Viewshed

Section 4

4.1 Viewshed

For the purpose of this Preliminary LVIA the viewshed is defined as the area of land surrounding and beyond the project area which may be potentially affected by the wind farm. In essence, the viewshed defines this LVIA study area. The overall viewshed for the proposed Murra Warra Wind Farm has been determined at a distance of 10 kilometres extending across the landscape away from the wind turbines. Subsets of the 10 kilometre viewshed have also been illustrated at 2 kilometre and 5 kilometre intervals on various figures within this Preliminary LVIA. The distance of the viewshed can vary between wind farm projects, and may be influenced and informed by a number of criteria including the height of the wind turbines together with the nature, location and height of landform that may limit visibility.

It is important to note that the wind turbines would be visible from some areas of the landscape beyond the 10 kilometre viewshed; however, within the general parameters of normal human vision, a wind turbine at a maximum height of 220 metres to the tip of the rotor blade would occupy a relatively small proportion of a person's field of view from distances in excess of 10 kilometres and result in a relatively low level of perceived visual significance. The relationship between the proposed Murra Warra Wind Farm viewshed and existing dwellings is illustrated in **Figure 11**.

Legislative and planning frameworks

Section 5

5.1 Introduction

The Preliminary LVIA has been undertaken with regard to various Federal, State and Local planning policies, as well as controls and policy guidelines applicable to the Murra Warra Wind Farm project. These include:

Planning Policies

- Victorian State Planning Policy Framework – relevant Clause 19.01
- Local Planning Policy Framework – relevant Clauses 21-22

Planning Controls

- Particular Provisions – relevant Clauses 52.32
- Zoning and Overlays

Relevant guidelines

- Policy and planning guidelines for development of wind energy facilities in Victoria, June 2015
- Draft National Wind Farm Guidelines, July 2010

5.2 State Planning Policy Framework

The Victorian Government State Planning Policy Framework Clause 19.01, Renewable Energy, sets out objectives, strategies and policy guidelines for the provision of renewable energy including the development of wind energy facilities.

5.3 Local Planning Policy Framework - Horsham Rural City and Yarriambiack Shire Planning Schemes

The Local Planning Policy Framework for each Council is set out in Clause 21 and Clause 22 of the Planning Schemes. Clause 21 sets out the Municipal Strategic Statements (MSS) and Clause 22 the Local Planning Policies particular to each Council. The Horsham Rural City and Yarriambiack Planning Schemes reference numerous Clauses in relation to objectives, strategies and policy guidelines to address Councils strategic planning objectives. Those with specific relevance to the Murra Warra Wind Farm project include:

Clause 21.02-2 of the Horsham Rural City Planning Scheme MSS which states that:

- the Grampians National Park is of great environmental and scenic value (classified by the National Trust) as well as containing many sites of Aboriginal cultural importance. The adjacent Black Range forms part of the significant landscape, remnant habitat and water supply catchment in the southern area of the municipality; and
- Mt Arapiles is a renowned rock climbing venue attracting 70,000 visitors each year, assisting to sustain the nearby town of Natimuk. The Mount is an important landscape feature visible across the plains from many areas within the municipality.

Clause 21.08-3 of the Yarriambiack Planning Scheme MSS which states that:

- the road verges throughout the Shire are significant for their visual quality against a flat and treeless agricultural cropping landscape. Due to this cropping heritage the environmental value of roadside remnant roadside vegetation is high. It is necessary to preserve the overall rural character and to maintain and increase the existing habitat linkages.

5.4 Zoning and Overlays within the Murra Warra Wind Farm 10km Viewshed

The proposed Murra Warra Wind Farm is wholly located within the Rural Farming Zone (FZ) as defined in Clause 35.07 of both Planning Schemes. Wind energy facilities are a permissible use subject to the wind energy project meeting the requirements of the State Planning Policy Clause 52.32 Wind Energy Facility.

No Significant Landscape Overlays (SLO's) in Horsham or Yarriambiack Planning Schemes have been identified within the proposed Murra Warra Wind Farm 10 km viewshed. Both Planning Schemes do identify other overlays within the Preliminary LVIA viewshed. These include:

- Public Conservation and Resource Zones (PCRZ);
- Highway Environs Protection (ESO2); and
- Channel and Reservoir Protection (ESO3).

The PCRZ applies to the Barrett State Forest which adjoins the northern boundary of the wind farm site. There are no recreational facilities within the forest. The forest can be accessed for firewood collection during permitted periods.

ESO2 notes that '*Highways are significant as the main viewing corridor of many visitors and local residents when travelling through the municipality, thus placing importance on the maintenance and enhancement of the highway environs'*.

The main highways are recognised as potential view locations and will offer temporary and transient views toward the wind turbines.

ESO3 Channel and Reservoir Protection The statement for this overlay states "Wimmera Mallee Water supplies domestic and stock water to more than 60,000 people and properties across the supply region. The open channel irrigation system which this control was designed to protect was decommissioned in 2009 and replaced by Wimmera Mallee pipeline and many sections have now been back filled. Yarriambiack Shire Council has indicated that it is their intention to remove this protection.

5.5 Particular provisions

Particular Provisions Clause 52.32, Wind Energy Facility sets out a framework which includes the preparation of a design response to assess the visual impact of the proposal on the surrounding landscape. Both Planning Schemes outline application requirements for wind energy facilities under Clause 52.32. In broad terms the application information with specific regard to landscape and visual includes:

- Direction and distances to nearby dwellings, townships, urban areas, significant conservation and recreation areas, water features, tourist routes and walking tracks, major roads, airports, aerodromes and existing and proposed wind energy facilities;
- Views to and from the site, including views from existing dwellings and key vantage points including major roads, walking tracks, tourist routes and regional population growth corridors;
- A site plan, photographs or other techniques to accurately describe the site and surrounding area;
- Accurate visual simulations illustrating the development in the context of the surrounding area and from key public view points;
- A description of how the proposal responds to any significant landscape features for the area identified in the planning scheme; and
- An assessment of:
    - the visual impact of the proposal on the landscape; and
    - the visual impact on abutting land that is subject to the National Parks Act 1975 and Ramsar wetlands and coastal areas.

