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Department of Planning Housing and Infrastructure
C/o Major Projects Portal

Mt Lambie Wind Farm and BESS SEARs SSD-86097208 - DPIRD Agriculture and Biosecurity Advice

Dear Sir

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

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

It is noted the proposed 20 WTG Wind Farm and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) will be constructed on land zoned RU1 Primary Production and RU2 Rural Landscape, with Land and Soil Capability (LSC) Classes of 5 and 6 with low to moderately low soil fertility. The SEED¹ website shows in Lithgow LGA there is no LSC Class 1 to 3 land, with 8.1% of rural-zoned land being Class 4, 15.5% of rural-zoned land LSC Class 5 and 2.6% LSC Class 6 land. These statistics show that LSC Classes 4-6 are the most productive rural lands, contributing to the \$31.39million Total Gross Value of agricultural commodities produced in 2020-21².

This is mentioned as there is no acknowledgement of agricultural resources, potential or risks in the Scoping Report.

We support the requirement for a Land Use Conflict Risk Assessment (LUCRA) and assessment of agricultural land including soil survey as set out in the draft SEARs. The following comments are provided for inclusions to the draft SEARs:

- Biosecurity management issues during and post construction are 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

¹ <https://geo.seed.nsw.gov.au/>

² [AgTrack - Agricultural and Land Use Dashboard](#)

likely plant, animal, and community risks. The preparation of a Biosecurity Management Plan as part of the EIS is recommended as part of the Construction and Operations Environmental Management Plans. Please refer to the DPI [Biosecurity Risk Management in Land Use Planning and Development Guide](https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0018/1271241/managing-biosecurity-risks-in-land-use-planning-and-development-guide.pdf)³.

- To enable continuation of agricultural activities at the end of the project life, it is our position that site infrastructure be decommissioned to a minimum depth of 500mm where erosion risk is low.
- DPIRD requests inclusion in the 'Land' section of the draft SEARs of monitoring of soil contamination on the project site during operation and commitment to mitigation measures for agriculture where identified.
- Any subdivision of land below the MLS should not result in additional dwelling eligibilities.

The continued availability of land resources for agriculture, whether reliant on biophysical criteria is an important consideration for landscapes with climatic and market advantages in this location.

It should be noted that the draft SEARs template inaccurately cites the DPIRD Land Use Conflict Risk Assessment resource as prepared by the 'Department of Industry' and it is requested this be corrected in subsequent iterations.

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

Sincerely



Nita Scott
Agriculture & Biosecurity
Hunter Region

24 June 2025

³ https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0018/1271241/managing-biosecurity-risks-in-land-use-planning-and-development-guide.pdf