

FE22/1171 C24/481

03 June 2024

DPE Planning

Lodged via NSW Major Projects Planning Portal

Attn: Kurtis Wathen

Re: SSD-50629707 – The Plains Wind Farm – Request for advice - EIS

Dear Kurtis,

Thank you for referring the above proposal to DPI Fisheries. DPI Fisheries are responsible for ensuring that fish stocks are conserved and that there is “no net loss” of key fish habitats upon which they depend. To achieve this, the Department ensures that developments comply with the requirements of the *Fisheries Management Act 1994* (namely the aquatic habitat protection and threatened species conservation provisions in Parts 7 and 7A of the Act respectively) and the associated *Policy and Guidelines for Fish Habitat Conservation and Management (Update 2013)*.

Noting that the EIS concludes that the project area includes ephemeral waterways that do not contain suitable habitat for fish and aquatic invertebrates, DPI Fisheries provides the following advice:

- DPI Fisheries concurs with the assessment that mitigations to provide for fish passage should be in place for when ephemeral waterways are inundated after heavy rainfall periods. As outlined in previous DI Fisheries advice and also noted in the EIS, the design and construction of watercourse crossings on the site should be undertaken in accordance with the Department’s *Policy and Guidelines for Fish Habitat Conservation and Management (Update 2013)* and *Why Do fish Need to Cross the Road? Fish Passage Requirements for Waterway Crossings (2003)*.

Please contact me on 0484 907 343 or Alison.McLean@dpi.nsw.gov.au if you require any further information.

Sincerely



Alison McLean

Fisheries Manager, Murray Darling
Freshwater Environment Branch