5.6 Policy and planning guidelines for development of wind energy facilities in Victoria, June 2015 (the Victorian Guidelines)

The purpose of the Victorian Guidelines is to set out:

- a framework to provide a consistent and balanced approach to the assessment of wind energy projects across the state;
- a set of consistent operational performance standards to inform the assessment and operation of a wind energy facility project; and
- guidance as to how planning permit application requirements might be met.

The Victorian Guidelines outline the key criteria for evaluation of the planning merits of a wind energy facility. Section 3.3.1 State environmental assessment notes that *'The Minister for Planning will require a preliminary landscape assessment to accompany a referral of a proposed wind energy facility. Should an EES be required, then it must include an independently peer-reviewed visual impact assessment by a suitably qualified and experienced person'.*

Section 5.1.3 Landscape and visual amenity identifies a number of considerations with regard to the degree of visual impact caused by wind farm developments; however, a number of these considerations are not directly applicable to the level of detail associated with a preliminary study, but should be addressed within the context of a detailed planning application.

5.7 Draft National Wind Farm Guidelines

The Draft National Wind Farm Development Guidelines, originally issued October 2009, have been revised following a first round of public consultation and comment. The revised Guidelines were re-issued in July 2010

for a second round of comments. The Environment Protection and Heritage Standing Committee ceased further development of the Guidelines in 2010. The Guidelines (Appendix C Landscape) adopt a staged approach to the assessment of landscape values and impacts. The stages are identified as:

- Site selection;
- Project Feasibility;
- Planning Application;
- Construction;
- Operations; and
- Decommissioning.

The tasks within each of the stages are further broken down in these draft guidelines and are summarised below. The Project Feasibility stage, as the most pertinent to the preparation of this Preliminary LVIA is further described in the Guidelines by the following tasks:

- Defining the scope and policy context;
- Preliminary landscape character and significance analysis;
- Preliminary view analysis;
- Preliminary community values analysis; and
- Identification of possible cumulative impacts.

5.8 Planning considerations

The key considerations drawn from the existing planning policy framework which are directly relevant to this Preliminary LVIA are as follows:

- The Horsham Planning Scheme applies SLO to a number of significant landscape features within the municipality including the Mount Arapiles-Tooan State Park and the Grampian and Black Range Environs. These prominent landmark features afford regional vistas, but located approximately 50 km from the wind farm, are at the limit of visibility to a point where the wind farm will have no significant visual impact on available views from these key landmark sites.
- The Murra Warra Wind Farm site is located within land designated as Farming Zone within the Horsham and Yarriambiack Planning Schemes.
- There are no Significant Landscape Overlays (SLO) within the wind farms 10 km viewshed.
- There are various Environmental Significance Overlays (ESO2 and ESO3) within the wind farm 10 km viewshed. These generally relate to the protection of amenity along main roads and preservation of vegetation which enhances visual characteristics of Road Zones, as well as protecting the water channels and reservoirs of the now decommissioned Wimmera Mallee Irrigation System

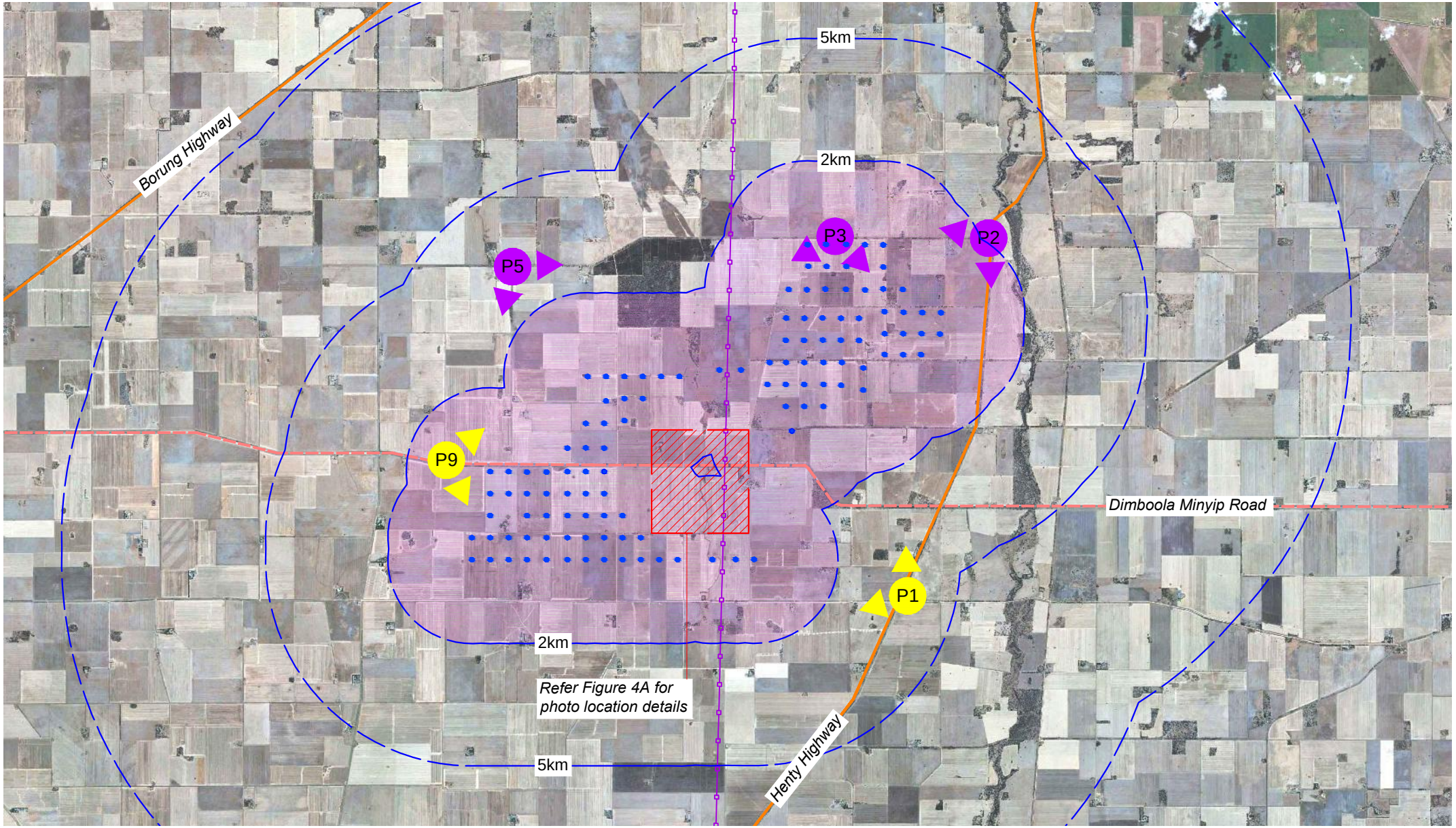
- There are no Regional Cities, Townships or urban settlements within the wind farm 10 km viewshed, and the majority of principal Townships are located at, and beyond 20 km from the wind farm turbines.
- The Victorian Guidelines (June 2015) present a comprehensive and clear set of considerations by which to assess the potential visual impacts of wind farm developments; however, some of the considerations require a greater degree and more detailed level of assessment than is required for this Preliminary LVIA.
- The Draft National Guidelines (July 2010) ceased development in 2010 and have not been revisited or updated. The guidelines lack a degree of technical application which is more clearly set out in standard industry texts such as the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (3rd Edition) Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment, 2013.

