

Our ref: SSD-10461

Mr Andrew Mills
Chair
Independent Planning Commission
GPO Box 3415
Sydney NSW 2001
ipcn@ipcn.nsw.gov.au

18/03/2025

Subject: Valley of the Winds Wind Farm – Referral to the Independent Planning Commission

Dear Mr Mills

The Department has completed its assessment of the merits of the application for the Valley of the Winds Wind Farm (SSD 10461).

The application is referred to the Independent Planning Commission for determination as Warrumbungle Shire Council objected, and there were more than 50 unique submissions objecting to the project.

The Applicant proposes to develop a new State significant wind farm located about 4 kilometres (km) south of Coolah and 3 km north east of Leadville, within the Warrumbungle Shire local government area.

The project as proposed would have a generating capacity of around 943 megawatts (MW) and would connect to the Energy Corporation of NSW's (EnergyCo) approved CWO REZ Transmission Line via direct connection to two onsite substations.

During the exhibition of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) the Department received a total of 106 submissions, of which 105 were unique, in addition to advice from 15 government agencies and the host Council, Warrumbungle Shire Council. The Department also received comments from Mid-Western Regional Council and Muswellbrook Shire Council. Of the public submissions, 94 objected to the project, six supported the project and five provided comments. Warrumbungle Shire Council objected to the project.

The Applicant has offered to enter into a voluntary planning agreement with Warrumbungle Shire Council, to support the provision of community enhancement projects, with contributions of \$1050 per MW generation capacity installed, per year for the duration of the project.

In assessing the merits of the project, the Department has considered the environmental, social and economic impacts of the project, submissions on the EIS, relevant environmental planning instruments, the suitability of the site, and the public interest, in accordance with the requirements of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure



During the assessment process the Department visited the site, and consulted with local residents, Councils and relevant government agencies.

Based on this assessment, the Department considers that the project is approvable, subject to the recommended conditions of consent. I have attached a copy of the Department's assessment report and other relevant documents for the Commission's consideration.

If you have any questions, please contact Nicole Brewer on 02 9274 6374 or via email at nicole.brewer@planning.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Nicole Brewer", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Nicole Brewer
Director
Energy Assessments