APPENDIX B
AGENCY RESPONSE TO SCOPING REPORT

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In preparing the SEARs, the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment consulted with key agencies and stakeholders to provide feedback on the potential issues that should be considered by the EIS. A brief overview of the comments received and where they are addressed in the EIS is provided in **Table A-1.** Copies of the agency letters are included below.

Table A-1: Summary of agency comments on the scoping report and where issues have been addressed

Issues summary	Where addressed
Biodiversity and Conservation Division	
Biodiversity 1. Biodiversity impacts related to the proposed Valley of the Winds Wind Farm are to be assessed in accordance with Section 7.9 of the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2017 the Biodiversity Assessment Method and documented in a Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR). The BDAR must include information in the form detailed in the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (s6.12), *Biodiversity Conservation Regulation 2017* (s6.8) and Biodiversity Assessment Method, unless the Department determine that the proposed development is not likely to have any significant impacts on biodiversity values. 2. The BDAR must document the application of the avoid, minimise and offset framework including assessing all direct, indirect and prescribed impacts in accordance with the Biodiversity Assessment Method. 3. The BDAR must include details of the measures proposed to address the offset obligation as follows; • The total number and classes of biodiversity credits required to be retired for the development/project; • The number and classes of like-for-like biodiversity credits proposed to be retired; • The number and classes of biodiversity credits proposed to be retired in accordance with the variation rules; • Any proposal to fund a biodiversity conservation action; • Any proposal to conduct ecological rehabilitation (if a mining project); • Any proposal to make a payment to the Biodiversity Conservation Fund. • If seeking approval to use the variation rules, the BDAR must contain details of the reasonable steps that have been taken to obtain requisite like-for-like biodiversity credits. 4. The BDAR must be submitted with all spatial data associated with the survey and assessment as per Appendix 11 of the BAM.	**Chapter 8** and **Appendix G**

Issues summary	Where addressed
5. The BDAR must be prepared by a person accredited in accordance with the Accreditation Scheme for the Application of the Biodiversity Assessment Method Order 2017 under s6.10 of the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016.	
Aboriginal cultural heritage 6. The EIS must identify and describe the Aboriginal cultural heritage values that exist across the whole area that will be affected by the Valley of the Winds Wind Farm and document these in an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR). This may include the need for surface survey and test excavation. The identification of cultural heritage values must be conducted in accordance with the Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigations of Aboriginal Objects in NSW (OEH 2010), and guided by the Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW (DECCW, 2011) and consultation with BCD regional branch officers. 7. Consultation with Aboriginal people must be undertaken and documented in accordance with the Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010 (DECCW). The significance of cultural heritage values for Aboriginal people who have a cultural association with the land must be documented in the ACHAR. 8. Impacts on Aboriginal cultural heritage values are to be assessed and documented in the ACHAR. The ACHAR must demonstrate attempts to avoid impact upon cultural heritage values and identify any conservation outcomes. Where impacts are unavoidable, the ACHAR must outline measures proposed to mitigate impacts. Any objects recorded as part of the assessment must be documented and notified to BCD.	**Chapter 11** and **Appendix N**
Water and soils 9. The EIS must map the following features relevant to water and soils including: a. Acid sulfate soils (Class 1, 2, 3 or 4 on the Acid Sulfate Soil Planning Map). b. Rivers, streams, wetlands, estuaries (as described in s4.2 of the Biodiversity Assessment Method). c. Wetlands as described in s4.2 of the Biodiversity Assessment Method. d. Groundwater. e. Groundwater dependent ecosystems. f. Proposed intake and discharge locations. 10. The EIS must describe background conditions for any water resource likely to be affected by the Valley of the Winds Wind Farm, including: a. Existing surface and groundwater.	**Chapter 13**

