

Biodiversity



Yanco Delta Wind Farm is a proposed **1.5 GW wind farm** located approximately 10 km north-west of Jerilderie within the NSW South West Renewable Energy Zone. The Project was approved on 23 December 2023 and includes the construction of **up to 208 wind turbines**, an **800 MW / 800 MWh BESS** and associated infrastructure, capable of generating enough renewable energy to power approximately 750,000* homes each year.

Project modification

As Project planning has progressed, several factors have made design adjustments necessary to ensure safe, efficient and successful delivery of the Project. These include:

- New constraints from nearby transmission projects
- Updates to construction methodologies
- Turbine supplier requirements
- Landholder, community and key stakeholder feedback
- The need to avoid sensitive biodiversity and Aboriginal cultural heritage areas.



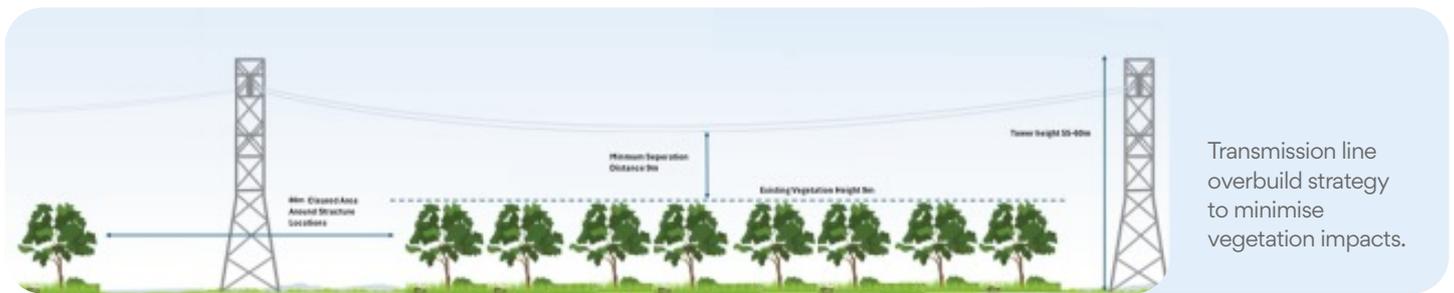
The modification to the approved project responds to design needs, environmental constraints and community input.

Key biodiversity changes

- The approved project anticipated construction impacts on native vegetation of 174 ha
- Temporary construction impacts on native vegetation have increased, with a total of 946 ha of native vegetation to be cleared
- A transmission line overbuild strategy has been implemented to reduce clearing in key locations
- Mature vegetation on Yanco Creek has been avoided
- Some turbine locations have been adjusted to avoid biodiversity values, leading to a reduced risk of bird and bat collision
- Wherever possible, key habitat features such as hollow bearing trees have been avoided and buffered
- Known habitat for threatened flora and fauna species has been avoided wherever possible.

EPBC Act

- The modified project has been re-referred under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act)
- The wind farm and external transmission line (Dinawan Transmission Line) are being considered as two separate but related actions (known as controlled actions). This means that significant impacts on Matters of National Environmental Significance are likely, and Commonwealth approval is required
- The EPBC Act assessment occurs through the modification assessment process, known as a bilateral assessment
- The Commonwealth Minister will decide whether the modified project should be approved once the modification assessment process has concluded.



Revised Biodiversity Development Assessment Report

- An updated Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) has been prepared which documents all anticipated biodiversity impacts
- The BDAR includes the results of comprehensive ecological surveys completed since the original approval was granted, covering the entire footprint of the modified project
- The BDAR updates the turbine risk assessment for the Project, considering the results of bird and bat utilisation surveys completed over eight seasons
- The BDAR also updates the Project's biodiversity credit obligation using refined Plant Community Types (PCT) and Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) mapping and the refined footprint.

Biodiversity impacts

- No increase in the number of Wind Turbine Generators (WTGs) to be constructed
- Reduction in the number of WTGs considered very high risk of bird and bat collision
- No new PCTs to be impacted
- No new Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) to be impacted
- No new Threatened Species to be impacted
- Reduction in vegetation clearing beneath transmission lines.

Environmental offsets

- Offsets will be required for native impacts to vegetation, Threatened Species and TECs
- The Project will work with local landowners to deliver Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements, driving biodiversity gains in the region
- Offsets for Native Grassland and Weeping Myall Woodland will be delivered by direct, land-based offsets
- Additional offset mechanisms may also be used where on-ground outcomes cannot be confidently delivered.

Where to learn more

Further detail on the Project area's biodiversity values, Project-related impacts and proposed mitigation strategies are provided in the **Modification Report (Biodiversity section 6.2)**.

