



Australian Government
Department of Defence

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Craig Abela
Aviation Projects
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Dear Craig

RE: THUNDERBOLT WIND FARM AVIATION IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Thank you for referring the abovementioned request to the Department of Defence (Defence) for comment. Defence understands that this application is for a windfarm of up to 33 wind turbines to a maximum tip height of 260 metres above ground level (AGL) and seven permanent meteorological masts with a maximum height of 170m AGL at a location approximately 50 km north east of Tamworth.

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 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 understands this assessment is yet to be considered by CASA. If CASA determines that obstacle lighting is to be provided, it should be compatible with persons using night vision devices. If LED lighting is proposed, the frequency range of the LED light emitted should be within the range of wavelengths 665 to 930 nanometres.

Defence notes that the *National Airports Safeguarding Framework Guideline D – Managing the Risk to Aviation Safety of Wind Turbine Installations (Wind Farms)/Wind Monitoring Towers - Paragraph 39* recommends the top 1/3 of wind monitoring towers are painted in alternating contrasting bands of colour in accordance with the Manual of Standards for Part 139 of the Civil Aviation Safety Regulations 1998.

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

Should you wish to discuss the content of this advice further, my point of contact is Adam Murray at land.planning@defence.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Charles Mangion
Director Land Planning & Regulation

9 October 2021