred at the end of the reporting period, from 4 August 2020. However initial operations has not been continuous due to variation in the grid operator's constraints in relation to the final phase of grid acceptance testing.



**Plate 3.1 – View to northwest, to Substation and Cut-in poles, Turbines 6 to 16 on ridgeline**



**Plate 3.2 – View south to Turbine 1 to 3 near site entry – cable route adjacent access track**

## 4 EPBC APPROVAL CONDITIONS AND PROPONENT RESPONSES

### 4.1 Overview of the EPBC Approval requirements

Since issue of EPBC Approval 2009/4839, the conditions of approval have been subject to a number of variations including the revocation of Conditions 6 to 9 and 21. In the case of Condition 6, three Conditions 6A, 6B and 6C were added in place of the revoked Condition 6. A further variation occurred on 3 July 2020 to define first full operations in relation to commencement of the IDF trial under Condition 6C.

A number of conditions are not applicable to the current reporting period as, the development phase has not been reached or, they are set in the future or, the requirement was not triggered.

The following sections provide further details of the proponent's response to requirements of conditions that are applicable for this reporting period and describe the status of compliance requirements. Where relevant, implementation of management plans is also described. Details of the Compliance Status for each condition is also provided in Appendix A.

### 4.2 Condition 1 – Wind Turbines no closer than 1,000m to a known eagle nest

Condition 1 requires that wind turbine generators are not constructed closer than 1,000 metres of an eagle nest.

The CHWF Final Design is described in the CHWF Design Report, dated December 2017 and approved by Tasmanian EPA on 01 March 2018. The design incorporated setbacks of more than 1,000 metres from eagle nests '*Known Nests*' that were known at the time the Design Report was finalized. The setbacks satisfied the requirement of Condition 1 of the EPBC Approval (see Figure 4.1).

During 2018 and, after significant contractual commitments were made for the CHWF project implementation, it became evident that new eagle nests had been established. The presence of the new nests was discussed with both DAWE and Tasmanian EPA and it was acknowledged that the occurrence of the new nests, or any subsequent new nests in respect of the original form of the conditions, could have made the project unviable.

Subsequently, both the EPBC Approval and EPN were varied to distinguish '*existing (Known) nests*' that were considered by the final design in 2017. New nests identified after the Final Design was established and significant project commitments were locked in, have been subject to further consideration by regulators, separately from the Condition requirements for '*Known Nests*'.

### 4.3 Condition 2 – Construction activities within 500m or 1,000m of an active nest

Condition 2 requires that construction activities do not occur within 500 metres of an active eagle nest during the breeding season or within 1,000 metres line of site of an active eagle nest during the breeding season.

Due to the Final design taking into account known nests, no construction activities were required within 1,000m of an active known eagle nest, whether in the breeding season or at other times.

There are two new nests within 1,000m of a turbine location (RND 2467 and Additional Nest 3 – See Figure 4.2) that were identified after the Final Design was confirmed). Condition FF2 of EPN 10105/1, has been amended to require that an Active Nest Construction Environmental Management Plan and Eagle Nest Utilisation Monitoring Plan (ANCEMP and ENUMP) be prepared and submitted to EPA by 1 May 2019. The ANCEMP and ENUMP was submitted to EPA within the required timeframe and approved by EPA on 24 May 2019. Construction activities in relation to the two new nests RND 2467 and Additional Nest 3 have been conducted in accordance with the Plan and are now complete. The requirements of the ANCEMP and ENUMP were first applied from July 2019 including monthly reporting to the EPA on construction activities and nest monitoring results. All requirements of the



ANCEMP and ENUMP were addressed by construction activities for the 2019/2020 Eagle Breeding Season from August 2019 to early February 2020. The project has complied with EPBC Condition 2, EPN Condition FF2 and the EPA approved management plan, ANCEMP and ENUMP.



Figure 4.1 – Wind Farm Layout, Design Report December 2017 and Exclusion Zones - Known Nests

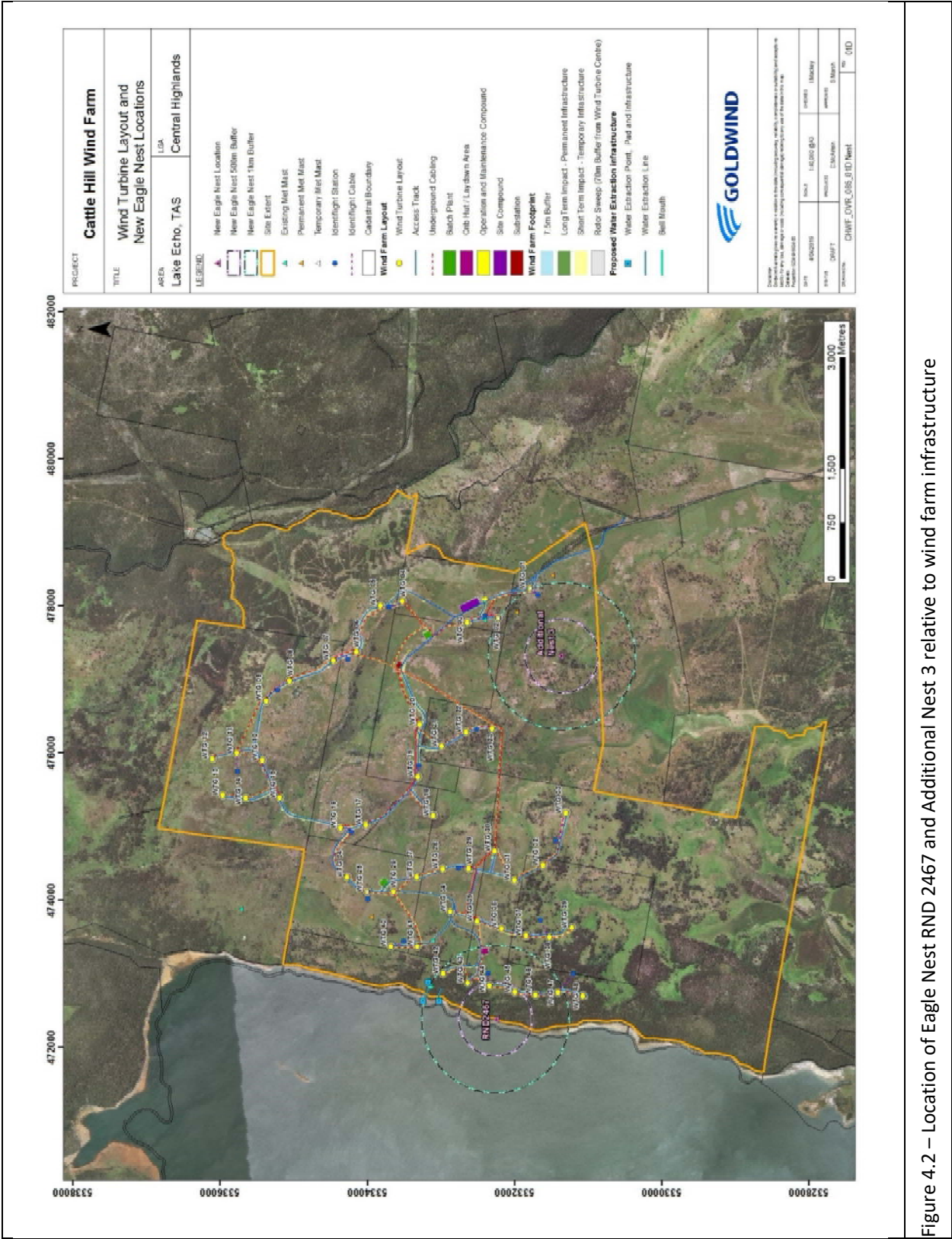


Figure 4.2 – Location of Eagle Nest RND 2467 and Additional Nest 3 relative to wind farm infrastructure



#### 4.4 Condition 3 – Removal of carcasses from hunting and culling

Condition 3 requires, immediate removal of all animal carcasses from hunting and culling activities from within 500 metres of wind turbine generator locations from 12 months prior to commissioning and for the life of the wind farm.

