

Crookwell Development Pty Ltd

Crookwell 3 Wind Farm

Addendum Ecology Report – RSA Revision

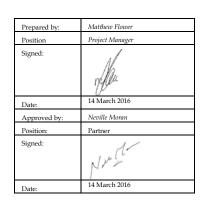
P0326058 Final

March 2016



Document Control:											
0326058RP01 – Addendum Ecology Report RSA Revision ERM Approval to Issue											
Version	Revision	Author	Reviewed by	Name	Date						
Draft	D01	Eugene Dodd	Murray Curtis	Murray Curtis	27 November 2015						
Final	F01	Eugene Dodd	Neville Moran	Neville Moran	14 March 2016						

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INTRODUCTION

1

Crookwell Development Pty Ltd (CDPL) are seeking State significant development consent for the Crookwell 3 Wind Farm (the Project).

Following the preparation of the Crookwell 3 Preferred Project and Response to Submissions Report in March 2014 (PPRSR), CDPL has further refined the Project by modifying the wind turbine generator (WTG) envelope for the Project and reducing the total number of WTGs proposed as part of the Project from 28 to 23 (**Project Refinements**) and have altered the layout of some access tracks to avoid areas of higher ecological value.

The changes made to the WTG envelope for the ecological assessment are as follows:

- an increase in the maximum rotor size from 104 m to 130 m;
- a decrease in the maximum tower height from 105 m to 95 m; and
- an increase maximum tip height from 150 m to 157 m.

A diagram showing the proposed changes to the WTG envelope is contained in *Annex A*. A function of these alterations is a change in the rotor swept area (RSA).

Additionally, five WTGs have been removed, decreasing the total number from 28 to 23 and the layout of some access tracks have been altered to avoid areas of higher ecological value. *Figure 1* shows the locations of the WTGs which have been removed from the Project. As a consequence of the removal of these WTGs, a number of access tracks and underground cabling servicing the removed WTGs will be redundant and have also be removed from the Project.

1.1 Scope of this Report

Environmental Resources Management Australia Pty Ltd (ERM) has been engaged by CDPL to prepare this report which updates the ecological assessments undertaken for the Project to reflect the Project Refinements.

As outlined above, the reduced number of WTGs has the benefit removing from the project a number of access tracks and underground cabling routes. Furthermore, refinements to the access track layout to avoid areas of higher ecological value have been undertaken. Both of these refinements reduce the overall Project footprint and hence results in a reduction to the total amount of vegetation clearing required for the Project.

This report focuses on two main areas in revising the ecological impacts of the Project:

- assessing the impacts resulting from the changes made to the WTG envelope and reduction in WTG numbers on bird and bat species, which include collision risk, alienation of habitat and barotrauma; and
- re-calculation of the vegetation clearance required for the Project.

2 METHODS

This report builds on existing impact assessments prepared in relation to the Project. The existing ecological impact assessments that have been prepared in relation to the Project and have been relied upon in preparing this report are:

- Ecological Assessment for Crookwell 3 Wind Farm (Anderson Environmental Consultants (AEC) 2010 revised in 2012);
- Targeted Threatened Species Assessment for Crookwell 3 Wind Farm (AEC 2011);
- Response to Comments/Objections Ecological Assessment (AEC 2013);
- Crookwell 3 Wind Farm: Supplementary Ecology Report (ERM 2013a);
- Crookwell 3 Wind Farm: Ecology Adequacy of Response to Submissions (ERM 2013b);
- Preferred Project and Response to Submissions Report: Crookwell 3 Wind Farm Major Project Application Number (MP 10_0034). (CDPL 2014).

In addition, updated database searches were conducted to obtain records of threatened birds and bats, listed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* (EPBC Act) and *Threatened Species Conservation Act* (TSC Act). This allowed the existing impact assessments to be updated in the case of any recent additional records or highlight species which have changed listing status or have been recently listed. The following searches were conducted on 24/11/2015, with a 10 km buffer (the locality) applied to the Project Area (PA):

- the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) Atlas of NSW Wildlife database (Bionet 2014); and
- the Commonwealth Department of the Environment's (DoE) online Protected Matters Search Tool (PMST).

3 RESULTS

3.1 ATLAS OF NSW WILDLIFE DATABASE

A total of five different species were recorded within a 10 km buffer of the PA, all of which were birds (refer to *Table 3.1* and *Figure 1*). The latest records were dated during 2009, and therefore precede the previous impact assessments undertaken to date. Owing to the lack of any new information related to the atlas records, none of the impact assessments require further review on this basis alone.

Table 3.1Atlas of NSW Wildlife Database Records

Common Name	Scientific Name	TSC Act	EPBC Act	Date Recorded
Regent Honeyeater	Anthochaera phrygia	CE	CE	1/11/1992
Gang-gang Cockatoo	Callocephalon fimbriatum	V		30/06/2009
Varied Sittella	Daphoenositta chrysoptera	V		30/06/2009
Powerful Owl	Ninox strenua	V		3/04/2007
Powerful Owl	Ninox strenua	V		30/06/2009
Powerful Owl	Ninox strenua	V		31/05/2006
Diamond Firetail	Stagonopleura guttata	V		4/07/2005

1. Species status under the EPBC Act and TSC Act: V – Vulnerable, E – Endangered, CE – Critically Endangered.

2. Only birds and bats were included in the record search.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AUSTRALIA



3.2 COMMONWEALTH PROTECTED MATTERS SEARCH TOOL

The result of the PMST search was cross referenced against the species considered in AEC (2012). One additional bird, The Painted Honeyeater (*Grantiella picta*) was highlighted in the PMST (refer to *Annex B*). This species has recently been listed as Vulnerable under the EPBC Act (effective from 08/07/15) and is also listed Vulnerable under the TSC Act. As this species has not been considered during preceding ecological assessments the likelihood of occurrence and potential for impacts are discussed below. The impacts of the Project on all of the other threatened birds and bats highlighted within the recent PMST search have already been considered as part of the original ecological assessment (AEC, 2012).

