

**Weddicar Rigg – Planning Application for Six Wind Turbines**

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**Summary and Recommendation:**

This report provides a summary and update on a current planning application submitted by Banks Renewable to erect 6 wind turbines.

Recommendation:  
That the contents of the report are noted

**1. Introduction**

This application relates to an elevated area of land known as “Weddicar Rigg” which lies to the east of Moresby Parks.

**2. The Proposal**

Planning permission is sought for the siting of six wind turbines which it is proposed will be retained on site for a maximum time period of 25 years. The turbines will be of a three bladed design with each blade having a total length of 47 metres. The blades will be supported on 68.5 metre high towers, giving each turbine a total height of 115 metres to blade tip. The turbines are to be light grey in colour.

Underground cabling from each turbine will run adjacent to the tracks and will connect up to an onsite control building from where the energy generated will be exported to the local grid. The control building will be 3.5 metres in height and will cover a ground area of approximately 84 sq metres.

A temporary lay down area and construction compound are to be created to allow the accumulation of plant and turbine parts on the site and also provide onsite office and mess facilities. This will cover an area approximately 40 metres x 70 metres and would be enclosed by a security fence. A crane pad will be constructed adjacent to each turbine to accommodate the necessary equipment to erect the tower and blades for each structure.

### **3. Access arrangements to the proposed site**

Access to the site will be achieved off the unclassified road which links Moresby Parks and Arlecdon. Within the site the turbines will be accessed from an internal track which will link all the turbines. This track will cover a total area of 3 km and would have a maximum width of 5 metres. The tracks will be surfaced with crushed stone. Following construction it is proposed that the tracks will be narrowed to 3 metres in width but will be maintained for maintenance purposes.

### **4. Technical Information**

It is also proposed to erect a 70 metre high anemometer mast on the site. This will be of a slim lattice tower design.

It is proposed that each turbine will have a generating capacity of 2.0 MW. This is anticipated to have an energy output of 44.7 GW per annum which would be sufficient electricity to supply up to 9510 households per year. This has the potential to offset the emission of up to 19221 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per annum, equating to up to 480525 tonnes of gas over the lifespan of the project.

### **5. Additional information provided with the submission**

The following information has been submitted with the application:-

- detailed layout and elevation plans to illustrate the turbines and their siting
- Photomontages and zones of theoretical visibility (ZTV) to illustrates the turbines in the landscape, predict the areas of visibility and also illustrate cumulative impacts with other existing wind farm sites
- a planning statement
- a design evolution and site selection statement
- a summary of the community engagement undertaken
- an environmental statement
- a landscape technical report
- a residential amenity statement
- ecological report
- ornithological report
- a noise report
- cultural heritage report
- traffic and transport report
- aviation study
- ground condition report
- radio communication consultation
- shadow flicker report
- draft environmental plan

### **6. Processing and Considering the Application**

The application is currently subject to an extensive consultation with a number of technical bodies in addition to the three affected Parish Councils and local residents.

The application has been advertised by the display of a number of site notices around the perimeter of the site in addition to a press notice.

The application raises significant issues relating to landscape and visual impacts, noise and ecology. Specialist Environmental Consultants have been commissioned to report on the landscape and visual impacts of the proposed development.

At the Planning Panel meeting on 09<sup>th</sup> November 2011 Members resolved to visit the site to fully appraise all of the relevant and material planning considerations raised by the proposal. The site visit is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2011.

At the current time it has not been determined when the application will be reported back to the Planning Panel for a final decision.

**7. Consultees:**

- a. A wide variety of planning Consultees including Axis Consultants who have been employed to carry out a Visual Impact Assessment.