

INTRODUCTION

The recent release of *State Planning Policies for South Australia* places an emphasis on the key role of planning in the establishment of energy infrastructure and the need to provide policies that are sufficiently flexible to allow for creative and innovative responses to energy demand and supply, and that such infrastructure is carefully designed and located to minimise both construction and operational impacts.

In light of this the State Planning Commission has released a *Discussion Paper on Proposed Changes to Renewable Energy Policy in the Planning and Design Code* that proposes new planning policies for South Australia's renewable energy sector.

Due to technological improvements and less-costly infrastructure, large-scale renewable energy, dominated by wind generation in the past, is now turning to a wider range of energy options including large-scale solar developments, pumped-hydro and battery storage projects.

Proposals now comprise energy parks that include a mix of generation (i.e. wind, solar, storage) to provide a more consistent and reliable power supply.

The renewable energy facilities policy within the Planning and Design Code, currently only applied in the outback areas of South Australia, is being reviewed and updated to provide development certainty and address potential community concern with new projects.

Formal public consultation on the draft Code for regional and metropolitan Adelaide, including the Commission's proposed renewable energy policies, will commence in October this year. Informal feedback on the discussion paper can be provided ahead of the public consultation period to saplanningcommission@sa.gov.au.

To download a copy of the discussion paper visit www.saplanningportal.sa.gov.au

WIND FARM TRENDS

2012

145.5^M
MAX HEIGHT

95^M
HUB HEIGHT

50^M
ROTOR LENGTH

2.5^{MW}
POWER GENERATION



2019

240^M
MAX HEIGHT

161^M
HUB HEIGHT

79^M
ROTOR LENGTH

4.2^{MW}
POWER GENERATION



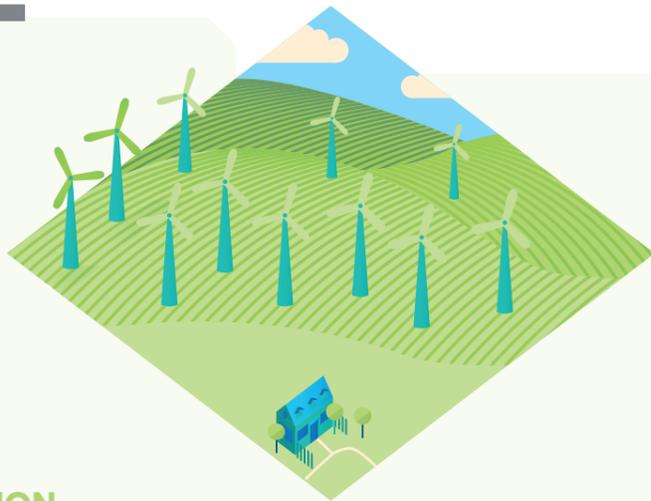
2012-2015

[APPROVED]

446
NO. OF TURBINES

1438^{MW}
ENERGY GENERATION

\$3.3^B
DEVELOPMENT COST



2019

[LODGED/UNDER ASSESSMENT]

