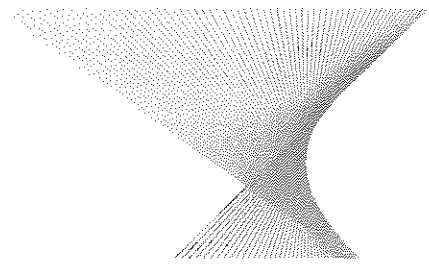


Addendum REF 2 Decision Statement



Coppabella Wind Farm – Rebuild of Transmission line 99M
Installation of a Static Synchronous Compensator

1. Introduction

A Review of Environmental Factors (REF) was prepared by Transgrid for the *Coppabella Wind Farm - Rebuild of Transmission Line 99M* project and was determined in March 2020.

An Addendum REF (referred to as Addendum REF 1) was prepared by Transgrid and determined in November 2020 for the installation of an additional 330/132 kilovolt (kV) transformer at Transgrid's Yass 330 kV substation to support the connection of the Coppabella Wind Farm (CWF) into the Transgrid's 330 kV network.

A second modification to the proposed activity is now required which involves the installation of a static synchronous compensator (STATCOM) at Yass substation to meet the connection requirements of the Australian Energy Regulator and address network planning constraints due to the CWF grid connection. STATCOMs are devices which are capable of providing or absorbing reactive current and therefore regulate the voltage at the point of connection to the grid. This STATCOM is proposed to be installed on the former switchyard bench, adjacent to the new 132/330 kV transformer compound, at the existing Yass substation freehold site owned by Transgrid.

The assessment of this proposed second modified activity is documented in the *Coppabella Wind Farm – Rebuild of Transmission Line 99M Addendum Review of Environmental Factors (Addendum REF 2- Installation of a Static Synchronous Compensator)* (the Addendum REF 2) prepared by Transgrid (dated November 2023).

The objectives of this Decision Statement are, with respect to the installation of the STATCOM only, to:

- Document consultation with agencies and the public
- Review the environmental impacts of the proposed activity and the significance of those impacts
- Explain clearly why the key conclusions in the REF were or were not accepted
- Document that the authorised person was not involved in conducting the assessment
- Make a determination of the proposed activity, or make a decision that there is insufficient information to discharge the duty under section 5.5 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act).

2. Consultation

Consultation for the installation of the STATCOM was undertaken in accordance with Transgrid's Consultation Protocol and legislative requirements. A summary of the consultation undertaken with the general public and Government agencies is provided below. Full details of all consultation undertaken for the installation of the STATCOM are included in Addendum REF 2 and the Addendum 2 Submissions Report.

During the preparation of Addendum REF 2, Transgrid provided written notification of this second modification between 27 September and 29 September 2023 to Yass Valley Council and occupiers of land adjoining Yass substation.

Addendum REF 2 was publicly displayed for 22 business days from 22 November to 22 December 2023 on Transgrid's website (<https://www.transgrid.com.au/what-we-do/projects/current-projects/yass-murrumburrah-project>).

Emails and letters were sent to key stakeholders between 15 and 16 November 2023 advising them of the display of the Addendum REF 2 and how they could make a submission. The key stakeholders included landholders adjoining the Yass substation, potentially noise affected landholders, relevant government agencies and all landholders previously consulted as part of the original REF. A phone number and email address were also provided in the letter and on the website to enable stakeholders to contact Transgrid to find out more information and make a submission.

During the exhibition of Addendum REF 2, Transgrid received submissions from 12 respondents. A total of 10 submissions were from individuals and two responses were received from Government agencies (National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and Transport for NSW (TfNSW)). The submission from NPWS advised they had no objection towards the proposed modified activity.

The majority of the issues raised by individuals were generally related to the already approved portion of the project and not specifically to the proposed installation of the STATCOM

The key issues raised which are specific to the proposed installation of the STATCOM include:

- Ownership and cost
- Disturbance to contaminated land
- The need for the proposed modified activity
- Lack of transparency and consultation surrounding the need for the STATCOM
- Electromagnetic frequency and associated health impacts
- Construction program.

All 10 submissions lodged by the community were not supportive of the approved project as well as the installation of the STATCOM.

Transgrid prepared an Addendum 2 Submissions Report (February, 2024) to address all issues raised in the submissions relating to the installation of the STATCOM and how they have been considered and taken into account.

3. Considerations of potential impacts

The Addendum REF 2 and Addendum 2 Submissions Report details the proposed activity, assesses the potential impacts on the environment and provides management measures to avoid, minimise, manage and/or offset those impacts.

The Addendum REF 2 and Addendum 2 Submissions Report addresses the requirements of section 5.5 of the EP&A Act by considering to the fullest extent possible, all matters affecting or likely to affect the environment from the proposed activity. The REF also considers factors prescribed under clause 171 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021*.

The Addendum REF 2 and Addendum 2 Submissions Report concludes that the proposed activity is not likely to significantly affect the environment or threatened species, ecological communities, or their habitats and is not being carried out on a declared area of outstanding biodiversity value.

The Addendum REF 2 and Addendum 2 Submissions Report also conclude that the proposed activity is not likely to have a significant impact on matters of National Environmental Significance (NES) or Commonwealth land, and therefore does not require a referral under the *Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

With consideration of the environmental impacts detailed in the Addendum REF 2 and Addendum 2 Submissions Report, the key conclusions are accepted for the following reasons:

- The Addendum REF 2 and Addendum 2 Submissions Report has been prepared by persons appropriately trained, and with relevant experience, to consider and assess the potential impacts of the proposed installation of the STATCOM and the mitigation measures.
- It is considered that the Addendum REF 2 and Addendum 2 Submissions Report provides a true and fair review of the proposed modified activity in relation to its potential effects on the environment.
- The Addendum REF 2 and Addendum 2 Submissions Report is comprehensive and examines and takes into account, to the fullest extent possible, all matters affecting or likely to affect the environment as a result of the proposed modified activity.

4. Determination

I, MICHAEL DREW, as an authorised person on behalf of Transgrid, have examined and considered the Addendum REF 2 and Addendum 2 Submissions Report for the proposed modified activity in accordance with section 5.5 of the EP&A Act.

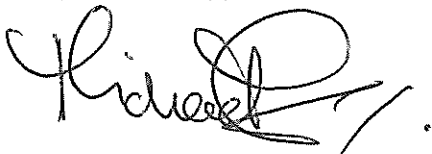
I have been provided with a briefing on the contents of the Addendum REF 2 and Addendum 2 Submissions Report, and I have gained an understanding of the potential impacts of the installation of a STATCOM and the mitigation measures.

As per the requirements of section 2.5.1 of the Code, I have not been involved in conducting the assessment.

I am satisfied that, with the proposed mitigation measures, the installation of a STATCOM is not likely to significantly affect the environment, and is not likely to significantly affect threatened species, populations, ecological communities or their habitats and is not being carried out on a declared area of outstanding biodiversity value.

I determine that an Environmental Impact Statement and Species Impact Statement are not required in respect of the proposed modified activity. The proposed modified activity may now proceed subject to the implementation of the mitigation measures in the REF and Submissions Report.

This is not a conditional decision and no further conditions are required (other than the mitigation measures stipulated in Appendix A of the Addendum 2 Submissions Report).



Michael Drew
Executive General Manager / Corporate
Transgrid

Date: 1 MARCH 2024

