



## **Minutes – Delburn Wind Farm Community and Stakeholder Consultative Committee Meeting 7**

**04/10/2021**

**Zoom meeting**

**4:00-6:00pm**

Attendees:

- Anthony Boxshall (Chair)
- Graeme Wilson (Delburn)
- Trevor Hoare (SSF)
- Ian Hill (Landcare Network)
- Lorraine Bull (GCCN)
- Peter Mooney (GTLC)
- Hugh Thompson (HVP)
- Elizabeth Radcliffe (OSMI)
- Ruth Harper (Secretariat)
- Stacey Clark (Observer, EPA)
- Tony Wolfe (Coal Industry Worker)
- Chris Milne (Boolarra)
- Ash Hall (LVA)

Apologies: Cathryn Thompson (SSF), Wendy Farmer (Voices of the Valley), Matt Ryan (Observer), Heather Butler (Mirboo North), Charlie Solomon (GLaWAC), Rhain Bateman (WGCMa).

### **Minutes**

#### **Agenda Item 1: Welcomes, aims for tonight**

The Chair opened the meeting by acknowledging the traditional owners of the lands that we were meeting on, being various and including Gunaikurnai and Wauthurong, and paid his respects to their elders past, present and emerging.

The Chair revisited his expectations in relation to interactions within the committee. The Chair reviewed the purpose of the meeting – to update Committee members on the planning process, to discuss the visual aspects of the project and to discuss assessment criteria for the Pre-development Fund with a focus on storm and flood recovery.

#### **Agenda item 2: Introduction, Observers and Conflicts of Interest**

The Chair welcomed all participants and introduced Ash Hall from the Latrobe Valley Authority.

No Conflicts of Interest were declared.

#### **Agenda item 3: Review of Actions arising from last meeting**

Q - Confirm whether there are any planned reviews or amendments to the NZ noise standard, given it is from 2010

A – No reviews are currently planned

Q - Confirm the permitted noise level for HVP operations

A – HVP operates within and is compliant with EPA's with Noise from Industry in Regional Victorian (NIRV). As we have discussed, NIRV is no longer the relevant regulatory document. It is HVP's



understanding that the NIRV has been translated across into the Environment Protection Regulations 2021 (Part 5.3 Noise) **1826.4: Noise limit and assessment protocol for the control of noise from commercial, industrial and trade premises and entertainment venues.**

Q - Find out what range of frequencies are in the turbine blades 'swoosh' noise

A – 6.3 Hz – 10 KHz

Q - Discuss any non-noise related health issues associated with turbines

A – There are no documented non-noise related health issues associated with wind turbines.

Shadow flicker could potentially cause issues if unregulated, however there are strict limits to the amount of shadow flicker that are allowable to prevent issues from occurring.

More information regarding shadow flicker, including mapping of the modelling shadow flicker for the DWF, can be found on the OSMI website [here](#).

#### **Agenda item 4: Update on planning**

Liz from OSMI provided a brief update on the planning process. Expert witness statements are being prepared for the panel hearing which begins on October the 18<sup>th</sup>. It was noted that documents and information about the panel hearing such as expert witness statement and the schedule will be made available by OSMI if and when they are made public by DELWP.

It was asked whether the public need to register to observe the hearing over Zoom. OSMI will find out and report back.

#### **Agenda item 5: Presentation on visual impact from OSMI**

Liz Radcliffe (OSMI) provided a presentation on visual impact covering:

- visual impact assessment criteria and locations;
- examples of individual dwelling assessments;
- methods (including cutting edge technologies that were utilised – True View Visuals augmented reality and virtual reality headsets;
- landscape screening methods.

The presentation is available [here](#).

There was a discussion that followed which covered the issues of landscape screening plans, views from roads/driver distraction, planning issues/regulations.

Questions followed as below.