Hunting and Culling has been occurring on the two properties where CHWF is located from well before the development commenced and is continuing in similar form but with arrangements to ensure safe conduct in the vicinity of the development activities and with defined processes for record keeping in respect of numbers and types of carcasses together with details of their disposal.

Records of animals shot are prepared by shooters (species and number shot, location shot, location disposed and person removing the animal or carcass). The records are periodically forwarded to WCHPL, records are available since 2 June 2017, more than two years before commissioning.

Separate from the EPBC requirements, EPN 10105/1 Condition FF7, requires the preparation and approval of a Hunting and Culling Management Plan. The Plan was prepared by Joule Logic (5 November 2018), on behalf of WCHPL and, in consultation with landowners, shooting groups and the construction contractors. The Final Plan was approved by EPA on 20 November 2018. It designates certain exclusion zones for shooting including the Conservation Covenant and within 200m of wind turbines.

Four Carcass Disposal Areas (see below) were approved by the Minister (Figure 4.3) and are required to be used, where activities are relevant to Conditions 3, 4 and 5. Only landowner 1 (Section 2.4), disposes carcasses at site, of which approx. 52.5% were removed from site. Those carcasses that are subject to Conditions 3 to 5 and disposed on site, were disposed at the Pits as shown below.

- Top Ridge – Minor use (approx. 5.5% of carcasses for the report period disposed here)
- Mushroom – Initially established in wrong location, location now corrected (approx. 16.5%)
- Five Mile – Carcass material placed on ground at this location (approx. 25.6% disposal)
- Bashan – Not used as hunters on that property have historically removed the whole animals.

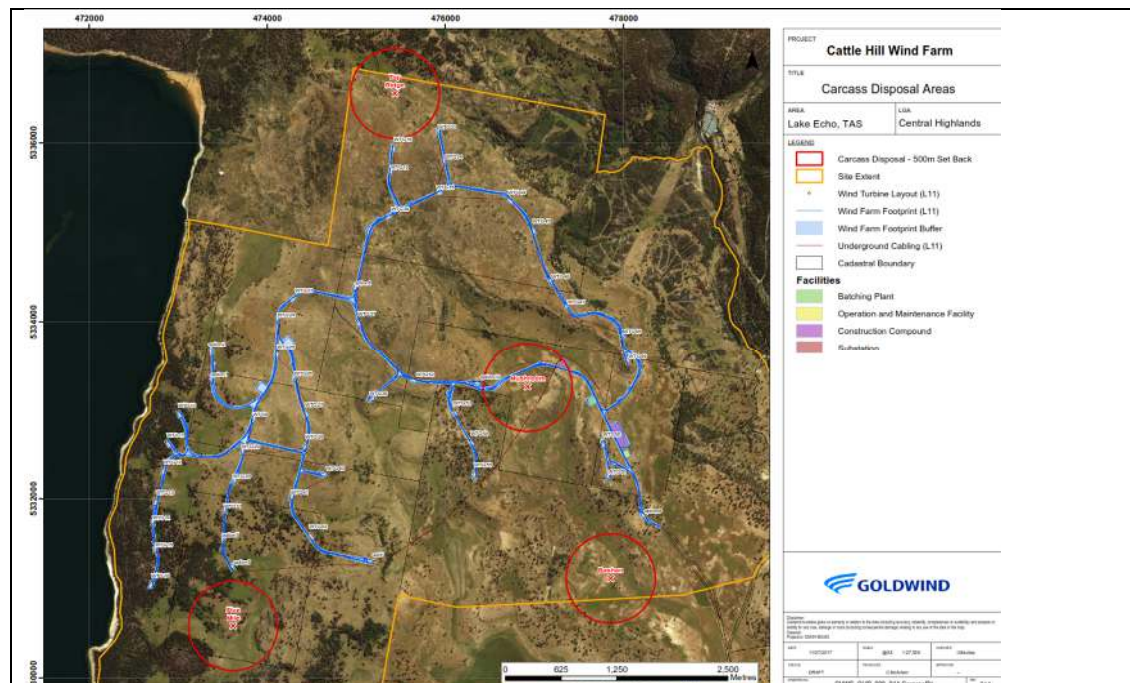


Figure 4.3 – Location of the four carcass disposal areas approved by the Minister. EPA has required that, to comply with the Animal Health Act, all carcasses are covered within 48 hours.

#### 4.5 Condition 4 – Operations – Removal of carcasses from collisions with wind turbines

Condition 4 requires that during wind farm operations, animal carcasses resulting from collisions with wind turbines generators, vehicles and/or other regular farming activities within the wind farm site are removed on the day they are discovered and are placed in locations, approved in writing by the Minister, no closer than 500 metres from the wind turbine generator locations.

The wind farm commenced commissioning of the first turbine on 19 November 2019 and progressively increased the number of turbines operating but were restricted from reaching first full operation of the wind farm until 4 August 2020. Hunters did undertake Hunting and Culling and maintained established disposal procedures and record-keeping including use of approved carcass pits (See Section 4.4). Hunting was restricted during period of night-time turbine installation activities.

The majority of carcasses are related to hunting and culling by organised hunting groups. Road kills on site are rare, due to reduced vehicle speeds. There has also been a low number of avian collisions with turbines. Some of the carcasses from avian collisions are collected and stored for identification by ecologists and, in some cases, are placed in a freezer and retained for use in future scavenger trials associated with the intensive bird and bat mortality monitoring program under EPN 10105/1.

#### 4.6 Condition 5 – Operations - Searches for Dead Calves during September each year

Condition 5 requires that daily searches are conducted for dead calves during September each year and any carcasses are removed from within 500 m of any wind turbines. Additionally, unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the Department, wind turbine generators must not operate during day light hours within 1,000 metres of paddocks where lambing is occurring. In the Department's letter of 14 February 2018, the Director agreed to operation of turbines no closer than 500 metres from any lambing activities but that does not yet appear to have been changed in wording of Condition 5.

No turbines were operating during September 2019 in the report period and no lambing has occurred in the vicinity of the wind turbines that are being operated. The condition was not applicable for the reporting period.

#### 4.7 Conditions 6A, 6B and 6C – Collision Avoidance and Detection Plan (CADP)

Condition 6 has been revoked and replaced with Conditions 6A, 6B and 6C.

**Condition 6A** requires the preparation and submission of a Collision Avoidance and Detection Plan (CADP) to the Minister for approval. The CADP has been submitted to the Department and approval obtained on 29 May 2018. Requirements for Condition 6A have been completed. The CADP describes use of the Identiflight system on a trial basis. One of the 16 Identiflight units installed on site is shown in Plate 4.1 with two of the turbines in the background that are within its monitoring field.

**Condition 6B** requires that the wind farm not be commissioned until the CADP has been approved by the Minister. The CADP was approved prior to the reporting period and the wind farm commissioning commenced from 19 November 2019, during the reporting period. Requirements are complete.

**Condition 6C** requires a detailed assessment of the effectiveness of the CAD system to be submitted to the Minister within 18 months of the earlier of first full operation or 1 September 2020. First full operation was notified on 5 August 2020 and this requirement applies from that time with the assessment to be submitted by at latest, 5 February 2022. The project is compliant with all requirements of Conditions 6A, 6B and 6C.

