

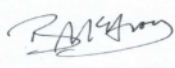



# CRWF Proposed Modification 3 SSD 6679

August 2020



**Revision Control**

Revision	Date	Issue	Author	Reviewed	Approved	Signature
1	14/08/2020	First Issue	P Millar	M. Yeo	B. McAvoy	
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## GLOSSARY

CRWF	Crudine Ridge Wind Farm
DA	Development Application
DPIE	Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
EP&A	<i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i>
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
Ha	Hectare(s)
HV	High voltage
Km	Kilometre
LV	Low voltage
MW	Megawatt
NSW	The State of New South Wales
WTG	Wind Turbine Generator

## Executive Summary

Approval for the construction and operation of the Crudine Ridge Wind Farm was granted by the New South Wales Planning Assessment Commission (SSD 6697) on 10 May 2016. The project approved the construction of 37 Wind Turbine Generators and associated infrastructure including tracks, hardstands, high and low voltage cables, data cabling and meteorological monitoring masts.

CWP Renewables Pty Ltd, on behalf of CRWF Nominees Pty Ltd (the Proponent), has prepared this application to modify the Development Consent under section 4.55(1) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* EP&A Act (the Modification). The modification is administrative in nature and has no associated environmental impact. Consequently, the modification is being sought under Section 4.55(1) of the EP&A Act.

This Modification deals with the reinstating of the Project Corridor around a permanent meteorological monitoring mast installed in 2018 pursuant to the Condition of Consent SSD 6697 dated 10 May 2016. Following the granting of Modification 1 the project boundary was realigned inadvertently leaving meteorological monitoring mast outside the project boundary. This modification seeks to adjust the project boundary to encompass the meteorological monitoring mast and provide an access corridor to provide power and data services to it.

- The site of the meteorological monitoring mast was previously assessed as part of the SSD 6697 EIS;
- The meteorological monitoring mast was legally constructed in August 2018 pursuant to the Conditions of Consent for SSD 6697; and
- The proposed modification would result in no change to the impacts previously assessed and approved as part of the SSD 6697 approval.

The inclusion of the meteorological monitoring mast will ensure that project is able to utilise the data from it which is essential in the initial calibration of the wind farm and an integral component of optimising the performance of the wind farm once fully operational. The modification will ensure consistency and clarity in the documentation with the environmental impact unchanged.

## Report Structure

The report structure comprises:

**Section 1** – Introduction and context

**Section 2** – Project modification details

**Section 3** – Consultation summary

**Section 4** – Review of key legislation and planning policy

**Section 5** – Assessment of key environmental aspects

**Section 6** – Conclusion

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## 1. Introduction and Background

Crudine Ridge Wind Farm (the Project) is an approved wind farm under-construction approximately 45 km south of Mudgee in NSW within the Mid-Western Regional Council (MWRC) and Bathurst Regional Council (BRC) areas. The Project commenced development in 2011 following site identification in 2008 and subsequent on-site wind monitoring assessments. The initial Project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) lodged in 2013 included a Project design comprising 106 wind turbine generators (WTGs) of up to 160 m in tip height to accommodate the breadth of WTG capacities that were available in the market at that time. Development Consent was by the New South Wales Planning Commission (SSD 6697) on 10 May 2016.

Two further modifications to SSD 6697 have been granted. Modification 1 was granted on 21 June 2019 and provided for a revised road design on Aarons Pass Road and modification of the project boundary to align with the Conditions of Consent for EPBC 2011/6206. Modification 2 was granted on 22 May 2020 and dealt with internal track realignment between Wind Turbine Generators (WTG) A35 and A38 and reduction in clearing footprint.

CWP Renewables Pty Ltd, on behalf of CRWF Nominees Pty Ltd (the Proponent), has prepared this application to modify the Development Consent under section 4.55(1) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* EP&A Act (the Modification). The application for Modification has been prepared in accordance with the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Guidance Series: Modifying and Approved Project (DPE 2017).

