

predictions will be used to determine the wind farm layout and the location of the turbines in relation to nearby properties.

This process will ensure that the noise generated from the FRWF will not exceed the maximum noise levels allowed at nearby residential properties, which are set by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC). Of particular reference is the WAPC Planning Bulletin Number 67 which refers to the Wind Farm Environmental Noise Guidelines for Wind Farms issued by the South Australian (SA) Environmental Protection Authority in 2003. These guidelines stipulate a limit on the predicted equivalent noise levels ( $L_{Aeq, 10min}$ ) of 35dBA or 5dBA above the background noise level ( $L_{A90, 10min}$ ), whichever is greater, at dwellings that do not have an agreement with the developers of the wind farm.

The final wind farm layout will be designed in order to meet the above guidelines.

### **9.3. Terrestrial Flora and Vegetation – *Mattiske Consulting***

MHE has reviewed the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) website for Declared Rare Flora in the South West Catchment Council Inland NRM zone which identified no Declared Rare Flora or Priority Flora within the development site. In addition to this search MHE has reviewed a clearing permit submitted in 2007 by a landowner located in the center of the development site which described the site as:

- Beard Vegetation Associated 4: Medium woodland; Marri and Wandoo
- Vegetation comprising scattered paddock trees and almost completely degraded (Keighery 1994)
- No known Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) or Protected Ecological Communities (PECs) recorded within a 30km radius of the site
- and the nearest known location of Declared Rare Flora (DRF) to be approximately 11km away.

A flora and vegetation survey was undertaken in September 2010 by Mattiske Consulting, concentrating on areas where disturbance of native vegetation was likely to occur. The aim of the survey was to identify the types of vegetation which exists in the proposed FRWF site and whether any species or habitats need to be protected or avoided. Identifying areas of native vegetation or suitable habitat on site means the FRWF can be designed to avoid, wherever possible, areas of native vegetation and minimise disturbance to any protected or endangered species.