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PERMIT NO. 2006/0220/B  
ENDORSED PLAN  
SHEET 1 OF 11  
SIGNED  FOR  
MINISTER FOR PLANNING  
DATE: 18/10/19

**JACOBS**

**Woolsthorpe Wind Farm**

Siemens Gamesa Renewable Energy Pty Ltd.

**Pest Plant Management Plan**

IS280600\_PPMP | Rev 3

12 September 2019

ENDORSED TO COMPLY  
WITH CONDITION  
13 h  
OF PLANNING PERMIT  
2006/0220/B

**APPROVED FOR THE  
MINISTER FOR PLANNING**

SHEET 2 OF 11

## Woolsthorpe Wind Farm

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### Document history and status

Revision	Date	Description	By	Review	Approved
1	22/03/19	Draft Pest Plant Management Plan	Richa Ekka	Andrew Wallace	Phil Burn
2	14/05/19	Update following client review	Richa Ekka	Andrew Wallace	Hugh Griggs
3	012/09/19	Update to make minor changes requested by DELWP	Mark McMillan	Andrew Wallace	Hugh Griggs

## Contents

<b>1.</b>	<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>1</b>
1.1	Purpose .....	1
1.2	Document scope .....	1
1.3	Planning Permit Conditions .....	1
1.4	Consultation.....	1
<b>2.</b>	<b>Legislation and Policy requirements</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Biosecurity threats</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Environmental Mitigation Measures</b> .....	<b>4</b>
4.1.1	Vehicle, plant & equipment restrictions: .....	4
4.1.2	Work area preparation, control & rehabilitation: .....	4
4.1.3	Imported materials .....	4
4.1.4	Wash down procedures:.....	5
4.1.5	Pest identification.....	5
4.1.6	Control measures.....	5
<b>5.</b>	<b>Monitoring and Reporting</b> .....	<b>6</b>
5.1	Personnel, vehicle and equipment hygiene.....	6
5.2	Weed management.....	6
5.3	Post construction monitoring .....	6
5.4	Non-conformance.....	7
5.5	Reporting.....	7
5.5.1	Compliance Reporting.....	7
5.5.2	Incident Reporting / Statutory Notification .....	7
5.5.3	Audit Reports .....	8

## **1. Introduction**

### **1.1 Purpose**

The purpose of this Pest Plant Management Plan (PPMP) is to outline how issues relating to biosecurity will be managed throughout the construction of the Woolsthorpe Wind Farm (WWF), to minimise species invasion and other environmental impacts. This PPMP is a sub-plan which forms part of the overarching Environmental Management Plan (EMP) as per the planning permit 2006/0220/A which as of May 2019 is with the Minister of Planning for amendment.

### **1.2 Document scope**

This sub-plan includes the following information:

- State and federal legislative requirements and guidelines relevant to the management of pest species
- Identification of the sources of biosecurity risks
- Risk mitigation and management measures to control potential impacts from invasive pest plants, and
- Ongoing monitoring procedures to be implemented for the management of pest plant species.

### **1.3 Planning Permit Conditions**

This PPMP is a sub-plan which forms part of the overarching Environmental Management Plan (EMP) document for the WWF.

The following planning permit conditions (Condition 15h 'Pest Plant Management Plan' of the Planning Permit which is with the Minister of Planning for amendment) have been addressed within this plan:

- i. Procedures to prevent the spread of weeds and pathogens from earth moving equipment and associated machinery including the cleaning of all plant and equipment before transport to the site and the use of road making material comprising clean fill that is free of weeds;
- ii. sowing of disturbed areas with perennial grasses; and
- iii. a protocol to ensure follow up weed control is undertaken on all areas disturbed through construction of the wind energy facility for a minimum period of 2 years following completion of the works.

### **1.4 Consultation**

This PPMP has been developed in accordance with relevant Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (DJPR) guidance material. No other Victorian Government Agency consultation is required by the Planning Permit conditions prior to endorsement by the Minister of Planning.

## 2. Legislation and Policy requirements

The key legislation and policy requirements that are relevant to the management of pest plants and are applicable to WWF are as follows:

### Commonwealth legislation:

- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.*

### Victorian legislation:

- *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*
- *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*
- *Planning and Environment Act 1987*
- *Plant Biosecurity Act 2010.*

### Standards and guidance:

- Victorian Pest Management – A Framework for Action

The construction and operation of WWF will also follow the government and industry standards and procedural guidelines for the identification, prevention and management of biosecurity risks listed below:

- Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (DJPR) Invasive Plant and Animal Management Policy Framework (undated)
- DJPR's Biosecurity Guidelines for Movement of Equipment Contractors Between Farms (updated 2009)
- DJPR's 'Machinery Hygiene Information Note' Available at: <http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/pests-diseases-and-weeds/weeds/weedstop-vehicle-hygiene-program/machinery-hygiene>
- Civil Contractors Federation's 'The Guide for Machinery Hygiene for Civil Construction - Machinery Hygiene Code of Practice' Available at: <http://www.nonnativespecies.org/downloadDocument.cfm?id=1490>

### 3. Biosecurity threats

The following weeds, listed as regionally controlled noxious weeds under the schedules of the *Victorian Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* (CaLP Act), have been recorded or are expected at the Project site.

