

Department of Planning and Environment

Our ref: OUT22/22005

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NSW Department of Planning and Environment

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16 December 2022

Subject: **Winterbourne Wind Farm (SSD-10471) – Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)**

Dear Mr Davies,

I refer to your request for advice sent on 7 December 2022 to the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) Water about the above matter.

Winterbourne Wind Farm includes the construction, operation and decommissioning of a wind farm with an estimated capacity of 700 megawatts (MW), a maximum of 126 turbines and a maximum height of 250 metres (to blade tip) and ancillary infrastructure including access tracks, road upgrades, underground and overhead electricity cabling, substations, transmission lines and grid connection to the TransGrid transmission network.

DPE Water has reviewed the EIS and has recommendations regarding water supply and take, and activities on waterfront land. Please see Attachment A for more detail.

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, or the following coordinating officer within DPE Water:

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Yours sincerely



Liz Rogers
Manager, Assessments, Knowledge Division
Department of Planning and Environment: Water

Attachment A

Detailed advice to DPE Planning & Assessment regarding the Winterbourne Wind Farm (SSD-10471) - EIS

1.0 Water Supply and Take

1.1 Recommendations – Prior to Determination

The proponent should:

- confirm the requirement for new water supply works (e.g. bores or pumps) for the project. If the works are required, it is recommended an impact assessment be completed to confirm the necessary yields and quality, and to address impacts on the water source and water users.
- quantify operational water take and its proposed source.
- demonstrate the ability to access sufficient entitlement by identifying potential willing sellers or available entitlement to trade with.

1.2 Recommendation – Post Approval

- The proponent must 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.

Explanation

Insufficient information has been provided to confirm operational water take for the project. The proponent notes water take should be negligible, but volumes should be quantified, and source identified.

If new bores or pumps are proposed, it is recommended their installation and operation be assessed as part of the SSD assessment process to avoid the need to obtain approvals separately under the *Water Management Act 2000*. This should include assessment against the relevant water sharing plans.

Insufficient information has been provided to understand the ability to obtain relevant entitlements in the required water source. Clear demonstration is requested as obtaining these entitlements can be a risk to the project. This can be shown through indications of landholders which are willing to trade, trading history in the source or controlled allocations.

2.0 Activities on Waterfront Land

2.1 Recommendation – Prior to Determination

The proponent should demonstrate the project has shown due consideration to the Guidelines for Controlled Activities on Waterfront Land.

2.2 Recommendation – Post Approval

The proponent should ensure works within waterfront land are in accordance with the Guidelines for Controlled Activities on Waterfront Land.

Explanation

The proponent notes that 3rd order and above watercourses within the site do not meet the definition of waterfront land under the *Water Management Act 2000* (Section 6.8.3.3 of the EIS). This does not appear to be correct as many of these do show banks, flows and/or vegetation changes. All works within waterfront land should show due consideration to the Guidelines for Controlled Activities on Waterfront Land including setbacks, outlets and crossings. It is noted that if works are assessed as a part of the State Significant Development application, then a controlled activity approval would not be required.

Please find more information at:

<https://water.dpie.nsw.gov.au/licensing-and-trade/approvals/controlled-activity-approvals/what/guidelines>