

Lal Lal Wind Farms

Post construction noise monitoring program

Fact Sheet



Lal Lal Wind Farms

Lal Lal Wind Farms comprises of a total of 60 turbines (38 in Yendon and 22 in Elaine). The Planning Permit includes conditions which specify noise limits.

Noise Limits at Lal Lal Wind Farms

Lal Lal Wind Farms, 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 Farms Planning Permit (PL-SP/05/0461/A). The noise limits relate to operation of the wind farm.

Operational Noise Limits

The operations of the Lal Lal Wind Farms 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 at all dwellings, subject to the Permit Conditions

Background Noise Testing

As part of the noise compliance testing of Lal Lal Wind Farms, background noise testing has been undertaken. This was conducted by using a sound level meter or noise loggers, which measures sound levels in decibels (dB) at various locations around the wind farm. The location of the noise loggers are carefully selected by the acoustic consultant and future noise testing is undertaken from the same point, to allow for a clear comparison between the initial background noise testing and post construction noise levels, of the operational wind farm.

Post installation sound levels will be measured from the same locations where background sound levels were taken.

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

- The Noise Compliance Testing Plan was prepared, based on final turbine layout.
- The Noise Complaint Investigation and Response Plan (NCIRP) specifies the process for investigation and resolution of noise complaints. The endorsed NCIRP is available on the website.

Post Construction Compliance

Lal Lal Wind Farms Responsibility

- There will be a first noise compliance test carried out at the beginning of full operations and then a final test after 12 months period of operations.

Independent Auditing/Reporting

- The noise compliance testing and reporting is to be completed by a suitably qualified and experienced independent acoustic engineer.
- The noise compliance reports will be accompanied by a report from an independent auditor accredited under the *Environment Protection Act 1970* who reviews to ensure that the test was carried out in accordance with the required standard which is New Zealand Standard 6808:2010 Acoustics- Wind Farm Noise. This is the standard which has been adopted by the Minister for Planning for all wind farms in Victoria.
- The Compliance reports will be available on Lal Lal Wind Farms' website.

- The post construction noise monitoring program will commence at the beginning of March 2021.

Ministerial Oversight

- The noise compliance reports and independent review assessment by an EPA auditor must be submitted to the Minister for Planning.

Ongoing Monitoring

Requirement for Lal Lal Wind Farms

- Ongoing requirement for Lal Lal Wind Farms' 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 any non-compliance.

Ministerial Oversight

- Any remediation plans must be to the satisfaction of the Minister for Planning
- If compliance is 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 complaint locations, investigation and remediation actions are 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

Post construction noise monitoring report, community meeting

Once the post construction noise monitoring report has been prepared, reviewed by an independent EPA accredited auditor and endorsed by DELWP, a community meeting will be held to discuss the results.

SLR is the acoustic consultancy who have been engaged to conduct the noise testing while Marshall Day Acoustics conducted the pre-construction noise assessments. The EPA auditor will be from Arup.

Contact

If you would like additional information about the post construction noise monitoring program for Lal Lal Wind Farms, please contact us on 1800 187 183 or email info@lallalwindfarms.com.au.

