



Tandegin Wind Farm
**Preliminary Decommissioning and
Rehabilitation Management Plan**
Collgar Renewables Pty Ltd

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Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Definition
km	Kilometre
m	Metres
mm	Millimetres
MW	Megawatt
PDRMP	Preliminary Decommissioning and Rehabilitation Management Plan
SWIS	South West Interconnected System
WTG	Wind turbine generator

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1 Introduction

1.1 Overview

The Tandegin Wind Farm (the Proposal) consists of up to 50 wind turbines with a generating capacity of up to 310 megawatts (MW). The Proposal is located approximately 20 kilometres (km) south-east of the township of Merredin within the Shire of Merredin, Western Australia (WA).

This Preliminary Decommissioning and Rehabilitation Management Plan (PDRMP) has been developed to outline the Proponent's approach to managing the wind farm and associated infrastructure at the end of life.

1.2 Document purpose

The purpose of this PDRMP is to outline:

- The Proponent's commitment to decommissioning and rehabilitation.
- Methods for dismantling turbines and associated infrastructure, including the removal of concrete footings, site services such as power and water, and any supporting infrastructure not intended to be retained as part of the final land use.
- Predicted waste streams and appropriate management measures.
- Rehabilitation objectives relating to landform, soil quality and biodiversity.
- High-level timeline for the decommissioning of site infrastructure and the completion of the rehabilitation program.

1.3 Document validity and review

This management plan shall be reviewed every five years following the commencement of operation. The review shall consider:

- Technology evolution for the recycling and reuse of equipment and material,
- Markets for used and scrap materials,
- Costs of contractors, plant and equipment to be used during decommissioning,
- Changes in environmental conditions,
- Changes in legislation and guidelines,
- Lessons learnt from similar Proposals, and
- Any Proposal approvals required to undertake decommissioning and rehabilitation.

2 Proponent commitments

2.1 Decommissioning principle

The Proposal is expected to be operational for approximately 30 years. At the end of its operational life the Proposal will be decommissioned and removed from service in accordance with this PDRMP. The decommissioning and rehabilitation of the Proposal site is at the Proponent's obligation and cost.

2.2 Funding

It is possible that the sale value of recovered turbine components and other equipment may exceed the costs associated with their removal and site rehabilitation. However, if the proceeds from the sale of Proposal components and equipment are less than the cost of decommissioning, the Proponent has committed to establishing a suitable financial plan to ensure the necessary works can be funded.

As part of the regular review of this document, the estimated costs of decommissioning will be reassessed, and the value of the financial security will be adjusted as necessary to ensure adequate funding is maintained.

3 Consultation

For matters related to social performance and decommissioning, the Proponent will prepare a detailed decommissioning plan no later than five years prior to any publicly announced decommissioning date. Any issues that may affect the community will be identified and addressed through engagement, with appropriate mitigation and management strategies developed in collaboration with the community.

3.1 Landowners consultation

Consultation will be undertaken with each landowner regarding the decommissioning and rehabilitation process. Some landowners may prefer to retain certain components of the Proposal infrastructure on their property to support farming operations or enhance the commercial value of their land. This may include infrastructure such as roads, fencing, and storage facilities.

It is acknowledged that landowner preferences may evolve over time, and land ownership may also change during the operational life of the Proposal. Therefore, discussions with landowners will be held prior to the commencement of decommissioning and rehabilitation to confirm their requirements at that time.

3.2 Community consultation

Consultation with the local community will be carried out by the Proponent prior to Proposal decommissioning and rehabilitation works. The objectives of the consultation process will be to:

- Provide the local community and stakeholders with clear and timely information regarding the planned decommissioning.
- Enable adjustments to plans where feasible, based on community and stakeholder feedback.
- Facilitate open communication to address and resolve any concerns or issues.

Key issues to be addressed during community consultation will include:

- Scheduling and staging of decommissioning works to minimise disruption to agricultural and farming operations.

- Opportunities to maximise local employment and contractor participation during decommissioning and rehabilitation.
- Traffic management strategies for rural and main roads to reduce impacts on local traffic flow.
- Coordination of logistics to ensure sufficient availability of accommodation and essential local services (e.g. food, fuel, supplies) throughout the decommissioning and rehabilitation phases.

4 Decommissioning

This section outlines the decommissioning process for each component of the Proposal. Landowners may request that specific infrastructure be retained on their property, such requests will be considered by the Proponent during the consultation phase of the decommissioning program.

The Proponent will engage suitably qualified contractors to carry out dismantling, transportation, and land rehabilitation activities.

