Bodangora wind farm turbine modification

An application to modify the size of the turbine blades for the Bodangora Wind Farm near Wellington has been approved by the Department of Planning and Environment, subject to conditions.

Bodangora Wind Farm has approval to construct and operate the Bodangora Wind Farm, 15 km north-east of Wellington.

A departmental spokesperson said the modification allows turbines with an increased blade diameter.

“The project has approval to construct 33 wind turbines with a maximum turbine tip height of 150 metres and blade diameter of up to 114 metres.

“This approval allows the blade diameter to increase to a maximum of 130 metres,” the spokesperson said.

Improvements to turbine technology since the original project approval in August 2013 has led to the development of longer turbine blades with 10 per cent increased generation efficiency and lower energy production costs.

“The department’s assessment found that the modification would not materially increase the impacts of the original project,” a spokesperson said.

The modification was made available for public comment in September and the submissions received helped form conditions of approval, which include regulation of noise and visual impacts, impacts on local roads, and potential environmental impacts on birds and bats in the vicinity of the wind farm.

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