



DOC24/361509
29 May 2024

Kurtis Wathen
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Energy Assessments
Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

via Major Projects Planning Portal

EPA Advice on Environment Impact Statement – The Plains Wind Farms

Dear Mr Wathen

Thank you for the notification about Public Authority Consultation No. PAE-70327462 requesting advice from the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) about the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prepared for The Plains Wind Farm (SSD-50629707) located 15km south of Hay.

The EPA has reviewed the following documents:

- The Plains Wind Farm EIS, ERM Australia Pty Ltd – 24 April 2024; and
- The Plains Wind Farm Noise Assessment, Sonus Pty Ltd – April 2024.

The EPA understands the proposal is to construct up to 188 wind turbine generators with a maximum height of 270m (the blade tip) over 53,894 hectares of land which will have an electricity generating capacity of 1350 megawatts. Ancillary infrastructure would include operations and maintenance facilities, cabling and substations, and temporary facilities such as concrete batching plants and rock crushing facilities, accommodation compounds and machinery laydown areas.

We note that the EIS does not predict any adverse environmental impacts on surrounding receptors not associated with the proposal.

Based on the information provided, if the proposal is given development consent the wind farm will require an environment protection licence (EPL) under sections 43, 47, 55 and/or 122 of the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* (POEO Act) for electricity generation clause 17 of Schedule 1 of the POEO Act.

In addition, based on the information, if the proposal is given development consent the wind farm will require an environment protection licence (EPL) under sections 43, 47, 55 and/or 122 of the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* (POEO Act) for concrete works clause 13 of Schedule 1 of the POEO Act.

Materials such as gravel, aggregate and sand for the project will be sourced from external suppliers. The proposed volumes have not been provided. The applicant should be aware that any site providing more than 30,000 tonnes per year of material must hold an environment protection licence.

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The EPA has the following additional comments:

1. Matters to be addressed prior to determination

No matters

2. Matters to be addressed with conditions

An Operational Noise Management Plan be prepared, and include the requirement for a post construction noise assessment to confirm compliance with operational noise limits.

The EPA will formulate separate conditions for the environment protection licence to be issued for the project based on the information presented in the EIS and its appendices.

If you have any further enquiries about this matter please contact myself by telephoning 6983 4918 or by electronic mail at info@epa.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



BRIOHNY SEAMAN
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NSW Environment Protection Authority