**Are there any examples globally where energy infrastructure has been painted to fit it's surroundings?**



Generally any planning permit issued includes directions about the colour the tower and blades are required to be – the colour requirements, namely off-white/cream, have been developed specifically to maximise the contrast with the landscape when viewed from above and to minimise visibility when viewed from ground level, ie, blend in with the sky. There are examples of where the base of towers have been painted for decoration, however these sections are generally less visible from a distance, for example, the base of the towers in the DWF would largely be below the height of the plantation.

**Is there a standard that must be met regarding reflective surfaces?**

There are standards around shadow flicker from blades, and directions regarding the finish of blades and towers also require them to be non-reflective surfaces (see above).

**Will it be possible for there to be post-construction landscape screening?**

Yes. Landscape screening plans will be offered before construction for those who want them and will also be available post-construction.

**Have there been any visual assessments done of the towers lit at night?**

No. The aviation assessment has determined that the towers won't require lighting, therefore this has not been assessed. If this determination was to change then there would be an assessment.

**Was the picture of the multiple turbines in the working zone an example of maximum turbine visibility? Are there many places with this kind of view?**

The picture in question was one of the higher visual impacts around the project area. Each view is unique and without the individual assessments it is difficult to answer this question. Very few of the other assessments completed had a views similar to this.

**Is there any compensation for those who feel greatly impacted by the visual impact?**

There is the potential for the neighbourhood profit sharing agreements to include a component relating to visual impact if the community believes that is a fair way to distribute the funds.

**It takes many years for trees to grow large enough to be effective screens. How can we counter that?**

Landscape screening plans can be developed and implemented prior to the construction beginning. Choice of species to plant is also a factor as different species will grow at very different rates.

**Are non-plant based screenings ever used in these situations?**



Yes, there are examples of pergolas or lattice trellis being used to create a garden feature to draw the eye in particular locations rather than screens of plants which might block out the entire view.

**Are there limitations on the landscape screening plantings?**

Landscape screening plan must be compliant with council planning requirements such as Bushfire Management Overlays, which limit the density and location of plantings relative to dwellings and existing vegetation in the landscape.

**Where can the Virtual Reality headsets be viewed?**

The VR is currently available in the OSMI Mirboo North office. It is best to make an appointment as staff are not always in the office due to on site and other commitments.

**Could the planning panel or Minister make the project use smaller turbines?**

No, the Minister makes a determination on whether the project in its current design (turbine size, number, location, etc) can proceed. Minor amendments may be made, but the project output, feasibility and impacts are all based on the current design. If major changes were required, the assessments would be to be repeated based on an amended design.

**Will the project be the new visual welcome to the Valley, ie, will it be visible from the highway as you could over the hill at Hernes Oak as Hazelwood was?**

Unsure. OSMI will take some photos to investigate. It will be visible from some other areas of the highway.

**Will the turbines visible from the highway cause driver distraction?**

An assessment has been conducted on the impact of the turbines on driver distraction and has determined that it won't be a significant issue.

**What is the 'viewing platform'?**

There is a viewing platform proposed as part of the development, which includes a parking area on the corner of Smiths Road and the Strzelecki Highway, which will allow drivers to pull off and walk up a small platform to view the turbines.

The Landcare Board offered to be involved in any habitat regeneration works that are done, including choice of landscape screening plants, sourcing plants and planting, as they have expertise in that area.

**Agenda item 6: Storm and Flood Recovery Pre-development Fund**



The Chair introduced the topic, namely to come up with some assessment criteria for assessing applications for the fund, and shared the criteria that were used last year. The comment was made that all the existing criteria could be applied to a storm/flood recovery fund. There was a conversation around potential criteria, which also seemed to include ideas for actual projects to fund. The Chair reminded the Committee that the aim was to identify assessment criteria, not actual projects, and that OSMI will not be choosing projects but will be relying on applications from the community for projects. However, if the Committee members have ideas for projects they are encouraged to discuss these with the relevant community groups and encourage them to apply.