Issues summary	Where addressed
b. Hydrology, including volume, frequency and quality of discharges at proposed intake and discharge locations. c. Water Quality Objectives (as endorsed by the NSW Government http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/ieo/index.htm) including groundwater as appropriate that represent the community's uses and values for the receiving waters. d. Indicators and trigger values/criteria for the environmental values identified at (c) in accordance with the ANZECC (2000) Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality and/or local objectives, criteria or targets endorsed by the NSW Government. e. Risk-based Framework for Considering Waterway Health Outcomes in Strategic Land-use Planning Decisions. 11. The EIS must assess the impacts of the Valley of the Winds Wind Farm on water quality, including: a. The nature and degree of impact on receiving waters for both surface and groundwater, demonstrating how the Valley of the Winds Wind Farm protects the Water Quality Objectives where they are currently being achieved, and contributes towards achievement of the Water Quality Objectives over time where they are currently not being achieved. This should include an assessment of the mitigating effects of proposed stormwater and wastewater management during and after construction. b. Identification of proposed monitoring of water quality. 12. The EIS must assess the impact of the Valley of the Winds Wind Farm on hydrology, including: a. Water balance including quantity, quality and source. b. Effects to downstream rivers, wetlands, estuaries, marine waters and floodplain areas. c. Effects to downstream water-dependent fauna and flora including groundwater dependent ecosystems. d. Impacts to natural processes and functions within rivers, wetlands, estuaries and floodplains that affect river system and landscape health such as nutrient flow, aquatic connectivity and access to habitat for spawning and refuge (e.g. river benches). e. Changes to environmental water availability, both regulated/licensed and unregulated/rules-based sources of such water. f. Mitigating effects of proposed stormwater and wastewater management during and after construction on hydrological attributes such as volumes, flow rates, management methods and re-use options. g. Identification of proposed monitoring of hydrological attributes.	

Issues summary	Where addressed
Flooding 13. The EIS must map the following features relevant to flooding as described in the Floodplain Development Manual 2005 (NSW Government 2005) including: a. Flood prone land. b. Flood planning area, the area below the flood planning level. c. Hydraulic categorisation (floodways and flood storage areas). d. Flood hazard 14. The EIS must describe flood assessment and modelling undertaken in determining the design flood levels for events, including a minimum of the 5% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP), 1% AEP, flood levels and the probable maximum flood, or an equivalent extreme event. 15. The EIS must model the effect of the proposed Valley of the Winds Wind Farm (including fill) on the flood behaviour under the following scenarios: a. Current flood behaviour for a range of design events as identified in 14 above. This includes the 0.5% and 0.2% AEP year flood events as proxies for assessing sensitivity to an increase in rainfall intensity of flood producing rainfall events due to climate change. 16. Modelling in the EIS must consider and document: a. Existing council flood studies in the area and examine consistency to the flood behaviour documented in these studies. b. The impact on existing flood behaviour for a full range of flood events including up to the probable maximum flood, or an equivalent extreme flood. c. Impacts of the development on flood behaviour resulting in detrimental changes in potential flood affection of other developments or land. This may include redirection of flow, flow velocities, flood levels, hazard categories and hydraulic categories. d. Relevant provisions of the NSW Floodplain Development Manual 2005. 17. The EIS must assess the impacts on the proposed Valley of the Winds Wind Farm on flood behaviour, including: a. Whether there will be detrimental increases in the potential flood affectation of other properties, assets and infrastructure. b. Consistency with Council floodplain risk management plans. c. Consistency with any Rural Floodplain Management Plans. d. Compatibility with the flood hazard of the land.	**Chapter 13**

Issues summary	Where addressed
e. Compatibility with the hydraulic functions of flow conveyance in floodways and storage in flood storage areas of the land. f. Whether there will be adverse effect to beneficial inundation of the floodplain environment, on, adjacent to or downstream of the site. g. Whether there will be direct or indirect increase in erosion, siltation, destruction of riparian vegetation or a reduction in the stability of river banks or watercourses. h. Any impacts the development may have upon existing community emergency management arrangements for flooding. These matters are to be discussed with the NSW SES and Council. i. Whether the proposal incorporates specific measures to manage risk to life from flood. These matters are to be discussed with the NSW SES and Council. j. Emergency management, evacuation and access, and contingency measures for the development considering the full range or flood risk (based upon the probable maximum flood or an equivalent extreme flood event). These matters are to be discussed with and have the support of Council and the NSW SES. k. Any impacts the development may have on the social and economic costs to the community as consequence of flooding.	
Transport for NSW	
The applicant should clarify whether Cowper Street (Council local road) or Elizabeth Street (Regional road 7772) is intended to be used for haulage between Bourke and Hannell Streets.	**Chapter 9** and **Appendix H**
This proposal including the nominated haulage route and transmission line traverses various TfNSW regions and subsequently requires cross-regional and various inter-departmental reviews. This includes the rail corridor impact assessment which will be undertaken via TfNSW Customer Strategy and Technology team. TfNSW West Region will manage the coordination of all relevant TfNSW responses to this proposal throughout the various stages.	**N/A**
The capabilities of the specific transport vehicles (contractors) selected to convey Over-Size Over-Mass (OSOM) loads such as the wind blades, tower and transformer components will have a significant influence on the extent of road upgrades required to safely convey the loads along the entire haulage route to the sites. In preparing the Transport Logistics Assessment accompanying the EIS: • For the wind turbine blades, include consideration of using special-purpose Hydraulic Lifting trucks. These vehicles may provide significant time and cost savings by negating the need for civil works along the road network to cater for the long wheelbase and tail overhang constraints of traditional	**Appendix H**