- African boxthorn (*Lycium ferocissimum*)
- African Daisy (*Senecio pterophorus*)
- African feather grass (*Pennisetum macrourum*)
- Bathurst Burr (*Xanthium spinosum*)
- Blackberry (*rubus fruitcoses spp. agg.*)
- Boneseed/Bitou bush (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera*)
- Californian/ Perennial thistle (*Cirsium arvense*)
- Caltrop (*Tribulus terrestris*)
- Cape tulip (two-leaf) (*Moraea miniate*)
- Devil's Claw (purple-flower) (*Proboscidea louisianica*)
- Devil's Claw (yellow-flower) (*Proboscidea lutea*)
- Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*)
- Horehound (*Marrubium vulgare*)
- Noogoora burr/Californian burr (*Xanthium strumarium*)
- Paterson's Curse (*Echium plantagineum*)
- Ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*)
- Sand rocket/Sand mustard (*Diplotaxis tenuifolia*)
- Scotch/Heraldic thistle (*Onopordum acanthium*)
- Skeleton Weed (*Chondrilla juncea* L.)
- Spiny Rush (*Juncus acutus*)
- St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*)
- Sweet Briar (*Rosa rubiginose*)
- Thorn Apple (common) (*Datura stramonium*)
- Thorn Apple (long-spine) (*Datura ferox*)
- Thorn Apple (recurved) (*Datura inoxia*)
- Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*)
- Viper's bugloss (*Echium vulgare*)

Note that Spear Thistle (*Cirsium vulgare* (Savi) Ten.) and Slender Thistle (*Carduus tenuiflorus* Curtis) have also been recorded at the project site. While these weeds are not regionally controlled, they are restricted weeds in the Glenelg region.

## 4. Environmental Mitigation Measures

The CaLP Act requires that land owners (or a third party to whom responsibilities have been legally transferred) must take all reasonable steps on their land to:

- Eradicate regionally prohibited weeds
- Prevent the growth and spread of regionally controlled weeds, and
- Prevent the spread of regionally controlled weeds on roadsides that adjoin the site.

The risks of introducing and spreading of weeds during construction shall be managed by implementing the following mitigation measures:

### 4.1.1 Vehicle, plant & equipment restrictions:

- Vehicular traffic shall be restricted to designated access tracks and site entry and exit points, thereby avoiding soil disturbance and weed spread.
- Plant, equipment and materials storage shall be restricted to designated construction areas, and
- Limiting access to any identified areas of high infestation of noxious weeds, where possible, to those staff directly addressing the invasive species.

### 4.1.2 Work area preparation, control & rehabilitation:

- A suitably trained and experienced specialist (a natural resource manager or ecologist) will conduct a survey of weeds within each construction works' area prior to construction commencing
- Regionally controlled and prohibited weeds defined within the CaLP Act will be treated with a registered agricultural chemical product (e.g. herbicide) and/ or removed prior to construction commencing
- To minimise potential weed invasion, work areas will be progressively rehabilitated re-using weed-free topsoil or hand-sowing of disturbed areas with perennial grasses - this applies to pasture species, i.e. on agricultural land.
- Areas of weed infestation are to be cleared last to avoid cross contamination with non-weed infested vegetation and topsoil. In addition:
  - To prevent the spread of weeds, ensure weed-infested topsoil is kept separate from clean (weed-free) topsoil
- Treat weed-infested topsoil chemically to control weeds once it has been replaced during rehabilitation (Topsoil with weed components to be reinstated in its original stripped location)
- Topsoil impacted with regionally controlled or prohibited weeds will be disposed of at an approved facility or buried on site with at least 1m of clean fill cover, and
- All stockpiles remaining at the end of the construction phase are to be removed and rehabilitated, and all temporary cleared areas, such as lay down areas, are to be remediated to prevent the establishment of weeds.
- The area of native grassland removed within the vicinity of the Woolsthorpe-Heywood Road access point will be restored through the direct seeding (hand sowing) of the dominant indigenous grass species in adjoining patches.
- Targeted weed control will also occur within this area to enhance establishment of native grasses and other native species.

### 4.1.3 Imported materials

- Flora species not currently present on the site shall not be deliberately introduced, even on a temporary basis, during construction

- Sources of imported construction materials (e.g. crushed rock) shall be:
  - Visually inspected for the potential presence of weeds and pathogens prior to acceptance
  - Sourced from local or regional sources wherever possible, and
  - Sourced from certified weed free sources wherever possible.

#### **4.1.4 Wash down procedures:**

- Prior to being released to commence work on site all vehicles and equipment will:
  - be inspected and declared weed and pathogen free, and
  - be directed to be removed and cleaned
- If required, any machinery wash down area at the substation site should be defined (fenced) and located in an already disturbed area. Wash down water should drain to a catchment drain, with any identified regionally controlled or prohibited weeds species to be disposed of at an approved facility or buried on site with at least 1m of clean fill cover

#### **4.1.5 Pest identification**

- Site induction and training to include the identification of noxious weed species to assist monitoring and early intervention.