Panoramic photographs

6.1 Panoramic photographs

A series of individual and panorama digital photographs were taken during the course of the fieldwork to illustrate existing views in the vicinity of the project site and to give a sense of the overall site in its setting. The panorama photographs were digitally stitched together to form a segmented panorama image to provide a visual illustration of the existing view from each photo location.

The panoramic photographs presented in this Preliminary LVIA have been annotated to identify local features within and beyond the project site. The panoramic photograph locations are illustrated in **Figure 4** and **Figure 4a**, and the panoramic photographs illustrated in **Figures 5** to **7**.



Source: Google Earth Pro 2015 CNES/Astrium

Legend

- Proposed wind turbine
- 2 km viewshed
- Existing transmission line
- Distance from turbine
- Highway
- Dimboola Minyip Road
- Photo location
- Photo and photomontage location

Figure 4
Photo locations

Murra Warra Wind Farm

Preliminary Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment

0m 2km

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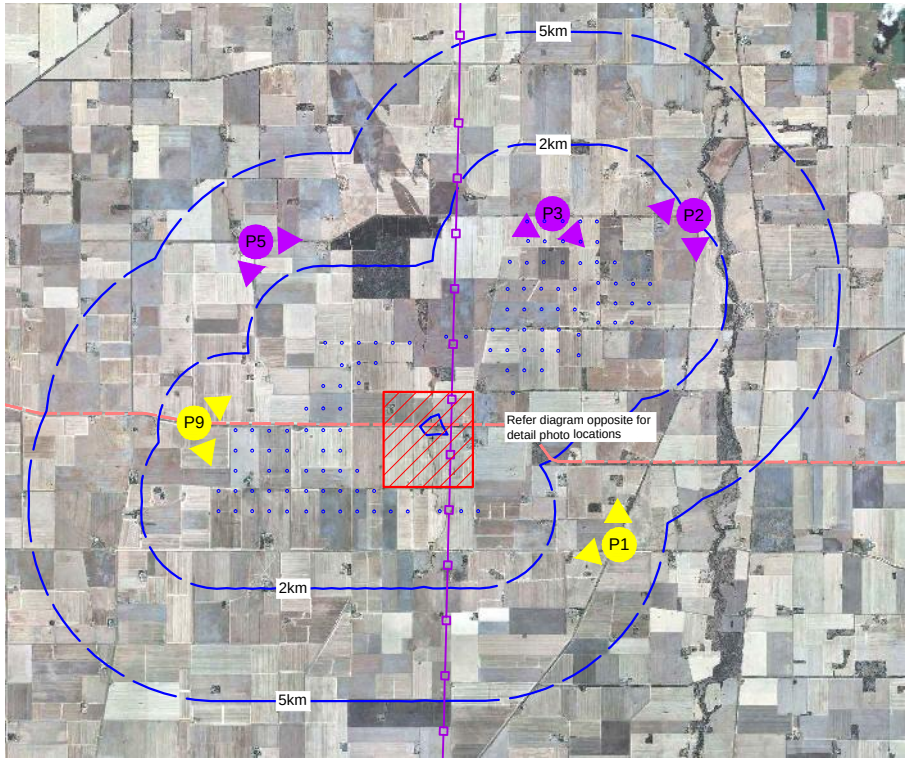
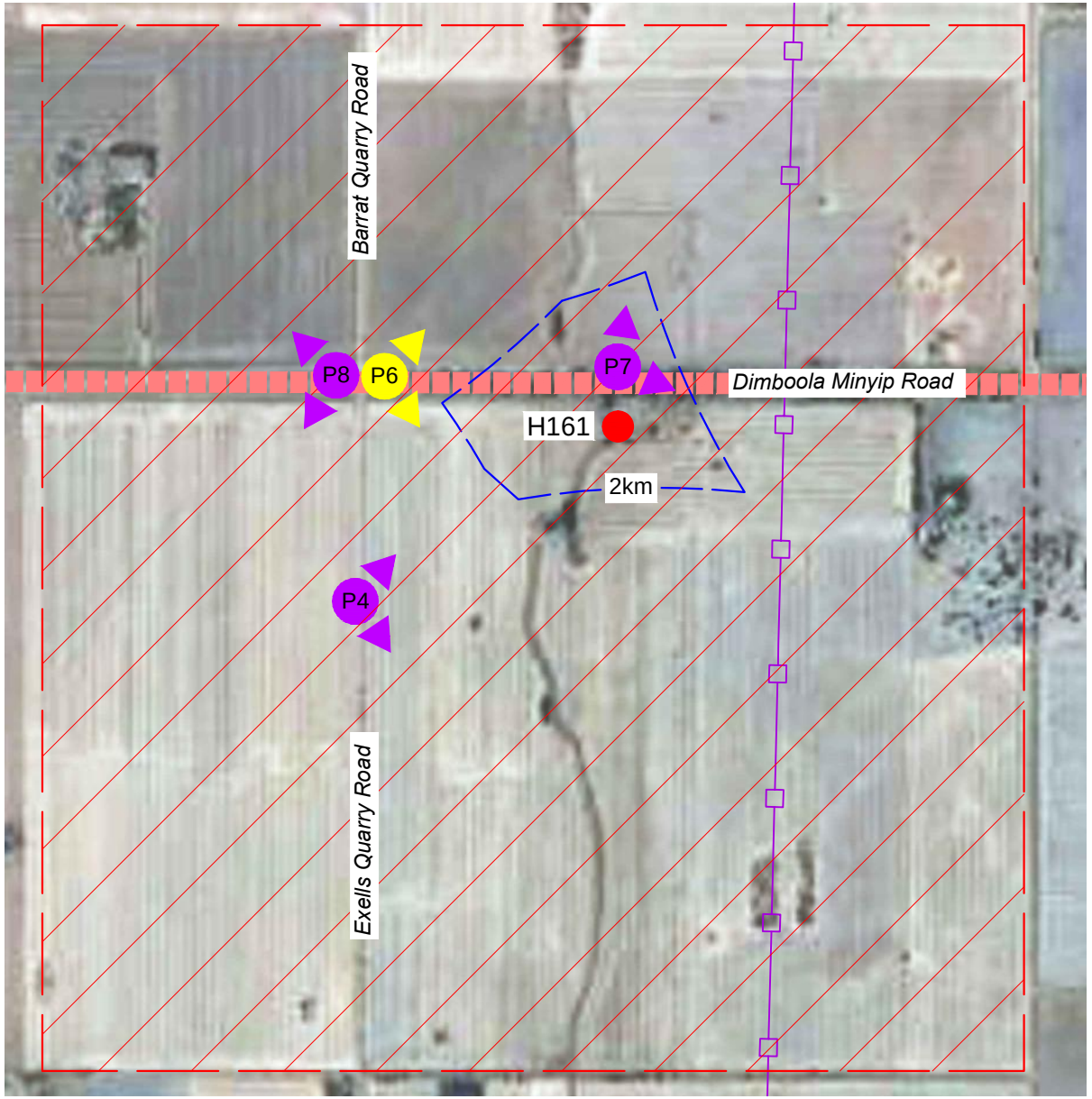


Photo location key plan

0m 4km



Source: Google Earth Pro 2015 CNES/Astrium

Legend

- Proposed wind turbine
- Distance from turbine
- Existing transmission line
- Dimboola Minyip Road
- Photo & photomontage location
- Photo location
- Non associated dwelling

Figure 4A
Photo locations - detail plan

0m 250m

Murra Warra Wind Farm

Preliminary Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment

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Photo location P1 - View west to north west from the Horsham Minyip Road

Photo location P2 - View west to south west from the Barrat Road

Photo location P3 - View south east to west from the Barrat Road

Indicative wind farm visibility

Figure 5
Photo sheet 1

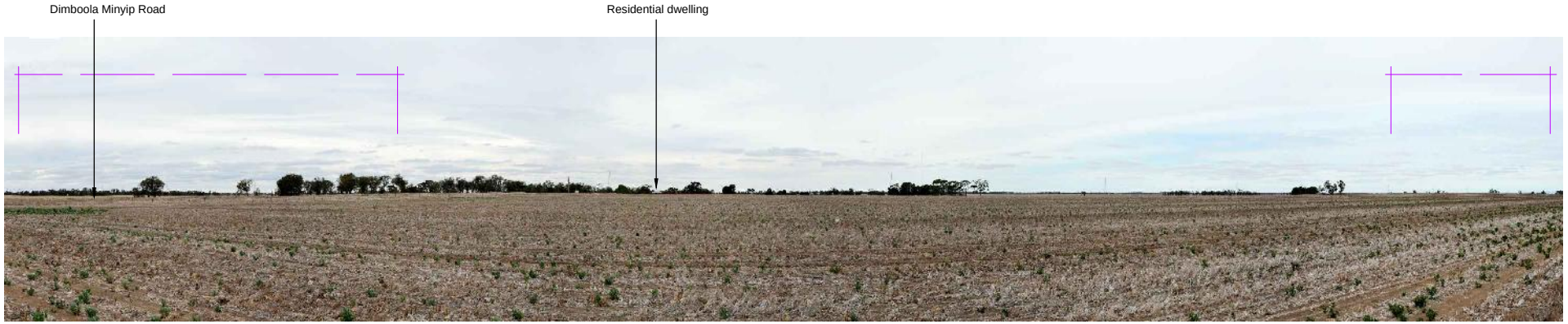

Photo location P4 - View north to south from the Exells Quarry Road

Photo location P5 - View east to south from Barrat and Newells Road intersection

Photo location P6 - View north to south east from the Dimboola Minyip and Barrat Quarry Road intersection

