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Tangaratta Feed Mill - SSD-58801472 - EIS

Dear Pamela

Thank you for your referral of 9 October 2024 and the opportunity to provide advice on the Tangaratta Feed Mill Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

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

The Department has reviewed the EIS and associated documents and notes the proposal is for the construction of a new poultry feed mill with the capacity to produce up to 17,500 tonnes of poultry feed per week on the same site as the current feed mill. This increase in production is to support the projected growth in poultry production within the New England Region.

The Pigs and Poultry team in the Department has also reviewed the project documentation and they specifically note and support the proposed retention and maintenance of the existing feed mill as a contingency for interruptions such as breakdown of the new, larger feed mill. This is considered prudent risk management due to the significant strategic nature of the asset and potential animal welfare implications for poultry in the regional cluster.

However the following matters have been raised and require further information from the proponent:

Issue	Details	Comment
Biosecurity	The mill will support a sizeable poultry network and therefore strong routine biosecurity measures should be implemented to protect the strategic poultry asset.	With the strategic nature of the asset and increased biosecurity risk due to proximity of poultry farms

	There are increased biosecurity risks due to the location of the proposed mill: • The Peel River is located within 1km of the boundary of the property and within 2km of the proposed site. The Peel River is a (mostly) permanent water source for wild birds and waterfowl which pose a biosecurity risk. • The proposed site is also located within 1 km of 3 significant poultry operations. • The mill has contact with numerous poultry facilities through regular truck movements. The proponent has outlined accordance with <u>National biosecurity manual for feed mills</u> and <u>Baiada National Feed Mill Biosecurity Manual</u> which outlines routine measures to mitigate biosecurity risks. The proponent has not indicated if a permanent vehicle disinfection/wash station is to be installed.	and water sources, it is recommended that the proponent install an on-site permanent automated truck wheel wash and disinfection station at entry to the feed mill site with appropriate protocols for routine operation on all trucks entering the site. Ideally, located on the way in to reduce the risk to the feed mill clean. If it is automatic, it will wash all vehicles but specifically targeting trucks and any other high-risk vehicles that have been to any other poultry site (eg. farms, processing plants, etc) and are going to the mill.
Emissions	The <u>NSW EPA climate change policy and action plan</u> supports NSW to achieve net zero by 2050. The <u>chicken meat industry sustainability framework</u> also targets net zero by 2050 in line with government targets with a mention of increased adoption of renewable energy technologies. The proponent has outlined measures to improve energy efficiency however the development will require significant energy use to produce poultry feed at that scale. No on-site renewable energy options, such as solar, have been explored by the Applicant.	It is recommended that the Applicant provide information on how the <u>NSW EPA climate change policy and action plan</u>, <u>chicken meat industry sustainability framework</u> and future market expectations around poultry supply chain emissions have been considered for this development. As such, the applicant should explore on-site renewable energy options for the development.

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

Sincerely

LParker

Lilian Parker
Agricultural Land Use Planning
Signed 25-10-2024