The Chair grouped the ideas into 8 main themes and the Committee was asked to vote on their priorities. The themes were:

- 1) Contribute to existing storm and flood recovery efforts/organisations
- 2) Habitat repair and restoration (including landscape scale projects, cleaning up or replacing damaged habitat, in particular damage to previous revegetation and restoration works, nesting box projects, etc)
- 3) Multipartner projects
- 4) Community energy resilience projects (such as batteries to connect to solar panels at community assets/buildings)
- 5) Helping communities or individuals most impacted by the storms and least able to recover
- 6) Local infrastructure (eg, roads and culverts impacted by storm and not yet repaired)
- 7) Repair to community assets, including halls, sports facilities, etc
- 8) Community morale building events

The poll revealed numbers 2 and 7 as the highest priority.

Other criteria mentioned were that the funds should prioritise communities around the project area and specifically impacted by the storms, and should avoid projects that should be covered by insurance or be eligible for government funding/resources, and that the fund should avoid replicating local council projects and initiatives.

### **Next meeting**

The next meeting is planned to address questions and concerns around flora and fauna and biodiversity and include a site visit. The proposed date is November 22<sup>nd</sup>, which should allow for restrictions to end and day length to increase. We will aim to meet at 3:30pm for a site visit and follow up with a BBQ at Baromi Park.



November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 3:30-8pm.

OSMI will distribute a COVID safe plan prior to the meeting.

#### **OSMI Actions**

- Confirm whether anyone from the public wishing to observe the panel hearing (ie, anyone not registered to speak) needs to register in advance

#### **Rolling Actions**

- All committee members to communicate widely about the CSCC seeking further members particularly from communities local to the planned wind farm, highlighting the desire for a diversity of opinions.
- Committee members to send ideas about topics you would like covered at future Committee meetings to [csc@delburnwindfarm.com.au](mailto:csc@delburnwindfarm.com.au). There is no limit on the number of items a committee member can nominate.
- All committee members to review the Managing Conflict of Interest information online site <https://osmi.com.au/consultative-committee> and advise the Chair of any potential, perceived or actual conflicts of interest that before the next meeting.





# Delburn Wind Farm Visual Impact Assessment

Community and Stakeholder Consultative Committee Meeting - October 2021

# Visual impact assessment



## Visual impact assessment uses four criteria

- **Turbine Visibility** which can be affected by topography, vegetation and built form
- **Distance**, where visual prominence and scale decreases with distance.
- **Landscape Character and Sensitivity**, which considers visual features such as:
  - topography,
  - vegetation
  - the use of the land,
  - the sense of naturalness and
  - planning provisions



Industrial landscapes are considered to have low sensitivity

**Viewer numbers:** The level of visual impact is said to decrease where fewer people can view the Project and increased where the viewing location is a recognised vantage point or tourist route