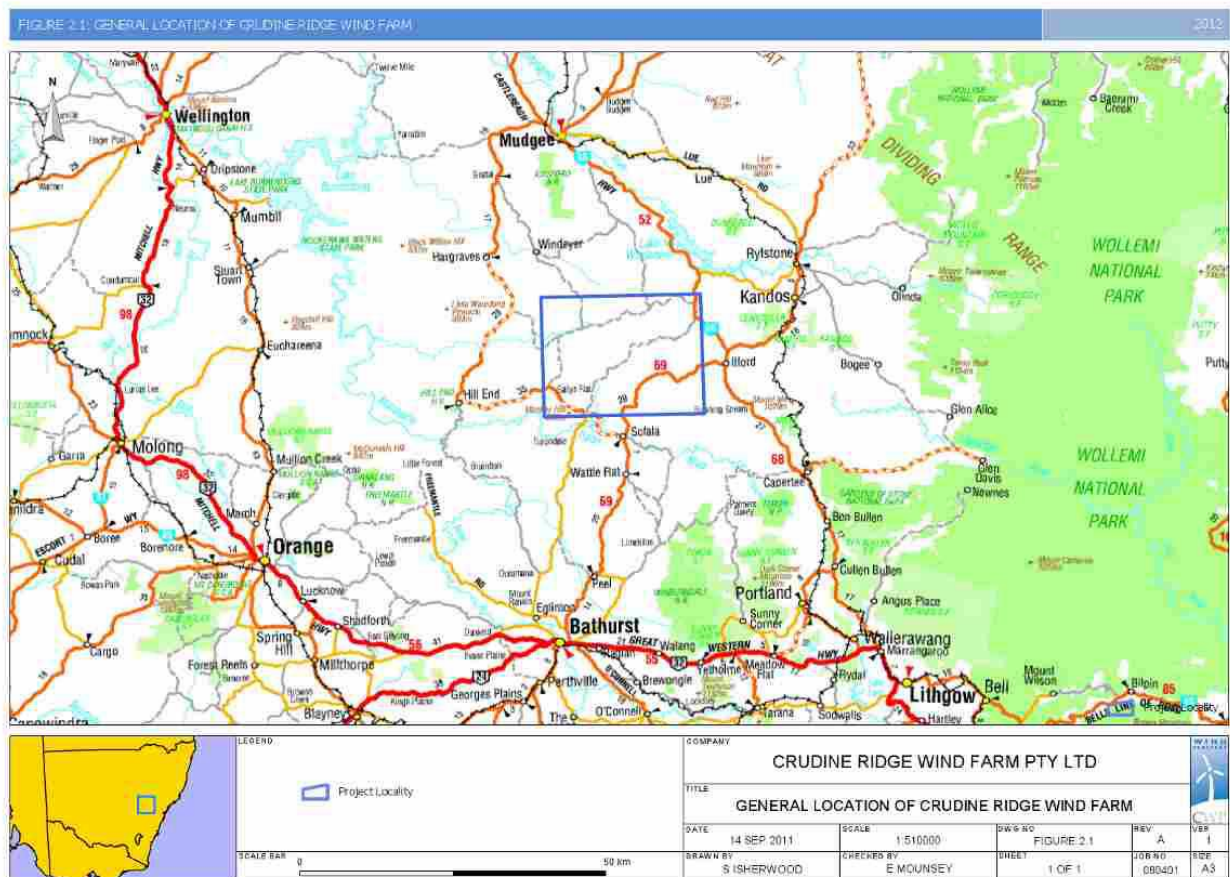
This Modification deals with the reinstating of the Project Corridor around a permanent meteorological monitoring mast installed in 2018 pursuant to the Condition of Consent SSD 6697 dated 10 May 2016. Following the granting of Modification 1 the project boundary was realigned inadvertently leaving meteorological monitoring mast outside the project boundary. This modification seeks to adjust the project boundary to encompass the meteorological monitoring mast and provide an access corridor to provide power and data services to it.

### 1.1. Site Description

The Crudine Ridge Wind Farm is located in both the Mid-Western Regional Council Area and the Bathurst Regional Council Area. The approved Development allows for the construction of 37 Wind Turbine Generators and associated infrastructure including tracks, hardstands, high and low voltage cables, data cabling and meteorological monitoring masts. The location of the project is shown in Figure 1.1.



