

Our ref: OUT22/21684

Anthony Ko

Planning and Assessment Group  
NSW Department of Planning and Environment

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9 December 2022

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Subject: **Hills of Gold Wind Farm (SSD-9679) Amended Report**

Dear Anthony Ko,

I refer to your request for advice sent on 15 November 2022 to the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) Water about the above matter.

Hills of Gold Wind Farm Pty Ltd (the proponent) is seeking approval to construct and operate a wind farm and associated infrastructure. The project is located approximately 60 km south-east of Tamworth in the Northern Tablelands region of NSW. The wind farm would comprise 70 turbines with a capacity of 420 megawatts for supply to the national energy market.

DPE Water recommends that the proponent provide additional information to confirm that the project will not intersect groundwater and is not an aquifer interference activity in accordance with the NSW Aquifer Interference Policy.

Please see Attachment A for further details and other recommendations.

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 the following coordinating officer within DPE Water:

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Yours sincerely



Simon Francis  
Senior Project Officer, Assessments, Knowledge Division  
**Department of Planning and Environment: Water**

## Attachment A

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### Detailed advice to DPE Planning & Assessment regarding the Hills of Gold Wind Farm (SSD-9679)

#### 1.0 Water licensing and controlled activities

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##### 1.1 Recommendation – Post approval

That the proponent:

- a) obtain relevant approvals and licences under the Water Management Act 2000 before commencing any works which intercept or extract groundwater or surface water (unless an exemption applies).
- b) ensure that relevant nomination of work dealing applications for Water Access Licences (WALs) proposed to account for water take by the project have been completed prior to the water take occurring.
- c) comply with the rules of the relevant water sharing plans.
- d) prepare a Construction and Operational Environmental Management Plan (incorporating an Erosion and Sediment Control Plan) prior to commencement of activities.
- e) works within waterfront land are in accordance with the Guidelines for Controlled Activities on Waterfront Land.

##### 1.2 Explanation

The proponent will need to ensure that they have the appropriate entitlement to account for water take. The proposed watercourse crossing upgrades and new installations will need to be designed and constructed in accordance with the *Guidelines for Controlled Activities on Waterfront Land*.

#### 2.0 Groundwater impacts

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##### 2.1 Recommendation – Prior to determination

That the proponent provide additional quantitative detail, such as local groundwater levels and maximum proposed excavation depths, to demonstrate that the proposed activities will not intersect groundwater and therefore do not constitute an aquifer interference activity in accordance with the NSW Aquifer Interference Policy (AIP).

##### 2.2 Explanation

DPE Water refers the proponent to the Guidelines for Groundwater Documentation for SSD/SSI Projects to inform their assessment of the potential project impacts against the NSW Water Management Act 2000 and the requirements described within the NSW groundwater policy documents - such as the NSW Aquifer Interference Policy (AIP). ([https://water.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0020/507611/Guidelines-for-Groundwater-Documentation-for-SSD-SSI-Projects.pdf](https://water.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0020/507611/Guidelines-for-Groundwater-Documentation-for-SSD-SSI-Projects.pdf))

**End Attachment A**

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