



Australian Government
Civil Aviation Safety Authority

Air Navigation, Airspace and Aerodromes

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Your Ref:

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Natasha Homsey
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Department of Planning and Environment
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Email: natasha.homsey@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Ms. Homsey,

VALLEY OF THE WINDS WIND FARM, SSD-10461

CASA has reviewed the Aviation Impact Assessment prepared by Aviation Projects for the proposed Valley of the Winds Wind Farm near Coolah, NSW.

The proposed wind farm will comprise approximately 148 wind turbines with a maximum tip height of approximately 250 m (853 ft) AGL. With regard to Visual Flight Rules (VFR) operations, pilots are permitted to fly as low as 500 ft AGL and may need to fly lower due to weather, emergency situations or aircraft performance issues. The turbines will reach to a height of 853 ft AGL, and therefore the turbine blades will infringe navigable airspace by 353 ft and may impact VFR aircraft operating in the vicinity of the proposed turbines.

CASA notes there are a number of small airstrips in close proximity to the proposed wind farm development. CASA recommends each strip operator be consulted with regard to potential impact on these strips.

Due to the height proposed AGL, CASA considers the proposed wind farm likely be a hazard to aviation safety and recommends that the wind farm is obstacle lit. While international standards and the NASF guideline recommend 2,000 candela lighting intensity, CASA would accept 200 candela lighting intensity based on trial installation at another site where 200 CD was found to be sufficient in areas with low backlighting.

To minimise lighting impact on local residents CASA would also recommend the installation of radar activated hazard lights or lighting activated by low visibility measuring equipment. If the lighting fails, it should fail in the 'on' condition until it can be rectified.

The coordinates and estimated survey heights of each turbine must be reported to Airservices Australia via email at yod@airservicesaustralia.com for inclusion in the En Route Supplement Australia publication prior to works commencing.

One month prior to works commencing CASA must be advised so that a NOTAM (Notice to Airmen) can be published advising pilots that tall structures will be constructed in the area. Submissions to raise a NOTAM for this location should be sent by email to: easternregion@casa.gov.au.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss this matter further, please email airspace.protection@casa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Windebank', written in a cursive style.

Matthew Windebank
Aerodrome Engineer