

PALING YARDS WIND FARM LANDSCAPE & VISUAL

PURPOSE

Green Bean Design was engaged by UWFA to assess the potential landscape and visual impacts of the project.

The Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) considered the Draft NSW Wind Farm Guidelines (Draft Guidelines), which sets out a comprehensive framework for the assessment of landscape and visual impacts including residential dwellings within a 2km distance of any proposed wind turbines.

It is important to note that there are no non-project involved, identified residential dwellings within 2km of the proposed wind turbines.

This LVIA involved desktop studies and site inspections to collect and analyse information to describe and define the characteristics of the landscape in which the project would be located.

KEY FINDINGS & IMPACTS

Residential Visibility

During the desktop assessment the LVIA identified a total of 78 potential residential dwelling locations within the 10km viewshed – refer to Figure 29.

An assessment of each potential residential view location indicated that 37 of the 78 residential view locations would have a Nil visual impact; 11 would have a Low visual impact; 19 would have a Low to Medium visual impact; 5 would have a Medium visual impact; and 6 would have a Medium to High visual impact.

However, it is important to note that the six residential dwellings determined to have a Medium to High visual impact are project involved residences.

Potential night time lighting of the turbines is discussed in the Aeronautics poster.

Visibility From Roads

Opportunities to view the Paling Yards wind turbines from publically accessible locations will be largely restricted to a small number of surrounding road corridors which are predominately limited to Abercrombie Road and the more distant Jerrong Road. The duration of views towards the turbines along Abercrombie Road is reasonably short, with the average vehicular travel time being 6 to 10 minutes at 100km per hour.

Visibility of Transmission Infrastructure

The LVIA found that the proposed 500 kV transmission line to the north of the site would not be significantly visible from any surrounding project involved or non-project involved residential dwellings within or beyond the site due to a combination of topography and scattered tree cover.

Pre-construction & Construction

Green Bean Design notes that the majority of pre-construction and construction activities are temporary in nature and are restricted to various discrete areas within or beyond the immediate wind farm project area. Therefore, it is unlikely to result in an unacceptable level of visual impact considering their duration and temporary nature.

RESPONSE TO FINDINGS

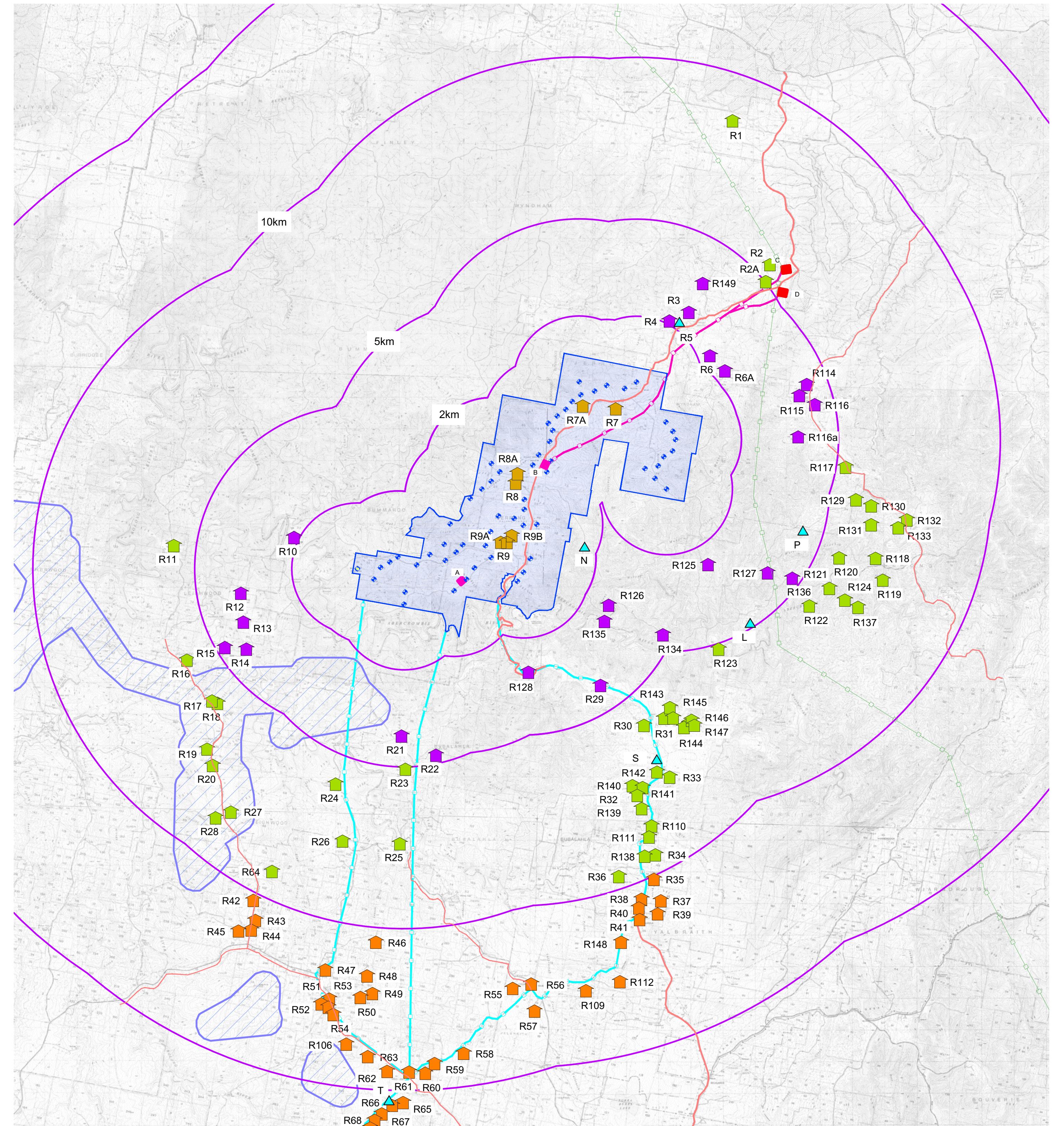
The mitigation measures outlined in the LVIA are intended to reduce the potential visual impacts of the project in one of two ways:

