



NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service

Your ref: SSD- 100738458
Our ref: DOC25/1052969

Ms Rachel O'Hara
Team Leader Planning
Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

By email: rachel.ohara@dpie.nsw.gov.au

Dear Ms O'Hara

Thank you for giving the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) the opportunity to review documentation for the proposed Four Mile Creek Wind Farm (SSD-100738458) and inviting us to provide input into the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs).

The proposal is adjacent to Mount Canobolas State Conservation Area (SCA), which is land reserved under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW Act). The site is also in the vicinity of Barton Nature Reserve, which is located approximately 8km northwest.

Access to land reserved under the NPW Act by the proponent to conduct any survey, or environmental investigation to inform the overall preparation of the EIS must seek prior consent from the relevant NPWS Area Manager.

NPWS has reviewed the Scoping Report, and has prepared SEARs which are presented in **Attachment A**.

If you have any further questions, please contact the NPWS CWA via npws.centralwest@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Fiona BUCHANAN
Manager, Central West Area
West Branch, Park Operations.
NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service

16 December 2025

Attachment A – NPWS recommended SEARs (SSD-100738458)

1. The EIS must identify and assess:
 - a. In the case of a project that adjoins, is in the immediate vicinity of, or upstream of land reserved under the NPW Act, ensure the matters outlined in the [Developments adjacent to National Parks and Wildlife Service lands - Guidelines for consent and planning authorities \(DPIE 2020\)](#) are adequately considered and include:
 - i. recognition of the natural, cultural and social values attached to that land
 - ii. recognition of the impacts, including direct, indirect and cumulative impacts as they relate to the environmental values of that land, its location, and greater landscape connectivity
 - iii. extent of the direct, indirect and cumulative impacts on that land
 - iv. duration of the direct, indirect and cumulative impacts on the interface, the greater environmental values and the reserves connectivity in the landscape to other reserved land.
 - b. Measures proposed to prevent, control, abate, minimise and manage the direct and indirect impacts including an evaluation of the proposed measures effectiveness and reliability over the life of the project.
 - c. Acknowledgement that noise levels above 40dB(A) has the potential to impact on wildlife occupying NPWS estate. Areas of park are to be treated as a 'sensitive receiver' for the purposes of noise level management. If exceedance occurs, impacts on biodiversity values will need to be assessed in more detail.
 - d. Risks and increased restrictions imposed to land management operations undertaken by NPWS as a result of the proposed windfarm project, especially in the use of low flight aircraft for aerial pest baiting, weed spraying, firefighting, hazard reduction and search and rescue purposes. Justify compliance with Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) regulations.
 - e. Bushfire protection requirements attached to the proposed windfarm project ensuring they are restricted to the development site, and all ignition threats relating to the project are identified and planned for within the confines of the development site. No fire management is to affect, burden or threaten land that is reserved under Part 4 of the NPW Act.
 - f. Identification of any interference to the functionality and operation of telecommunication systems used by NPWS and establishment of a working relationship with NPWS to effectively resolve any communication issues with RF links or mobile radio through the life of the project.
 - g. Residual impacts and their significance subject to the protection and conservation of land that is reserved under Part 4 of the NPW Act.
 - h. Be prepared in consultation with NPWS with initial contact to be made via npws.centralwest@environment.nsw.gov.au.