4.1 Wind turbine generators

The work sequence is likely to be as follows:

- All consumable items such as oil, grease, lubricants, and coolants will be removed and appropriately disposed of at a licensed waste facility.
- The wind turbine structures will be dismantled using cranes.
- Dismantled components (blades, nacelles and towers) will be transported by truck to an offsite storage facility prior to sale.
- Metallic waste components are expected to be sold or recycled.
- Non-metallic materials that cannot be reused or recycled will be disposed of at a licenced waste facility.
- Civil materials that are unsuitable for reuse in site rehabilitation will be removed and disposed of at a licensed waste facility.

4.2 Foundations

The foundations for the Wind Turbine Generators (WTG's) are likely to be concrete gravity foundations, however, the final design of foundation for each turbine is yet to be decided. Gravity foundations involve a large block of steel reinforced concrete that is situated below the surface. The foundations will require a large concrete and steel footing above the ground surface for the WTG.

The foundations will not be removed, in their entirety, during decommissioning, as the underground foundation is not likely to cause any environmental harm by remaining in situ. Any producing components (cables, concrete, conduit etc.) will be removed.

If the final design of the turbine foundations is set below the natural ground surface, the central column will be removed, and topsoil will be installed over the top of the exposed foundation. Alternatively, if the foundations are set above the natural ground surface, the top 600 millimetres (mm) of the foundation will be removed. The surface of the remaining foundation will be roughened using a jack hammer or rock breaker to create a cracked and rough surface. A layer of subgrade material (approximately 400 mm) will be placed on top of the roughened concrete surface with a 100-200 mm layer of topsoil installed over the top.

Rehabilitation will allow the area where the foundations are present to be used for agriculture (the land use prior to the WTG's being constructed) or an alternative land use if required in consultation with the landowner.

4.3 Access roads

Access roads will be constructed using a mixture of road base material topped with gravel. These tracks typically have a width of up to 10 metres (m), to allow for the movement of large cranes and oversized vehicles between turbine locations during construction. The width may also vary in places where drainage lines are crossed or where significant earthworks are required.

In the case that landowners request removal of the access tracks, the gravel surface and road base material will be taken off site and transported to a licensed disposal facility or a suitable location for backfilling. The cleared areas will then be rehabilitated and returned to their original land use (grazing or cropping) as described in Section 7.

4.4 Crane hardstands and laydown areas

Crane hard stands will be constructed using the same method and materials as the access tracks. These areas are expected to have a higher level of compaction compared to access tracks, as they are primarily used by large cranes during the construction of WTG's. Laydown areas will also be built using the same approach and materials. These areas are used to store equipment and turbine components throughout the construction period.

Once construction is complete, part of the laydown area at each site will be rehabilitated. The final design will determine which portions are to be retained.

It is possible that landowners may request to retain some or all of the hard stand and laydown areas during decommissioning. Any areas that are to be removed will follow the same process as the access tracks. Cleared hard stand areas will be rehabilitated accordingly as described in Section 7.

4.5 Underground electrical cabling

Underground electrical cables are likely to be installed at depths underground of at least 600 mm where they follow access tracks and up to 1200 mm where they transect paddocks. Underground cabling will not be removed during decommissioning. Cables are not considered to be harmful to the environment and the process of digging the cabling up is likely to cause more damage to the environment than leaving them in situ.

Should removal be required for any reason, cabling will be removed in a way that minimises impacts on the environment. Disturbed areas will be adequately backfilled and graded to match the slope and contour of the surrounding land. The disturbed areas will then be revegetated to prevent soil erosion and reintegrated within the surrounding environment.

4.6 Overhead powerlines

All overhead electrical cabling and powerlines will be dismantled, removed and materials reused or sold as scrap, where possible. Any footings associated with the removed powerlines will be cut off at a minimum of 600 mm below ground level and the areas rehabilitated as per the process described in Section 7.

4.7 Substation

The substation and all related infrastructure will be dismantled and removed from site during decommissioning. All footings and concrete will be removed, and the area rehabilitated as per the process described in Section 7.

4.8 Operation and maintenance facilities

Operation and maintenance facilities are likely to include offices, amenities, storage, control rooms, workshops and car parks. Some of these facilities may be requested to be retained by the landowners. These requests will be considered by the Proponent during the consultation period of the decommissioning program.

Any facilities requiring removal will be dismantled and re-used, sold as scrap material or disposed of at an authorised waste facility. The car park(s) will be rehabilitated as per the process described in Section 7.