Issues summary	Where addressed
OSOM blade transport trucks, by allowing the blade to be lifted above horizontal and/or slewed during transport. • The minimum specifications for each of the logistics vehicles to be used should be de-risked early to avoid unnecessary civil works. Details are to be provided with the SSD application including key vehicle dimensions such as – Maximum blade length, – Maximum blade overhang length, – Minimum overhang heights above the road surface, – Wheelbase dimensions, – Minimum mid-wheelbase height clearance, – Maximum load widths, – Maximum load heights (clearance to overhead obstructions such as structures, utilities and vegetation), – Maximum trailer articulation angle(s), – Axle loads and axle group loads in terms of both tonnes and Equivalent Standard Axles (refer to Austroads Guide to Pavement Technology). • Due to the significant scope of the logistics assessment and high potential that route changes may be necessary, a multi-stage approach is supported by TfNSW. A concept-level route analysis is to be provided at the SSD application stage based on high-level 3D swept path analysis to generally indicate locations where civil works are likely to be required. A full engineered detailed design along the route based on full 3D swept path analysis is to be referred to TfNSW for concurrence under Section 138 of the Roads Act 1993 prior to commencement of construction. • The logistics assessment is to highlight each at-risk road structure that the haulage route crosses including bridges, major culverts, and minor culverts that may not meet the desirable cover to cater for proposed axle loads. • The design vehicle templates used with the swept path analysis software are also requested in order for TfNSW to review the performance within the software (e.g. Autodesk Vehicle Tracking or Transoft AutoTURN).	
If approved, around 10 OSOM loads per wind turbine could equate to some 1750 OSOM movements over the 24 to 42-month construction program. Considering this and other wind farm projects nearby, cumulative impacts on the network generally, and TfNSW construction projects along the route may be significant. Disruption of works will need to be minimised in particular for the TfNSW New England Highway – Belford to Golden Highway project, and the Golden Highway – Mudies Creek and Whittingham	**Chapter 9, Chapter 18** and **Appendix H**

Issues summary	Where addressed
project. Consultation with project staff will be needed to identify modifications to temporary traffic management measures (e.g. signage and barriers) due to the swept path of loads. The Belford to Golden Highway Project has considered similar wind farm OSOM loads already.	
The capacity of the road network may also be reduced due to the frequency and volume of OSOM movements. Scheduling outside of peak periods and key project traffic control periods may be necessary, with possible OSOM prohibition periods (e.g. hours to days).	**Chapter 9** and **Appendix H**
In terms of approval of physical works, Section 7 of the Roads Act 1993 provides that Council is the roads authority for all public roads (including classified roads) other than freeways or Crown roads. The consent of each roads authority to the detailed design within their jurisdiction will need to be obtained under Section 138 of the Roads Act. Similarly, concurrence to the detailed design is to be obtained from TfNSW with respect to any classified (State or Regional) roads. Design details for the proposed high voltage transmission lines are also to be provided for concurrence by TfNSW where they cross classified roads.	**Section 3.3, Section 3.4, Chapter 9** and **Appendix H**
While temporary direct access(es) to classified roads may be supported for delivery of OSOM components to site, the provisions of Section 101 of the State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) (Infrastructure) 2007 are highlighted and require access to be provided by a road other than a classified road, where practicable and safe. Whether a road intersection is temporary or permanent, it will need to safely cater for the likely traffic in accordance with current standards (including the Austroads Guide to Road Design). Where required for safety, TfNSW may condition such intersection improvements to be completed before significant onsite construction activities can begin.	**Chapter 9** and **Appendix H**
In addition to the general advice provided below, the Transport Impact Assessment (TIA) is to detail the time-schedule and sequence of the various vehicle types and volumes associated with any proposed development (temporary or permanent) including construction offices, workers' accommodation, concrete batch plant and operation and maintenance facility.	**Chapter 9** and **Appendix H**
For offsite sources of materials such as quarries or water sources, inclusion of any proposed material transport activities should form part of the TIA.	**Appendix H**
The impact assessment will need to address the relevant rail provisions of the SEPP (Infrastructure) 2007 and provide technical documentation in support of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). During the preparation of the EIS, the applicant is encouraged to consult with TfNSW and John Holland Rail (TfNSW' Agent appointed to manage and operate the TfNSW Country Regional Network) to determine relevant technical documentation required.	**Appendix H**