It is noted that the Identiflight (IDF) system being trialled in accordance with the CADP, commenced operation on 19 November 2019 and has been progressively implemented to the stage where all 16 Identiflight units are operating. The extensive amount of initial data gathered over the period from November 2019 to May 2020 has been comprehensively reviewed and analysed to assist the fine

tuning of the system responses, prior to the 18 month trial period commencing from 5 August 2020. The early information will also be considered by reporting for the 18 month trial.

Figure 4.4 shows the curtailment zones applicable for the IDF system's management of turbine operations. The cylindrical inner and outer radius zones set up three zones that when an eagle is detected, the system will respond differently as indicated in the diagram. Each of the cylinders has upper and lower thresholds that affect curtailments similar to the lateral inner and outer radius.



Plate 4.1 – View of one of the 16 Identiflight units installed at CHWF site and turbines in its viewfield

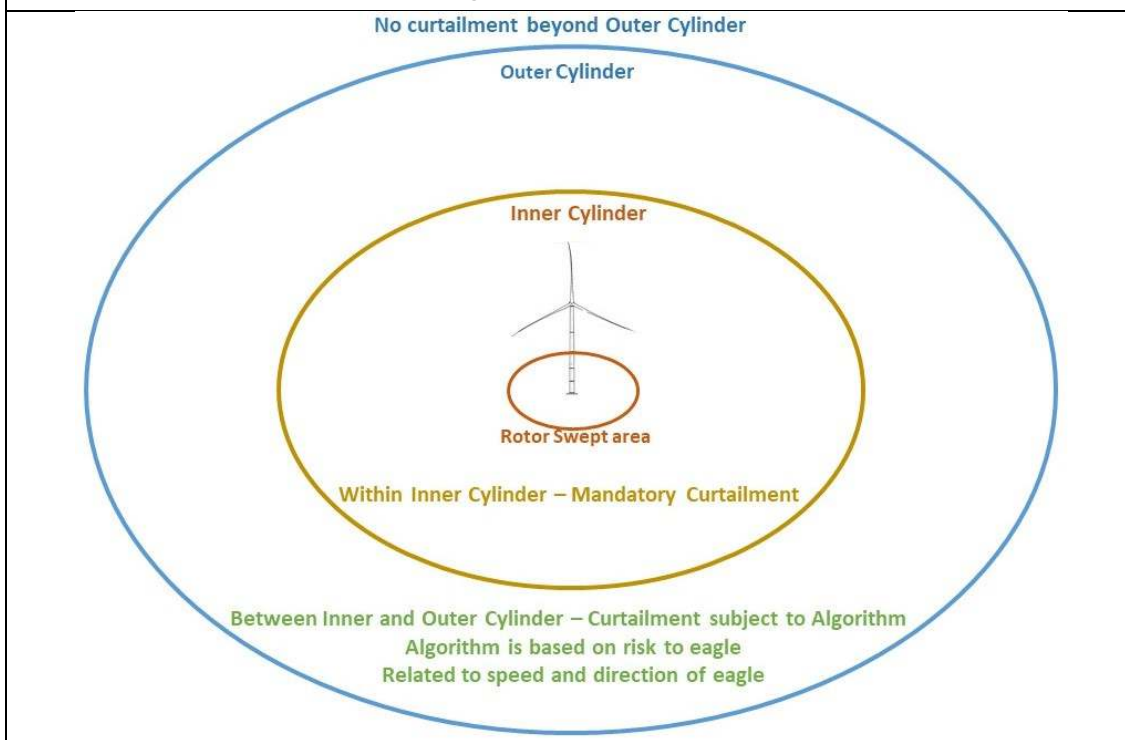


Figure 4.4 – Identiflight Curtailment Zones based on inner and outer cylinders around turbines. Each of the cylinders have similar upper and lower zones that are used by the system for curtailments.

Mortality monitoring was implemented from November 2019. For the reporting period, that predominantly comprised commissioning activities, there were 1,134 Phase 1 searches around individual turbines, conducted on a weekly basis. These searches were only conducted where the turbines were operated during the week. Due to Hold Points imposed by the Grid operator, not all turbines were able to be operated simultaneously and hence the number of turbines to be searched has been less than is required for the full wind farm operations.

The Phase 2 surveys were being initiated at the end of the reporting period in association with commencement of the first full operations from 05 August 2020. The Phase 2 surveys require more intensive monitoring based on half of the turbines being surveyed every second month and the other half surveyed on alternate months.

No eagle collisions with turbines were recorded for the project during the reporting period. It is too early to be definitive about the level of effectiveness of the Identiflight system, but likely that IDF has significantly reduced the risk of eagle collisions with the wind turbines.

The operation of Identiflight to shut specific turbines down, when eagles approach the turbines, is plainly evident to observers of eagle movements in the vicinity of the wind turbines. Results of Phase 1 monitoring for the report period are shown in Table 4.1. Phase 2 monitoring commenced in conjunction with commencement of First Full Operations and no results were applicable for the reporting period that ended on 13 August 2020.

**Table 4-1 - Results of Phase 1 Monitoring conducted under BBMP**

Avian Species recorded by Phase 1 monitoring	Phase 1 - Number of mortalities by species and month recorded									
	2019		2020							
Month	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Wedge-Tailed Eagle	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
White-Bellied Sea Eagle	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brown Falcon	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Magpie	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Black Currawong	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0
Grey Currawong-Ph 2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forest Raven (wing)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Striated Pardalote-Ph2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tasmanian Thornbill	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Tasmanian Silvereye	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Chocolate Wattled Bat	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
NOTE	Period 19 Nov 2019 to 13 Aug 2020. (Nov and Aug only part month)									

The above records indicate a low level of avian collisions with turbines for the reporting period that covers the commissioning phase of the wind farm and first week of full operations.

Conditions 7, 8 and 9 have been revoked.

#### 4.8 Condition 10 – Operations – Notification of collision of an Eagle and Wind Turbine

Condition 10 requires notification to: *“the Department by email within 24 hours of any collision between a wedge-tailed eagle or white bellied sea eagle and a wind turbine.”*

All 48 wind turbines were installed and commissioned during the reporting period but due to constraints on output to the grid, the wind farm did not reach first full operations until 5 August 2020. Monitoring for any eagle mortality had commenced around each operating turbine on a weekly basis from 19 November 2020 when the first turbine commenced generating. No evidence of collision of eagles with the installed wind turbines has been recorded from 19 November 2019 to the reporting period on 13 August 2020 (an impressive outcome, likely due at least in part, to Identiflight operation).

As there were no collisions of eagles with a wind turbine, for the reporting period, the requirement of Condition 10 was not applicable for the reporting period.

#### 4.9 Condition 11 – Revised CADP within two years following commissioning

Condition 11 requires that: *“Within 2 years following the earlier of first full operation or 1 September 2020, submit for the Minister’s written approval a revised CADP containing details of the collision avoidance and detection system proposed to be subsequently implemented (including technologies installed and practices undertaken) for monitoring WTE movements, preventing WTE collisions with turbines and recording collisions.”*

Notification that the wind farm had reached first full operation was provided to the Department on 5 August 2020, towards the end of the reporting period. Based on the timing of the notification, the requirements of Condition 11, for submission of a revised CADP, are applicable and must be addressed by 5 August 2022.