Figure 1 1 Location Map



## 1.2. Land tenure

The meteorological monitoring mast is located wholly on Lot 76 in DP 756878. The landowner is a host landholder for the project.



## 2. Consultation

### 2.1. Department of Planning Industry and Environment

CWP Renewables Pty Ltd (CWPR) submitted a Preliminary Modification Request to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) on 13 August 2020 requesting DPIE confirm the proposal was consistent with provisions of Section 4.55(1) of the E.P&A. Act 1979.

DPIE advised in a letter dated 21 August 2020 the proposed modification was consistent with the provisions of Section 4.55(1) Modification of the EP&A 1979. DPIE requested that a Modification Report be prepared and submitted along with all relevant documentation via the Major Projects Portal for assessment and determination.

Due to the minor nature of the change, there was no additional environmental impact as a result of the Modification further consultation has not been undertaken and is not considered necessary.

### 2.2. Bathurst Regional Council

Due to the minor nature of the change, there was no additional environmental impact as a result of the Modification no consultation with Bathurst Regional Council was undertaken and is not considered necessary.

### 2.3. Neighbours

The meteorological monitoring mast was constructed in August 2018 and was previously approved. As such no additional consultation with neighbours was undertaken.

### 3. Project modification details

A permanent Meteorological monitoring mast was constructed in August 2018 pursuant to SSD 6697 and was located within the originally approved corridor. Following the granting of Modification 1 the mast was left out of the corridor realignment. This modification seeks to realign the project boundary to include the mast.

The corridor was previously approved, and all the relevant assessments were done at the time of lodgement. There were no cultural heritage items present in the original boundary and there was no vegetation impact.

The management actions within the approved management plans were undertaken at the time of installing the mast. As it has previously been assessed and approved, we believe that the Department is able to grant a Modification pursuant to 4.55 (1) Modifications involving minor error, misdescription or miscalculation of the EP&A Act 1979.

A revised set of Project Maps is provided in Appendix 1. These will replace the existing plans shown in Appendix 2 of SSD 6697 MOD2.

The original project boundary is shown in Figure 3.1

*Figure 3. 1 Project Boundary at WTG A85 as Originally Approved.*



The granting of Modification 1 formalised the removal of 40 turbines to align the NSW Conditions of Consent to the Conditions of Approval EPBC 2011/6206. During this process, an updated project boundary was submitted and approved. See figure 3.2. The approved and constructed meteorological monitoring mast is shown in green.

Figure 3. 2 Modification 1 Approved Project Boundary at WTG A87




The proposed boundary alignment forms a 180 metres diameter circle around the centreline of the mast in order to encompass the guy wires and an 80 wide throat to allow for the best alignment of the cable trenching. The proposed corridor includes an exclusion for non-impacted native vegetation. The proposed corridor modification is shown in Figure3.3 in red; the existing corridor is shown in yellow and the installed meteorological monitoring mast is green.



Figure 3. 3 Proposed Modification to Development Corridor



LEGEND		COMPANY		CRUDINE RIDGE WIND FARM PTY LTD							
● WTG Layout (37)    — Current Civil Design		TITLE									
● Met Mast    — Proposed Corridor Modification CRWF Development Corridor		MET MAST MODIFICATION									
SCALE BAR		DATE	27 AUG 2020	SCALE	1:3000	DWG NO	CRU-317	REV	A	VER	1
		DRAWN BY	B KRONENBERG	CHECKED BY	P MILLAR	SHEET	2 OF 2	JOB NO	180501	SIZE	A3

### 3.1. Options considered

There is no option to relocate the meteorological monitoring mast within the Wind Farm development as it has been used to calibrate wind data for the site and its location is integral to the wind model used to operate the wind farm.

### 3.2. Justification

The modification would allow the access to and usage of the meteorological monitoring mast that was legally constructed pursuant to the Conditions of Consent for SSD 6697 and was later removed from the approved project boundary. This will ensure that data collected by the meteorological monitoring mast which is essential for the initial calibration of the wind farm and is an integral component of optimising the performance of the wind farm once it is fully operational is able to be collected. The modification will ensure consistency and clarity in the documentation with the environmental impact unchanged.