247
NO. OF TURBINES

920^{MW}
ENERGY GENERATION

\$1.9^B
DEVELOPMENT COST



SA CONTRIBUTES 37.6 PER CENT OF AUSTRALIA'S TOTAL INSTALLED WIND CAPACITY

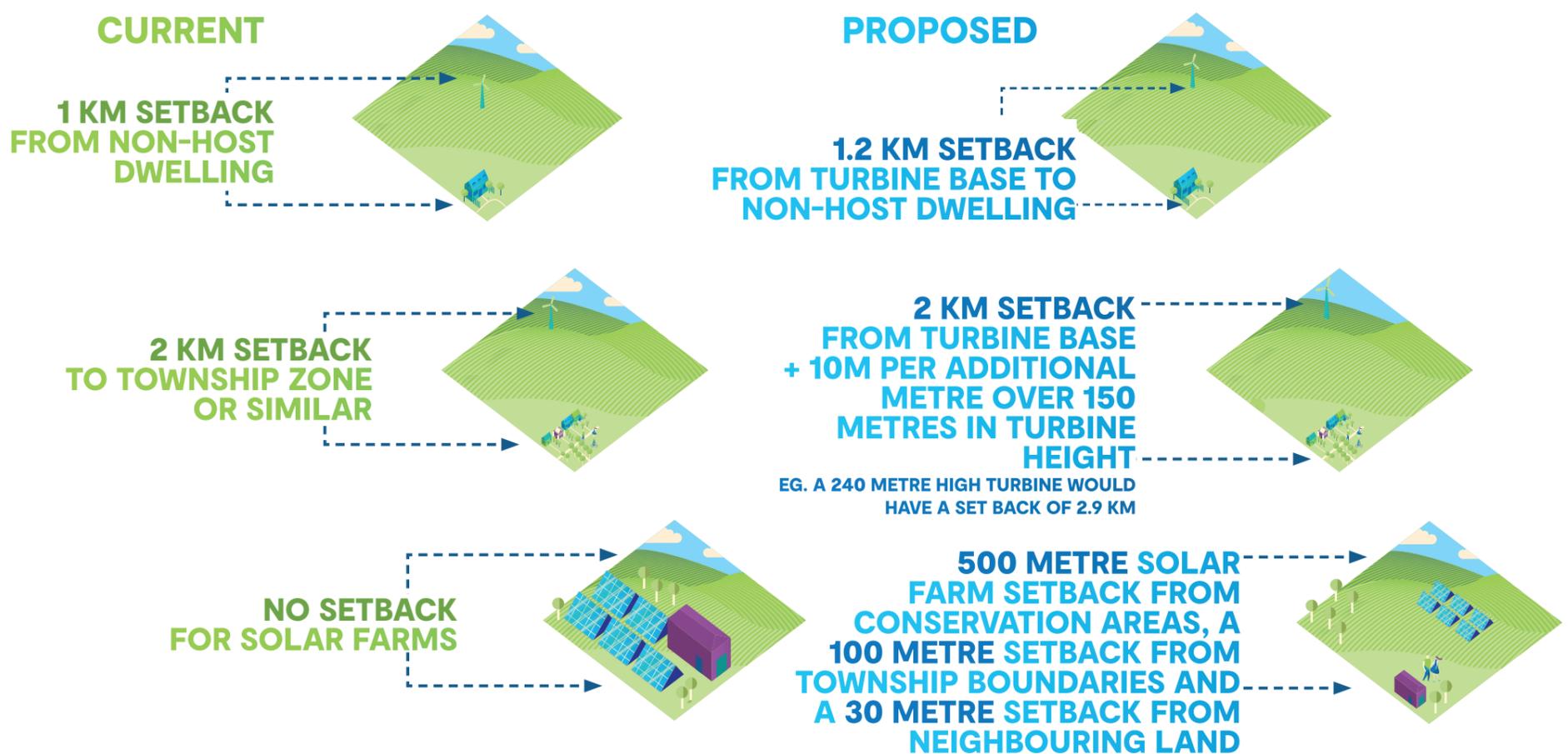
(source: DTTI energy resources)

PROPOSED POLICY CHANGES IN THE PLANNING & DESIGN CODE

Planning Policy Changes

- Policy to address large-scale renewable energy facilities
- Policy to encourage energy facility development in appropriate areas and to restrict it in environmentally and culturally significant areas
- Policy to deal with amenity and noise concerns such as setback distances that provide greater separation including:
 - A two kilometre wind turbine setback plus ten metres per additional metre of turbine height above a tower height of 150 metres from townships and urban areas
 - A 1.2 kilometre wind turbine setback from dwellings not associated with the development
 - A 500 metre solar farm setback from conservation areas, a 100 metre setback from township boundaries and a 30 metre setback from neighbouring land.
- Policy to address the decommissioning and rehabilitation of renewable energy sites
- Policy to provide public notification of all wind farms
- The referral level to the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) to be amended from 'regard' to 'direction', ensuring that appropriate noise-related conditions are incorporated into final conditions of approval for wind farm developments.

WIND AND SOLAR FARM POLICY SETBACKS



WIND AND SOLAR FARM PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

Current Wind

Wind farms are predominantly a merit kind of development (there are some areas in which they are non-complying – and they may be declared a major project).

If all wind turbines are >2km from all non-associated dwellings and specified zones (settlement, township, airfield etc) – Category 2 notification (owner/occupier of adjacent land can make representation).

If a wind turbine is setback <2km from a non-associated dwelling or a specified zone (settlement, township, airfield etc) – Category 3 notification (Notice in paper, any third party can make representation, any representor gains appeal rights against decision).

Current Solar

Solar Farms that aren't exempt or complying development will often trigger Category 3 notification.

Proposed Wind

There will be public notification of all wind farms. They are predominantly performance assessed (there may be instances where they are classified as restricted or impact assessed).

Sign on land and any third party (not just owner/occupier of adjacent land) can make representation when performance assessed.

No third party appeal rights when performance assessed.

Proposed Solar

Public notification of solar will be determined by scale. At the lower end, residential solar will be exempt while larger scale solar will be notified.

THE AUSTRALIAN ENERGY MARKET OPERATOR PROJECTED SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S RENEWABLE POWER COULD ACCOUNT FOR 73% OF THE STATE'S TOTAL POWER CONSUMPTION BY 2020/21.

(AEMO 2017 SA Generation Forecast)