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Julia Green
Senior Environmental Assessment Officer
Energy Assessments
Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

via Major Projects Planning Portal

**EPA Advice on Environmental Impact Statement for
Dinawan Wind Farm (SSD-50725708).**

Dear Julia,

Thank you for the request for advice from Public Authority Consultation No PAE-73233462 requesting the review by the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) for the proposed construction and operation of the Dinawan Wind Farm within the South West Renewable Energy Zone.

The EPA understands the proposal:

- has a generation capacity of approximately 1.2 GW
- is to be developed within an area of approximately 39,061 hectares (ha), with a project disturbance area of approximately 1,339 ha
- includes two construction stages, each lasting approximately 36 months
- includes the operation of up to 200 Wind Turbine Generators (WTGs)
- expects to operate for up to 35 years with a potential to extend the operational life.

The EPA has reviewed the following information:

- Environmental Impact Statement – Dinawan Wind Farm, EMM consulting, dated June 2024.
- Appendix E.2, Noise Impact Assessment, echo Acoustic Consulting, dated 28 May 2024.
- Appendix E.7, Water Resources Assessment, EMM consulting, dated May 2024.

The EPA has reviewed the information provided and determined that an Environment Protection Licence (EPL) will be required for the scheduled activity of Electricity Generation - electricity works (wind farms).

The Applicant will need to make a separate application to the EPA to obtain this licence and further consultation with the EPA to discuss other possible scheduled activities that may be triggered under the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act* (1997).

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It should be noted that there are several requirements for holders of environment protection licences, including monthly recording and reporting and provision of a financial assurance. The EPA will discuss further with the Applicant at the EPL application stage.

The EPA has the following comments and recommendations.

Noise

The EPA understands that the final project design will likely require micro-siting and height adjustments, which will affect the determination of noise criteria. The EPA recommends that prior to commencement of construction, a revised noise and vibration impact assessment is provided to demonstrate that the final design and final turbine selection is predicted to comply with noise criteria in the *Wind Energy: Noise Assessment Bulletin*. This information may be used to inform licence conditions, including but not limited to noise limits.

Waste

The EPA notes the EIS indicates anticipated volumes of construction and decommissioning waste may exceed the capacity of local waste management facilities. As a result, the EPA recommends Department of Planning Housing and Infrastructure considers the inclusion of a Condition of Consent for the Applicant to prepare and implement a Waste Management Plan to show that the waste will be directed to facilities that can lawfully accept it.

The EPA recommends that if the project is approved, the conditions of consent in **Attachment A** are considered by the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure.

If you have any questions about this request, please contact Alejandro Vesga on 9995 6074 or via email at environmentprotection.planning@epa.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Christopher Marsh
A/Unit Head - Environment Protection Planning
Environment Protection Authority

ATTACHMENT A – Recommended Conditions of Consent

If the proposal is approved, the EPA recommends the following conditions should be considered by the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure:

Noise

1. The Applicant must prepare and provide a revised noise and vibration impact assessment to the Planning Secretary for approval, for the final wind turbine generator model and layout, prior to installation of the wind turbine generators.
The revised noise and vibration assessment must demonstrate, through appropriate modelling and in accordance with the “*Wind Energy: Noise Assessment Bulletin – For State significant wind energy development (DPA/EPA, 2016)*”, that the final wind turbine generator models and layout can meet the limits developed consistent with the “*Wind Energy: Noise Assessment Bulletin – For State significant wind energy development (DPA/EPA, 2016)*”.
The details of any ‘curtailment’ or requirements for wind turbine generators to operate in low noise mode, if required, must be fully presented in the revised noise and vibration impact assessment.
2. Prior to commissioning of the turbines, the Applicant must prepare and implement a Noise Management Plan to manage noise emissions from the operation of the project. The Plan must include, but not necessarily be limited to:
 - a) compliance monitoring within one year of commissioning, in accordance with the “*Wind Energy: Noise Assessment Bulletin – For State significant wind energy development (DPA/EPA, 2016)*” procedures to certify noise.
 - b) identification and implementation of best practice management techniques for minimisation of noise emissions where reasonable and feasible.
 - c) if required, measures to be undertaken to rectify annoying characteristics resulting from the operation of the project such as excessive low frequency noise, excessive tonality or adverse mechanical noise from component failure.
 - d) if required, procedures and corrective actions to be undertaken if non-compliance is detected.
3. A condition requiring that noise from ancillary plant and equipment (e.g. electrical compound(s) and substation(s)) at any residence not associated with the development does not exceed a level of:
 - $L_{eq,15minutes}$ 40dB(A) during the day (7 am to 6 pm Monday to Saturday or 8 am to 6 pm on Sundays and public holidays)
 - $L_{eq,15minutes}$ 35dB(A) during the evening (6pm to 10pm)
 - $L_{eq,15minutes}$ 35dB(A) during the night (remaining periods)