## 4. Review of key legislation and planning policy

### 4.1. EP&A 1979 Act Approval

State Significant Development Consent (SSD-6697) was issued on 10 May 2016 for the construction and operation of up to 77 WTGs. Modification 1 of SSD 6697 was granted on 21 June 2019 to reduce the number of wind turbines constructed and revise the road design for Aarons Pass Road (SSD 6697 MOD1). Modification 2 of SSD 6697 was granted on 22 May 2020 to allow for track realignment to occur and reduce the length of tracks constructed.

The proposed Project is the same Project as has been previously assessed. For the purposes of section 4.55 of the EP&A Act, the Modification is to be assessed as a Type 1 Modification involving no additional environmental impact. Part 4.55 of the EP&A Act provides for the modification of a development consent, including those approved as State Significant Development (SSD). The modification is sought subject to Section 4.55(1) of the EP&A Act.

Section 4.55(1) states:

*“A consent authority may, on application being made by the applicant or any other person entitled to act on a consent granted by the consent authority and subject to and in accordance with the regulations, modify a development consent granted by it to correct a minor error, misdescription or miscalculation. Subsections (1A), (2), (3), (5) and (6) and Part 8 do not apply to such a modification.”*

The proposed modification would rectify an error in in the project boundary following the lodgement of Modification1.

The proposed modification is minor in nature and would not result in additional environmental impacts beyond those already considered and assessed as being acceptable by the determining authority, as illustrated by the issuing of the consent.

### 4.2. EPBC Act Approval

EPBC Act Approval (EPBC 2011/6206) was issued on 4 April 2017 under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) permitting up to 37 WTGs to be constructed. The Meteorological monitoring mast was constructed under the existing EPBC Act Approval. No further consultation or EPBC Act approval is required.



## 5. Assessment of key environmental aspects

The site has been extensively surveyed for environmental and cultural heritage items. It was assessed during the preparation of the EIS (ELA 2012 and ELA 2013) which informed the granting of SSD 6697. There were no Indigenous Cultural Heritage items located during the preparation of the EIS (Dibden 2012)

Prior to the installation of the mast in August 2018 the area was field assessed pursuant to the requirements of the approved Biodiversity Management Plan and the Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan. An Environmental Work Methods Statement was prepared to minimise any environmental damage during the installation process.

As the mast was constructed pursuant to the Development Consent conditions, management plans and strategies no further environmental or cultural heritage assessment is required.

## 6. Conclusion

CWP Renewables Pty Ltd propose to modify State Significant Development (SSD) approval SSD 6697 under Part 4, Section 4.55 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act). The modification is proposed to correct an administrative error and proposed under Section 4.55(1) of the EP&A Act.

CWP Renewables Pty Ltd propose a modification to allow the inclusion of previously legally constructed meteorological monitoring mast on Lot 76 in DP 756878 that was omitted in error from the project boundary as submitted for Modification 1. The following factors have been taken into consideration in the preparation of this Modification Report:

- The site of the meteorological monitoring mast was previously assessed as part of the SSD 6697 EIS;
- The meteorological monitoring mast was legally constructed in August 2018 pursuant to the Conditions of Consent for SSD 6697;
- The proposed modification would result in no change to the impacts previously assessed and approved as part of the SSD 6697 approval.

The inclusion of the meteorological monitoring mast will ensure that project is able to utilise the data generated from it. This data is essential in the initial calibration of the wind farm and is an integral component of optimising the performance of the wind farm once it is fully operational. The modification will ensure consistency and clarity in the documentation with the environmental impact unchanged.

The development supported by this modification will provide a significant contribution to national climate change objectives, while continuing to have benefits for the Central Western Region. The Project has already provided significant and sustained economic activity in the region including positive employment and flow-on benefits to local communities.