#### 4.10 Condition 12 – Maintain records of searches required by Condition 11

Condition 12 requires: *“Keep and maintain accurate records of each physical search conducted as required by Condition 11, including date, time, turbine number and research findings”* and that: *“These records must be provided to the Department on request.”*

For this reporting period, monitoring was undertaken from the commencement of the first wind turbine operation on 19 November 2019. The monitoring was in accordance with the Bird and Bat Mortality Monitoring Plan (BBMMP) approved by Tasmanian EPA under EPN 10105/1 Condition FF10. This involved weekly searches around all turbines that had been operated during the week in accordance with the BBMMP requirements. Records of the monitoring are obtained and maintained. A summary of the Phase 1 monitoring results for the reporting period is shown in Table 4.1.

In addition, there has been substantial monitoring by Identiflight’s cameras, during the initial operation of the Identiflight system and review and analysis of the monitoring records. In addition to its surveillance capability, the system also provides for mitigation through the control of turbines by shutting down specific turbines, if an eagle is at risk of collision with a turbine rotor. The pre-operations period has provided for collection of a large volume of data that is being analysed to review suitability of the turbine curtailment prescription and to train the system based on review of images of the various species photographed by the system. There has been over 8 months to improve operation of the IDF system prior to first full operations and the commencement of the 18 month trial period. No collisions of eagles with turbines were recorded for the report period, a pleasing result.

#### 4.11 Condition 13 – All wind farm roads signposted with max 40kph speed limit

Condition 13 requires:



*“Ensure that all roads within the wind farm site are clearly signposted requiring all vehicles to travel at no more than 40 kph and ensure that this is a requirement for all drivers within the site except in an emergency.”*

The EPC (construction) Team and Service (Operations) teams have responded to the Condition 13 requirement by:

- Including the requirement for 40 kph speed limit in site induction material that all site personnel are required to undertake so that they are aware of requirements
- Placing signage around the site clearly showing the 40kph speed limit (Plate 4.2) and, in some places, requiring lesser speed limits.
- Reminders for speed restrictions is regularly provided as part of pre-start meetings
- Additionally, signage has also been established on-site requiring a speed limit of 30kph from dusk to dawn for the protection of native animals that are active at night-time (Plate 4.3).

The resultant low incidence of on-site road-kills is likely to be largely attributed to control of vehicle speeds.



Plate 4.2 – 40 kph site speed limit signage



Plate 4.3– 30kph signage Dusk to Dawn

#### 4.12 Condition 14 – Daily checks on all wind farm roads for road-kills

Condition 14 requires that: *“Prior to construction commencing each day, ensure all roads proposed to be used that day are free of road kill and any animal carcasses are placed in locations approved in writing by the Minister no closer than 500 metres from wind turbine generator locations.”*

The construction phase of the CHWF development has been associated with a very low incidence of road-kills. This is likely due to the reduced speed limit for on-site roads. In contrast off-site roads that have higher speed limits appear to have regular occurrences of road-kills.

Overall, there have been very few instances of on-site road-kills. The disposal of the few carcasses arising from on-site road-kills have sometimes required investigation, particularly if the carcass was for a threatened species. For example, a quoll that was found deceased on an access track near the construction compound was forwarded to Bonorong Wildlife Centre for autopsy to determine the cause of death. Bonorong subsequently reported that the quoll had been attacked by another animal as evidenced by puncture marks and lack of evidence of impact injury.

In terms of the required checks, the Balance of Plant, Supply and Install contractors and Service Team now active on the site review work areas during initial transit to the infrastructure and report any occurrences of road-kills to initiate collection and appropriate disposal of the carcasses.

#### 4.13 Condition 15 – WTE monitoring as required by Permit Conditions FF4 and FF 5

EPBC Condition 15 requires the completion of Wedge-tailed Eagle monitoring arrangements required by the amended Tasmanian planning permit DA 2019/19, Conditions FF4 and FF5 (EPN 10105/1).

Condition FF4 requires that:

*“Prior to commissioning the wind farm an eagle nest search of the Central Highlands Region must be conducted by a suitably qualified and experienced person and the results submitted for inclusion in the Natural Values Atlas.”*

SFM was engaged to undertake the required WTE monitoring for the Central Highlands and completed the survey and report in February/March 2018. The report was submitted to EPA on 9 April 2018 and was subsequently approved by EPA on 8 June 2018.

Condition FF5(1) required that:

*“Unless otherwise approved in writing by the Director, an Eagle Nest Productivity (in and around the wind farm site) Monitoring Plan must be submitted to the Director for approval 6 weeks prior to construction.”*

Joule Logic was engaged to prepare the Eagle Nest Productivity Plan (under Condition FF5). The final version of the Plan was submitted to the EPA on 2 October 2017 (considerably more than the 6 weeks before construction) and it was approved by the EPA on 30 October 2017.

Surveys under the Condition FF5 Eagle Nest Productivity Plan are to be undertaken as follows:

- During the first breeding season after the wind farm is fully commissioned
- The Plan specifies surveys are to be undertaken once during the breeding season, around the second week of November; and
- For up to 3 years after which a review will be made to determine whether the surveys have achieved the objective of the Plan

Requirements of EPBC Condition 15 (Conditions FF4 and 5) have been addressed to the extent possible, but have not yet required the Condition FF5 post-commissioning surveys that are due in late 2020 and that would be addressed for the next EPBC Annual Compliance Report period.

#### 4.14 Conditions 16 and 17 – Funding of Research for long term conservation of WTE

Conditions 16 and 17 relate to arrangements for funding a research plan to inform the long-term conservation of WTE and commencement of funding for the research plan. Condition 16 requires the submission of the plan to the Minister for approval and the wind farm must not be commissioned until the plan is approved and implemented. Condition 17 requires commencement of implementation of the approved research plan.

Note 1 appended to Condition 16 states that:

*“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.”*

WCHPL has appointed NRM South to manage and implement a Wedge-tailed Eagle Research Fund to offset the impact of mortalities due to collisions with wind turbines at Cattle Hill Wind Farm. The Fund

aims to support critical studies into the Tasmanian sub-species and is designed to allow other proponents or organisations to contribute to it.

The first annual payment has been made to NRM South, comprising an initial payment of approx. \$90,000 (after CPI adjustment) has been made. Further annual payments (CPI adjusted) will be made to the Research Fund, on an ongoing basis.

Email advice was received from the Department on 29 October 2019, stating that based on the information provided to the Department that requirements of Condition 17 have been met. As Condition 17 relates to the implementation of the Research Plan required by Condition 16, this indicates that requirements of both Condition 16 and 17 have been met.

The Project has complied with the requirements of Conditions 16 and 17.

#### **4.15 Condition 18 – Review effectiveness of Research Plan five years after its approval**

This is a future requirement and not applicable for this reporting period. It is noted that the provisions for the payments to the WTE Research Fund are described in the CHWF Eagle Mortality Offset Plan approved by EPA on 21 December 2018, under EPN 10105/1 Condition FF15.

As indicated above, the Department advised on 29 October 2019 that the requirements of Condition 17 had been met. A five-year time frame from the Research Plan approval (under EPN 10105/1) would be 21 December 2023. However, if based on commencement of funding would be 29 October 2024.

A link to the NRM South website, which provides further details about the fund is provided below:

<https://www.nrmsouth.org.au/wedge-tailed-eagle-research-fund/>

At the time of writing, the fund was active and receiving applications, with the first round of applications under review by NRM South.