Indicative wind farm visibility

Figure 6
Photo sheet 2

Photo location P7 - View north east to east from the Dimboola Minyip Road

Photo location P8 - View south to north west from the Dimboola Minyip Road

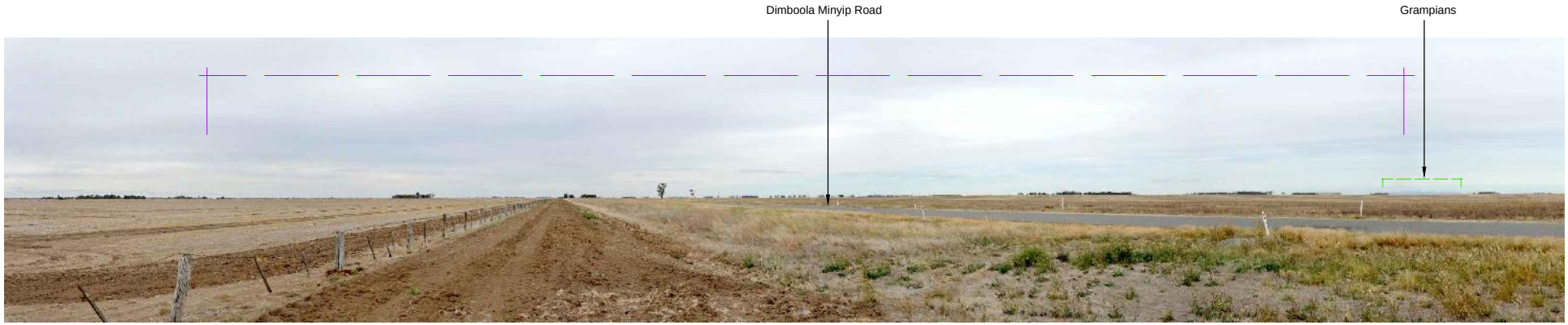

Photo location P9 - View north east to south from the Dimboola Minyip Road

Indicative wind farm visibility

Figure 7
Photo sheet 3

Murra Warra Wind Farm

Preliminary Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment

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Zone of Visual Influence and Visibility

Section 7

7.1 Zone of Visual Influence (ZVI)

The ZVI diagram is used to identify theoretical areas of the landscape from which wind turbines, or portions of turbines, may be visible within the viewshed. They are useful for providing an overview as to the extent to which the proposed Murra Warra Wind Farm may be visible from surrounding areas within the viewshed.

The tip of blade ZVI diagram has been prepared by the Garrad Hassan Pacific Pty Ltd using industry best practice methods. The ZVI diagram includes the Murra Warra wind turbines visible from tip of blade.

7.2 ZVI Methodology

The ZVI methodology is a purely geometric assessment where the visibility of the proposed Murra Warra Wind Farm is determined from carrying out calculations based on a digital terrain model of the site and the surrounding terrain.

Calculations have been made to determine the visibility of the wind turbines from blade tips (essentially a view toward any part of the wind turbine rotor, including views toward the tips).

This assessment methodology is conservative as:

- The screening affects of any structures and vegetation above ground level are not considered in any way. Therefore the wind farm may not be visible at some locations indicated on the ZVI diagrams due to the local presence of trees or other screening materials.
- Additionally, the number of turbines visible is also affected by the weather conditions at the time. Inclement or cloudy weather tends to mask the visibility of the proposed wind project.

Accordingly, while the ZVI diagram is a useful visualisation tool, it is very conservative in nature and the level of visibility as illustrated on the ZVI is unlikely to occur from all view locations within the surrounding viewshed.

A diagram illustrating the tip of blade visibility and the ZVI diagram are shown in **Figures 8** and **9**.

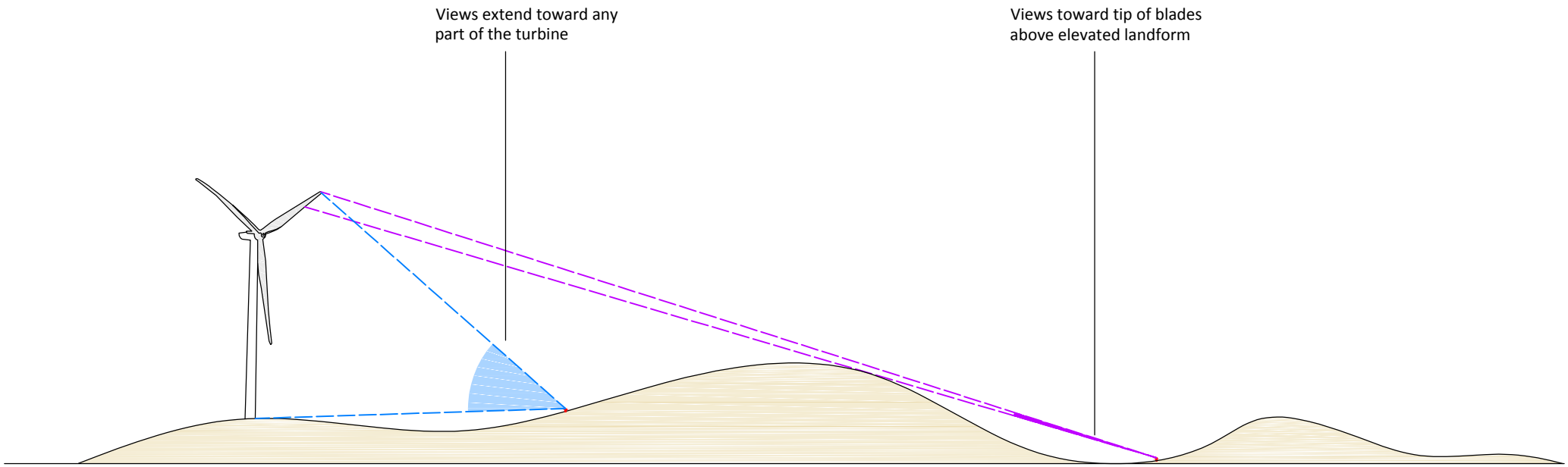
7.3 Visibility

The level of wind turbine visibility within the Murra Warra Wind Farm 10 kilometre viewshed can result from a number of factors including, but not limited to:

Distance

With an increase in distance the proportion of a person's horizontal and vertical view cone occupied by a visible turbine structure, or group of turbine structures, would decline.

