

Kurtis Wathen
C/- Major Projects Portal

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The Plains Wind Farm EIS (SSD-50629707)

Dear Mr Wathen

Thank you for your referral of 2 May 2024 and the opportunity to provide comment on The Plains Wind Farm EIS (SSD-50629707).

The NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Agriculture collaborates and partners with our stakeholders to protect and enhance the productive and sustainable use and resilience of agricultural resources and the environment.

NSW DPI Agriculture has reviewed the EIS for the construction, operation and decommissioning of The Plains Wind Farm, proposed for RU1 zoned land to the south of Hay NSW. It is noted that the wind farm project is likely to disrupt some agricultural operations during the construction and operation phases.

DPI Ag supports the position that the coexistence of wind turbines and agriculture can be economically positive and therefore the Project should support the regional and rural communities and industries that are based on agriculture to ensure their resilience.

Although the project is likely to disrupt some agricultural operations, the impacts are considered negligible to minor in the EIS. Additionally, appropriate mitigation measures relevant to agriculture have been identified for incorporation into the Environmental Management Plan.

Similarly, the project's cumulative impacts have mostly been well described and are considered to have negligible to minor impacts on long term agriculture (sheep grazing).

With regard the DPI Ag SEARs request, although the EIS has referenced the LUCRA, any assessment of land use conflict risk has not been provided in the LUCRA form. There is also limited consideration of the impact of agricultural operations on any workers accommodation camp. In terms of Decommissioning and Rehabilitation, DPI Ag's preferred position is to require the removal of underground infrastructure to 500mm where irrigated agricultural activities could continue at the completion of the project.

Provided these matters can be addressed through landholder agreements and as appropriate mitigation measures relevant to agriculture incorporated into the Environmental Management Plan, DPI Ag has no further comment.

Should you require clarification on any of the information contained in this response, I can be contacted at landuse.ag@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Sincerely

L. Parker

Lilian Parker
Agricultural Land Use Planning

Esigned 29-5-2024