## 7. References

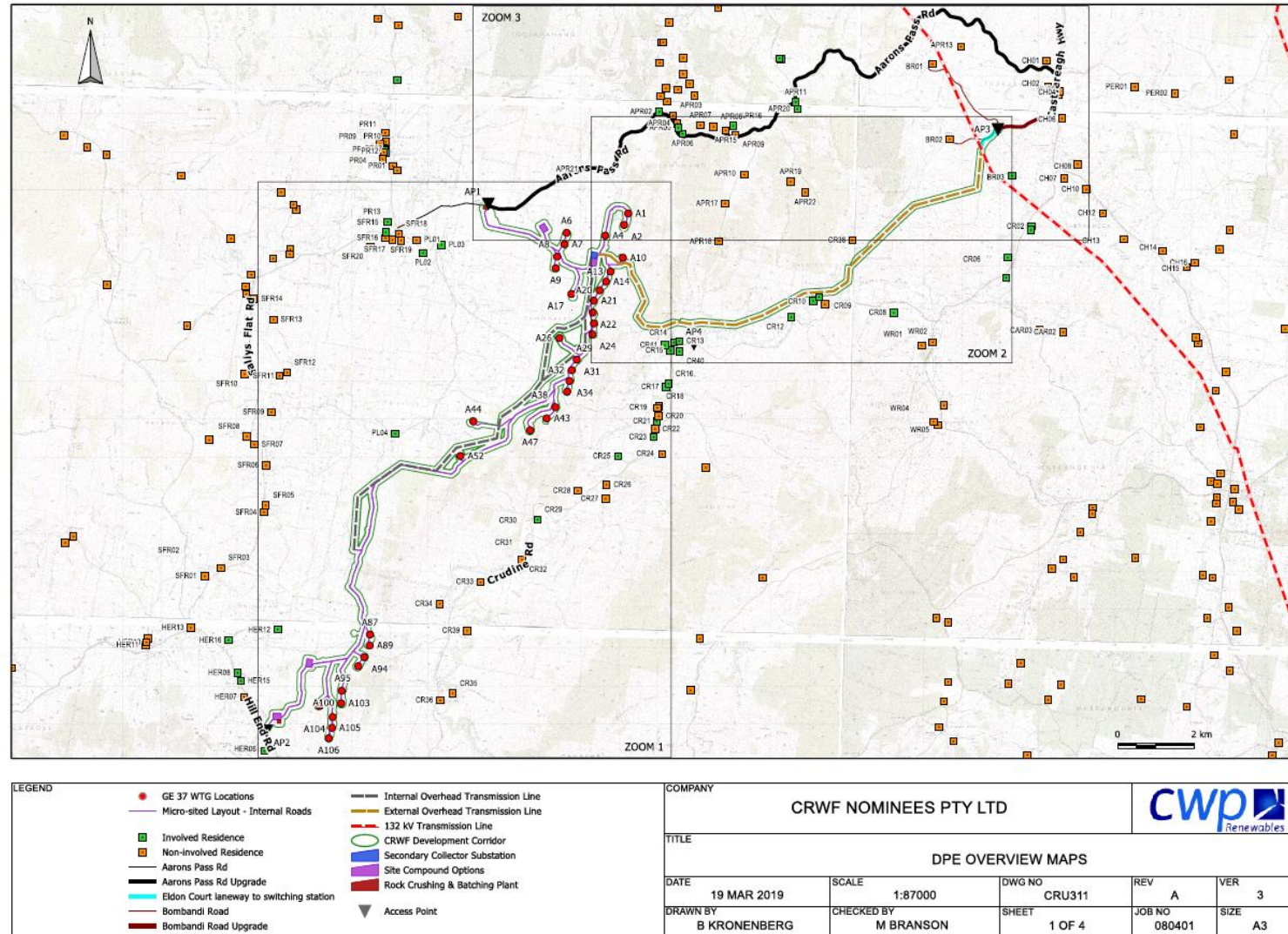
Eco Logical Australia (ELA), 2012, Crudine Ridge Wind Farm Part 3A Ecological Assessment, report prepared for CWP Renewables

Eco Logical Australia (ELA), 2013, Addendum - Crudine Ridge Wind Farm Part 3A Ecological Assessment, report prepared for CWP Renewables

New South Wales Archaeology (Dibden), 2012, Crudine Ridge Wind Farm European and Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report.

