

Our ref: OUT22/6304

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NSW Department of Planning and Environment

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22 June 2022

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Subject: **Valley of the Winds Wind Farm (SSD-10461) - Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)**

Dear Ms Homsey,

I refer to your request for advice sent on 19 May 2022 to the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) Water about the above matter.

This project proposal is for the construction and operation of a wind farm with up to 148 wind turbines, energy storage and associated infrastructure.

DPE Water has reviewed the EIS and requests further information regarding water supply and controlled activities on waterfront land. Please see **Attachment A** on the next page for more detail.

Please note that the licensing and approval function has now moved from NRAR to DPE Water. Should you have any further queries in relation to this submission please do not hesitate to contact DPE Water Assessments [water.assessments@dpie.nsw.gov.au](mailto:water.assessments@dpie.nsw.gov.au) or to the following coordinating officer within DPE Water:

Alistair Drew – Project Officer  
E: [Alistair.drew@dpie.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Alistair.drew@dpie.nsw.gov.au)  
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Yours sincerely



Georgia McKeon  
Acting Manager, Assessments, Knowledge Division  
Department of Planning and Environment: Water

## Attachment A

# Detailed advice to DPE Planning & Assessment regarding the Valley of the Winds Wind Farm (SSD-10461) - EIS

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## 1.0 Water Supply and Licensing

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### 1.1 Recommendations – Prior to Determination

- Clarification should be provided of the ability to obtain the necessary water volumes for construction from the site, or else confirm a viable supply is available for the supply, via an indication of an agreement from a water supplier.
- Provide confirmation that the proposed quarry sites do not require water entitlements. Should they be required provide details of entitlements held or evidence they can be obtained.

### 1.2 Explanation

Insufficient evidence has been provided on the ability to obtain the necessary water volumes from the site or confirm a viable supply is available for the supply, via an indication of an agreement from a water supplier.

Provide confirmation that the proposed quarry sites do not require additional water entitlements in terms of demands, groundwater intercept or surface water take.

## 2.0 Controlled Activities on Waterfront Land

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### 2.1 Recommendation – Prior to Determination

- Clarification should be provided of the proposed infrastructure layout to meet the buffer requirements from watercourses as defined in the Guidelines for Controlled Activities on Waterfront Land (NRAR 2018)

### 2.2 Recommendation – Post Approval

- Works within waterfront land should be in accordance with the Guidelines for Controlled Activities on Waterfront Land (NRAR 2018), including any watercourse crossings.

### 2.3 Explanation

Clarification is requested for the proposed infrastructure layout to meet the buffer requirements from watercourses as defined in the Guidelines for Controlled Activities on Waterfront Land (NRAR 2018). It is currently unclear if the setbacks have been provided particularly for the quarry locations and permanent operations and maintenance compounds.

## 3.0 Aquifer Interference

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### 3.1 Recommendation – Post Approval

The proponent should undertake an assessment to determine if the construction of any section of the project will constitute an aquifer interference upon completion of final design and characterisation of groundwater levels across the sites. The proponent should submit a hydrogeological assessment against the NSW Aquifer Interference Policy (2012) (AIP) to DPE Water, if the project is found to be an aquifer interference activity.

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### 3.2 Explanation

The project is generally low risk to groundwater, however the site is incompletely characterised and issues could potentially arise. A full groundwater study prior to determination is not warranted due to the degree of risk. However, an assessment against the AIP would be required if the project is found to include aquifer interfering activities at the detailed design stage, to be submitted to DPE Water for review. The proponent should note that this may yield requirements to manage any groundwater impacts arising.

The proponent should note that SSD projects are only exempt from requiring a water supply work and/or use approval where the impacts were included as part of the EIS. Should works be required and not assessed as part of the SSD process, a water supply work and/or use approval under the *Water Management Act 2000* will be required unless another exemption applies.

**End Attachment A**

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