Issues summary	Where addressed
In relation to OSOM vehicle permits and access, it is recommended the applicant also engage with the TfNSW Special Permits Unit / OSOM Access Unit via https://myrta.com/osp/ or by email to special_permits_unit@rms.nsw.gov.au or phone on 1300 656 371.	**Chapter 5**
Clarify which haulage route upgrades should be retained in the long-term to enable delivery or disposal of future OSOM components to and from site as part of maintenance or renewal of the wind farm assets.	**Appendix H**
TfNSW requests the EIS be supported by a Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA) prepared by a suitably qualified person in accordance with the Austroads Guide to Traffic Management Part 12, the TfNSW Supplements to Austroads and the RTA Guide to Traffic Generating Developments. The TIA is to address the following. • Project schedule: – Hours and days of work, number of shifts and start and end times, – Phases and stages of the project, including construction, operation and decommissioning, • Traffic volumes: – Existing background traffic, – Project-related traffic for each phase or stage of the project, – Projected cumulative traffic during construction, at commencement of operation, and a 10-year horizon post-commencement, • Traffic characteristics: – Number and ratio of heavy vehicles to light vehicles, – Peak times for existing traffic, – Peak times for project-related traffic including commuter periods, – Proposed hours for transportation and haulage, – Interactions between existing and project-related traffic, • A description of all over size and over mass vehicles and the materials to be transported • The origins, destinations and routes for: – Commuter (employee and contractor) light vehicles and pool vehicles, – Heavy (haulage) vehicles, – Over size and over mass vehicles, • Road safety assessment of key haulage route/s,	**Chapter 9** and **Appendix H**

Issues summary	Where addressed
• The impact of traffic generation on the public road network and measures employed to ensure traffic efficiency and road safety during construction, operation and decommissioning of the project, • The need for improvements to the road network, and the improvements proposed such as road widening and intersection treatments, to cater for and mitigate the impact of project related traffic, • Proposed road facilities, access and intersection treatments are to be identified and be in accordance with Austroads Guide to Road Design including provision of Safe Intersection Sight Distance (SISD), • Local climate conditions that may affect road safety during the life of the project (e.g. fog, wet and dry weather, icy road conditions), • The layout of the internal road network, parking facilities and infrastructure, • Impact on rail corridors and level crossings detailing any proposed interface treatments, • Impact on public transport (public and school bus routes) and consideration for alternative transport modes such as walking and cycling, • Identification and assessment of potential impacts of the project, such as blasting, lighting, visual, noise, dust and drainage on the function and integrity of all affected public roads, • Controls for transport and use of any dangerous goods in accordance with State Environmental Planning Policy No. 33 – Hazardous and Offensive Development, the Australian Dangerous Goods Code and Australian Standard 4452 Storage and Handling of Toxic Substances, • Propose a Traffic Management Plan (TMP) to be developed following approval of the EIS, in consultation with relevant Councils and TfNSW. The TMP would need to identify strategies to manage the impacts of project related traffic, including any community consultation measures for peak haulage periods. • Propose a Driver Code of Conduct for haulage operations which could include, but not be limited to: – Safety initiatives for haulage through residential areas and/or school zones. – An induction process for vehicle operators and regular toolbox meetings. – A public complaint resolution and disciplinary procedure.	
Department of Primary Industries – Agriculture	
Site suitable for development • Include a map to scale showing the above operational and infrastructure details including separation distances from sensitive receptors.	**Figure 4-2** to **Figure 4-4** and **Figure 6-4**
Consideration for impacts to agricultural resources and land	**Section 17-1**