#### **4.1.6 Control measures**

- To control weed infestations located on the development footprint, weeds will be subject to spraying of a registered herbicide, cut and paint with a registered herbicide or physical removal. Before spraying, consider the weather conditions and proximity to native vegetation, organically grown crops, waterways and other sensitive areas
- Protective clothing including gloves and face shield should be worn when working with any herbicide
- Manual removal (chipping) may be applicable for individual and isolated weed occurrences, and
- Weed control will be undertaken on all areas disturbed during the construction phase for a minimum of two years following the completion of works.



## **5. Monitoring and Reporting**

### **5.1 Personnel, vehicle and equipment hygiene**

A vehicle inspection checklist is to be completed at the site compound for any vehicles mobilising to site during pre-construction and construction.

The vehicle inspection sheet is to include the following details:

- Date
- Contractor
- Vehicle type and registration number or machinery type, and
- Cleaning method used within column of checklist (i.e. mechanical – M, compressed air – CA, vacuum – V, high pressure water – HPW, low pressure water – LPW, cleaned offsite (preconstruction) – CO).

Regular monitoring of the wash down area and the surrounding areas for the presence of weeds will also occur.

### **5.2 Weed management**

Regular monitoring of the location and spread of controlled species will throughout the construction period to allow for early intervention.

In addition, a walkover to identify concentrations of pest plants is to be undertaken prior to construction commencing and quarterly during and following construction.

The walkover should be undertaken by the Contractor Site Safety & Environment Officer or a qualified weed contractor. A monitoring proforma is to be completed during each assessment and include the following information:

- Name of person undertaking the inspection
- Date
- Species and location of any identified Pest Plants
- Follow up actions and recommended control measures where Pest Plants are identified, and
- Where follow up actions are required a timeline for completion is to be specified and completion of these actions is to be recorded on the sheet once carried out. Timelines are to be determined based on when treatment would be most effective based on the life cycle of the target species. The timeline for completion of a management action should not exceed six months.

Recording sheets are to be appropriately filed for auditing purposes.

### **5.3 Post construction monitoring**

The impacts from the Project activities shall be monitored post construction to prevent re-invasion of disturbed areas by pest plants:

- Monitoring will be undertaken monthly for six months after construction and two-monthly thereafter for a further minimum of 18 months to ensure that disturbed areas are kept weed-free and that they effectively regenerate as usable pasture, and
- Weed control measures detailed in this plan are to be undertaken, to remove pest plants that spontaneously colonise areas affected by construction.

## 5.4 Non-conformance

Any non-conformance will be reported to the Project/Site Manager immediately, after which, an appropriate course of action will be undertaken. The course of action will include the following:

- Additional training for personnel found to be non-compliant with hygiene measures.
- Treatment and follow-up monitoring for areas that have a greater risk of weed establishment or spread as a result of the non-compliance, and
- Additional audits where personnel are found to be non-compliant with hygiene measures.

All community complaints will be handled in accordance with the complaint investigation and response plan.

## 5.5 Reporting

Environmental reporting requirements for both the construction and operational phases of the WWF are detailed in the Woolsthorpe Wind Farm Environmental Training, Reporting and Program Management Plan. The reporting requirements relating to pest plant management during the construction works are outlined in the subsections below.

### 5.5.1 Compliance Reporting

Every month during the construction works, a Compliance Report will be prepared which includes the following:

- Environmental monitoring results, including the area of native vegetation impacted and the progress of rehabilitation
- Environmental incident report summaries (if any)
- Number and status of environmental non-conformances raised (if any) and associated corrective actions to be taken
- Overview of any formal communications and meetings with statutory authorities
- Summary of general environmental site issues (if any) and proposed actions to resolve them

Preparation of the Compliance Reports will be the responsibility of the Contractor Site Safety and Environment Officer.

### 5.5.2 Incident Reporting / Statutory Notification

If an activity during the construction works fails to comply with the procedures or control measures in this PPMP or results in an unforeseen environmental impact, an Incident Report will be prepared which includes the following information:

- Non-conformance details
- Cause of non-conformance
- Officer reporting the nonconformance
- Date, Time, Location
- Outcome of corrective / preventative action taken or required
- Person responsible for completing the corrective/preventative action
- Date by which it must be completed
- Assessment as to the effectiveness of actions undertaken
- Non-conformance report number.

Reporting incidents is the responsibility of all personnel.

### 5.5.3 Audit Reports

Twice a year during construction works, an Audit Report will be prepared which includes a review of all monitoring requirements listed in this PPMP, compliance with specified control procedures, positive practices and, if observed, deficiencies to be addressed. Audit Reports will also be used to update the PPMP.

The Audit Reports will be prepared by an independent suitably qualified environmental professional.