

Small Scale Wind Turbines POLICY



- Adopted by Council on 15 February 2011
Effective from 2 March 2011

Aims and Objectives

This Policy aims to:

- Provide general standards for the erection of small wind turbines within the Kiama Municipality; and
- Protect the amenity of the locality in which the small wind turbine is situated; and
- Ensure that the small scale wind turbine do not adversely impact on the amenity of other residents particularly in respect to noise and blade flicker; and
- Preserve and compliment any natural and/or cultural heritage characteristics of the area; and
- Provide Kiama residents opportunities for the production of sustainable energy.

In rural areas:

- Does not detract from the scenic qualities of the rural landscape; and
- Does not produce an unreasonable cumulative impact on the general amenity of the area.

Standard for Development

Council requires that small scale wind turbines be designed and located so as to be sympathetic to the particular setting. For this reason the following policy standards are deemed appropriate in consideration of the merits of a development proposal.

Definition

Small scale wind turbine – wind turbines that have a rated capacity of less than or equal to 10kw may be classified as small scale wind turbines. These turbines can be connected to the electricity grid by an inverter but more commonly are used to generate electricity as “stand alone” or “off grid” power supply systems.

General Requirements

Height – Free Standing

The maximum height for small scale wind turbines (including blade tip height) shall not exceed:

- Rural zones – 18 metres.
- Urban zones – 15 metres.

Height – Attached to Buildings

The small scale wind turbine (including blade tip height) shall not exceed a height of 3 metres above the ridgeline of the building to which it is attached. Structural Engineer’s details must be provided in relation to roof mounted turbines.

Noise

The noise produced by the small scale wind turbine shall not exceed 5dB(A) above the background sound power level for a given installation when measured at any point along the boundary of the subject property or adjacent to any dwelling.

Energy Production

The proposed small scale wind turbine shall not exceed an energy generating capacity of:

- Rural zones – 10 kW.
- Urban zones – 5 kW.

Number of Installations

The number of small scale wind turbines on any single allotment of land shall not exceed one (1).

Advertising and Lighting

No advertising signs or logos shall be visible on any installed small scale wind turbine and no lighting shall be provided for the purpose of highlighting the location of the wind turbine.

Location Within Residential Allotments

The small scale wind turbine shall not be located in a position that would, in the opinion of Council, cause shadow flicker on the private open space or windows to living areas on any adjoining non-associated residence.

Abandonment

Where a small scale wind turbine has not been used for the production of energy for a period of twelve (12) months it will be required as a condition of consent to be dismantled and removed from the subject property.

Other Miscellaneous Requirements

The small scale wind turbine shall:

- Be Located clear of power lines in accordance with the requirements of the relevant electricity authority.
- Not be located on land on which a building that is a State or Local Heritage Item is located or is in a Heritage Conservation Area.
- Not involve the removal of pruning of a tree or other vegetation that requires a permit or development consent for removal or pruning, unless that removal or pruning is undertaken in accordance with a permit or development consent.
- Be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications including any engineering details.