

Willogoleche Expansion



ECOLOGY

An assessment of the wind farm site has been carried out by EBS Ecology to describe the ecological character of the site and determine the presence of any significant habitat or threatened species. South Australia is covered by the Native Vegetation Act 1991 and Regulations 2003, the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972 and the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation ("EPBC") Act 1999 .

Survey Works

The project site consists predominately of cleared agricultural land used for either cropping or grazing. The site has been previously surveyed in 2004 and 2005 as part of the consenting process for the original Willogoleche Hill Wind Farm. The survey of the wind farm expansion area was conducted in February 2010.

Flora

No EPBC Act listed flora species were identified during the survey work, however four areas of the *Lomandra multiflora* ssp. *Dura* (Hard Mat-rush) Tussock Grassland were identified during the survey as potentially meeting the criteria of Iron-grass Natural Temperate Grassland of South Australia threatened ecological community under the EPBC Act. A further spring survey has recently been conducted to determine whether these Iron-grass communities are classified under the EPBC Act. In the event that the communities are classified under the EPBC Act, a further consent will be required from the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities.

Because of the extent of Native vegetation present, including the Iron grass communities, it will be necessary to obtain consent for any clearance of these species from the Native Vegetation Council of South Australia. This consent will require us to demonstrate how we intend to minimise the impact on the native vegetation species through careful design of the infrastructure.

Fauna

A key aspect of the survey work was to establish the presence of the threatened Pygmy Blue Tongue Lizard and the Flinders Ranges Worm-Lizard which have been identified as possibly being present within the habitat on site. A considerable amount of time was taken searching for spider burrows within the identified habitat. As the majority of these spider burrows were surveyed for occupancy, it has been determined that the Pygmy Blue-tongue lizard is not present on the site. Similarly, there was no evidence of the presence of the Flinders Ranges Worm-Lizard on the project area.

Birds

No specific bird survey work has been conducted over the area of the Willogoleche Hill Wind Farm Expansion. Based on the EBS survey work completed in 2004, a number of bird species were found across the proposed sites, with most of them being native species and common for the area. No bird species of national or State conservation significance were observed within the Willogoleche Hill Wind Farm area, but several species of conservation significance are known to occur in the area including the Plains-wanderer, Australian Bustard and Peregrine Falcon (EBS, 2004).

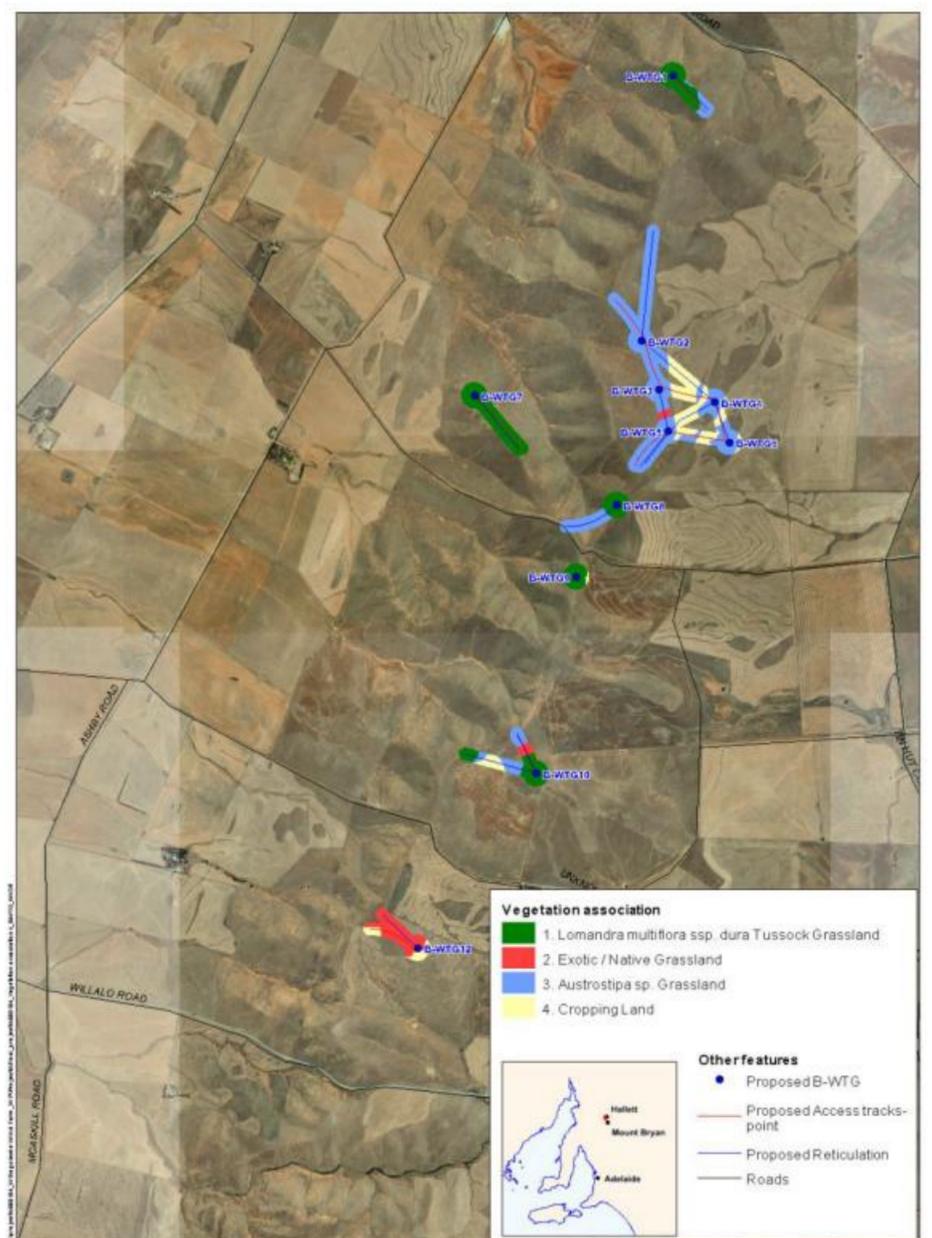


Figure: The Willogoleche site aerial imagery and Grassland Communities.