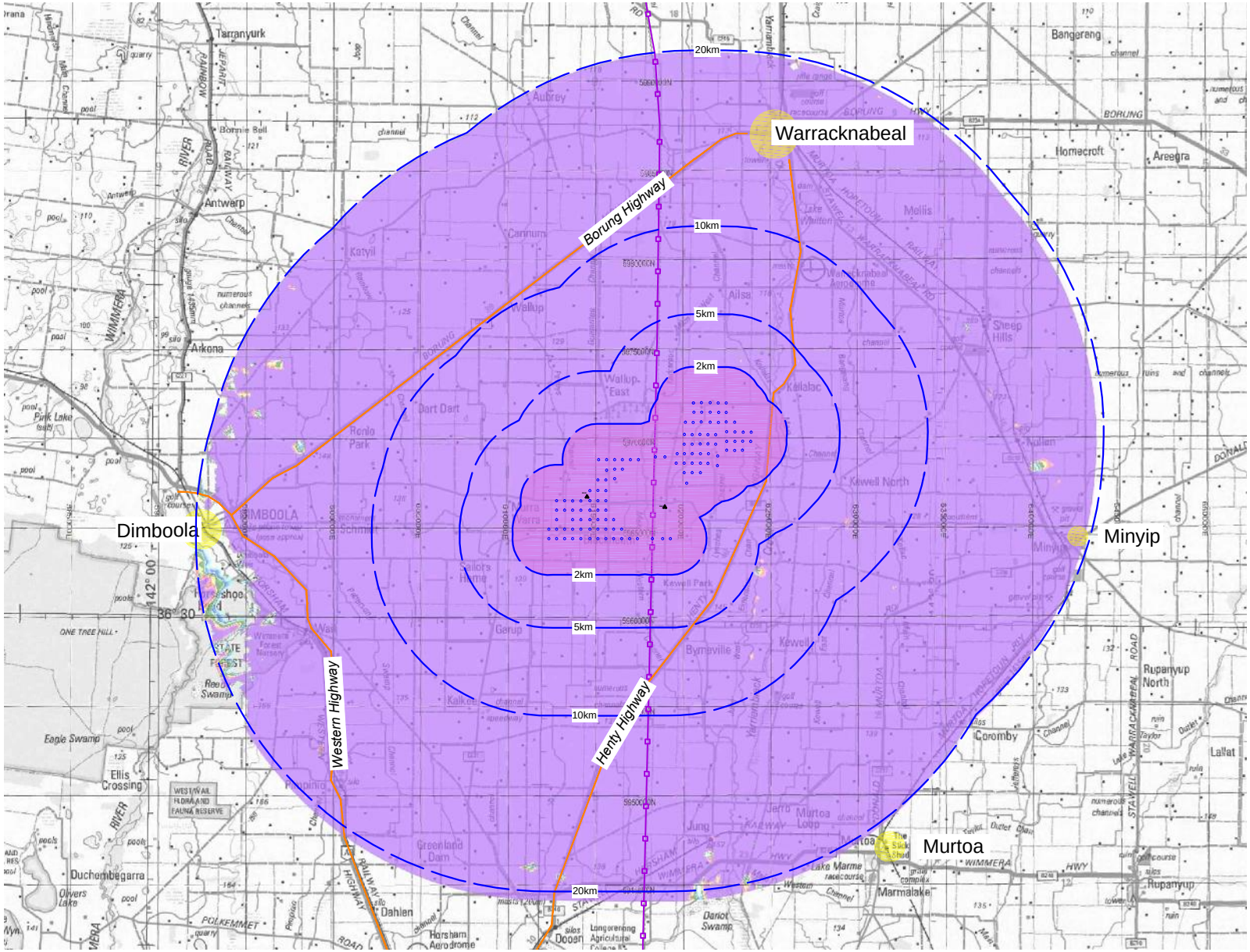
As the view distance increases so do the atmospheric effects resulting from dust particles and moisture in the atmosphere, which makes the turbines appear to be grey thus potentially reducing the contrast between the wind turbines and the background against which they are viewed.



'Tip of blade'

View toward 'tip of blade' - where views extend toward any part of the turbine including views toward the tip of blades above elevated landform and ridgelines.

Figure 8
ZVI Visibility



ZVI (tips visible)

- 1 - 10 turbines
- 11 - 20 turbines
- 21 - 30 turbines
- 31 - 40 turbines
- 41 - 50 turbines
- 51 - 60 turbines
- 61 - 70 turbines
- 71 - 80 turbines
- 81 - 90 turbines
- 91 - 100 turbines
- 101 - 110 turbines
- 111 - 118 turbines

Legend

- Proposed wind turbine
- Existing transmission line
- Highway
- 2 km viewshed
- Township

Figure 9
ZVI - tip of blade

Murra Warra Wind Farm

Preliminary Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment

0m 10km

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Whilst the distance between a view location and the wind turbines is a primary factor to consider when determining potential visibility, there are other issues which may also affect the degree of visibility. The influence of distance on visibility and proportional representation is illustrated in **Figure 10**.

Movement

The visibility of the wind turbines would vary between the categories of static and dynamic view locations. In the case of static views the relationship between a wind turbine and the landscape would not tend to vary greatly. The extent of vision may be relatively wide as a person would tend to scan back and forth across the landscape where panoramic views are available.

