

Willogoleche Expansion



Aviation

Hart Aviation have been engaged to undertake a thorough review of the impacts of the Willogoleche Hill Wind Farm Expansion and of the impact of using 152m tip heights. Hart Aviation considered the impact on both local, military and en-route traffic and has concluded that the wind farm expansion will not introduce a significant risk to air traffic. To minimise the risks present, it will be necessary once constructed to provide information to all airspace users via the RAAF and Airservices Australia who will issue a Notice to Airmen (NOTAM). Hart Aviation also considered the issue of aviation lighting for the entire Willogoleche Hill Wind Farm, and have drawn the conclusion that lighting will not be necessary provided the turbine height to blade tip does not exceed 152m.



Figure: Photograph taken of a wind farm from a helicopter.

Landscape

An key issue is the potential impact on landscape and visual amenity. The way a wind farm looks to someone is based on personal opinion and therefore there will be many different views. However the assessment of a wind farm's visual impact can be carried out when viewed in the context of regional area and existing land management practices. Swanbury Penglasse Architects are being used throughout the process to ensure that the visual impact is minimised. Part of the landscape assessment process involves creation of photomontages that show predicted views of the wind farm when constructed. The viewpoints used for the photomontages were selected to give a range of predicted views from different areas where the wind farm would be visible.

Three photomontages are shown for each viewpoint: The first is the view of current consent for the Willogoleche Wind Farm, and the others are the two proposals which we are currently assessing: i.e. the 11 turbine extension (a total of 37 turbines with a tip height of 130m) and larger turbines (a total of 27 turbines with a tip height of 152m). Both of the alternatives will be reviewed by Swanbury Penglasse to assess the visual impact of the proposals.



Figure: A photomontage of the Willogoleche Wind Farm Expansion (37 turbines) from Hallett.

There are a number of photomontages available for viewing on the display boards. In line with guidance provided by the Wind Farms and Landscape Values, National Assessment Framework published by the Clean Energy Council and Australian Council of National Trusts, each photomontage image has been produced using the Scottish Natural Heritage Guidelines, which uses an field of view angle of around 65 degrees; this is the angle that the human eye sight can naturally see. As such each photomontage presents a very good indication of what would be seen if viewing the wind farm from the viewpoints.