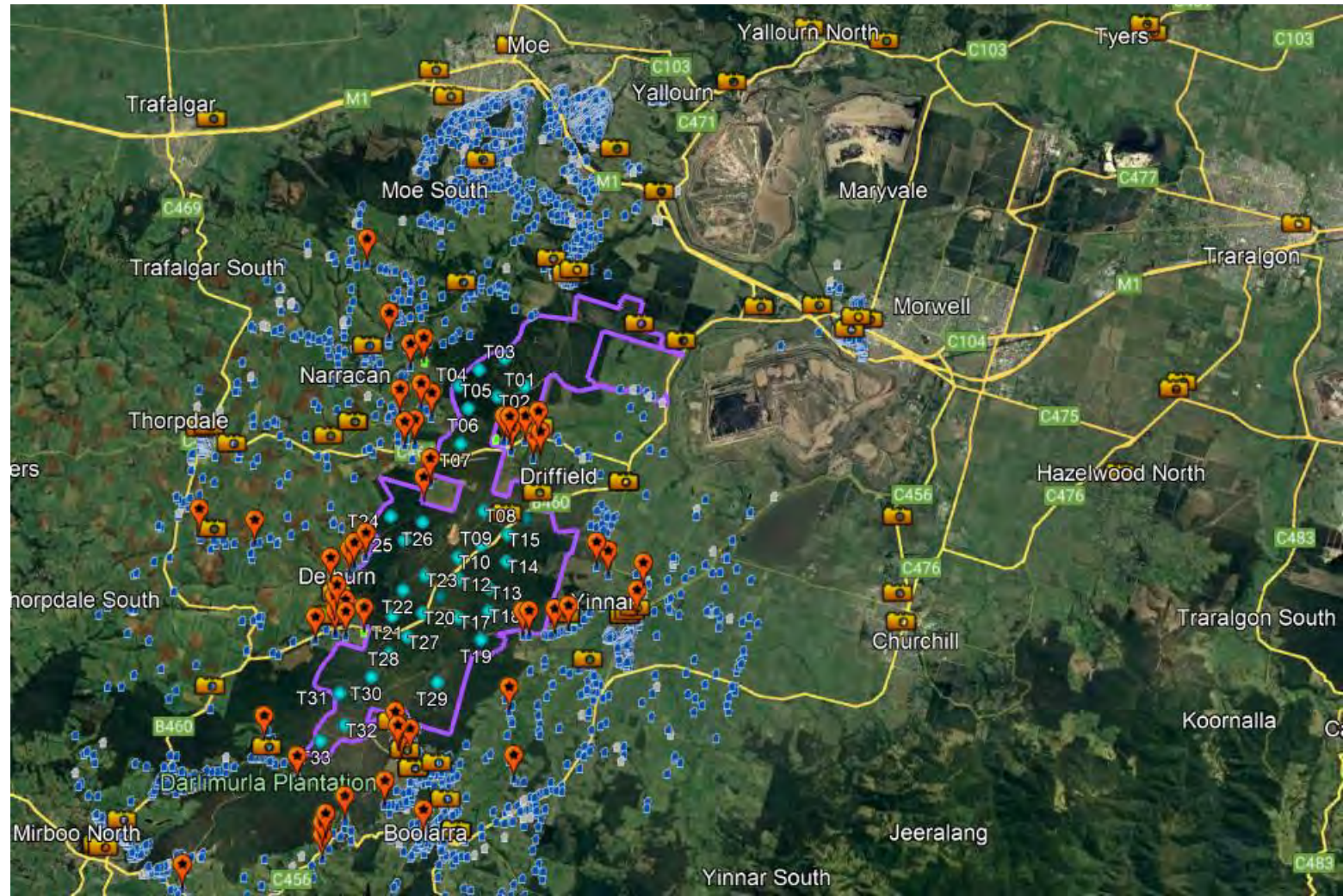
Landscapes with views towards natural forested areas are considered to have medium-high sensitivity



# Where has it been assessed



- Visual impact has been assessed at numerous locations classified as follows
- Townships and urban areas  
*Low-Negligible impact*
- Major Roads  
*Low-Moderate impact*
- Local roads  
*Low impact*
- Tourist routes  
*Low impact*
- National parks, tracks and trails  
*Negligible impact*
- Private dwellings  
*Nil - High impact*





# Individual Dwelling Assessments

- Landscape sensitivity is always classified as high and visitor numbers are not considered
- The same level of sensitivity is not applied to working areas or locations away from the dwelling.
- Results are highly variable even when dwellings are a similar distance from the project