3.2.1 Painted Honeyeater

The Painted Honeyeater is nomadic and occurs at low densities throughout its range, which extend from Victoria through to central Queensland. The greatest concentrations of the bird and almost all breeding occur on the inland slopes of the Great Dividing Range in NSW, Victoria and southern Queensland. This species inhabits Boree, Brigalow and Box-Gum Woodlands and Box-Ironbark Forests. The species is a specialist feeder on the fruits of mistletoes growing on woodland eucalypts and acacias and it prefers mistletoes of the genus *Amyema*. Insects and nectar from mistletoe or eucalypts are also occasionally eaten (OEH, 2015a).

The Project exists within the South Eastern Highland Bioregion, outside of the key inland slopes habitat area for the species. The Project in within an area which has highly fragmented vegetation (ERM 2013b), which lowers the suitability of the habitat for the Painted Honeyeater. Suitable habitat within the PA is restricted to small patches of Box Gum Woodland, much of which is sub-optimal given its partially cleared and thinned nature (ERM 2013a). This species has not been recorded from any field surveys to date, despite numerous bird surveys being undertaken (AEC 2012, ERM 2013a), including targeted surveys for nectivorous birds such as the Regent Honeyeater and Swift Parrot (ERM, 2013b). Furthermore there are no records of the species within the locality with the nearest record of the species being 25 km north of the PA. Given the lack of records, and the suboptimal habitat it is considered that this species is unlikely to occur. No further impact assessment is deemed necessary under either the TSC Act or the EPBC Act.

3.3 MODIFICATION TO THE PROJECT

The PPRSR report submitted in 2014, provided information on the likely specifications of WTGs to be used for the Project. In order to allow flexibility regarding WTG selection, a conservative approach was taken which assessed a maximum WTG envelope, which took the largest attributes of each of the WTGs then under consideration for the Project.

Owing to the advancing technology of turbine design CDPL has now amended the maximum WTG envelope proposed for the Project. The table below (*Table 3.2*)summarises the proposed changes to the maximum WTG envelope.

Table 3.2Changes to the WTG Envelope

	Original	Change	Difference
Tip Height Maximum (m)	150	157	+7 m
Tip Height Min (Ground Clearance (m))	46	27	-19
Rotor Diameter (m)	104	130	+26

The ecological assessments to date have considered impacts of various WTG envelopes and specifications, as described below:

- AEC (2012) assessed impacts to birds and bats with respect to WTGs, but did not make specific reference to minimum rotor height (ground clearance) or maximum rotor height (blade tip height) as part of the assessment. However, the maximum rotor height of 152 m was detailed in the project description.
- ERM (2013a) provided an estimate of the maximum rotor height to be approximately 150 m for the purposes of the ecological impact assessment.
- Later studies including several revised impact assessments by ERM (2013b) used precautionary specifications of a ground clearance at 25 m and maximum blade tip height of 200 m.

In addition to the changes of the WTG envelope, five (5) turbines will be removed from the Project (refer to *Figure 1*). This will consequently result in the removal of associated access tracks for those WTGs and therefore reduce the total length of access tracks.

4 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Detailed ecological impact assessment has been previously conducted for the Project by AEC (2011 & 2012) and ERM (2013a & 2013b). The following sections build on the previous assessments and assess the impacts of the modifications to the proposed maximum WTG envelope and reduction in WTG numbers on bird and bat species collision risk, barotrauma and alienation of habitat, along with recalculation of the extent of the native vegetation removal.

Operational wind farms pose a potential collision risk to birds and bats. The risks are injury and/or death to individual birds and bats which collide or fly close to WTGs, as well as alienation of habitat where birds and bats avoid WTGs.

Fatalities and injuries to birds and bats from WTGs are usually caused by a collision with the moving blades (blade strike), or with turbine infrastructure, such as guy lines and powerlines.

Alienation of habitat is a further consideration related to blade strike, as it indicates a measure of "avoidance" of WTGs by birds and bats. The avoidance rate for birds in Australia is generally considered to be in the order of 95% to 99% (Smales 2005). This avoidance effect essentially leads to a loss of habitat within the footprint of the proposed development.

Barotrauma primarily affects bats and is caused by rapid decompression near the moving turbine blades (Baerwald 2008). Barotrauma involves tissue damage to air-containing structures caused by rapid or excessive pressure changes; pulmonary barotrauma is lung damage due to expansion of air in the lungs that is not accommodated by exhalation (Baerwald 2008). As with any airfoil, moving wind- turbine blades create zones of low pressure as the air flows over them. Bats entering these low pressure areas may suffer barotrauma (Baerwald 2008).

Each of these issues are considered below.

4.1 WTG REMOVAL

The removal of five WTGs from the project reduces the total number of proposed turbines from 28 to 23, representing a decrease of 18 %. This will reduce the total Rotor Swept Area (RSA) of the Project, therefore also lowering the risk of rotor impacts for birds and bats, including collision risk, barotrauma and habitat alienation. All of the impacts assessments conducted to date have considered the rotor impacts based on at least 28 turbines (ERM 2013a and 2013b) with AEC considering 30 WTG. These assessments have concluded no significant impacts to any threatened species, as a result of the Project. The removal of five (5) WTGs from the Project will further reduce the ecological impacts to birds and bats found within the Project Area.

In addition to the reduced rotor related impacts, the footprint of the Project will be reduced due to removal of WTGs and access tracks. This will further reduce alienation of habitat and other ecological impacts including habitat reduction from clearing (refer *Section 4.5*).

4.2 MODIFICATION TO WTG ENVELOPE

Ecological impact assessments conducted to date have not made conclusions based on an exact RSA, instead they have referenced potential upper and lower heights as detailed in *Section 3.3*. The maximum rotor height (blade tip height) referenced in the reports produced to date has included heights of 150 m, 152 m and 200 m, therefore this either represents an increase of 7 m, 5 m or a decrease of 43 m respectively, compared to the revised WTG envelope which has a maximum blade tip height of 157 m.