#### **4.16 Condition 19 – Further funding in relation to WTE mortality or injury**

Condition 19 requires that

*“For each actual wedge-tailed eagle mortality or injured wedge-tailed eagle that cannot be released into the wild, occurring above 2 actual mortalities or injured wedge-tailed eagles that cannot be 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 release that wedge-tailed eagle into the wild at an ecologically suitable location to the satisfaction of a suitably qualified expert”*

No wedge-tailed eagle mortalities or injury occurred during the reporting period in relation to the wind farm operation and Condition 19 was not applicable for the reporting period.

Note 2 included with Condition 19 states that: *“The Minister may determine that satisfaction of Tasmanian EPA condition FF15 – 3.3 satisfies the requirements of the condition.”*

The Eagle Mortality Offset Plan prepared in response to Condition FF15 and approved by EPA on 21 December 2019, does include relevant provisions that address the requirements of the EPBC Condition 19.

#### **4.17 Condition 20 – Review of requirements after 10 years of operations**

Condition 20 allows for the person taking the action, after 10 years of operation to demonstrate that the wind farm is not impacting the Wedge-tailed Eagle and to request approval from the Minister to cease implementing conditions 11 (if required) and 17. This is a future requirement and based on first full operations having been notified on 5 August 2020, will not be applicable until 5 August 2030.

Condition 21 has been revoked.

#### 4.18 Condition 22 – Weed Management Strategy

Condition 22 requires that three months prior to commencement of construction, the approval holder must submit a Weed Management Strategy to the Minister for Approval and once approved, the Weed Management Strategy must be implemented.

The CHWF Weed Management Plan was approved by the Minister’s delegate on 14 December 2017 as satisfying the requirements of Condition 22 of the EPBC approval. In respect of implementation, the following elements have been applied for the project:

- Weed mapping and identification of relevant weeds for the site. Ecological mapping and reporting have noted and recorded weed presence.
- Employee site inductions include requirements for weed management
- Training in Weed identification and management was provided by VDC in Oct/Nov 2018
- Vehicle and Plant Inductions including weed free/cleanliness checks
- Weed identification posters on site notice boards and incentives for identifying weeds (Plate 4.4)
- Periodic Weed Control Treatments by Balance of Plant contractor (Hazell Brothers)
- Wash Down Bay establishment during construction (removal as part of de-mobilisation),
  - facility at Construction Compound Plate 4.5.
- As rehabilitation works follow construction and extend into operations, the weed management component of rehabilitation has been continued through the reporting period by the BOP Contractor, but will in time transition to the Service Team to manage.
- With the transition to Operations, the Service Team has requirements to monitor for weeds and control them. The Service Team inductions have included information on weeds and this aspect will be further reinforced as part of ongoing site environmental management activities.



Plate 4. 4 – CHWF Example Site Weed Identification and Incentive Posters on display in site office





Plate 4.5 – Wash Down Bay at Construction Compound maintained during construction works

#### 4.19 Condition 23 –Flora Offset Strategy and Flora Offset Management Plan

Condition 23 requires that, prior to construction, the approval holder must submit a Flora Offset Strategy to the Department for Approval. The Flora Offset Strategy was approved on 15 March 2018 prior to construction commencing. The Flora Offset is to compensate for unavoidable impacts to the Liawenee Greenhood and Crowded Leek Orchids.

Condition 23(c) further requires the approval holder to submit a Flora Offset Management Plan (FOMP) to the Department within 10 months of the Department having approved the Flora Offset Strategy. While the best endeavours were made to achieve the required timeframe, some details required for the FOMP needed an extension of the time frame for completion of the FOMP. An extension was agreed to by the Department and the FOMP was submitted to the Department and was approved by the Department on 10 August 2019. Implementation of the FOMP must follow.

The FOMP comprises three areas to offset the project's unavoidable impacts on orchid species at the CHWF Site. The three areas are shown in Figure 3.3 and comprise one offset area on the CHWF site, referred to as '*Bashan Ledge*' and, two offset areas external to the CHWF site, referred to as '*Wihareja*' and '*Stone Hut*'. No specific timeframe for establishment of the covenants was prescribed but significant effort has been directed to securing covenants for the three areas described in the FOMP. The offsets are being secured with respective landowners under covenant transactions managed by DPIPWE.

The Wihareja covenant has now been secured on title.

The Bashan Ledge and Stone Hut covenant areas are with a second landowner and while negotiations are at an advanced stage, the final execution of documents is still to be completed with the landowner. It is expected a further period of 1 to 2 months may be needed to complete this last phase of the process, potentially be end of 2020 or early 2021.



The requirements of Condition 24 were not applicable for the reporting period.

Condition 25 requires that: *“The person taking the action must advise the Department in writing of the actual date of:*

- *commencement within three business days of commencement of the action;*
- *commissioning within 24 hours of commissioning, and*
- *first full operation within three business days of first full operation.”*

The Department has been periodically kept aware of the project activities at key stages of the development including updates on the project's progress. In respect of the latter two notifications applicable to the reporting period, the following details are provided:

- 20 August 2019, Advance notice of indicative time to commence commissioning of wind turbines and provision of project update

- 15 November 2019, Letter advising commencement of commissioning of first wind turbine
- 19 November 2019, Email confirming commencement of commissioning of first wind turbine
- 21 March 2020, Project update
- 04 May 2020, Letter advising all wind turbines commissioned and the Hold Point arrangements for grid exports were deferring achievement of full operations.
- 05 August 2020, Letter notifying that the grid operator's approval for the wind farm to produce at full output of 144 MW and, first full output was achieved by 05 August 2020.

All requirements of Condition 25 have now been met in full. No further requirements of Condition 25 are applicable for future annual compliance reports.

#### **4.22 Condition 26 – Records for activities in relation to EPBC Approval Conditions**

Condition 26 requires that the person taking the action must maintain accurate records substantiating all activities associated with or relevant to the conditions of approval, including measures taken to implement all management plans, report and strategies required by this approval, and make them available upon request to the Department.

Records are maintained for all required activities.

#### **4.23 Condition 27 – Annual Compliance Report**

Condition 27 requires that within 90 days of the anniversary of commencement of the action the approval holder must:

- Publish a report on website as per link here: <https://cattlehillwindfarm.com/>
- Provide evidence to the Department of proof of publication (email direct to Department).

Advice obtained from the Department in email 17 May 2019 was “that the first annual compliance report required under condition 27 should be on or before 11 November 2019.

The first annual compliance report required by Condition 27 was submitted to DAWE on 11 November 2019.

This report is the second annual compliance report required by Condition 27 and has been prepared for submission prior to required end date 11 November.

#### **4.24 Condition 28 – Independent audit of compliance with EPBC Approval Conditions**

Condition 28 requires that, the person taking the action must ensure that an independent audit of compliance with the conditions of the approval is conducted and a report submitted to the Minister, if that is required by the Minister.

No such request has been received from the Minister and the Condition is not applicable for the reporting period.

#### **4.25 Condition 29 – Activities other than in accordance with EPBC Approval Conditions**

Condition 29 requires that, if the person taking the action wishes to carry out the activity otherwise than in accordance with the management plans, reports and strategies required by this approval, as specified in the conditions, the person taking the action must submit to the Department for the Minister's written approval a revised version of that management plan, report or strategy required by the approval. The varied activity must not commence until the Minister has given written approval for the varied management plan, report or strategy.



There has been no such instance for the reporting period and the Condition is not applicable for the reporting period.

#### **4.26 Condition 30 – Request by Minister for revised Plan, Report or strategy**

Condition 30 requires that the person taking the action must comply with any request by the Minister to make specified revisions to the management plan, report or strategy specified in the conditions (if the Minister believes it necessary or convenient for the better protection of listed threatened species) and that revised document(s) are submitted for the Minister's approval.