Issues summary	Where addressed
• Describe the current and potential Important Agriculture Land on the proposed development site and surrounding locality including the land capability and agricultural productivity. • Demonstrate that all significant impacts on current and potential agricultural developments and resources can be reasonably avoided or adequately mitigated. • Consider possible cumulative effects to agricultural enterprises and landholders as well as costing the forgone production over the life of the project. • Outline strategies to manage impact of agricultural aerial spraying in the area. • Outline details of potential landuse sharing with agriculture, such as agrovoltaics or grazing.	
Biosecurity Standards met • Include a biosecurity (pests, weeds and disease) risk assessment outlining the likely plant, animal and community risks. • Develop a biosecurity response plan to deal with identified risks as well as contingency plans for any failures. Including monitoring and mitigation measures in weed, disease and pest management plans.	**Section 17.1**
Suitable traffic movements • Consideration of the route for movements needs to be taken into account so that impacts on sensitive receptors are minimised (eg noise, dust, volume of traffic). This should include consideration of Travelling Stock Reserves (TSR) and the movement of livestock or farm vehicles along / across the affected roads.	**Chapter 9** and **Section 17.1**
Land stewardship met • Trenching through sodic soils during construction must include soil amendment with gypsum at a minimum rate of 10t/ha with actual rates to be determined following soil testing (Clay content, ECEC and EC). This is to be detailed in a construction management plan. It will also be useful for final decommissioning activities. • Undertake a preliminary desktop assessment of available soil and other relevant information and mapping to help inform a targeted soil survey. Soil conditions on a topographic representation to be determined prior to works commencing as a benchmark for construction and rehabilitation for both the wind farm turbine sites and transmission line option. • If the site is to be returned back to agricultural use, develop a draft Rehabilitation and Decommissioning/Closure Management Plan that outlines the rehabilitation objectives and strategies to its pre-project status. This includes, but is not limited to removing all above and below ground infrastructure, describing the design criteria of the final landuse and landform, indicators to be used	**Section 17.1**

Issues summary	Where addressed
to guide the return of the land back to agricultural production, along with the expected timeline for the rehabilitation program.	
Adequate consultation with community • Consult with the owners / managers of affected and adjoining neighbours and agricultural operations in a timeline and appropriate manner about; the proposal, the likely impacts and suitable mitigation measures or compensations. • Establish a complaints register that includes reporting and investigating procedures and timelines, and liaison with Council in relation to complaint issues.	**Chapter 5**
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) Water and the Natural Resources Access Regulator (NRAR)	
<u>The SEARs should include:</u> • A description of the watercourses located within the vicinity of the development, including Strahler Stream Order as mapped by Spatial Services NS, and appropriate riparian setbacks in accordance with the Guidelines for riparian corridors on waterfront land. (http://www.water.nsw.gov.au/ data/assets/pdf_file/0004/547222/licensing_approvals_ controlled_activities_riparian_corridors.pdf). • Details of water supply requirements and arrangements for the life of the project (both construction and operation); • An assessment of the likely impacts (including flooding) on surface water and groundwater resources* and measures proposed to monitor, reduce and mitigate these impacts; • A description of erosion and sediment control measures to mitigate any impacts in accordance with Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils & Construction (Landcom 2004); • The proponent documents and addresses any sedimentation issues, through the development of an Erosion and Sediment Control Plan, in consultation with DPIE Water. • Consideration of any relevant legislation, policies and guidelines, including the NSW Aquifer Interference Policy (2012), the Guidelines for Controlled Activities on Waterfront Land (2018) and the relevant Water Sharing Plans (available at https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water). * These water resources may include local streams/creeks, drainage channels, wetlands, riparian land, farm dams, floodplains, key fish habitat, groundwater dependent ecosystems and acid sulfate soils), related infrastructure, adjacent licensed water users and basic landholder rights.	**Chapter 13**

