Respecting the landscape

WIMMERA RENEWABLE ENERGY SOLUTIONS

- The Wimmera is home to highly valued views and landscapes.
- Landscape has informed the selection of monopoles for WiRES instead of lattice towers.
- From a distance, the monopoles are far less visible than alternative towers.

Committed to protecting views

Transmission projects transport energy from where it is generated to where it is needed - usually over long distances.

It often requires the installation of high-voltage power lines, substations, and large towers, which can impact views.

WiRES understands that the visual impact of transmission lines and other electricity infrastructure is an important concern for the community.

We are committed to minimising these impacts through thoughtful planning, smart infrastructure solutions and screening with vegetation.

We want feedback from landholders, neighbours and the community about our initial thinking.

Thoughtful planning

By carefully selecting and placing infrastructure, WiRES can minimise its visual impact. During the project's design, we'll complete a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) to inform the alignment.

This will help us understand how WiRES can minimise its presence in the landscape as well as to identify possible mitigation strategies.

Infrastructure solutions

An important way WiRES will minimise visual impacts is by adopting a 330 kV design.

Transmission projects at the scale of WiRES are traditionally planned at higher operating voltages, such as 500 kV.

However, our assessments found that a 330 kV solution is feasible for WiRES. The 330 kV design can be mounted on monopoles of generally 35-45 metres high, avoiding the use of the larger 500 kV lattice towers which are typically around 60-80 metres high.

This smaller monopole option will be less visible in the landscape and will be comparatively much harder to see from a distance.

Screening with vegetation

WiRES will also work with host landholders on planting and maintaining trees and vegetation that provide visual screening of the transmission infrastructure.

Preserving visual amenity

Our key strategies to minimise visual impacts are:

Design and Aesthetics: We are using a 330 kV design for the transmission solution. This allows us to use monopoles that are substantially smaller than traditional higher voltage lattice towers. The monopoles will have a much smaller impact on views.

Route Selection: Careful route selection is crucial for many reasons including reducing visual impact. We have chosen an initial route that minimises the obstruction of views of the natural surroundings and scenery as much as possible. During the route selection process, landscape and visual amenity experts have helped us identify the best solutions.

Vegetation Management: WiRES will also work with host landholders on planting and maintaining trees and vegetation that provide visual screening of the transmission infrastructure.

Seeking feedback: WiRES is committed to addressing any project impacts.

We have worked with landscape and visual amenity experts to develop route options that minimise visual impact.

WiRES will undertake comprehensive engagement throughout the Wimmera region, providing opportunities for the community, landholders and neighbours to have their say about the project so we can better understand their perspectives and values.

To stay informed:

- Subscribe to our email updates via www.wiresco.com.au
- Email info@wiresco.com.au for more information.

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