No such requests have been received and the Condition is not applicable for the reporting period.

#### **4.27 Condition 31 – Commencement of Action within 5 years of approval**

Condition 31 requires that, if the person taking the action has not substantially commenced the action within 5 years of the date of the EPBC approval, then the person must not substantially commence the action without the written agreement of the Minister.

The project commencement occurred within 5 years of the EPBC approval and there are no further requirements of Condition 31 that are applicable to the project.

#### **4.28 Condition 32 – Publish Records of approved Plans for the EPBC Approval Conditions**

Condition 32 requires that, unless agreed to in writing by the Minister, the person taking the action must publish all management plans, reports and strategies referred to in these conditions of approval on its website, except as otherwise specified in Condition 32.

In response to this Condition, the person taking the action has published the following documents on the project website ( <https://cattlehillwindfarm.com/> ).

- Cond 6A – Collision Avoidance and Detection Plan
- Cond 22 – Weed Management Plan
- Condition 23 - Flora Offset Strategy and Flora Offset Management Plan
- Conditions 16 and 17 (Plans approved by Tasmanian EPA and accepted by DAWE as satisfying requirements of Conditions 16 and 17)
  - FF 5 - Eagle Nest Productivity Plan
  - FF 6 - Post Commissioning Eagle Utilisation Monitoring Plan
  - FF15 - Eagle Mortality Offset Plan
- Condition 27 – CHWF Annual Compliance Reports, including:
  - Annual Compliance Report, 2019
  - Annual Compliance Report, 2020

#### **4.29 Condition 33 – Availability of Plans, Reports and Strategies**

Condition 33 requires that, the person taking the action, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Minister, must provide a copy of each approved management plan, report or strategy referred to in the conditions of approval to members of the public on request, except as for the exceptions described in Condition 33.

No requests were received during the reporting period and the requirements of the Condition are not applicable for the reporting period.

## 5 CONCLUSIONS

This report provides the relevant details required for satisfying requirements of Condition 27 of the EPBC Approval 2009/4839 for the period 13 August 2019 to 13 August 2020.

The report shows the details of compliance with the relevant condition of EPBC Approval 2009/4839 for the reporting period to 13 August 2020. Compliance of each of the Conditions is described in Section 4, summarised in Table 1.2, also shown in Table form in Appendix A that shows the Condition of Approval, Compliance Status and summarises evidence.

The measures implemented have also addressed the objectives for environmental protection and it is pleasing to report that no Wedge-tailed Eagle mortalities occurred for the report period where turbines commenced commissioning on 19 November 2019 and achieved first full operations from 5 August 2020. WCHPL looks forward to further demonstration of effective environmental management measures mitigating impacts and offsetting the unavoidable impacts.

## 6 REFERENCES

CHC	Permit DA 2010/19 as amended 25 October 2017
DoEE	EPBC Approval 2009/4839 as varied on 25 January 2019.
EPA	Environment Protection Notice - EPN 10105/1, Issued on 13 March 2019

Other references are referred to in the text in relation to specific aspects addressed by this report.

## 7 APPENDIX A - COMPLIANCE TABLE - CONDITIONS OF EPBC APPROVAL

Appendix A – Table setting out compliance status for each of the Conditions of EPBC Approval for the period 13 August 2019 to 13 August 2020.

**Appendix A – Table setting out compliance status for each of the Conditions of EPBC Approval for the period 13 August 2019 to 13 August 2020**

Cond No.	Condition Description	Is project compliant with condition	Evidence / Comments
	<b>For the protection of the wedge-tailed eagle, the person taking the action must:</b>		
1	Ensure wind turbine generators are not constructed closer than 1000 metres of an eagle nest. The Approval definitions refer to a nest, constructed or used by a WTE or WBSE, known at the time of submission of the final layout (CHWF Design Report, December 2017) as shown at Appendix A (of the Approval).	<b>Compliant</b>	Design complies - see Figure 3.1, Design Report Drawing <i>CHWF_DES_003_02B Exclusion Zone - Nests</i> . No infrastructure is located within 1,000m of a (Known) Nest.  New nests found post Design Report and within 1,000m of turbine sites are not relevant to this Condition. (Section 4.2)
2	Ensure construction activities do not occur within 500 metres of an active eagle nest during the breeding season or within 1000 metres line of sight of an active eagle nest during the breeding season. <i>(As indicated above, definition of Nest refers to those known at time of final layout December 2017.)</i>	<b>Compliant</b>	Design complies - see Figure 3.1, Design Report Drawing <i>CHWF_DES_003_02B Exclusion Zone - Nests</i> . No infrastructure within 1,000m of (Known) Nest. New nests found post Design Report within 1,000m of turbine sites are not relevant to this Condition. Construction undertaken in accordance with ANCEMP and ENUMP (Section 4.3 of this report)
3	Commencing twelve months prior to the commissioning of wind turbine generators at the wind farm site and for the life of wind farm operations, immediately remove all animal carcasses resulting from hunting or culling activities from within 500 metres of wind turbine generator locations and ensure they are placed in locations approved in writing by the Minister.	<b>Compliant</b> (with exception of the initial Mushroom location - this has now been corrected)	The two landowners for the CHWF project area arrange for shooters to undertake hunting and culling on their properties. A system was established for the shooters to keep records of the animals shot and disposal locations. These records are periodically forwarded to WCHPL. Disposal locations were also identified and approved by the Minister. (Note Mushroom area was initially established at an incorrect location and has since been relocated to the approved location). (Section 4.4)
4	During wind farm <b>operations</b> ensure animal carcasses resulting from collisions with wind turbine generators, vehicles and/or other regular farming activities within the wind farm site are removed on the day they are discovered and are placed in locations approved in writing by the	<b>Compliant</b> Only applicable limited time Relevant for Operations	Operations only commenced in last week of reporting period. Several animals found on access tracks and recorded in project incident recording system. If involving a threatened species, then investigation and reporting undertaken. Phase 1 monitoring around operating turbines from 19 November 2019. Carcasses collected

	Minister no closer than 500 metres from wind turbine generator locations.		often stored for identification or use in future scavenger trials. (Section 4.5)
5	Conduct daily searches for dead calves during September each year and remove any carcasses from within 500 m of any wind turbine generator and ensure they are placed in locations approved in writing by the Minister. Unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the Department wind turbine generators may operate during day light hours within 1000 metres of paddocks where lambing is occurring.	<b>Not applicable</b> No turbines operating for September 2019	Not applicable for reporting period. Turbines in commissioning phase November 2019 to August 2020 during report period.  (Section 4.6)
6A	Within three months following the commencement of construction, submit to the Minister for approval a Collision Avoidance and Detection Plan (CADP) containing details of the collision avoidance and detection system to be implemented (including technologies installed and practices undertaken) for monitoring WTE movements, preventing WTE collisions with turbines and recording collisions. The CADP must conform with Guidelines for its preparation which the Department must confirm at least three months prior to the commencement of construction. The CADP must include information about and comparison of relevant available technologies and practices.	<b>Compliant</b>	First submitted to DAWE on 01 February 2018  Approved by DAWE on 29 May 2018 and has been placed on project website.  Identiflight set up July-August 2019 and has been operational since 19 November 2019.  (Section 4.7)
6B	Not commission until the CADP has been approved by the Minister. The Minister will not unreasonably withhold or delay approval of the CADP.	<b>Compliant</b>	CADP Approval on 29 May 2018 well before commissioning. The proponent has ensured that operation of individual turbines was preceded by initiation of Identiflight operations described in CADP.
6C	Within 18 months of the earlier of first full operation or 1 September 2020, submit to the Minister a detailed assessment of the effectiveness of the collision avoidance and detection system, including complete records of detected Wedge-tailed Eagle collisions at the wind farm site and information about and comparison of relevant technologies and practices available at the time of preparing the report.	<b>Not applicable</b> <b>Future requirement</b>	First full operations commenced from 05 August 2020. This date represents the commencement of the 18 months period for trial and reporting of the effectiveness of the Identiflight System.  Reporting for CADP - Due by approx. February 2022 (Section 4.7)



