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Amendments to the turbine specifications for the proposed Itemba Wind Energy Facility and the impacts on bats

Animalia Consultants (Pty) Ltd was appointed by Mainstream Renewable Power (Pty) Ltd to undertake the pre-construction bat monitoring for the proposed Itemba Wind Energy Facility (WEF). An amendment to the turbine specifications has been proposed. The amendments are summarised in the table below:

Assessed during monitoring	Proposed amendment
150m Hub height	160m Hub height
150m Rotor diameter	160m Rotor diameter

The proposed increase in rotor diameter, in combination with the proposed increased hub height will result in an increase of 5m for the minimum rotor swept ground clearance, in other words the lowest rotor swept height will be further away from the ground. Such a difference is minimal but still beneficial for bat conservation as bat activity and diversity decreased with height from ground level. However, the larger rotor diameter will result in a larger airspace occupied per turbine which will slightly increase the probability of impacting bats. These two effects can be considered as cancelling each other out.

Therefore, considering all factors, the proposed amendments will not affect the larger outcomes, conclusions and impact assessment as assessed during the bat EIA and long-term preconstruction study, and is therefore still acceptable from a bat sensitivity perspective.

If there are any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.



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