

Ms Rachel O'Hara
Department of Planning Housing and Infrastructure
C/o Major Projects Portal

rachel.ohara@dpie.nsw.gov.au

Four Mile Creek Wind Farm –SSD- 100738458 (Cabonne Shire Council/Orange City Council)
DPIRD Agriculture and Biosecurity Advice

Dear Ms O'Hara

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the draft SEARs for the above proposal. We have reviewed the Scoping Report provided, *Four Mile Creek Wind Farm, Final*, Umwelt Australia dated November 2025 (V4).

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.

The proposed 157.5MW Wind Farm comprising 21 x 270m high Wind Turbine Generators (WTGs) will be established on land predominantly zoned RU3 Forestry being the Canobolas State Forest, approximately 7km south west of the city of Orange. The 80ha development corridor includes soils mapped as Land and Soil Capability Class 3 which is also mapped draft State Significant Agricultural Land and Biophysical Strategic Agricultural Land (BSAL). A transmission line traverses the southern portion of the project site, across LSC Class 3 and 4 land.

Potential risks to surrounding agricultural production emanating from the project site include biosecurity breach, soil erosion, water quality, bushfire risk and land use conflict. The requirement for a Land Use Conflict Risk Assessment (LUCRA) and agricultural land assessment including soil survey as set out in the draft SEARs is supported.

The following is provided for inclusion in the issued SEARs:

- Biosecurity management issues (beyond biodiversity concerns) during and post construction must be assessed in relation to potential agricultural impacts (pests, weeds, and emergency animal diseases) including a risk assessment outlining the 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

(C/OMPs). Please refer to DPI's Biosecurity Risk Management in Land Use Planning and Development Guide¹.

- It is recommended that any subdivision required as part of the project does not result in additional dwelling eligibilities on adjoining rural zoned land.

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 | Agricultural Land Use Planning
Central West Region

15 January 2026

¹ https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0018/1271241/managing-biosecurity-risks-in-land-use-planning-and-development-guide.pdf