4.9 Meteorological towers and wind monitoring masts

The meteorological towers and wind monitoring masts will be up to approximately 180 m in height. The towers and masts will be dismantled and removed from site during the decommissioning period. Any footings associated with the removed towers and masts will be cut off at a minimum of 600 mm below ground level and the surface areas will be rehabilitated as per the process described in Section 7.

4.10 Fencing and gates

Security fencing may be required at the substation, meteorological towers, wind monitoring masts, and operational and maintenance facilities. Additionally, gates may be required at the intersection between internal access roads and public roads, and at internal access roads between properties.

The fencing and/or gates will be dismantled and removed from site during decommissioning. The material will be either on sold or sold as scrap material. Any concrete footings associated with the fencing and/or gates will be removed and disposed of at a licenced waste facility.

5 Conceptual timeline for decommissioning activities

A preliminary schedule outlining the decommissioning activities will be developed in future versions of the PDRMP and refined as the decommissioning stage approaches.

6 Resource management

6.1 Waste hierarchy

Wind turbines and their associated infrastructure contain valuable materials that can be reintegrated into the circular economy. Achieving this requires effective separation of materials and the use of innovative recycling techniques. Making efficient use of resources, including avoiding unnecessary material use, represents the highest priority within the waste hierarchy. Ideally, these materials should be used over a long period, as this supports the most sustainable outcomes. However, when wind turbines reach the end of their operational life, it becomes necessary to return these valuable resources to the material cycle. The following steps in the waste hierarchy should be considered in this process (Figure 6-1).

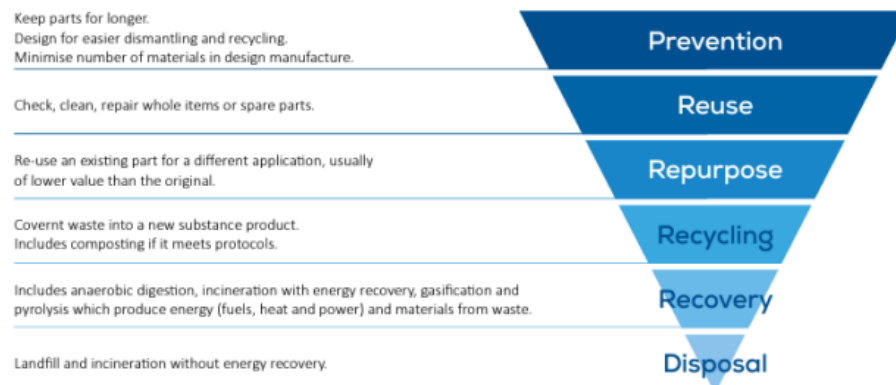


Figure 6-1 Waste hierarchy

The preferred approach is to sell all Proposal components as recovered equipment. Items that are not suitable for resale in this form will be sold as scrap or salvage material. Proceeds from the resale of equipment and scrap will contribute to funding the decommissioning and rehabilitation activities.

7 Land rehabilitation

7.1 Objectives

The primary goal of the rehabilitation phase is to restore all areas disturbed by the Proposal to their original condition prior to construction. Any land disturbed during the construction, operation, or decommissioning of the Proposal will be rehabilitated.

7.2 Extent of rehabilitation works

The rehabilitation process will involve the following:

- Removing the top 600 mm of each of the turbine foundations.
- Filling areas with a clean sub-grade material, compacted and formed to match the surrounding area.
- Placement of clean and suitable topsoil.
- Placement of rocks and vegetative material to reduce erosion and promote resource and seed traps.
- Direct seeding, hand seeding or tube stock revegetation using indigenous species in areas of native vegetation where required.
- Returning areas to pasture.
- Ongoing vertebrate pest and weed control.
- Monitoring progress of the rehabilitation.

It is expected that the following areas will be rehabilitated:

- The foundation area of each of the wind turbines,
- Access roads not required by the landowner,
- Crane hardstands and laydown areas not required by the landowner,
- The substation site,
- The areas of operation and maintenance facilities (including carpark) areas not required by the landowner, and
- The areas where concrete footings are removed (power poles, meteorological towers and wind monitoring masts and fence and gate posts).

8 Review and continuous improvement

This document will continue to be reviewed by the Proponent every five years throughout the operational life of the Proposal. The review process will consider the following elements:

- Any changes to the conditions outlined in the Proposal Approval
- Shifts in environmental conditions
- Updates to legislation or relevant guidelines
- Advancements in knowledge or technology

An updated version of the Decommissioning Management Plan will be submitted to the Shire for approval.

Future versions of the Plan will include detailed financial assessments and a comprehensive schedule of decommissioning activities.

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