T33

T32

T31









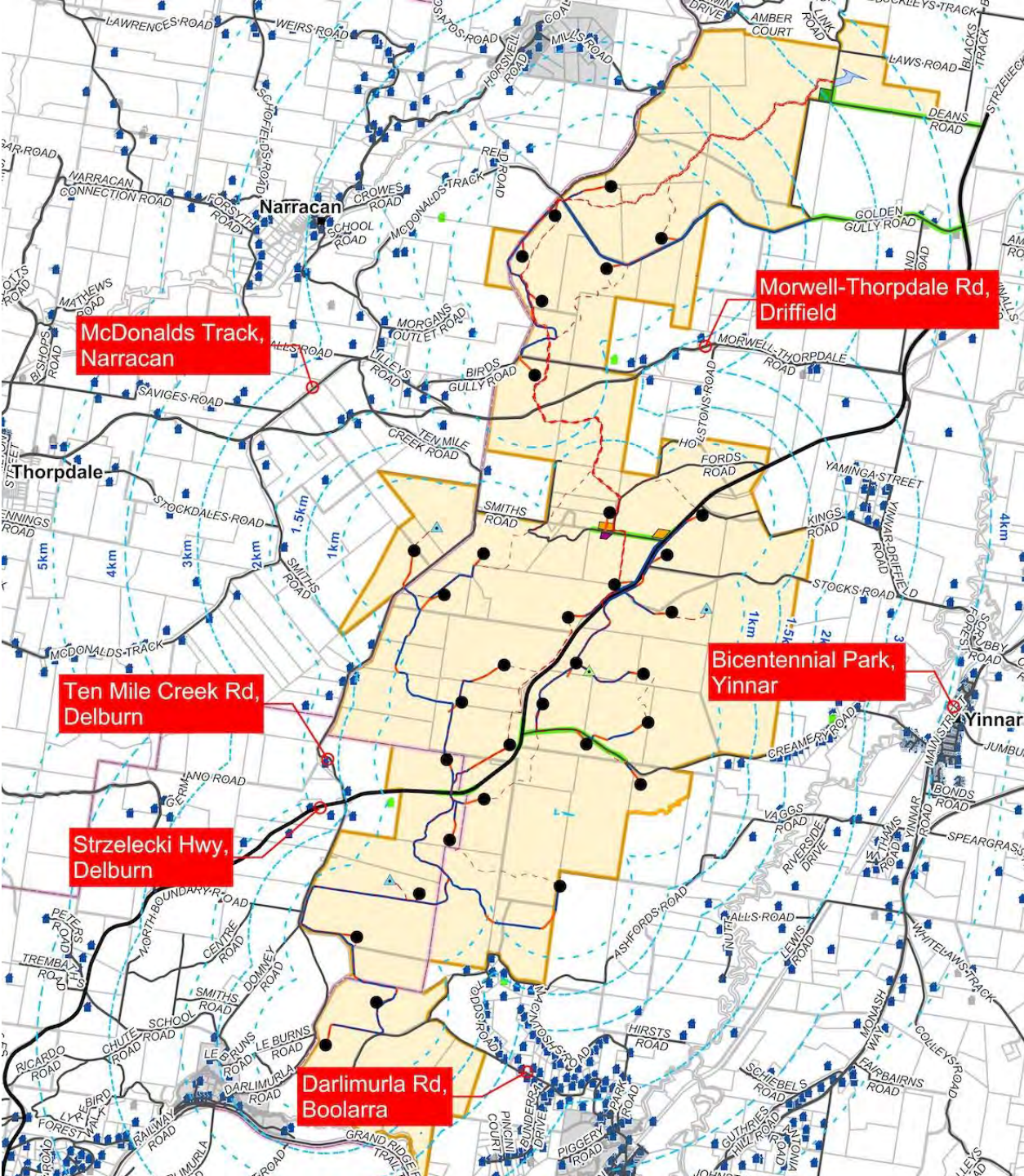












## Virtual Reality



Yinnar Town  
Yinnar

Lat: 38.32135051 S  
Long: 146.32751626



# Mitigation options

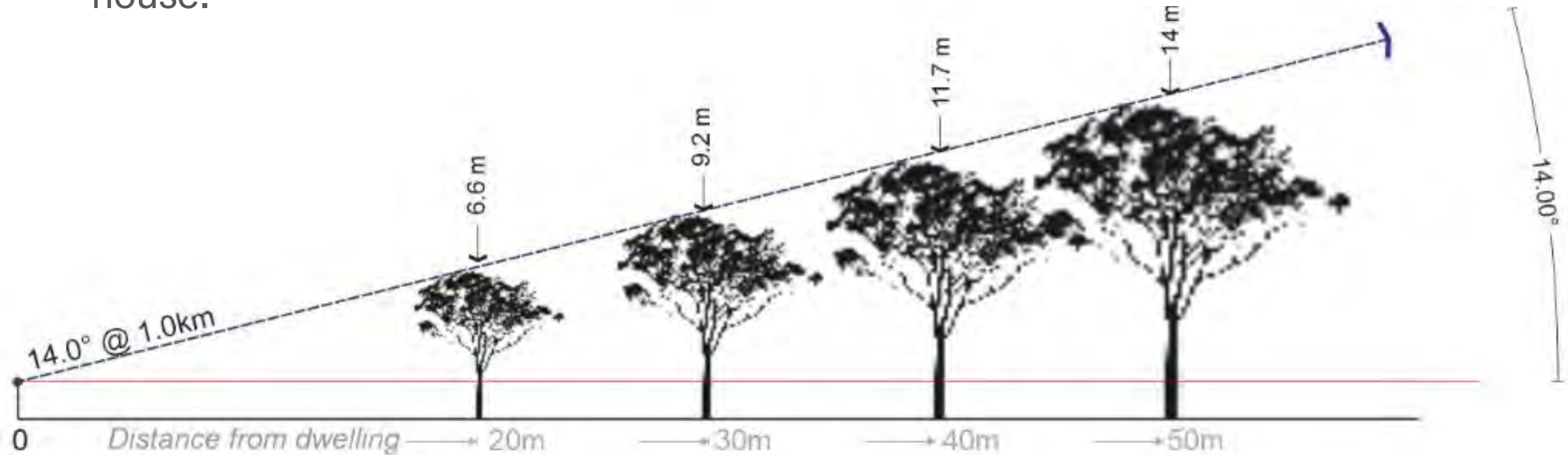
- Generally a planning permit requires a proponent to offer landscape screening at all dwellings within 5 or 6 km of a project
- Planting also needs to take into account bushfire risk which would be assessed on a case by case basis
- General guidance from Fire Risk Consultants
  - Planting should not introduce multiple layers of vegetation – canopy, mid- and under-story
  - Trees or shrubs should be planted in a single row
  - Plantings against existing forested areas should be avoided
  - A 20-metre buffer between any landscape mitigation planting and existing vegetation should be maintained
  - A 10-metre buffer from the residence should be maintained.



Example landscape screening plan

# How is it possible to screen the views

- Appropriate species can be selected to achieve screening outcomes.
- Height of effective landscape screening will depend on the distance to turbines and the distance of the planting from the house.



# Are the larger turbines more visible?



Larger turbines may be more visible, depending on the terrain and surrounding vegetation, however

- spacing between the turbines is larger
- the number of turbines required for the same output is lower