Air Quality

1. Prior to the commencement of the construction activities, the Applicant must develop and implement an Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) to manage air quality emissions, including dust emissions from construction activities. As a minimum, the AQMP must consider the following:
 - a) Objectives
 - b) Risk assessment
 - c) Proactive and reactive mitigation strategies
 - d) Key performance indicator(s) to evaluate the implementation of mitigation strategies
 - e) Monitoring method(s)
 - f) Location, frequency and duration of monitoring

- g) Record keeping
- h) System and performance review for continuous improvement

Water

1. Unless otherwise authorised by an EPL, the Applicant must ensure that none of development stages will cause any water pollution, as defined under Section 120 of the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*.
2. Prior to the commencement of the construction activities, the Applicant must develop and implement a Water Management Plan to manage surface water and groundwater. Consideration must be given but not necessarily limited to mitigation measures included in the Water Resources Assessment (EMM, 2024).
3. The Applicant must:
 - a) ensure that appropriate components of the concrete batching plants and construction sites are suitably bunded.
 - b) ensure that all liquid waste captured on-site is classified, transported, and disposed of at a facility that can lawfully accept the waste.
 - c) minimise any spills of hazardous materials or hydrocarbons and clean up any spills as soon as possible after they occur.

Waste

1. Waste generated during construction, operation, upgrading and decommissioning must be dealt with in accordance with the following priorities:
 - a) waste generation must be avoided and where avoidance is not reasonably practicable, waste generation must be reduced
 - b) where avoiding or reducing waste is not possible, waste must be re-used, recycled, or recovered
 - c) where re-using, recycling or recovering waste is not possible, waste must be treated or disposed of.
2. The importation of waste and storage, treatment, processing, reprocessing or disposal of such waste must comply with the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*, the *Protection of the Environment Operations (Waste) Regulation 2014*, and orders or exemptions under the regulation.
3. Waste must only be exported to a site licensed by the EPA for the storage, treatment, processing, reprocessing or disposal of the subject waste, or in accordance with a Resource Recovery Exemption or Order issued under the *Protection of the Environment Operations (Waste) Regulation 2014*, or to any other place that can lawfully accept such waste.
4. All waste that is removed from site must be classified in accordance with the EPA's Waste Classification Guidelines, with appropriate records and disposal dockets retained for audit purposes.
5. The Applicant shall prepare and implement a Waste and Resource Recovery Management Plan for the project prior to the commencement of operation. This program must:
 - a) be prepared in consultation with EPA, Murrumbidgee Council and Edward River Council
 - b) be approved by the Planning Secretary prior to commencement of operation
 - c) include in the plan:
 - details of the quantity, type and source of waste received
 - details of the quantity, type and quality of the waste produced and their intended fate

- details of the intended fates of all other waste and materials received/produced on site which are not suitable for re-use
- details of any materials produced which will require a specific Resource Recovery Order
- details of any materials produced under a Resource Recovery Order, and the controls/procedures in place for meeting the conditions of that order
- details of any testing/monitoring procedures
- details of how materials segregation will be achieved, particularly the segregation of contaminated soils and resource recovery materials
- The capability of the selected waste management facilities to accept the volumes of waste predicted to be deposited and any associated approvals required to create and/or expand waste storage or disposal facilities
- Any infrastructure that may be required at any waste facilities that are proposed to be created and/or expanded to receive additional volumes of waste from the project.