Bird and bat species which regularly fly at heights of 150 m would occur over a wide range of heights and adapted to flying in open areas. Whether it is fast powered flight or soaring behaviour, these birds and bats are not likely to be restricted to a flight height of 150m. The increased tip height of 7 m (compared to 150 m) is not considered a significant increase. It is therefore considered that the same species as considered previously would be affected at a similar magnitude, meaning that the increased tip height is not considered to significantly increase impacts.

The minimum rotor height ground clearance was previously only considered by ERM (2013b) which stated a blade ground clearance at 25 m. The proposed modification lists a revised blade ground clearance of 27 m. The additional 2 m ground clearance is not likely to materially affect impact risk for low flying bird and bat species.

The proposed change to the WTG envelope is not expected to result in any significant increase to the risk of bird and bat collision and barotrauma for the Project. Individual threatened species are considered below.

4.3 ASSESSMENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE REVISION FOR MNES UNDER THE EPBC ACT

Two general Assessments of Significance (AoS) were undertaken by AEC (2012) for;

- Critically Endangered and Endangered individual threatened species, and
- Vulnerable individual threatened species.

The assessments did not list the species which were included in this assessment, however concluded that the Project is not likely to have a significant impact on any fauna species listed under the EPBC Act. These assessments did not specifically discuss any bird or bats species listed under the EPBC Act, therefore no reference to collision risk or barotrauma was made.

ASSESSMENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE REVISION FOR SPECIES LISTED UNDER THE TSC ACT

4.4

Table 4.1 applies the impacts outlined in *Section 4.2* to the species specific AoS completed to date. Where multiple AoS have been completed the most recent was used to inform if any changes to the impact assessment are required. In summary, the modifications made to the WTG maximum envelope are negligible and are considered to not result in any change to the conclusion of the existing AoS that the Project is not likely to result in a significant impact on any species listed under the EPBC Act.

Common	Species	EPBC	TSC		ent of Sigr		Changes Required to the	AoS Conclusion and Justification
Name	Name	Act	Act	Completed (TSC Act)?			AoS	
				AEC (2012)	ERM (2013a)	ERM (2013b)		
Birds				• • •				
Regent Honeyeater	Anthochaera phrygia	CE	CE	×	×	×	ERM 2013b states that the maximum rotor tip height will be 150 m. This height is now revised to 157 m	No Significant Impact – Unchanged The AoS concluded that the species is unlikely to occur within the PA, based on a lack of recent records, and the absence of preferred habitat. The closet record of this species was 10km from the PA and is considered historical at 23 years ago. Rotor strike is not considered a key risk given the absence of the species from the PA. Note that this species listing has been upgraded to CE from E under both the TSC Act and EPBC Act.
Gang-gang Cockatoo	Callocephalon fimbriatum	-	V	V	v		No changes required.	No Significant Impact – Unchanged The Gang-Gang Cockatoo has not been recorded flying at height over the PA and is unlikely to regularly fly at 150 m, therefore the minor increase of the maximum rotor tip to 157 m is not likely to have any significant effect on the species. Furthermore the Gang-gang Cockatoo are considered to be an infrequent visitor to the PA, owing to the sub- optimal habitat present.
Glossy Black Cockatoo	Calyptorhynchus lathami	-	V	×			No changes required.	No Significant Impact – Unchanged AEC (2012) considered that the PA was unimportant for the species given the negligible foraging resources and low densities of hollows to support breeding for this species. Rotor heights were not considered a key part of the impact assessment; and the change is maximum tip height is considered negligible.
Brown Treecreeper	Climacteris picumnus	-	V	✓ 	✓ 		No changes required.	No Significant Impact – Unchanged ERM 2013a considered this species on the basis of footprint impacts rather than rotor strike, given that this is a woodland species unlikely to fly at height in open areas. The proposed modifications will have no change on the impact assessment for this species.

 Table 4.1 Assessments of Significance Undertaken and Modifications Required Due to Revision of WTG Specifications

Common Name	Species Name	EPBC Act	TSC Act	Complet	ent of Sigr ed (TSC A	ct)?	Changes Required to the AoS	AoS Conclusion and Justification
				AEC (2012)	ERM (2013a)	ERM (2013b)		
Varied Sittella	Daphoenositta chrysoptera	-	V	~	~		No changes required.	No Significant Impact – Unchanged ERM 2013a considered this species on the basis of footprint impacts rather than rotor strike, given that this is a woodland species unlikely to fly at height in open areas. The proposed modifications will have no change on the impact assessment for this species.
White Fronted Chat	Epthianura albifrons	-	V		~		No changes required.	No Significant Impact – Unchanged ERM 2013a considered this species on the basis of footprint impacts rather than rotor strike, given that this is a woodland species unlikely to fly at height in open areas. The proposed modifications will have no change on the impact assessment for this species.
Little Eagle	Hieraaetus morphnoides	-	V		~		ERM 2013a states that the maximum rotor tip height will be 150 m. This height is now revised to 157 m	No Significant Impact – Unchanged The risk of rotor strike to this species was considered in the AoS by ERM (2013a) with further discussion also provided in ERM 2013b. An increase of the rotor tip height of 7 m for this species is considered a minor change and will not alter the previous AoS conclusion. A residual rotor strike risk remains for this species; however the impact is not considered significant impact at a species or population level.
Swift Parrot	Lathamus discolor	Е	Е	V	V	✓ 	ERM 2013b states that the maximum rotor tip height will be 150 m. This height is now revised to 157 m	No Significant Impact – Unchanged The AoS concluded that the species is unlikely to occur within the PA, based on a lack of records, and the absence of preferred habitat. Rotor strike is discussed in the AoS for this species and an increase of the rotor tip height of 7 m is considered a minor change and will not alter the previous AoS conclusion.
Hooded Robin	Melanodryas cucullata	-	V	Ý	V		No changes required.	No Significant Impact – Unchanged ERM 2013a considered this species on the basis of footprint impacts rather than rotor strike, given that this is a woodland species unlikely to fly at height in open areas. The proposed modifications will have no change on the impact assessment for this species.

