



Australian Government
Department of Defence

Charles Mangion
Director Land Planning and Regulation
Brindabella Business Park (BP26-1-A053)
PO Box 7925
Department of Defence
CANBERRA BC ACT 2610
☎: (02) 5109 5177
✉: charles.mangion@defence.gov.au

ID-EP-DLP&R/OUT/2022/BS30760524

Ms Natasha Homsey
Senior Environmental officer
Department of Planning and Environment
4 Parramatta Square
12 Darcy Street
PARRAMATTA NSW 2150

Dear Ms Homsey

VALLEY OF THE WINDS WIND FARM (SSD 10461) - REQUEST FOR ADVICE ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Thank you for referring the abovementioned wind farm proposal to the Department of Defence (Defence) for comment. Defence understands that this application is for a windfarm of up to 148 wind turbines with a maximum tip height of 250 metres above ground level (AGL) at a location approximately 60 Km southeast of Coonabarabran, 95km east-north-east of Dubbo.

Defence has conducted an assessment of the proposed wind farm for potential impacts on the safety of military flying operations as well as possible interference to Defence communications and radar.

The project site is located partly within the Restricted Area R559B and Danger Area D538B utilised by aircraft originating from RAAF Base Williamtown. The proposed location of the wind farm will result in a reduction of useable airspace by Defence aircraft for low flying activity. Therefore, Defence requests that the Wind Farm be obstacle lit in accordance with Civil Aviation Safety Regulation 139 and the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) Manual of Standards 139. If Light Emitting Diode (LED) lighting is applied, the frequency range of the LED light emitted should be within the range of wavelengths 665 to 930 nanometres to allow for visibility to persons using night vision devices.

The proposed turbines meet the requirements for reporting of tall structures. There is an ongoing need to obtain and maintain accurate information about tall structures so that this information can be marked on aeronautical charts. Marking tall structures on aeronautical charts assists pilot navigation and enhances flight safety. Airservices Australia (ASA) is responsible for recording the location and height of tall structures. The information is held in a central database managed by ASA and relates to the erection, extension, or dismantling of tall structures, the top of which is above:

- a. 30 metres AGL, that are within 30 kilometres of an aerodrome; and
- b. 45 metres AGL elsewhere.

The proposed structures will meet the above definition of a tall structure. Defence therefore requests that the applicant provide ASA with “as constructed” details. The details can be emailed to ASA at vod@airservicesaustralia.com.

Defence has no objection to the proposed wind farm provided that the project complies with the above conditions.

As tall structures, wind farms can have the potential to pose a number of concerns for Defence, particularly with regard to aircraft safety, military low flying and radar interference.

Should you wish to discuss the content of this advice further, my point of contact is Tim Hogan at land.planning@defence.gov.au or telephone on (02) 5109 7933.

Yours sincerely,

Charles Mangion
Director Land Planning & Regulation

8 June 2022