Issues summary	Where addressed
Heritage Council of NSW	
The subject site is not listed on the State Heritage Register (SHR), nor is it in the immediate vicinity of any SHR items. Further, the site does not contain any known historical archaeological deposits. Therefore, no referral to the Heritage Council of NSW is required. The Department does not need to refer subsequent stages of this proposal to the Heritage Council of NSW. Heritage NSW worked closely with DPIE in 2019 to establish criteria identifying when an SSD or SSI project should be referred to the Heritage Council. You can find the referral criteria here: http://pecan.planning.nsw.gov.au/teams/assessment- practices/SitePages/Assessment%20Matters.aspx (see 31 October 2019). This will assist you in understanding when the Heritage Council is likely to have an interest in any state significant projects.	**Chapter 12**
NSW Department of Regional NSW – Mining, Exploration and Geoscience	
MEG requests the following project-specific requirements to be addressed in the EIS: • The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) must include a dated mineral, coal and petroleum titles and applications search through the MEG MinView application, with results shown on a map(s) including the location and extent of the project site and any electricity transmission infrastructure and transmission lines. Current mining and exploration titles and applications can be viewed at: http://www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/miners-and- explorers/geoscienceinformation/services/online-services/minview. • The proponent must consult with all affected title holders. This should include a letter of notification of the proposal to the title holders including a map indicating the wind farm proposal area (including associated electricity transmission infrastructure) in relation to the title boundaries. • MEG specifically requires the proponent to check for new mineral and energy titles that may be granted in the vicinity of the subject site (including areas proposed for electricity transmission infrastructure and transmission lines) during all decision-making stages of the project to ensure that other stakeholders (such as title holders) with interest in the area are aware of the wind farm project. • MEG requests to be consulted in relation to the proposed location of any biodiversity offset areas (both on and off site) or any supplementary biodiversity measures to ensure there is no consequent reduction in access to prospective land for mineral exploration, or potential for sterilisation of mineral or extractive resources.	**Chapter 5** and **Section 17.1**
Environment Protection Authority	

Issues summary	Where addressed
1. Environmental impacts of the project 1. The EIS must address the requirements of Section 45 of the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* (POEO Act) by determining the extent of each impact and providing enough information for the EPA to determine appropriate conditions, limits and monitoring requirements for an Environment Protection Licence. 2. Impacts related to the following environmental issues need to be assessed, quantified and reported on: • **Air quality** including dust generated during construction and the operation and its impacts on the surrounding landscape and community; • **Noise and vibration impacts** associated with blasting, construction noise and operational noise particularly wind turbine and substation operation; • **Waste, chemicals and hazardous materials**. Consideration needs to be given to disposal options for general waste, sanitary waste as well as appropriate storage and use of chemicals and hazardous materials, where relevant; and • **Water and Soils** including a site water balance and sediment and erosion controls during construction and operation phases. The EIS must address the specific requirements outlined under each heading below and assess impacts in accordance with the relevant guidelines mentioned.	**Chapter 7, Chapter 13, Chapter 14** and **Section 17.2**
2. Licensing requirements 1. The development is a scheduled activity under the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 (POEO Act) and will therefore require an Environment Protection Licence if approval is granted. 2. Should project approval be granted, the proponent will need to apply for its Environment Protection Licence prior to undertaking any on site works. Additional information is available through the EPA Guide to Licensing (www.epa.nsw.gov.au/licensing/licenceguide.htm).	**Section 3.4**
3. Air issues The EIS must demonstrate the proposal's ability to comply with the relevant regulatory framework, specifically the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* and the *Protection of the Environment Operations (Clean Air) Regulation 2010* (the "Clean Air Regulation"). 1. The EIS must include an air quality impact assessment (AQIA). 2. The AQIA must be carried out in accordance with the Approved Methods for the Modelling and Assessment of Air Pollutants in NSW (2016), available at https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/-	**Section 17.2**