Common Name	Species Name	EPBC Act	TSC Act		ent of Sigr ed (TSC A		Changes Required to the AoS	AoS Conclusion and Justification
manie	INAILIE	Act	Act	AEC (2012)	ERM (2013a)	ERM (2013b)	AUS	
Barking Owl	Ninox connivens	-	V	×			No changes required.	No Significant Impact – Unchanged AEC (2012) considered that the PA was unimportant for the species given the negligible foraging resources and low densities of hollows to support breeding. Rotor heights were not considered a key part of the impact assessment; and the change is maximum tip height is considered negligible.
Powerful Owl	Ninox strenua	-	V	×			No changes required.	No Significant Impact - Unchanged AEC (2012) states that this species hunts at night at low altitudes, below the blades of the turbines and is therefore generally not at risk from blade strike. The ground clearance for rotors is not explicitly stated within AEC (2012) however the height of 27 m is within expected parameters for WTGs and it remains likely that the Powerful Owl would typically fly below this level. This species may occasionally fly at height when travelling between areas of foraging habitat and therefore some residual risk of rotor strike remains. Despite this residual risk it is considered that it would affect a small number of individuals only, and therefore the conclusion of No Significant Impact, remains current. It should be noted that one Powerful Owl was recorded aurally by ERM (2013b) in the vicinity of A18 (on the eastern limit of the PA) and this was subsequent to AECs assessment of the species.
Scarlet Robin	Petroica boodang	-	V	×	×		No changes required.	No Significant Impact – Unchanged ERM 2013a considered this species on the basis of footprint impacts rather than rotor strike, given that this is a woodland species unlikely to fly at height in open areas. The proposed modifications will have no change on the impact assessment for this species.
Superb Parrot	Polytelis swainsonii	V	V	~			No changes required.	No Significant Impact – Unchanged AEC (2012) considered that the species was unlikely to occur, based on its known range and lack of records within the region. The proposed changes to the WTGs do not affect the impact assessment for this species, given its likely absence from the PA.

Common Name	Species Name	EPBC Act	0 0 1		Changes Required to the AoS	AoS Conclusion and Justification		
				AEC (2012)	ERM (2013a)	ERM (2013b)		
Speckled Warbler	Pyrrholaemus sagittatus	-	V	V	Ý		No changes required.	No Significant Impact – Unchanged ERM 2013a considered this species on the basis of footprint impacts rather than Rotor Strike, given that this is a woodland species unlikely to fly at height in open areas. The proposed modifications will have no change on the impact assessment for this species.
Diamond Firetail	Stagonopleura guttata	-	V	×	✓ 		No changes required.	No Significant Impact – Unchanged ERM 2013a considered this species on the basis of footprint impacts rather than Rotor Strike, given that this is a small woodland and grassland species unlikely to fly at height in open areas. The proposed modifications will have no change on the impact assessment for this species.
Bats								
Eastern False Pipistrelle	Falsistrellus tasmaniensis	-	V	×		×	For the purposes of the impact assessment ERM 2013b considered ground clearance of 25 m and a maximum blade tip height of 200 m. The revised specification will reduce this to 27 m and 157 m respectively. A reduction of 45 m in total.	No Significant Impact – Unchanged ERM 2013b considered this species with a precautionary approach to rotor strike, with a RSA larger than that now proposed. Residual risks of rotor strike and barotrauma were anticipated for this species but they were not of sufficient magnitude to significantly impact the species or local population. The proposed modifications will have no change on the impact assessment for this species given that the original RSA was greater than the revised RSA.
Eastern Bentwing- Bat	Miniopterus schreibersii oceanensis	-	V			×	For the purposes of the impact assessment ERM 2013b considered ground clearance of 25 m and a maximum blade tip height of 200 m. The revised specification will reduce this to 27 m and 157 m respectively. A reduction of 45 m in total.	No Significant Impact – Unchanged ERM 2013b considered this species with a precautionary approach to rotor strike, with a RSA larger than that now proposed. Residual risks of rotor strike and barotrauma were anticipated for this species but they were not of sufficient magnitude to significantly impact the species or local population. The proposed modifications will have no change on the impact assessment for this species given that the original RSA was greater than the revised RSA.

Common	Species	EPBC	TSC	Assessm	ent of Sigr	ificance	Changes Required to the	AoS Conclusion and Justification
Name	Name	Act	Act	Complet	Completed (TSC Act)?		AoS	
				AEC	ERM	ERM		
				(2012)	(2013a)	(2013b)		
Corben's	Nyctophilus	V	V	\checkmark			No changes required.	No Significant Impact – Unchanged
Long-eared	corbeni*							AEC (2012) did not specifically address the risk of rotor strike and
Bat								barotrauma within the AoS, focusing on footprint impacts to potential
								habitat. Notwithstanding, this species has a low risk of rotor strike
								and barotrauma impacts given that it is a slow flying, agile species,
								typically hunting beneath the understory in vegetated areas (OEH,
								2015a). The species is not likely to fly at heights of 27 m, nor occur in
								open areas away from forested or wooded areas.
Yellow-	Saccolaimus	-	V	\checkmark			No changes required.	No Significant Impact – Unchanged
bellied	flaviventris							AEC (2012) considered the effects of rotor strike within the AoS,
Sheath-								considering that the species is likely to demonstrate a high level of
tailed Bat								avoidance with few individuals likely to be impacted. Revision of the
								AoS is not required as the outcome was not specifically linked to blade
								heights and remains current.
Greater	Scoteanax	-	V	\checkmark			No changes required.	No Significant Impact – Unchanged
Broad-	rueppellii							AEC (2012) did not specifically address the risk of rotor strike and
nosed Bat								barotrauma within the AoS, focusing on footprint impacts to potential
								habitat including roosting trees.
	under the EPBC Ac							
* Corben's Lon	g-eared Bat (Nyctop	philus corben	i) has been	n upgraded	to a full spec	ries status an	d was previously assessed as the C	Greater Long-eared Bat (Nyctophilus timoriensis -south eastern form).