- Firstly by reducing the visual prominence of the wind turbines and associated structures by minimising the visual contrast between the wind turbines and the landscape in which they are viewed; and
- Secondly by screening views towards the wind turbines from specific view locations.

One of the options available for mitigation of visual impacts to residences is planting vegetation close to the view locations (between the viewing location and the source of intrusion). Similarly, roadside tree planting can screen potential views of turbines from particular sections of road provided the turbine is not located some distance from the road.



PHOTO Rock Orchard (view from residential dwelling) (Proposed View)



Legend

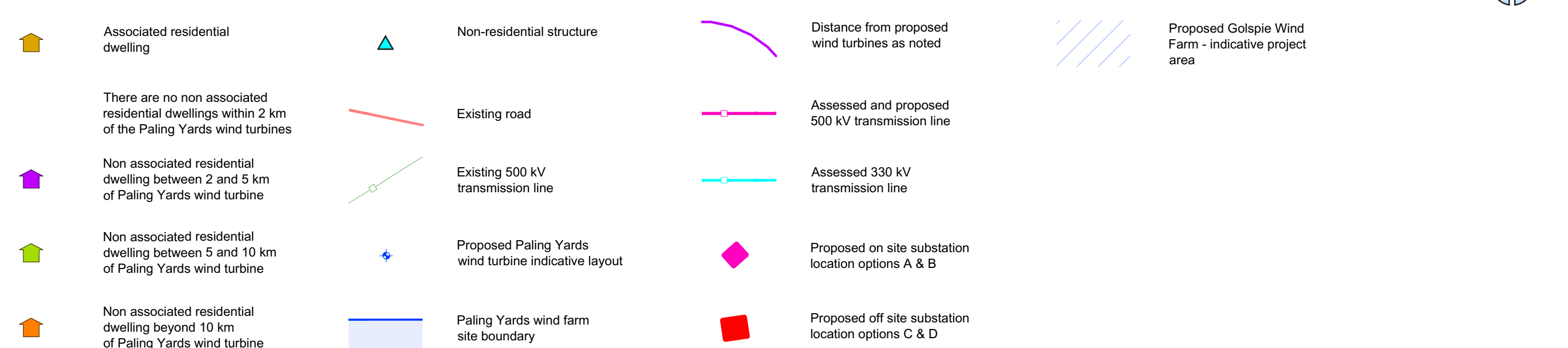


FIGURE 29 Residential Locations

EXISTING VIEW



PHOTOMONTAGE LOCATION PM1 Levels Road (Existing View)



PHOTOMONTAGE LOCATION PM3 Abercrombie Road (south) (Existing View)



PHOTOMONTAGE LOCATION PM5 Jerrong Road (Existing View)

PROPOSED VIEW



PHOTOMONTAGE LOCATION PM1 Levels Road (Proposed View)



PHOTOMONTAGE LOCATION PM3 Abercrombie Road (south) (Proposed View)



PHOTOMONTAGE LOCATION PM5 Jerrong Road (Proposed View)