

Tatsiana Bandaruk
Team Leader – Environmental Assessments
Department of Planning and Environment
C/o Major Projects Portal

RE: Conargo Wind Farm – SSD-70611708 – Draft SEARs – DPI Agriculture Advice

Dear Ms Bandaruk

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the draft SEARs for the above proposal.

NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Agriculture collaborates 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 submitted documentation in relation to the above proposal and is broadly satisfied that agriculture have been addressed in the draft SEARs. The following additional comments are however made:

- The Land Use Conflict Risk Assessment (LUCRA) should include potential conflicts with landowners of the site itself, as well as neighbours, and should be based on direct consultation where possible. It should take note of sensitive agricultural activities such as cropping and livestock breeding, and ways to minimise impacts to these activities should be considered in the final design and management of the project.
- Biosecurity management issues during and post construction must be assessed in relation to potential agricultural impacts (pests, weeds, and emergency animal diseases such as Japanese Encephalitis and Foot and Mouth Disease) including a risk assessment outlining the likely plant, animal, and community risks.
- There should be specific justification for any proposed worker accommodation. The proponent should be aware that the development of extra dwellings on RU1 Primary Production zoned lands remote from towns or villages has the potential to create land use conflicts.
- A Decommissioning and Rehabilitation Management strategy should be prepared which describes the final land use and landform and details how to return the land its **pre-development agricultural productivity potential** at the end of the life of the facility or any component. The plan should detail an expected timeline for the decommissioning and rehabilitation program. Rehabilitation plans for all turbine and infrastructure sites during

and post construction should detail appropriate groundcover management using locally native or otherwise suitable species to limit dust and other land use conflict issues.

Should you require clarification on any of the information contained in this response, please do not hesitate to contact me by email at landuse.ag@dpi.nsw.gov.au.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Milo Kelly', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Milo Kelly

Agricultural Land Use Planning Officer
Soils and Water | Agricultural Land Use Planning
Riverina-Murray Region

22 May 2024

Attachment A: Industry guidelines and resource information

Wind Farms

Title	Website link
Land Use Conflict Risk Assessment Guide	https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/lup/development-assessment2/lucra
Infrastructure Proposals on Rural Land	https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/lup/development-assessment2/infrastructure-proposals
The land and soil capability assessment scheme: second approximation 2012 (OEH)	https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/research-and-publications/publications-search/land-and-soil-capability-assessment-scheme
Australian Soil and Land Survey Handbook (CSIRO)	https://ebooks.publish.csiro.au/content/australian-soil-and-land-survey-field-handbook
Guidelines for Surveying Soil and Land Resources (CSIRO)	https://ebooks.publish.csiro.au/content/guidelines-surveying-soil-and-land-resources
Biosecurity Risk Management in Land Use Planning and Development	https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0018/1271241/managing-biosecurity-risks-in-land-use-planning-and-development-guide.pdf