7	Revoked on 10 May 2017	Not applicable	
8	Revoked on 10 May 2017	Not applicable	
9	Revoked on 10 May 2017	Not applicable	
10	<p>Notify the Department by email within 24 hours of any collision between a wedge-tailed eagle or white-bellied sea eagle and a wind turbine. Within one week of the initial notification, the person taking the action must submit to the Department a detailed collision report, that at a minimum includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. the species of eagle, the sex and estimated age;</li> <li>b. the nature of injuries or mortality and cause as reported by a veterinarian;</li> <li>c. the nearest turbine to where the injured eagle or carcass was found (if detected by physical search);</li> <li>d. details of how the injury or mortality was caused and proposed response to prevent further mortalities occurring; and</li> <li>e. if the eagle was injured, information about its condition, including if and how the eagle will be rehabilitated and re-released.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Not applicable</b> No Eagle collisions with a wind turbine</p>	<p>No Eagle collisions with turbines were recorded during the reporting period.</p> <p>Accordingly, there were no requirements for notification and reporting under Condition 10 requirements for eagle collisions during the reporting period.</p> <p>(Section 4.8)</p>
11	<p>Within 2 years following the earlier of <b>first full operation</b> or 1 September 2020, submit for the Minister's written approval a <b>revised CADP</b> containing details of the collision avoidance and detection system proposed to be subsequently implemented (including technologies installed and practices undertaken) for monitoring WTE movements, preventing WTE collisions with turbines and recording collisions. The CADP must include the results of scavenger trials required under Commitment 70</p>	<p><b>Not applicable</b> <b>Not due yet</b></p>	<p>This requirement is not due yet. First Full Operation on 05 August 2020. A revised CADP is due by 05 August 2022.</p> <p>(Section 4.9)</p>

	of the Tasmanian EPA Permit and information about and comparison of relevant available technologies and practices. The revised CADP must include a collision monitoring programme for eagles based on a statistically valid sampling regime which applies current best practice and satisfies the requirements of EPA permit condition FF10. The Minister will not unreasonably withhold or delay approval of the revised CADP. The person taking the action must implement the approved revised CADP.		
12	Keep and maintain accurate records of each physical search conducted as required by condition 11, including date, time, turbine number and search findings. These records must be provided to the Department on request.	<b>Compliant</b>	Reporting of scavenger trials has occurred previously as part of monitoring management plan development. Phase 1 Mortality monitoring surveys, around operating turbines, are undertaken on a weekly basis and records kept. Additional Phase 2 monitoring has been integrated since the first operations was achieved on 05 August 2020. (Section 4.10)
13	Ensure that all roads within the wind farm site are clearly signposted requiring all vehicles to travel at no more than 40 kph and ensure that this is a requirement for all drivers within the site except in an emergency.	<b>Compliant</b>	Site rules require max 40 kph speed limit. Separate signage also requires a max 30 kph speed limit from dusk to dawn to minimise risks to nocturnal species. (Section 4.11)
14	Prior to construction activities commencing each day, ensure that all roads proposed to be used that day are free of roadkill and any animal carcasses are placed in locations approved in writing by the Minister no closer than 500 metres from wind turbine generator locations.	<b>Compliant</b> Applies for construction	Addressed in CEMP Table 6.11, Very few instances of on-site roadkill or carcasses on access tracks during construction. (Section 4.12)
15	Complete the wedge-tailed eagle monitoring arrangements required by the amended Tasmanian planning permit DA 2010/19 conditions FF 4 and FF 5.	<b>Compliant</b>	FF4 and FF5 are conditions under EPN 10105/1 FF4 complete and reported to EPA - EPA approval letter dated 8 June 2018 FF5 Schedule - post commissioning nest surveys approx. 2nd week November (or as agreed with EPA) for up to 3yrs, first due November or December 2020. FF5 Plan provided to DAWE for information on 23 Nov 2017. (Section 4.13)

16	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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;</li> <li>b. a demonstration that proposed research is consistent with published recovery objectives and will inform the long term management and conservation of the species;</li> <li>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;</li> <li>d. a breakdown of research components to be funded in annual \$75 000 equivalent increments;</li> <li>e. funding arrangements and responsibilities;</li> <li>f. the qualifications and experience of persons undertaking the research or minimum qualifications and experiences required of persons proposed to undertake research;</li> <li>g. how research will be published and made publicly available within the life of the plan; and</li> <li>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.</li> </ul> <p>Note 1: The Minister may determine that a plan, strategy or</p>	<b>Compliant</b>	<p>DAWE has advised that Condition 16 is satisfied by Management Plans approved by EPA under the EPN 10105/1 (Plans under FF5, FF6 and EMOP under FF15)</p> <p>Letter from DAWE on 8 Jan 2019 advises that Conditions 16 and 17 satisfied - (This is greater than 6 months prior to commissioning)</p> <p>Funding (under EPN) See Condition 17 has established through NRM South (under EPN FF15 EMOP). Initial payment, CPI adjusted.</p> <p>(Section 4.14)</p>
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	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 research plan, with the first \$75 000 equivalent committed prior to commissioning of the wind farm.	<b>Compliant</b>	EMOP prepared under EPN Condition FF15 addresses this requirement as agreed with DAWE. EMOP approval obtained from EPA. Letter dated 8 Jan 2019 from DAWE advises that Conditions 16 and 17 satisfied, Funding arrangements commenced. Wind Farm commissioned during report period (Section 4.14)
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.	<b>Not applicable</b>	Review not required yet, due after 5 years (approx. 2023) (Section 4.15)
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. <i>Note 2: The Minister may determine that satisfaction of</i>	<b>Not applicable</b>	No WTE injury or mortality for reporting period. Arrangements included in EMOP that has been approved by EPA under requirements of the EPN Condition FF15 (Section 4.16)



	<i>Tasmanian EPA condition FF15 – 3.3 satisfies the requirements of this condition.</i>		
20	May, 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 conditions 11 (if required) and 17.	<b>Not applicable</b>	Not due until August 2030 (Section 4.17)
21	Revoked on 10 May 2017		
22	For the protection of other nationally protected matters, specifically the <b>Liawenee Greenhood, Crowded Leek Orchid and Clover Glycine</b> the person taking the action must:	See below	
22	Three months prior to the commencement of construction, submit a <b>weed management strategy</b> to the Minister for approval. The strategy must include but not be limited to: a. details on how construction activities will be managed to minimise and prevent the establishment of new or spread of existing weed species, specifically where construction is to occur within or near habitat for the Liawenee Greenhood, Crowded Leek Orchid and Clover Glycine; b. weed management activities to be undertaken with reference to weed species that are known from and likely to occur at the wind farm site; c. vehicle and machine wash down protocols for all vehicles entering the site; d. weed identification programs and staff inductions; and e. measures to monitor, control and eradicate weed outbreaks that may occur on site. The approved weed management strategy must be implemented.	<b>Compliant</b>	Weed Management Strategy - dated 4 December 2017. DoEE approval letter dated 14 December 2017  Training by VDC in weed management issues for site staff was arranged in Nov 2018  A range of measures were applied through construction including employee awareness of key invasive weed species, vehicle induction checks and on-site wash down facility. Weed controls are being continued as part of site rehabilitation. (Section 4.18)
23	The approved <b>flora offset strategy</b> must be implemented. If offsets additional to those in the approved flora offset strategy are required as a result of previously unrecorded	<b>Compliant</b>	Progressed beyond Flora Offset Strategy (FOS) – No additional impacts identified and no need for revised FOS. (Section 4.19)