4.5 RECALCULATION OF VEGETATION CLEARANCE

In addition to the reduced rotor related impacts discussed above, the footprint of the Project will be reduced due to both the removal of WTGs and their access tracks, as well as the revision of the access track layout alignment to avoid areas of higher ecological value.

The most important revisions to the WTG layout affecting areas of higher ecological value are:

- the removal of WTG A18 from the woodland in the east of the PA;
- the realignment of the access track north of WTG A16 around the areas of Box Gum Woodland; and
- the removal of WTG A26 from within the Box Gum Woodland Derived Native Grassland patch in the western part of the PA and realignment of the access track to avoid this patch.

The recalculated vegetation clearance calculations are shown below in *Table 4.2.*

Vegetation Type	Supplementary Ecology Report (ERM 2013a)	PP&RtS Report (CDPL 2014)	Revised Calculation (March 2016)	Change from Supplementary Ecology Report (ERM 2013a)	Change from PP&RtS Report (CDPL 2014)
Native Vegetation Types					
Box-Gum Woodland	0.64	0	0	-0.64	0
Box-Gum Woodland - Derived Native Grassland (DNG)	0.03	0.03	0	-0.03	-0.03
Planted Native Vegetation	0.3	0.3	0	-0.3	-0.3
Red Stringybark Open Forest	1.37	1.37	1.63	0.26	0.26
Red Stringybark Open Forest - DNG	4.96	4.96	4.44	-0.52	-0.52
Silvertop Ash Open Forest (includes area mapped as 'regrowth')	1.89	1.89	1.09	-0.8	-0.8
Silvertop Ash Open Forest - DNG	0.56	0.56	0.52	-0.04	-0.04
Sum Native Vegetation	9.75	9.11	7.68	-2.07	-1.43
Non-native Vegetation Types					
Pasture	22.25	22.25	21.54	-0.67	-0.67

Table 4.2Recalculation of Vegetation Impacts

1. Note: the access track to the Wollondilly Property (to turbines west of Crookwell Road) traverses a patch of Box Gum Woodland that meets the EPBC Act-listing status and a patch of Red Stringybark Open Forest. Impacts to these patches have not been included in the calculations as the existing access track through there will be used and no vegetation either side of the track will be affected.

2. Note: the impacts to the Red Stringybark Open Forest are slightly increased due to revisions to the track alignment.

Overall, *Table 4.2* shows a general reduction in area to be cleared. Most importantly, revision of the access track layout has resulted in the avoidance of areas of higher ecological value such as:

- avoidance of impacts to areas of EPBC Act-listed Box Gum Woodland; and
- avoidance of impacts to areas of TSC Act-listed Box Gum Woodland and Derived Native Grassland.

CONCLUSION

4.6

The report assesses the impacts resulting from the changes made to the WTG envelope and reduction in WTG numbers on collision risk and barotrauma for birds and bats, and presents a calculation of the reduction in the native vegetation removal due to redesign and refinement of the Project layout.

The modifications to the maximum WTG envelope for the Project and the reduction in the total number of WTGs is considered unlikely to significantly increase bird and bat species collision risk, alienation of habitat and barotrauma or result in any significant impacts on bird and bat species listed under the TSC Act or the EPBC Act. The reductions in turbines and realignment of the access tracks have resulted in total avoidance of EPBC Act-listed Box Gum Woodland and areas of TSC Act-listed Box Gum Woodland and Derived Native Grassland.

A biodiversity offset is proposed to account for the residual biodiversity impacts from the Project. CDPL propose that this will be finalised in liaison with the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DP&E) following project approval. Changes have occurred to the biodiversity offsetting policies of the NSW DP&E and OEH in 2014 (during this project's approvals process) with the introduction of the *NSW Biodiversity Offsetting Policy for Major Projects* (OEH 2014) on 1 October 2014. Transitional arrangements for introduction of that policy offering some flexibility to proponents was applied to projects that, "were in a late stage of their planning approval process at this time" (OEH 2015b). These are referred to as the "Interim options for securing an offset site" (OEH 2015c).

As CDPL had submitted the PP&RtS Report (CDPL 2014) in March 2014, it is anticipated that these 'interim options' will be available to this project rather than the *Biodiversity Offsetting Policy for Major Projects* (OEH 2014) which is underpinned by the Framework for Biodiversity Assessment. The proposed biodiversity offset for this project may take the form of a land management agreement by a landholder to offset impacts onsite in accordance with the method outlined in the PP&RtSR (CDPL 2014): Appendix 4 (which is ERM 2013b) (with the exception that at the time of writing, that offset was to account for some impacts to Box Gum Woodland that will no longer occur). Notwithstanding, it is proposed that the biodiversity offset will be finalised in liaison with the DP&E following project approval and will be consistent with the six principles underpinning the *NSW Biodiversity Offsetting Policy for Major Projects* (OEH 2014).

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5

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http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/biodivoffsets/bioffsetspol.htm

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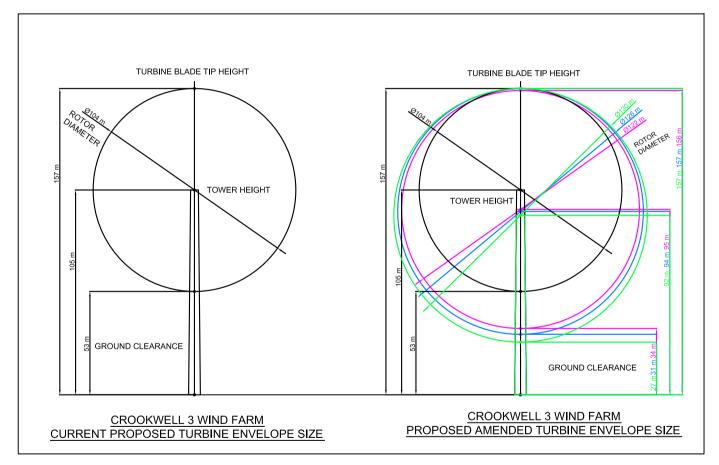
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Annex A

Turbine Size Comparison

UNION FENOSA WIND AUSTRALIA CROOKWELL DEVELOPMENT PTY LTD CROOKWELL 3 TURBINE SIZE COMPARISON



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Revision: 20151104-001

Annex B

Protected Matters Search Tool



Australian Government

Department of the Environment

EPBC Act Protected Matters Report

This report provides general guidance on matters of national environmental significance and other matters protected by the EPBC Act in the area you have selected.

