

Our ref: OUT26/2272

Emma-Rose Cooper
Planning Group
NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI)
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2/03/2026

Subject: Keri Keri Wind Farm - SSD-38358962 – Response to further information

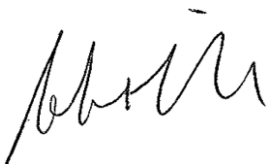
Dear Emma-Rose Cooper,

I refer to your request for advice sent on 16 February 2026 to the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) Water Group about the above matter.

NSW DCCEEW Water Group has reviewed the further information provided and maintains the need to address previous recommendations in regard to securing a water supply for the project and identifying and assessing the need for additional water supply works. Please see Attachment A for more detail.

Should you have any further queries in relation to this submission please do not hesitate to contact the Water Assessments team at water.assessments@dcceew.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Brownbill".

Rob Brownbill,
Manager, Water Assessments, Planning & Knowledge Division
NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

Attachment A

Detailed advice to DPHI Planning & Assessment regarding the Keri Keri Windfarm - SSD-38358962 – Request for further information

1.0 Water supply, take and licensing

1.1 Recommendation – pre-determination

The Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) should request the proponent to clarify the ability to obtain a secure water supply for the project. This is to include confirmation of consultation with third parties where required and to demonstrate sufficient entitlements can be acquired where necessary.

Explanation

Insufficient information is provided to demonstrate a secure water supply is available for the project. The proponent has stated they will develop a Water Sourcing Plan post determination, and while the development of this plan is supported, the proponent must still demonstrate the project is able to meet its water demands prior to determination. It is also noted Water Access Licence 41961 proposed to meet part of the construction demands is a special purpose access licence for stock watering and cannot be used for the project.

Where water will be obtained from a third party such as Council or other water supplier, the proponent must confirm there has been consultation with the third party and that they have indicated there is availability for the project. As this project is located within the South-West Renewable Energy Zone, there will likely be high demand on these water sources.

1.2 Recommendation – pre-determination

DPHI should request the proponent to identify and provide an impact assessment of any new water supply works proposed, or where the existing bore/s proposed to be used is stock and domestic as further assessment is required to convert this to a production bore.

Explanation

The proponent stated at EIS stage that the preferred water supply method for the project is to use existing groundwater bores and install additional bores as required. The latest information has also indicated the potential to access water from groundwater bores. However, to date there has been no assessment of new bores or identification of existing bores to be used. It is noted that the existing stock and domestic bores nearby are unable to be used without an impact assessment to change them to production bores.

The proponent must identify new or existing water supply works to be used, and if new or a current stock and domestic bore, an impact assessment is required. Without this the proponent will be unable to meet section 4.41 of the *EP&A Act 1979* so would require secondary approvals under the *Water Management Act 2000*. The outcome of such approval processes cannot be guaranteed and so cannot be relied upon as a viable water supply option at this stage.

1.3 Recommendation – post-determination

DPHI should request the proponent to ensure:

- Sufficient water entitlement is held in a water access licence/s to account for the maximum predicted take for each water source prior to take occurring unless an exemption applies.
- The Water Access Licences proposed to account for water take by the project has nominated an extraction point and this dealing is to be completed prior to water take occurring.

Explanation

The proponent has indicated groundwater is an option to source water to meet non-potable water demands. The WAL referenced (WAL 41961) is unable to be used for the project as it is a specific purpose licence which has a condition restricting its use to stock watering. While this WAL is unable to be used, the NSW Water Register indicates an active trading history in the Lower Murrumbidgee Deep Groundwater Source which suggests trading is an option. It will be the proponent's responsibility to identify willing sellers and obtain sufficient entitlement to account for take prior to construction commencing.

It is also noted that under the *Water Management Act 2000* a WAL must nominate the extraction point where water will be taken. This must occur prior to take occurring.

End Attachment A