	threatened species encountered during construction and/or pre• construction activities (as required by condition 24), a revised version of the flora offset strategy must be submitted for the written approval of the Minister within 3 months of the completion of all ground breaking construction activities.		
23	<p>The approval holder must submit the <b>offset management plan</b> to the Department within ten (10) months of the Department having approved the flora offset strategy. The offset management plan must include:</p> <p>i. details of short, and long term, management measures to maintain and improve the condition of the offset(s), including timeframes, proposed for each offset site; and</p> <p>ii. the short, and longer term, arrangements and responsibilities of parties involved in the management of each offset site.</p>	<b>Compliant</b>	<p>FOMP approved by DoEE on 10 August 2019.</p> <p>Implementation arrangements for the Offset areas has required an extended timeframe with finalization of covenants on titles being near to completion. (Section 4.19)</p>
24	<p>If during <b>construction and /or pre-construction activities</b> a previously unrecorded threatened species is encountered, the person taking the action must immediately <b>cease activities at the affected area</b>.</p> <p>A report must be submitted to the Department that includes population characteristics, proposed avoidance and mitigation measures and, where applicable, proposed offsets to compensate for unavoidable impacts.</p> <p>Activities in that area can only recommence when directed to in writing by the Department.</p>	<b>Not applicable</b>	<p>No new species found - No reporting required (Section 4.20)</p>
<b>Administrative Conditions</b>			
25	<p>The person taking the action must advise the Department in writing of the actual date of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• commencement within three business days of the commencement of the action;</li> <li>• commissioning within 24 hours of commissioning, and</li> </ul>	<b>Compliant</b>	<p>The required notifications have been provided to DAWE. Letters to DAWE advised status of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Commencement of construction and updates on progress.</li> <li>- Notification of commissioning and progress updates</li> <li>- Notification of First Full Operations from 05 August 2020.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>first full operation within three business days of first full operation.</li> </ul>		All requirements of Condition 25 have now been completed (Section 4.21)
26	<p>The person taking the action <b>must maintain accurate records substantiating all activities</b> associated with or relevant to the conditions of approval, including measures taken to implement all management plans, reports and strategies required by this approval, and make them available upon request to the Department.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Summaries of audits will be posted on the Department's website. The results of audits may also be publicised through the general media.</p>	<b>Compliant</b>	WCHPL has established a comprehensive record keeping system for the project compliance matters. (Section 4.22)
27	<p>Within 90 days of each anniversary of the commencement of the action, the person taking the action must publish a report on its website addressing compliance with each of the conditions of this approval, including implementation of any management plans 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. Unless otherwise directed in writing by the Minister the report must include a chapter that outlines how each injured or sick wedge-tailed eagle was rehabilitated in accordance with the requirements of condition 19. This must include</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>how the injured or sick wedge-tailed eagle was identified for rehabilitation</li> <li>the nature of injuries and/or sickness at the commencement of rehabilitation</li> </ol>	<b>Compliant</b>	<p>This report provides the second of the annual compliance reports required by Condition 27 for anniversary date of 13 August.</p> <p>A request to place the report on the project website will be submitted to the website coordinator, on the same day that the report is submitted to the Department.</p> <p>(Section 4.23)</p>

	<p>c. the actions taken to rehabilitate the wedge-tailed eagle including the location and costs of rehabilitation and qualification and experience of persons involved in rehabilitation; and</p> <p>d. potential survival in the wild.</p>		
28	<p>Upon the direction of the Minister, the person taking the action must ensure that an independent audit of compliance with the conditions of approval is conducted and a report submitted to the Minister. The independent auditor must be approved by the Minister prior to the commencement of the audit. Audit criteria must be agreed to by the Minister and the audit report must address the criteria to the satisfaction of the Minister.</p>	<b>Not applicable</b>	Audit as required by Minister - None required as yet (Section 4.24)
29	<p>If the person taking the action wishes to carry out any activity otherwise than in accordance with any management plans, reports and strategies required by this approval as specified in the conditions, the person taking the action must submit to the Department for the Minister's written approval a revised version of that management plan, report or strategy required by this approval.</p> <p>The varied activity shall not commence until the Minister has approved the varied management plan, report or strategy required by this approval in writing.</p> <p>The Minister will not approve a varied management plan, report or strategy, unless the revised management plan, report or strategy, would result in an equivalent or improved environmental outcome over time. If the Minister approves the revised management plan, report or strategy, that management plan, report or strategy must be implemented in place of the management plan, report or strategy originally approved.</p>	<b>Not applicable</b> No revision of the approved management plans	<p>The project is being implemented in accordance with the requirements of the conditions and the management plans, reports and strategies required by the conditions of approval.</p> <p>The Conditions of Approval have been varied on several occasions and the project complies with the most recent issue of the Project Approval.</p> <p>(Section 4.25)</p>



30	If the Minister believes that it is necessary or convenient for the better protection of listed threatened species to do so, the Minister may request that the person taking the action make specified revisions to the management plan, report or strategy specified in the conditions and submit the revised management plan, report or strategy, for the Minister's written approval. The person taking the action must comply with any such request. The revised approved management plan, report or strategy must be implemented. Unless the Minister has approved the revised management plan, report or strategy, then the person taking the action must continue to implement the management plan, report or strategy originally approved, as specified in the conditions.	<b>Not applicable</b>	Minister has not required revisions to plans or strategies (Section 4.26)
31	If, at any time after 5 years from the date of this approval, the person taking the action has not substantially commenced the action, then the person taking the action must not substantially commence the action without the written agreement of the Minister.	<b>Complete</b>	Approved 15 December 2014 - Commencement from 23 March 2018 - complies - no further requirement. (Section 4.27)
32	Unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the Minister, the person taking the action must publish all management plans, reports and strategies referred to in these conditions of approval on its website, except, for the period that the Minister agrees, those parts of these documents that the Minister agrees should not be published for commercial-in-confidence reasons. Each management plan or strategy must be published on the website within 1 month of being approved. Each report must be published on the website within 1 month of being submitted to the Minister.	<b>Compliant</b>	<p>The following plans have been published on the project website</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cond 6A – Collision Avoidance and Detection Plan</li> <li>• Cond 22 – Weed Management Plan</li> <li>• Condition 23 - Flora Offset Strategy and Flora Offset Management Plan</li> <li>• Conditions 16, 17 and 19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ FF 5 - Eagle Nest Productivity Plan</li> <li>○ FF 6 - Post Commissioning Eagle Utilisation Monitoring Plan</li> <li>○ FF15 - Eagle Mortality Offset Plan</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Annual Compliance Report, 2019</li> <li>• Annual Compliance Report, 2020</li> </ul> <p>(Section 4.28)</p>

33	Unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the Minister, the person taking the action must provide a copy of each approved management plan, report or strategy referred to in these conditions of approval to members of the public upon request, except, for the period that the Minister agrees, those parts of these documents that the Minister agrees should not be published for commercial-in-confidence reasons. Copies must be provided within a reasonable time of the request.	<b>Not applicable</b>	No requests received as yet.  As per Condition 32, specific reports have been made available on the project website.  (Section 4.29)
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