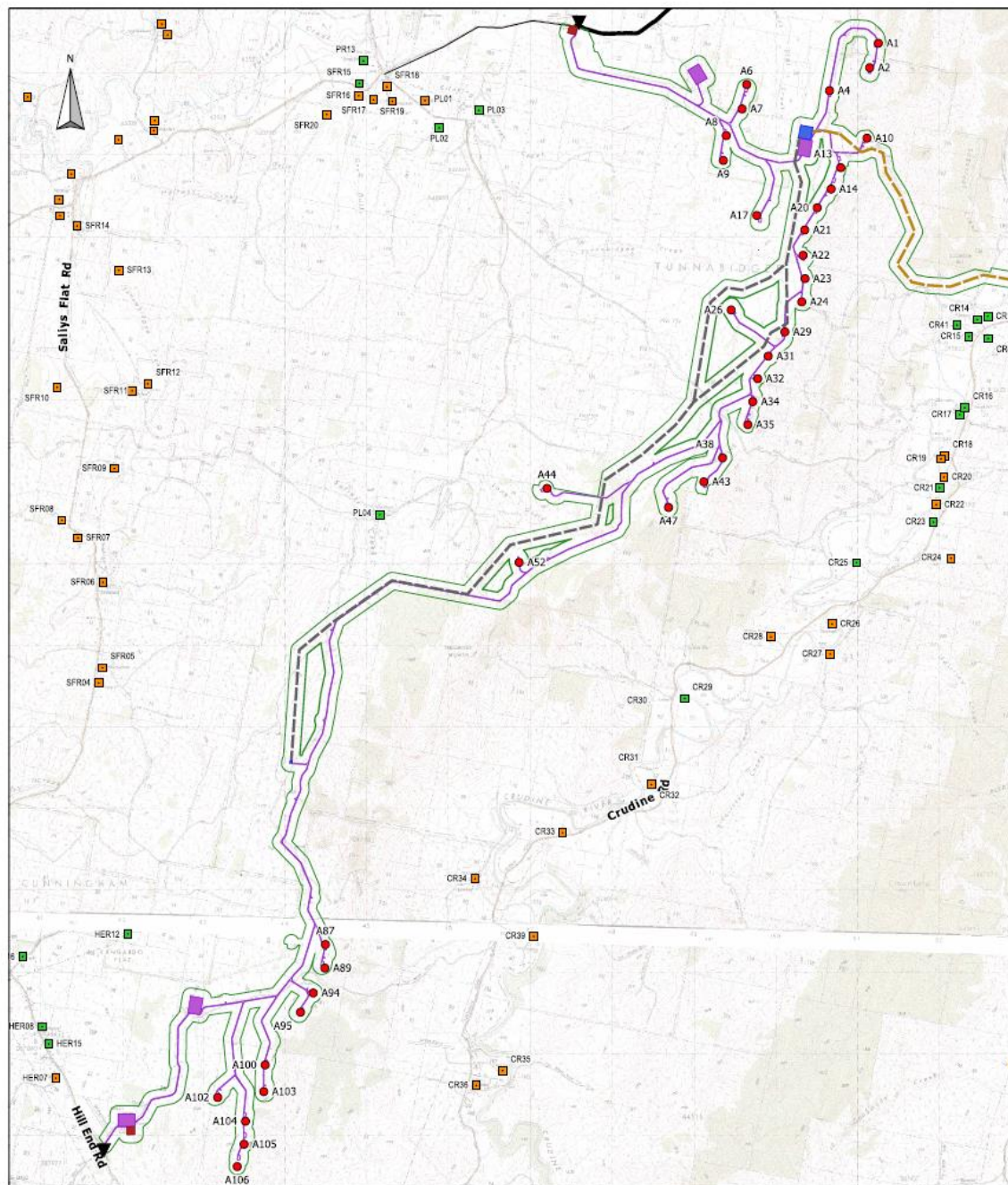
## Appendix 1 Revised General Layout

Revised General Layout Appendix 2 SSD 6697





Revised Figure 2 Appendix 2 SSD 6697



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