In contrast views from a moving vehicle are dynamic as the visual relationship between wind turbines is constantly changing as well as the visual relationship between the wind turbines and the landscape in which they are seen. The extent of vision can be partially constrained by the available view from within a vehicle at proximate distances.

Relative position

In situations where the view location is at a lower elevation than the wind turbine structure most of it would be viewed against the sky. The degree of visual contrast between a white coloured turbine and the sky would depend on the presence of background clouds and their colour. Dark grey clouds would contrast more strongly with white turbines than a background of white clouds.

The level of contrast is also influenced by the position of the sun relative to the individual wind turbines and the view location. Where the sun is located in front of the viewer, the visible portion of the wind turbine would be seen in shadow. Where the background to the wind turbine is dark toned the visual contrast would be reduced.

Where the sun is located behind the view location then the visible portion of the wind turbine would be in full sun. If the background is also light toned, such as white clouds, then the contrast is less when compared to a dark background.

7.4 Climatic and Atmospheric Conditions

Local climatic and atmospheric conditions have the potential to influence the visibility of the proposed Murra Warra Wind Farm from surrounding view locations, and more significantly, from middle ground and distant view locations.

Rainfall would tend to reduce the level of visibility toward the proposed Murra Warra Wind Farm from a number of surrounding view locations, with the degree of visibility tending to decrease over distance. Rain periods may also reduce the number of visitors travelling through the areas from which the proposed Murra Warra Wind Farm may be visible, and potentially decrease the duration of time spent at a particular public view location with a view toward the Murra Warra Wind Farm.

Cloud cover would also tend to reduce the level of visibility of the proposed Murra Warra Wind Farm and lessen the degree of contrast between the wind turbine structures and the background against which the wind turbines may be visible.

On clear or partly cloudy days, the position of the sun would also have an impact on the degree of visibility of the proposed Murra Warra Wind Farm. The degree of impact would be largely dependent on the relationship between the position and angle of the sun relative to the view location. Late afternoon and early evening views toward the west would result in the wind turbines silhouetted above the horizon line, and with increasing distance would tend to reduce the contrast between the wind turbine structures and the surrounding landform.

Capital Wind Farm - View distance 1.5 km

Capital Wind Farm - View distance 4 km

Capital Wind Farm - View distance 7 km

Capital Wind Farm - View distance 10 km

Capital Wind Farm turbines: Suzlon88, 80 m hub height, 88 m rotor diameter. Photographs: Pentax K10D, 50mm lens

Figure 10
Visibility and distance

Landscape character assessment

Section 8

8.1 Landscape character area

As part of the Preliminary LVIA process it is important to understand the nature and sensitivity of different components of landscape character, and to assess them in a clear and consistent process. For the purpose of this LVIA, landscape character is defined as '*the distinct and recognisable pattern of elements that occur consistently in a particular type of landscape'* (The Countryside Agency and Scottish Natural Heritage 2002). The pattern of elements includes characteristics such as landform, vegetation, landuse and settlement.

For the purposed of this Preliminary LVIA, the landscape character surrounding the wind farm site has been determined as a singular landscape unit which generally occurs within the 10 kilometre viewshed of the proposed Murra Warra Wind Farm site. The landscape unit represents an area that is relatively consistent and recognisable in terms of its key landscape elements and physical attributes; which include a relatively limited combination of topography/landform, vegetation/landcover, land use and built structures (including settlements and local road corridors).

Whilst the landscape character surrounding the wind farm has been defined as a singular landscape unit, this Preliminary LVIA recognises that localised and specific characteristics can occur within the landscape unit, including:

- landscape areas associated with the Barrett State Forest;
- Yarriambiack Creek and associated vegetative patterns extending alongside the creek line corridor; and
- Henty Highway corridor.

For the purpose of this Preliminary LVIA the predominant landscape unit within and surrounding the project site has been identified as a level to very gently inclined and modified agricultural land.

8.2 Landscape character assessment

An understanding of a particular landscape's key characteristics and principal visual features is important in defining a regional distinctiveness and sense of place and to determine its sensitivity to change. The criteria applied in the determination of landscape character assessment and the ability of a landscape to accommodate change are outlined in **Table 3**. These criteria are based on established industry good practice employed in the assessment of wind farm developments and have been adopted for numerous wind farm assessments across Australia. The criteria are broadly outlined in the National Wind Farm Development Guidelines (Draft v2.4), Section 6.1 Landscape Character Units, and covered in more detail within the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Third Edition, Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment, 2013 – Chapter 5 Assessment of landscape effects.

Landscape sensitivity is a relative concept, and landscape values of the surrounding environment may be considered of a higher or lower sensitivity than other areas in the Victorian region.

Whilst landscape character assessment is largely based on a systematic description and analysis of landscape characteristics, this Preliminary LVIA acknowledges that some individuals and other members of the local community may place higher values on the local landscape. These values may transcend preferences (likes and dislikes) and include personal, cultural as well as other parameters and can be explored in more depth through surveys of the local community as part of the detailed LVIA.

Table 3 – Criteria for the assessment of landscape character

Landscape Character Assessment Criteria			
Characteristic	Aspects indicating lower sensitivity to the wind farm development	↔	Aspects indicating higher sensitivity to the wind farm development
Landform and scale: patterns, complexity and consistency	• Large scale landform • Simple • Featureless • Absence of strong topographical variety	↔	• Small scale landform • Distinctive and complex • Human scale indicators • Presence of strong topographical variety
Landcover: patterns, complexity and consistency	• Simple • Predictable • Smooth, regular and uniform	↔	• Complex • Unpredictable • Rugged and irregular
Settlement and human influence	• Concentrated settlement pattern • Presence of contemporary structures (e.g. utility, infrastructure or industrial elements)	↔	• Dispersed settlement pattern • Absence of modern development, presence of small scale, historic or vernacular settlement
Movement	• Prominent movement, busy	↔	• No evident movement, still
Rarity	• Common or widely distributed example of landscape character area within a regional context	↔	• Unique or limited example of landscape character area within a regional context
Intervisibility with adjacent landscapes	• Limited views into or out of landscape • Neighbouring landscapes of low sensitivity • Weak connections, self contained area and views • Simple large scale backdrops	↔	• Prospects into and out from high ground or open landscape • Neighbouring landscapes of high sensitivity • Contributes to wider landscape • Complex or distinctive backdrops

The landscape sensitivity assessment criteria set out in **Table 4** have been evaluated for the landscape character area by applying a professionally determined judgement on a sliding scale between 1 and 5.