Issues summary	Where addressed
/media/epa/corporate-site/resources/air/approved-methods-for-modelling-and-assessment-of-air-pollutants-in-nsw-160666.pdf. 3. The EIS must detail emission control techniques and practices that will be employed at the site and identify how the proposed control techniques and practices will meet the requirements of the POEO Act, Clean Air Regulation and associated air quality limits or guideline criteria.	
4. Noise and Vibration The EIS must assess the following noise and vibration aspects of the proposed development: 1. Wind turbine noise must be assessed in accordance with the NSW Wind Energy Policy: Noise Assessment Bulletin (DPE 2016), available at: https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/-/media/Files/DPE/Bulletins-and-Community-Updates/wind-energynoise-assessment-bulletin-2016-12.pdf. 2. Construction noise associated with the proposed development should be assessed using the Interim Construction Noise Guideline (DECC 2009), available at: https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/your-environment/noise/industrial-noise/interim-construction-noise-guideline. 3. Vibration from all activities (including construction and operation) to be undertaken on the premises should be assessed using the guidelines contained in Assessing Vibration: a technical guideline (DEC 2006), available at: http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/noise/vibrationguide.htm. 4. If blasting is required for any reason during the construction or operation of the project, blast impacts should be demonstrated to be capable of complying with the guidelines contained in Australian and New Zealand Environment Council – Technical basis for guidelines to minimise annoyance due to blasting overpressure and ground vibration (ANZEC 1990).These are available at: https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/-/media/epa/corporate-site/resources/noise/anzecblasting.pdf 5. Operational noise from all industrial activities to be undertaken on the premises, including private haul roads and private rail lines, should be assessed using the guidelines contained in the NSW Noise Policy for Industry (EPA 2017), available at: https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/your-environment/noise/industrial-noise/noise-policy-for-industry-(2017). 6. Noise on public roads from increased road traffic generated by land use developments should be assessed using the guidelines contained in the NSW Road Noise Policy (EPA 2011) and associated application notes, available at: https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/your-environment/noise/transport-noise.	**Chapter 7**
5. Waste, chemicals and hazardous materials 1. The EIS must assess all aspects of waste generation, management and disposal associated with the proposed development.	**Chapter 14**

Issues summary	Where addressed
2. The EIS must demonstrate compliance with all regulatory requirements outlined in the POEO Act and associated waste regulations. 3. The EIS must identify, characterise and classify the following in accordance with the EPA's Waste Classification Guidelines (2014) and associated addendums: (i) all waste that will be generated onsite through excavation, demolition or construction activities, including proposed quantities of the waste; (ii) all waste that is proposed to be disposed of to an offsite location, including proposed quantities of the waste and the disposal locations for the waste. This includes waste that is intended for re-use or recycling. Note: The EPA's Waste Classification Guidelines (2014) and associated addendums are available at: https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/your-environment/waste/classifying-waste. 4. The EIS must outline contingency plans for any event that may result in environmental harm, such as excessive stockpiling of material, or dirty water volumes exceeding the storage capacity available on-site. 5. The EIS must demonstrate that appropriate spill containment will be provided for storage, filling and loading of all fuels and other chemicals to be used on site, in accordance with the relevant Australian Standard.	
6. Water 1. The EIS must demonstrate how the proposed development will meet the requirements of section 120 of the POEO Act (prohibition of pollution of waters). 2. The EIS must include a water balance for the development including water requirements (quantity, quality and source(s)) and proposed storm and wastewater disposal, including type, volumes, proposed treatment and management methods and re-use options. 3. If the proposed development intends to discharge waters to the environment, the EIS must demonstrate how the discharge(s) will be managed in terms of water quantity, quality and frequency of discharge and include an impact assessment of the discharge on the receiving environment. This should include: • Description of the proposal including position of any intakes and discharges, volumes, water quality and frequency of all water discharges. • Description of the receiving waters including upstream and downstream groundwater and surface water quality, as well as any other water users. • Demonstration that all practical options to avoid discharge have been implemented and environmental impact minimised where discharge is necessary.	**Chapter 13**