- the taller the structures are not scaled up in all dimensions so they appear more slender

Relative size of various constructed wind turbines vs those proposed for Delburn



250m Delburn  
(proposal)

220m Murra Warra  
Wind Farm

175m Moorabool  
Wind Farm

150m MacArthur  
Wind Farm

126m Bald Hills  
Wind Farm



# Questions?

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[www.osmi.com.au](http://www.osmi.com.au)

[contactus@osmi.com.au](mailto:contactus@osmi.com.au)

1800 OSMIAU

# Pre-development fund - 2021



Assessment criteria used in 2020 included consideration of how a project contributed to:

- Building sustainable communities
- Enhancing community safety, health and wellbeing
- Supporting community education
- Enhancing the natural environment

What if any storm specific criteria should we include?

**Please Note:** OSMI is unable to offer funding support to:

- ☐ Individuals;
- ☐ Political organisations or campaigns;
- ☐ Religious organisations for religious activities;
- ☐ An organisation's ongoing operational costs;
- ☐ Private companies or commercial entities;
- ☐ Activities which encourage the irresponsible use of alcohol;
- ☐ One-off donations to the same organisation more than once per year;
- ☐ Activities which are usually exclusively funded by government; or
- ☐ Activities which provide a direct financial benefit to employees of OSMI or its contractors.