

# Lal Lal Wind Farms

## Noise Fact Sheet



### Wind Farm

Lal Lal Wind Farm will comprise 60 turbines (38 in Yendon and 22 in Elaine). The Planning Permit includes Planning Permit Conditions which specify noise limits. This fact sheet provides an outline of how the noise limits are applied and enforced through the planning permit.

### Noise Limits at Lal Lal Wind Farm

The Lal Lal Wind Farm, as with other wind farms in Victoria, is required to comply with specified noise limits.

The noise limits are specified by the Lal Lal Wind Farm Planning Permit (PL-SP/05/0461/A). The noise limits relate both to construction and operation of the wind farm.

#### Limit to Construction Noise

The Planning Permit specifies that the construction of the Lal Lal Wind Farm must comply with the noise criteria in the EPA *Noise Control Guidelines, Construction and Demolition Site Noise Publication 1254, October 2008*. The EPA *Noise Control Guidelines* specify that construction activities should be scheduled during less sensitive times (such as later morning or afternoon) and notice should be given to potentially noise-affected neighbours. The guidelines also provide the following guidelines for noise levels during sensitive times:

#### Weekend/evening work hours:

Noise level at any residential premises not to exceed background noise by:

- 10 dB(A) or more for up to 18 months after project commencement
- 5 dB(A) or more after 18 months

during the hours of:

- 6—10 pm Monday to Friday
- 1—10 pm Saturdays
- 7 am — 10 pm Sundays and public holidays

#### Night period

Noise inaudible within a habitable room of any residential premises during the hours of:

- 10 pm — 7 am Monday to Sunday

You can learn more about those guidelines by visiting the EPA Victoria's website:

<http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/~media/publications/1254.pdf>

#### Operational Noise Limits

The operation of the Lal Lal Wind Farm must not exceed the noise limits set by the Planning Permit Condition No. 23. This condition requires noise not to exceed a limit of 40dB LA90, 10 minutes or background noise (LA90,10) plus 5dB, whichever is greater. This applies regardless of the amount of wind. The noise limits apply at all dwellings except host dwellings.

### Background Noise Testing

The background noise level can be described as the prevailing noise level in a specified environment measured in the absence of the noise being studied, or in other words, is the existing noise levels prior to the installation of the wind farm.

In order to support an understanding of the noise compliance of the Lal Lal Wind Farm, background noise testing has been undertaken. This is typically done by measurement with a sound level meter or noise logger, which measures sound levels in decibels (dB). The location of the noise logger is carefully selected, and future noise testing is undertaken from the same point, to allow for a clear comparison between the initial background noise testing and the future noise tests once the wind farm is operational.

Post installation sound levels shall be measured from where the background sound levels were determined.

## Noise Assessment, Compliance and Monitoring

The following outlines the Noise Assessment, Compliance and Monitoring approach for the project. The below requirements are generally specified by the Planning Permit (refer Planning Permit Conditions 22-27).

### Pre-construction

#### Lal Lal Wind Farm Responsibility

- Noise Compliance Testing Plan prepared by a suitably qualified acoustic expert and to be based on final turbine layout.
- Noise Compliant Investigation and Response Plan to be prepared. The primary purpose of this Plan will be to specify the process for investigation and resolution of noise complaints. The Noise Compliant Investigation and Response Plan will be publically available on the Lal Lal Wind Farm Website.

#### Independent Auditing/Reporting

- The methodology of the Noise Compliance Testing Plan is to be reviewed by an independent auditor accredited under the *Environment Protection Act 1970*.
- Noise Compliant Investigation and Response Plan will be available on Lal Lal's website

#### Minister for Planning Review

- Noise Compliance Testing Plan (and independent review of the methodology by an auditor) must be submitted to and approved by the Minister for Planning. Once endorsed the Noise Compliance Testing Plan will form part of the Planning Permit.
- The Noise Complaint Investigation and Response Plan must be submitted to and approved by the Minister for Planning.

### Post Construction Compliance

#### Lal Lal Wind Farm Responsibility

- After 12 months of being fully operational, a Final Noise Compliance Report must be undertaken.

#### Independent Auditing/Reporting

- Final Noise Compliance Report is to be completed by a suitably qualified and experienced independent acoustic engineer.
- The Final Noise Compliance Report is to be accompanied by a report from an independent auditor accredited under the *Environment Protection Act 1970* which reviews the methodology and results contained in the Final Noise Compliance Report.

- The Compliance reports will be available on Lal Lal's website.

#### Ministerial Oversight

- The Final Noise Compliance Report and independent review by an auditor of the methodology and results must be submitted to the Minister for Planning.

### Ongoing Monitoring

#### Requirement for Lal Lal Wind Farm

- Ongoing requirement for Lal Lal to comply with noise limits.
- If non-compliance is detected or an acoustic investigation is required, an independent assessment report is to be prepared by an independent acoustic engineer.
- If required a remediation plan is to be prepared to rectify the any non-compliance.

#### Ministerial Oversight

- Any remediation plans must be to the satisfaction of the Minister for Planning
- If compliant not resolved, Minister for Planning may request an independent peer review.
- Minister for Planning may request independent assessment at any time where complaints are received and are considered to warrant investigation.

#### Independent Auditing/Reporting

- Annual reporting of a reference map of compliant locations, investigation and remediation actions is to be provided to the satisfaction of the Minister for Planning.
- The complaints register and response process will continue for the duration of the wind farm's operating life, and will be made available to the Minister for Planning on request

## Contact

If you are would like additional information on environmental noise management or would like additional information on the Lal Lal Wind Farm, please contact us on (03) 5421 9999 or email [info@lalalwindfarms.com.au](mailto:info@lalalwindfarms.com.au).

