



Year 1 Evaluation Report

Golden Plains Wind Farm Brolga Monitoring and Compensation Plan

October 2023
Odonata Foundation

Purpose of this document

To provide the Year 1 Evaluation Report as required by the endorsed Golden Plains Wind Farm Brolga Monitoring and Compensation Plan (BMCP), under Condition 54 and 55 of Planning Permit No. PA1700266 (the Permit) which was issued by the Minister for Planning on 14 November 2021.

As required in the BMCP, Golden Plains Wind Farm Management (GPWFM or the Proponent) has engaged an external delivery partner to implement the Plan on its behalf. Odonata Foundation is the Delivery Partner and is a not-for-profit (NFP), charitable entity, whose primary purpose is the benefit the natural environment.

This report has been prepared within 1 month of the commencement of Year 1 (October 11 2023)¹ as required by the BMCP.

Reporting requirements

As outlined in the BMCP, this Year 1 Evaluation Report from the Delivery Partner addresses:

- a) Summary of wetland selection process
- b) Summary of landholder agreements and corresponding Wetland Management Plan
- c) Details of restoration works and management measures undertaken where relevant

Odonata Foundation statement

As the CEO of Odonata Foundation who is the responsible entity for ensuring satisfactory completion of activities defined in the BMCP, I confirm that what is outlined in this report is true and correct.

Your sincerely



Sam Marwood

¹ As defined within the BMCP, Year 1 commences on the execution date of the agreement between the Proponent and the Delivery Partner. There is no Year 0 Project Establishment Year.

a) Summary of wetland selection process

i) Table A (below) is a response to the relevant steps of the Implementation Schedule outlined in Table 3-3 in the BMCP.

Implementation Step		Date Completed	Progress (Odonata)
1	Review and endorse BMCP		Not applicable to Odonata Foundation. Proponent has reviewed the BMCP and it was endorsed by the Minister for Planning on 11 October 2022. Minor amendments were made to the BMCP, which was re-endorsed on 30 August 2023.
2	Execution of agreement between the Proponent and Delivery Partner	11 October 2023	Complete.
3	Identify initial group of potential enhancement sites for detailed investigation	Year 1	13 potential sites identified in Year 1. Community Engagement Plan developed and implemented to attract and recruit further potential enhancement sites.
4	Undertake detailed assessment of potential enhancement sites, including on site trails	Year 1 to Year 5	Field assessments undertaken on 13 sites in Year 1. Three sites determined to be unsuitable, so number of sites progressed to next assessment stage is 10. On site trials to commence in Year 1

Table A Response to Implementation Schedule

ii) Table B (next page) summarises the selection process and attributes of the 10 Wetland Sites that passed the Rapid Site Assessment and will progress to Detailed Preliminary Assessment in Year 2. These sites have high possibility of brolga recruitment,

Table B (below) outlines the current status of selection process for the identified potential sites

Site Number	Landholder Interest (out of 10)	Comments	Area (ha)	Landscape Context	Wetland Type	Hydrological Modifications Evident
23-002	9	Evidence of Brolga moving through neighbouring wetlands in Feb 2023. Expect max depth 60-70 cm after restoration. Investigate potential for water to impact nearby road after restoration.	6.2	Complex	Freshwater swamp	Shallow drain(s)
23-003	9	Site has previously been surveyed by Arthur Rylah Institute. Grazing exclosures lead to dense biomass in wetland site. Some existing publications exist for research of the site. Evidence of connection to network of wetlands close by in very wet years	5.6	Complex	Freshwater swamp	Shallow drain(s)
23-004	8	Nearby riparian zone protected by fence. Possibility of including wetland site in riparian zone.	12	Isolated	Freshwater swamp	Other, Shallow drain(s)
23-005	9		7	Complex	Freshwater swamp	Shallow drain(s)
23-006	10	Evidence of high amount of biomass and birdlife. Further surveys to identify species of both will help inform restoration potential. Evidence of Brolgas nesting in neighbouring wetlands.	22	Complex	Freshwater swamp	Shallow drain(s)
23-007	8	Well preserved. Evidence of frog life. Close to other wetlands.	3.8	Complex	Freshwater swamp	
23-008	9	Large, well-preserved swamp with billy buttons and other native vegetation. CMA stewardship for ten years. Occasionally crash-grazed (1-2 years). New land purchase (18 months).	260	Complex	Freshwater swamp	

23-009	8	Wimmera CMA will be fencing the site soon. Identified as a potential site for revegetation with Buloke and Moona	9	Complex	Freshwater swamp	
23-010	7	Currently a sheep paddock with low agricultural value. Some remnant wetland vegetation. Site degraded through drainage and grazing. Adjacent site is fenced wetland with indicators for potential of restoration of this site	25	Complex	Freshwater swamp	Shallow drain(s)
23-011	9	Site has recently been acquired by landholder from neighbour. Some weed control activity for Phalaris. Some revegetation underway (Lignin and Moonah). Native vegetation evident (esp. Billy Button).	4.8	Complex	Freshwater swamp	

Table B - Summary of Site Selection

b) Summary of landowner agreements and corresponding wetland management plans

No sites have progressed to specific landholder agreement or Wetland Management Plan (WMP) by the end of Year 1. The BMCP commits to finding four sites to progress to landholder agreement and WMP by the end of Year 5. The Project has been designed to allow five years for identification for best wetland sites to produce Brolgas. The Landholder Agreements and corresponding WMPs are not expected to be finalised until Year 5, when the best wetland sites are selected.

Template forms for WMPs have been developed and scrutinised from an industry and legal point of view. The WMP is designed to be robust and executable.

c) Details of restoration works and management measures undertaken as required by the management plan.

No wetlands have progressed to stage of restoration and management at end of Year 1. Further assessment is required for each wetland, including feasibility trials.

As per the methodology of the project design, restoration will occur when trials have shown confidence for rehabilitation and Brolga breeding success.