Issues summary	Where addressed
4. The EIS must refer to Water Quality Objectives for the receiving waters and indicators and associated trigger values or criteria for the identified environmental values of the receiving environment. This information should be sourced from the: a. NSW Water Quality and River Flow Objectives (2006), available at: https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/ieo/ b. Australian and New Zealand Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality (2018) for all uses except primary industries, available at: https://www.waterquality.gov.au/anz-guidelines, and c. Australian and New Zealand Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality (ANZECC & ARMCANZ 2000) for primary industries uses, available at: https://www.waterquality.gov.au/anz-guidelines/resources/previous-guidelines/anzecc-armcanz-2000. 5. The EIS must assess impacts against the relevant Water Quality Objectives. Demonstrate how the proposal will be designed and operated to: a. protect the Water Quality Objectives for receiving waters where they are currently achieved; and b. contribute towards achievement of the Water Quality Objectives over time where they are not currently being achieved. 6. Where a discharge is proposed that includes a mixing zone, the EIS must demonstrate: a. how discharges will ensure the relevant criteria and objectives are met at the edge of the discharge's initial mixing zone, and b. that any impacts in the initial mixing zone are reversible. 7. The EIS must describe how stormwater will be managed in all phases of the project, including details of how stormwater and runoff will be managed to minimise pollution. Information should include measures to be implemented to minimise erosion, leachate and sediment mobilisation at the site. The EIS should consider the guidelines Managing urban stormwater: soils and construction, vol. 1 (Landcom 2004) and vol. 2 (A. Installation of services; C. Unsealed roads; D. Main Roads; E. Mines and quarries) (DECC 2008). These guidelines are available at: https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/research-and-publications/publications-search/managing-urban-stormwater-soils-and-construction-volume-1-4th-edition. 8. The EIS must describe any water quality monitoring programs to be carried out at the project site. Water quality monitoring should be undertaken in accordance with the Approved Methods for the Sampling and Analysis of Water Pollutants in New South Wales (2004) which is available at: https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/-/media/epa/corporate-site/resources/water/approvedmethods-water.pdf.	

Issues summary	Where addressed
Mid-Western Regional Council	
Transport The scoping report indicates that the majority of components for the wind farm development will be transported from Newcastle to the project site via the Golden Highway (ie. not through the Mid-Western Region). However, the scoping report does not indicate the proposed source of other materials that may be required during construction, such as sand, gravel, water etc. Council requests that a full traffic study be undertaken as part of the EIS which details traffic routes, traffic volumes, vehicle sizes/loads and timing of deliveries during construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the proposed project. The proponent is requested to specifically consider any components for transmission infrastructure or raw materials that may be transported through or sourced from the Mid- Western Region during construction and the proposed traffic movements and route associated with the supply of the relevant components or materials. This will allow Council to identify any potential impacts on the local road network during construction.	**Chapter 9** and **Appendix H**
Construction Workforce The scoping report indicates that the construction workforce will involve approximately 400 workers for a period of up to 42 months. Further, the scoping report indicates that the construction workforce will be located within the Coolah area either in existing housing or workers' accommodation onsite. In this case, Council does not have any concerns regarding the accommodation requirements for the project. If there is a possibility that the project may need to utilise accommodation in the wider area (ie. within the towns of Mudgee and Gulgong), Council requests that the proponent provide sufficient details regarding the construction phase of the project to be able to adequately assess any social impacts. This includes details of the average and peak construction workforce, the total construction period, accommodation requirements, travel arrangements to/from site, vehicle movements etc. It is also requested that the proponent consider the status and timing of any other state significant development projects or activities within the local area to minimise any adverse cumulative impacts	**Chapter 9** and **Chapter 18**
Community Consultation Council requests that the proponent conducts consultation with any impacted neighbours, local businesses and the broader community throughout the construction and operation period. This will ensure the community has current and accurate information to provide relevant feedback on the project.	**Chapter 5**

Issues summary	Where addressed
Council also requests that the proponent provide details on its proposed communications plan and identifies mechanisms by which the community can provide feedback during construction and operations. This should also include the proponents approach to dealing with complaints or compliance issues.	
TransGrid	
Please be advised the proposed location of the project doesn't appear to interfere with any of the surrounding 330kV and/or 500kV infrastructure we have. We would be interested in reviewing the project once there are some more detailed location plans available from the Customer. TransGrid will continue to engage with UPC to develop the connection into TransGrid's network.	**N/A**