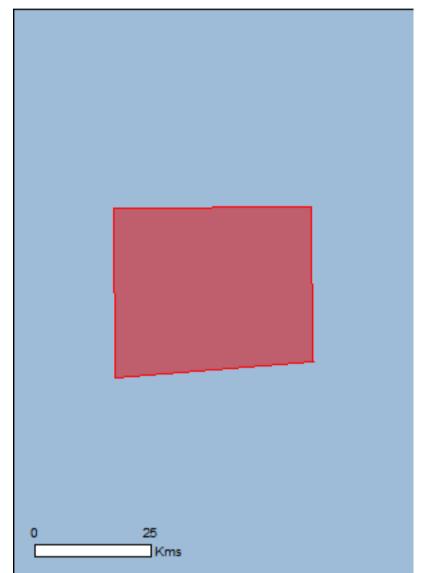
Information on the coverage of this report and qualifications on data supporting this report are contained in the caveat at the end of the report.

Information is available about <u>Environment Assessments</u> and the EPBC Act including significance guidelines, forms and application process details.

Report created: 24/11/15 12:00:26

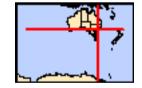
Summary Details Matters of NES Other Matters Protected by the EPBC Act Extra Information Caveat

Acknowledgements



This map may contain data which are ©Commonwealth of Australia (Geoscience Australia), ©PSMA 2010

Coordinates Buffer: 0.0Km



Summary

Matters of National Environmental Significance

This part of the report summarises the matters of national environmental significance that may occur in, or may relate to, the area you nominated. Further information is available in the detail part of the report, which can be accessed by scrolling or following the links below. If you are proposing to undertake an activity that may have a significant impact on one or more matters of national environmental significance then you should consider the <u>Administrative Guidelines on Significance</u>.

World Heritage Properties:	None
National Heritage Places:	None
Wetlands of International Importance:	4
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park:	None
Commonwealth Marine Area:	None
Listed Threatened Ecological Communities:	2
Listed Threatened Species:	26
Listed Migratory Species:	10

Other Matters Protected by the EPBC Act

This part of the report summarises other matters protected under the Act that may relate to the area you nominated. Approval may be required for a proposed activity that significantly affects the environment on Commonwealth land, when the action is outside the Commonwealth land, or the environment anywhere when the action is taken on Commonwealth land. Approval may also be required for the Commonwealth or Commonwealth agencies proposing to take an action that is likely to have a significant impact on the environment anywhere.

The EPBC Act protects the environment on Commonwealth land, the environment from the actions taken on Commonwealth land, and the environment from actions taken by Commonwealth agencies. As heritage values of a place are part of the 'environment', these aspects of the EPBC Act protect the Commonwealth Heritage values of a Commonwealth Heritage place. Information on the new heritage laws can be found at http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage

A <u>permit</u> may be required for activities in or on a Commonwealth area that may affect a member of a listed threatened species or ecological community, a member of a listed migratory species, whales and other cetaceans, or a member of a listed marine species.

Commonwealth Land:	3
Commonwealth Heritage Places:	None
Listed Marine Species:	13
Whales and Other Cetaceans:	None
Critical Habitats:	None
Commonwealth Reserves Terrestrial:	None
Commonwealth Reserves Marine:	None

Extra Information

This part of the report provides information that may also be relevant to the area you have nominated.

State and Territory Reserves:	2
Regional Forest Agreements:	None
Invasive Species:	35
Nationally Important Wetlands:	None
Key Ecological Features (Marine)	None

Details

Matters of National Environmental Significance

Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar)	[Resource Information]
Name	Proximity
Banrock station wetland complex	800 - 900km upstream
Hattah-kulkyne lakes	600 - 700km upstream
<u>Riverland</u>	700 - 800km upstream
The coorong, and lakes alexandrina and albert wetland	800 - 900km upstream

Listed Threatened Ecological Communities

For threatened ecological communities where the distribution is well known, maps are derived from recovery plans, State vegetation maps, remote sensing imagery and other sources. Where threatened ecological community distributions are less well known, existing vegetation maps and point location data are used to produce indicative distribution maps.

Name	Status	Type of Presence
Natural Temperate Grassland of the Southern Tablelands of NSW and the Australian Capital Territory	Endangered	Community likely to occur within area
White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland	Critically Endangered	Community likely to occur within area
Listed Threatened Species		[Resource Information]
Name	Status	Type of Presence
Birds		
Anthochaera phrygia		
Regent Honeyeater [82338]	Critically Endangered	Species or species habitat known to occur within area
Grantiella picta		
Painted Honeyeater [470]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Lathamus discolor		
Swift Parrot [744]	Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area
Polytelis swainsonii Superb Parrot [738]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat
		likely to occur within area

[Resource Information]

Rostratula australis Australian Painted Snipe [77037]

Endangered

Species or species habitat may occur within area

Fish		
Maccullochella peelii		
Murray Cod [66633]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area
Macquaria australasica		
Macquarie Perch [66632]	Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area
Frogs		
Litoria booroolongensis		
Booroolong Frog [1844]	Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area