A scale of 1 indicates a landscape characteristic with a lower sensitivity to the wind farm development (and will be more likely to accommodate the wind farm development). A scale of 5 indicates a landscape characteristic with a high level of sensitivity to the wind farm development (and less likely to accommodate the wind farm development).

The scale of sensitivity for the landscape character area is outlined in **Table 4** and is set out against each characteristic identified in **Table 3**.

The overall landscape sensitivity for the landscape character area is a summation of the scale for each characteristic identified in **Tables 4**.

The overall scale is expressed as a total out of 30 (i.e. 6 characteristics for the landscape character area with a potential top scale of 5). Each characteristic is assessed separately and the criteria set out in **Table 3** are not ranked in equal significance. The overall landscape sensitivity for the landscape character area has been determined as either:

High (Scale of 23 to **30)** – key characteristics of the landscape character area will be impacted by the proposed project, and will result in major and visually dominant alterations to perceived characteristics of the landscape character area which may not be fully mitigated by existing landscape elements and features. The degree to which the landscape may accommodate the proposed project development will result in a number of perceived uncharacteristic and significant changes.

Medium (Scale 15 to 22) – distinguishable characteristics of the landscape character area may be altered by the proposed project, although the landscape character area may have the capability to absorb some change. The degree to which the landscape character area may accommodate the proposed project will potentially result in the introduction of prominent elements to the landscape character area, but may be accommodated to some degree.

Low Rating (Scale of 7 to **14)** – the majority of the landscape character area characteristics are generally robust, and will be less affected by the proposed project. The degree to which the landscape may accommodate the wind farm will not significantly alter existing landscape character.

Negligible Rating (Up to 6) the characteristics of the landscape character area will not be impacted or visibly altered by the proposed project.

Table 4 – Wimmera farming landscape character area

	Lower Sensitivity		↔		Higher Sensitivity
	Low	Low to Med	Medium	Med to High	High
Rating	1	2	3	4	5
Landform and Scale		2			
	The level to very gently inclined agricultural land within, and neighbouring, the project site is a very small portion of the Wimmera district landscape,				

Table 4 – Wimmera farming landscape character area

	Lower Sensitivity		↔		Higher Sensitivity
	Low	Low to Med	Medium	Med to High	High
Rating	1	2	3	4	5
	located in regional Western Victoria. The Wimmera district covers the dry land agricultural area south of the range of Mallee scrub, east of the South Australian border and north of the Great Dividing Range. The landform and morphology of the landscape within and surrounding the project site is distinctively flat, although some very gently inclined landform extends throughout the area from south to north and runs parallel to the Yarriambiack Creek drainage line. There is an overall large scale to the landscape despite field patterns being more moderate in scale. Landscape features and strong topographical elements are generally lacking within and beyond the project site; however, in a regional context, far distant (around 50 kilometres) views extend toward the Grampians and Mount Arapiles.				
Landcover		2			
	Landcover is both simple and predictable across the site and surrounding landscape areas. European settlement established an agricultural presence and defines much of the contemporary arable and livestock areas across the project site and beyond. Cropping and pastoral fields create a regular and uniform appearance throughout the seasonal and repetitive operations associated with agricultural production.				
Settlement and human influence			**3**		
	Settlement is generally dispersed throughout the project site and surrounding landscape and consists largely of farmsteads and individual dwellings. There are limited examples of small scale, historic or vernacular structures within the landscape. The project site is dissected by a 220 kV transmission line, with a regular arrangement of supporting pylon structures extending in a north south alignment across the landscape.				
Movement		**2**			
	Movement within the project site is generally restricted to local vehicular movements, including cars and trucks travelling along the Dimboola Minyip Road. Occasional agricultural vehicles are seen within fields, with movement and activity increasing during more intense periods such as harvesting.				
Rarity		**2**			
	The project site and adjoining landscape are considered to be a relatively common landscape type within a regional context which extends across the Wimmera district.				

Table 4 – Wimmera farming landscape character area

	Lower Sensitivity		↔		Higher Sensitivity
	Low	Low to Med	Medium	Med to High	High
Rating	1	2	3	4	5
Intervisibility			3		
	The project site does allow for far distant and regional scale views (more significantly toward the south) from flat to very gently inclined areas, but the project site offers no elevated view points. Whilst views can, depending on prevailing climatic conditions, extend toward landscapes with a high visual sensitivity (such as the Grampians National Park), the level of visibility is restricted to landform silhouettes. From far distant and elevated viewpoints, including the Mount Arapiles lookout, the Wimmera district provides an extensive and distinctive backdrop. Whilst the Murra Warra Wind Farm wind turbines would be visible from some elevated areas, the distance between wind farm and elevated receiver locations would tend to render the wind turbines as generally indistinct features which would occupy a relatively small portion of the overall available view.				
Overall Sensitivity Rating	**Score 14 out of 30** In consideration of the existing landscape characteristics, the landscape within and surrounding the project site is determined to have a low sensitivity to the wind farm development. The majority of the landscape character area characteristics are generally robust, and will be less affected by the proposed project. The degree to which the landscape may accommodate the wind farm will not significantly alter existing landscape character.				