



Coonoer Bridge Wind Farm

The Coonoer Bridge Wind Farm is a 19.8 MW wind energy project located 90 km north-west of Bendigo, Victoria. We were engaged by Windlab to resolve EPBC Act compliance issues that arose as a result of clearing for the project.

Statutory Context

The project's impact had been assessed and documented through an EPBC Act controlled action referral, with the Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Energy (DoEE) returning a decision that the project was *Not a Controlled Action*. This was primarily due to the project's small clearing footprint.

However, the design clearing footprint was found to be inadequate to construct the project, and a post-construction audit found that the clearing exceeded that notified in the controlled action referral by a factor of almost 3.

Windlab advised DoEE of the additional clearing, and we were engaged reassess project impacts against the EPBC Act Significant Impact Guidelines.

Even though additional clearing had taken place, we could demonstrate that the project did not cause a Significant Impact on the affected *Grey box (Eucalyptus microcarpa) Grassy Woodland* and *Derived Grasslands of South-Eastern Australia* Threatened Ecological Community.

The DoEE compliance team accepted our finding and agreed that extending the project's rehabilitation program would be sufficient to remedy the situation overall.

Outcome

No further compliance action was taken.

CLIENT
WINDLAB
LOCATION
COONOOER BRIDGE
VIC

28 South Environmental

info@28south.com.au