Name	Status	Type of Presence
Litoria littlejohni		
Littlejohn's Tree Frog, Heath Frog [64733]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area
Mammals		
Chalinolobus dwyeri		
Large-eared Pied Bat, Large Pied Bat [183]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Dasyurus maculatus maculatus (SE mainland population	on)	
Spot-tailed Quoll, Spotted-tail Quoll, Tiger Quoll (southeastern mainland population) [75184]	Endangered	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Petrogale penicillata		
Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby [225]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area
Phascolarctos cinereus (combined populations of Qld, N	SW and the ACT)	
Koala (combined populations of Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory)	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area
[85104] <u>Pseudomys novaehollandiae</u>		
New Holland Mouse, Pookila [96]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area
Pteropus poliocephalus		
Grey-headed Flying-fox [186]	Vulnerable	Foraging, feeding or related behaviour may occur within area
Plants		
Amphibromus fluitans		
River Swamp Wallaby-grass, Floating Swamp Wallaby-grass [19215]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area
Diuris aequalis		
Buttercup Doubletail [21588]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Eucalyptus aggregata		
Black Gum [20890]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat known to occur within area
Lepidium hyssopifolium		
Basalt Pepper-cress, Peppercress, Rubble Pepper- cress, Pepperweed [16542]	Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area

Leucochrysum albicans var. tricolor Hoary Sunray, Grassland Paper-daisy [56204]	Endangered	Species or species habitat known to occur within area
Pelargonium sp. Striatellum (G.W.Carr 10345) Omeo Stork's-bill [84065]	Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area
Prasophyllum petilum Tarengo Leek Orchid [55144]	Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area
Prasophyllum sp. Wybong (C.Phelps ORG 5269) a leek-orchid [81964]	Critically Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area
<u>Thesium australe</u> Austral Toadflax, Toadflax [15202]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Reptiles		
<u>Aprasia parapulchella</u> Pink-tailed Worm-lizard, Pink-tailed Legless Lizard [1665]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
<u>Delma impar</u> Striped Legless Lizard [1649]	Vulnerable	Species or species

Name	Status	Type of Presence habitat likely to occur within area
Listed Migratory Species * Species is listed under a different scientific na	ame on the EPBC Act - Threat	[Resource Information]
Name Migratory Marine Birds	Threatened	Type of Presence
Apus pacificus Fork-tailed Swift [678]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Migratory Terrestrial Species		
Hirundapus caudacutus		
White-throated Needletail [682]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Merops ornatus		
Rainbow Bee-eater [670]		Species or species habitat may occur within area
Monarcha melanopsis		-
Black-faced Monarch [609]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Motacilla flava		
Yellow Wagtail [644]		Species or species habitat may occur within area
Myiagra cyanoleuca		
Satin Flycatcher [612]		Species or species habitat known to occur within area
Rhipidura rufifrons		
Rufous Fantail [592]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Migratory Wetlands Species		
<u>Ardea alba</u>		
Great Egret, White Egret [59541]		Species or species habitat known to occur within area

Species or species habitat may occur within area

Ardea ibis Cattle Egret [59542]

Other Matters Protected by the EPBC Act

Commonwealth Land

The Commonwealth area listed below may indicate the presence of Commonwealth land in this vicinity. Due to the unreliability of the data source, all proposals should be checked as to whether it impacts on a Commonwealth area, before making a definitive decision. Contact the State or Territory government land department for further information.

Name

Commonwealth Land - Airservices Australia Commonwealth Land - Australian Telecommunications Commission Commonwealth Land - Telstra Corporation Limited

Listed Marine Species		[Resource Information]
* Species is listed under a different scientific name	on the EPBC Act - Threa	itened Species list.
Name	Threatened	Type of Presence
Birds		
Apus pacificus		
Fork-tailed Swift [678]		Species or species habitat likely to occur

Species or species habitat may occur within area

[Resource Information]

Name	Threatened	Type of Presence
Ardea alba		within area
Great Egret, White Egret [59541]		Species or species habitat known to occur within area
<u>Ardea ibis</u>		
Cattle Egret [59542]		Species or species habitat may occur within area
Gallinago hardwickii		
Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe [863]		Species or species habitat may occur within area
Haliaeetus leucogaster		
White-bellied Sea-Eagle [943]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Hirundapus caudacutus		
White-throated Needletail [682]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Lathamus discolor		
Swift Parrot [744]	Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area
Merops ornatus		
Rainbow Bee-eater [670]		Species or species habitat may occur within area
Monarcha melanopsis		
Black-faced Monarch [609]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Motacilla flava		
Yellow Wagtail [644]		Species or species habitat may occur within area
Myiagra cyanoleuca		
Satin Flycatcher [612]		Species or species habitat known to occur within area
Rhipidura rufifrons		
Rufous Fantail [592]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area

Rostratula benghalensis (sensu lato) Painted Snipe [889]

Endangered*

Species or species habitat may occur within area

Extra Information

State and Territory Reserves	[Resource Information]
Name	State
Back Arm	NSW
Narrangarril	NSW

Invasive Species

[Resource Information]

Weeds reported here are the 20 species of national significance (WoNS), along with other introduced plants that are considered by the States and Territories to pose a particularly significant threat to biodiversity. The following feral animals are reported: Goat, Red Fox, Cat, Rabbit, Pig, Water Buffalo and Cane Toad. Maps from Landscape Health Project, National Land and Water Resouces Audit, 2001.

