The challenge of dealing with collision risk
ACCIONA in Australia

- Operational wind farms
- Constructed PV plant
- Development sites
A potential wind farm site

- Good wind resource
- Grid connection opportunities
- Landowners
- Limited native vegetation
Constraints surveys to shape the design

- Initial constraints assessments
  - Native vegetation
  - Cultural heritage
  - Noise and shadow flicker
  - Bird and bat utilisation surveys
Collision Risk

- Red-tailed Black Cockatoo
- Southern Bent-wing Bat
- But are they at significant risk?
Assessments

• Comprehensive RTBC habitat suitability survey
• Onsite RTBC survey
• Offsite RTBC to understand behaviour
• Consult with experts of flight behaviour

Conclusion

• Likely to occasionally occupy the site
• Expected to feed in woodland areas of the site
• Mostly fly below rotor swept height, except when frightened
• With a 200m buffer around suitable feeding habitats, predicted to be a low level of risk to the RTBC
Red-Tailed Black Cockatoo Buffers

EXMOOR - RED TAILED BLACK COCKATOO

[Map showing the project extent and various buffers.]
Southern Bent-wing Bat

Assessment approach

- Two additional Anabat surveys
- Comprehensive literature research for further information on the SBWB
- Looked at footage of flight behaviour using infra-red cameras
- Looked at results from radio tracking surveys
- Expert opinion

Assessment conclusion

- Uncertainty about flight height and use across the site
- Likely to use the site in relatively low numbers
- Likely to use woodlands more frequently than cleared areas
- With a 100m buffer around woodlands and a 300m buffer around wetlands, predicted to be a low level of risk to the species
Southern Bent-wing Bat Buffers

EXMOOR - SOUTHERN BENT-WING BAT

- Project Extent
- Potential Habitat Within Site
- 100m Buffer from Significant Bat Habitat
- Wetlands - Potential Bat Habitat
- 300m Buffer from Wetland Bat Habitat
Collision Risk - Uncertainty

Current Status
• Referred the project under the EPBC Act.
• Not a controlled action
Conclusion

- Most environmental issues are easily managed
- Collision risk remains a big challenge
- Need to work towards greater certainty
- Needs to be better collaboration (industry and regulators).
- Needs to be better transparency and knowledge sharing