



TARONG WEST WIND FARM

Ecological Assessment

Overview

The Project site contains a range of environmental features that may be directly or indirectly impacted by the Project. An Ecological Assessment will be submitted to the Commonwealth and State Governments to determine any potential impact to matters of local, state, or national environmental significance. The Ecological Assessment will include:

- Investigation into whether any Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) listed under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) are likely to be present and impacted by the proposed development
- Identification of any potential habitat features at the site with a particular focus on their likelihood to support threatened species listed under the EPBC Act and/or Queensland Nature Conservation Act 1992 (NC Act)
- Identification and verification of regulated vegetation as identified by the Queensland Vegetation Management Act 1999 (VM Act)
- Between October 2018 and February 2023, twelve seasonal surveys (flora and fauna) were undertaken to ground truth the desktop assessment of the site and determine the presence of flora and fauna of national and state environmental significance.

Key Flora and Fauna Species on Site

Key flora and fauna species confirmed within the Project area include:

Koala	Greater Glider	Glossy Black-cockatoo	Satin flycatcher
White-throated Needletail	Grey-headed Flying-fox	Rufous fantail	Fork-tailed Swift

Avoidance, Minimisation and Mitigation of Impacts

The Project has adopted a strong approach of avoidance of impacts, followed by minimisation and mitigation. Impacts to ecological values have been avoided and minimised by the siting of infrastructure away from sensitive values wherever possible.

From 151 Wind Turbine Generators (May 2022)	To 128 Wind Turbine Generators (Oct 2022)	To 97 Wind Turbine Generators (Jul 2023)	Up to 436.5MW of renewable power into the QLD grid
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The current design will remove up to 24 ha of remnant vegetation. This clearing represents up to 1.4% of the total remnant and high value regrowth vegetation in the Project site.

After impacts have been avoided and minimised as far as practicable, remaining impacts will be mitigated with strategies including:

- Rehabilitating disturbed areas following completion of construction activities
- Increasing buffer distance between the turbine blades and remnant vegetation reduces the risk to forest dwelling birds and bat species. The current design locates most wind turbine generators (WTGs) outside remnant vegetation and avoids impact from other infrastructure as much as practicable.
- An adaptive bird and bat management plan will likely be required as a planning condition, to document bird and bat mortalities and re-assess the effectiveness and implementation of controls as required.

Mitigation measures will be supported by a suite management plans through construction and operations including:

- Vegetation and Fauna Management Plan
- Bird and Bat Management Plan
- Construction Environmental Management Plan
- Offset Area Management Plan.