Name	Status	Type of Presence
Birds		
Acridotheres tristis		
Common Myna, Indian Myna [387]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Alauda arvensis		
Skylark [656]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Anas platyrhynchos		
Mallard [974]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Carduelis carduelis		
European Goldfinch [403]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Carduelis chloris		
European Greenfinch [404]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Columba livia		
Rock Pigeon, Rock Dove, Domestic Pigeon [803]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Passer domesticus		
House Sparrow [405]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Streptopelia chinensis		
Spotted Turtle-Dove [780]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Sturnus vulgaris		
Common Starling [389]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Turdus merula		

Species or species habitat likely to occur within area

Species or species habitat likely to occur within area

Species or species habitat likely to occur within area

Species or species habitat likely to occur within area

Species or species habitat likely to occur within area

Species or species habitat likely to occur within area

Species or species habitat likely to occur within area

Mammals

Bos taurus Domestic Cattle [16]

Canis lupus familiaris Domestic Dog [82654]

Capra hircus Goat [2]

Equus caballus Horse [5]

Felis catus Cat, House Cat, Domestic Cat [19]

Feral deer Feral deer species in Australia [85733]

Name	Status	Type of Presence
Lepus capensis Brown Hare [127]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Mus musculus House Mouse [120]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Oryctolagus cuniculus Rabbit, European Rabbit [128]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Rattus norvegicus Brown Rat, Norway Rat [83]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Rattus rattus Black Rat, Ship Rat [84]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Sus scrofa Pig [6]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Vulpes vulpes Red Fox, Fox [18]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Plants		
Anredera cordifolia Madeira Vine, Jalap, Lamb's-tail, Mignonette Vine Anredera, Gulf Madeiravine, Heartleaf Madeiravir Potato Vine [2643]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Cytisus scoparius Broom, English Broom, Scotch Broom, Common Broom, Scottish Broom, Spanish Broom [5934]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Genista monspessulana Montpellier Broom, Cape Broom, Canary Broom, Common Broom, French Broom, Soft Broom [201	26]	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Genista sp. X Genista monspessulana Broom [67538]		Species or species habitat

Lycium ferocissimum

African Boxthorn, Boxthorn [19235]

Nassella neesiana Chilean Needle grass [67699]

Nassella trichotoma Serrated Tussock, Yass River Tussock, Yass Tussock, Nassella Tussock (NZ) [18884]

Pinus radiata Radiata Pine Monterey Pine, Insignis Pine, Wilding Pine [20780]

Rubus fruticosus aggregate Blackberry, European Blackberry [68406]

Sagittaria platyphylla Delta Arrowhead, Arrowhead, Slender Arrowhead [68483]

Salix spp. except S.babylonica, S.x calodendron & S.x reichardtii Willows except Weeping Willow, Pussy Willow and Sterile Pussy Willow [68497] Species or species habitat likely to occur within area

may occur within area

Species or species habitat likely to occur within area

Species or species habitat likely to occur within area

Species or species habitat may occur within area

Species or species habitat likely to occur within area

Species or species habitat likely to occur within area

Species or species habitat likely to occur within area

Name	Status	Type of Presence
Ulex europaeus		
Gorse, Furze [7693]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area

Caveat

The information presented in this report has been provided by a range of data sources as acknowledged at the end of the report.

This report is designed to assist in identifying the locations of places which may be relevant in determining obligations under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. It holds mapped locations of World and National Heritage properties, Wetlands of International and National Importance, Commonwealth and State/Territory reserves, listed threatened, migratory and marine species and listed threatened ecological communities. Mapping of Commonwealth land is not complete at this stage. Maps have been collated from a range of sources at various resolutions.

Not all species listed under the EPBC Act have been mapped (see below) and therefore a report is a general guide only. Where available data supports mapping, the type of presence that can be determined from the data is indicated in general terms. People using this information in making a referral may need to consider the qualifications below and may need to seek and consider other information sources.

For threatened ecological communities where the distribution is well known, maps are derived from recovery plans, State vegetation maps, remote sensing imagery and other sources. Where threatened ecological community distributions are less well known, existing vegetation maps and point location data are used to produce indicative distribution maps.

For species where the distributions are well known, maps are digitised from sources such as recovery plans and detailed habitat studies. Where appropriate, core breeding, foraging and roosting areas are indicated under 'type of presence'. For species whose distributions are less well known, point locations are collated from government wildlife authorities, museums, and non-government organisations; bioclimatic distribution models are generated and these validated by experts. In some cases, the distribution maps are based solely on expert knowledge.

Only selected species covered by the following provisions of the EPBC Act have been mapped:

- migratory and
- marine

The following species and ecological communities have not been mapped and do not appear in reports produced from this database:

- threatened species listed as extinct or considered as vagrants
- some species and ecological communities that have only recently been listed
- some terrestrial species that overfly the Commonwealth marine area
- migratory species that are very widespread, vagrant, or only occur in small numbers

The following groups have been mapped, but may not cover the complete distribution of the species:

- non-threatened seabirds which have only been mapped for recorded breeding sites
- seals which have only been mapped for breeding sites near the Australian continent

Such breeding sites may be important for the protection of the Commonwealth Marine environment.

Coordinates

-34.667381 149.791015,-34.669686 149.792415,-34.669686 149.792415,-34.667957 149.791015,-34.695038 149.408457,-34.423841 149.404955,-34.420952 149.787513,-34.667381 149.791015

Acknowledgements

This database has been compiled from a range of data sources. The department acknowledges the following custodians who have contributed valuable data and advice:

-Office of Environment and Heritage, New South Wales

-Department of Environment and Primary Industries, Victoria

-Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, Tasmania

-Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources, South Australia

-Parks and Wildlife Commission NT, Northern Territory Government

-Department of Environmental and Heritage Protection, Queensland

-Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia

-Environment and Planning Directorate, ACT

-Birdlife Australia

-Australian Bird and Bat Banding Scheme

-Australian National Wildlife Collection

-Natural history museums of Australia

-Museum Victoria

-Australian Museum

-South Australian Museum

-Queensland Museum

-Online Zoological Collections of Australian Museums

-Queensland Herbarium

-National Herbarium of NSW

-Royal Botanic Gardens and National Herbarium of Victoria

-Tasmanian Herbarium

-State Herbarium of South Australia

-Northern Territory Herbarium

-Western Australian Herbarium

-Australian National Herbarium, Atherton and Canberra

-University of New England

-Ocean Biogeographic Information System

-Australian Government, Department of Defence

Forestry Corporation, NSW

-Geoscience Australia

-CSIRO

-Other groups and individuals

The Department is extremely grateful to the many organisations and individuals who provided expert advice and information on numerous draft distributions.

Please feel free to provide feedback via the <u>Contact Us</u> page.

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