

## KERRS CREEK WIND FARM

# Landscape Character & Visual Impact Assessment

### Overview

Moir Landscape Architecture have been engaged by RES to prepare the Landscape Character and Visual Impact Assessment for the Kerrs Creek Wind Farm Project. Our team have extensive experience working on the assessment of Wind Farm Projects within New South Wales.

The LCVIA is undertaken in two parts: Landscape Character Assessment and Visual Impact Assessment.

The **Landscape Character Assessment** determines the baseline of the existing landscape character. Field work and desktop assessment is undertaken to analyse land use, identify key landscape features, define character areas and determine the scenic quality. An assessment of the Project and its impact on the landscape will be prepared.

The assessment will include a consideration of factors such as associated infrastructure, night lighting and cumulative impacts with nearby projects.

The **Visual Impact Assessment** component provides an assessment of the 'day-to-day' visual effects of a project on people's view from the private and public domain.

Visual impact is determined through an assessment of the viewer sensitivity, magnitude of the project and the scenic quality of the existing landscape.

Recommendations and mitigation measures are determined in response to the findings of the assessment.

## WHAT HAVE WE BEEN DOING?



### Baseline Character Assessment

Moir have undertaken extensive field work, mapping and desktop assessment to aid the analysis and assessment of the existing landscape character. Scenic quality ratings are determined through the application of a quantitative methodology taking into account characteristics such as topography, vegetation, land use etc.



### Detailed Dwelling Assessments

Moir team representatives have been on site undertaking detailed photographic surveys to assist in the preparation of detailed dwelling assessments. Detailed dwelling assessments have been used to aid discussions regarding layout changes, mitigation opportunities or neighbour agreements with impacted dwellings.



### Project Layout Inputs

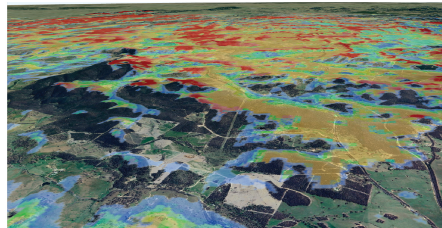
Moir have been providing RES with ongoing advice on the Projects visual impact to ensure considerations are made as iterations to the Project layout occur.



# Visual Impact Assessment Process

## 01 Viewshed Mapping

Viewshed mapping is undertaken to identify dwellings within the Study Area (8 km) with views to the Project. Viewshed mapping is undertaken on a 'bareground' scenario based on topography alone and does not take into account vegetation.



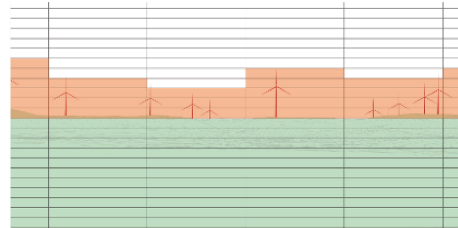
## 02 Simple Assessment

All dwellings with the potential to view the Project are considered for assessment. A simple assessment is undertaken to eliminate dwellings with visibility limited by factors such as distance and / or intervening vegetation.



## 03 Intermediate Assessment

This assessment is undertaken using wire frame diagrams to determine the visual magnitude resulting from the Project. Any dwellings that return a moderate or high visual impact rating through this process require a site assessment.



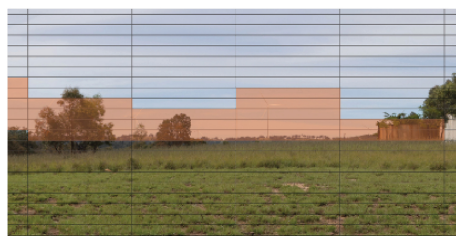
## 04 Site Assessments

Site inspections including photographic assessments are undertaken to accurately assess existing site conditions including: scenic quality, orientation of the dwelling and identify opportunities for mitigation (if required).



## 05 Detailed Dwelling Assessment

A photomontage of the Project is prepared to aid the detailed assessment of the Project. The visual magnitude is re-assessed to account for existing mitigating factors (ie. vegetation or built elements). Any dwellings that return a moderate or high visual impact rating through this process require further consideration.



## 06 Recommendations

Moir LA provides recommendations to RES for consideration. Recommendations may include: Visual screening proposed at the dwelling to reduce visibility, changes to project design, agreements with land owner.



## How is a visual impact rating determined?

A visible wind turbine or ancillary infrastructure does not necessarily constitute a visual impact.

The visual impact rating is determined through an understanding of the sensitivity of the viewer to change, (determined by the type of view and the scenic quality) and the magnitude of the change.

