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Dominic Crinnion  
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment  
Major Projects Planning Portal

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Dear Mr Crinnion

### **Thunderbolt Wind Farm (SSD-10807896) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Review**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above Project requested via the Major Project Portal on 27 April 2022. The NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI) Agriculture provides advice to consent authorities about the protection and growth of agricultural industries and the resources upon which these industries depend to provide economic growth.

The EIS notes the highly erodible soil landscapes and steep gradients in the Project's footprint which will support most of the Wind Generating Towers. The commitment to an Erosion and Soil Management Plan which details mitigation, rehabilitation, and decommissioning of the project site is supported, as is a Decommissioning and Rehabilitation strategy which will include erosion sediment control management measures.

The EIS states that "should decommissioning be required...all above ground structures, not required for the ongoing agricultural use of the land will be removed. The Wind Turbine Generators, hardstands and substation will be removed, and land rehabilitated so that it can be returned to full agricultural use". However, the EIS also states that "below ground infrastructure...will be left in situ and covered with clean fill material... to mitigate the risk of soil erosion".

NSW DPI advises that all infrastructure at a depth less than 500 mm on productive agricultural landscapes - including improved pasture lands - should be removed, and the land remediated during decommissioning (where minimal erosion risk exists). This is necessary to ensure that future agricultural uses on this land are not impeded.

Should you have any questions please contact Nita Scott at [Nita.Scott@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Nita.Scott@dpi.nsw.gov.au) or 0412 424 397.

Yours sincerely

24/5/22

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