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To: Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

Subject: Submission on Draft SEARs – Four Mile Creek Wind Farm (SSD-100738458)

Dear Planning Secretary,

Cabonne Council appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Draft Planning Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) for the Four Mile Creek Wind Farm. While Council is supportive of renewable energy development, it emphasises the need for a rigorous assessment process and effective mitigation of potential local impacts.

Council supports the inclusion of requirements for a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), including clear strategic justification, a cumulative impact assessment, and a transparent benefit sharing model. Council also requests explicit consideration of the project's compatibility with local planning instruments and the inclusion of a detailed land use conflict risk assessment.

A critical issue for Council is the management of heavy vehicle movements. A detailed Transport Management Plan will be required, along with appropriate road maintenance agreements. The Transport Management Plan should also include a full route analysis for oversize and over mass vehicles.

In addition, the Social Impact Assessment should address potential impacts on workforce accommodation and local community infrastructure. Should any benefitsharing arrangements be proposed, these must be consistent with the *BenefitSharing Guideline (November 2024)* and ensure transparent outcomes for the Cabonne community.

Council also expects early, and ongoing consultation in line with the *Undertaking Engagement Guidelines for State Significant Projects (May 2024)*, as well as enforceable commitments for mitigation, monitoring, and community engagement.

Cabonne Council looks forward to continued engagement throughout the assessment process.

Yours faithfully,

Rhassel Mhasho

DEPARTMENT LEADER – DEVELOPMENT SERVICES