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Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
PARRAMATTA NSW 2150

Via NSW Major Projects Portal

**EPA Advice on Environmental Impact Statement – Junction Rivers Wind Project
(formerly Burrawong Wind Farm– SSD30448824)**

Dear Ms Bandaruk,

Thank you for your notification about Public Authority Consultation No. PAE-73244965 requesting advice from the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) in relation to the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prepared for the Junction Rivers Wind Project (SSD30448824), located 15km south of Balranald, in the Murray River Local Government Area (LGA) and immediately east of Balranald Shire LGA.

The EPA has reviewed the following documents and their appendices:

- Junction Rivers Wind Project Environmental Impact Statement, prepared by Umwelt (Australia Pty Ltd) – May 2024;
- Background Noise Assessment, prepared by Marshall Day Acoustics – 22 May 2024;
- Flood Impact Risk Assessment, prepared by Umwelt (Australia) Pty Ltd – 15 May 2024;
- Water Resources Impact Statement, prepared by Umwelt (Australia) Pty Ltd – May 2024; and
- Preliminary Hazard Assessment, prepared by Riskon Engineering – 14 May 2024

The EPA understands the proposal is for the construction, operation and decommissioning of up to 96 wind turbine generators (WTGs) over 16,367 hectares of land (2,096 ha development corridor), which will have an electricity generating capacity of 750 Mega Watts (MW). The project has an estimated life of 35 years and the potential to power approximately 434,000 homes. Ancillary infrastructure would include 4 x battery energy storage systems (BESS) or up to 4 x static synchronous compensators (STATCOM devices), switching stations, offices and site compounds, underground and overground transmission lines and access roads.

We note the EIS and Noise Impact Assessment identify that predicted construction noise levels were below management levels, with the exception of the nearest non-associated receiver, BALWF58, during the construction of access roads by a maximum of 5dB.

Further to this, there are two candidate WTG models, Vesta V162-62 and Goldwind GW156-6.0. The predicted noise level for both models falls below the NSW Noise Bulletin minimum criterion of 35 dB Laeq, with the exception of non-associated receiver, BALWF58, for the Goldwind candidate. There were no other adverse environmental impacts on surrounding receptors, not associated with the proposed, identified during the construction or operation phase.

The need for blasting for the Project is yet to be determined, therefore it is not possible at this time for estimation of potential air blast or ground vibration levels.

Based on the information provided, if the proposal is granted development consent, the premises will require an Environmental Protection Licence (EPL) for (a) 'electricity generation', pursuant to clause 17 of the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1992 (POEO Act)*.

The EPA has the following additional comments:

1. Matters to be addressed prior to determination:

- Confirmation of the need for blasting associated with the project. In the event blasting is required, a blasting plan which sets out the management and monitoring measures is to be implemented, including identification of areas where blasting could be conducted.

2. Matters to be addressed with conditions:

Refer to Attachment 'A'.

If you have any questions or concerns about this advice, please do not hesitate to contact me on 131 555 or by email at info@epa.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Waanders". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" written in a smaller, more compact script and the last name "Waanders" written in a larger, more prominent script.

Michael WAANDERS

Unit Head – Regulatory Operations

NSW Environment Protection Authority

Attachment 'A'

The EPA recommends the following conditions be considered should development consent be granted for the proposal:

WTGs/Operation Activities:

1. The Proponent must prepare a revised noise and vibration impact assessment to the Planning Secretary for approval, for the final chosen wind turbine generator model and layout, prior to installation of the wind turbine generators. The revised noise and vibration assessment must demonstrate, through appropriate modelling and in accordance with the "Wind Energy: Noise Assessment Bulletin – For State significant wind energy development (DPE/EPA, 2016)", that the final wind turbine generator models and layout can meet the limits developed consistent with the "Wind Energy: Noise Assessment Bulletin – For State significant wind energy development (DPE/EPA, 2016)". The details of any 'curtailment' or requirements for wind turbine generators to operate in low noise mode (if required) must be fully presented in the revised noise and vibration impact assessment.
2. Prior to commissioning of the turbines, the Proponent must prepare and implement a Noise Management Plan to manage noise emissions from the operation of the project. The Plan must include, but not necessarily be limited to:
 - a) compliance monitoring within one year of commissioning, in accordance with the "Wind Energy: Noise Assessment Bulletin – For State significant wind energy development (DPE/EPA, 2016)" procedures to certify noise
 - b) identification and implementation of best practice management techniques for minimisation of noise emissions where reasonable and feasible
 - c) if required, measures to be undertaken to rectify annoying characteristics resulting from the operation of the project such as excessive low frequency noise, excessive tonality or adverse mechanical noise from component failure
 - d) if required, procedures and corrective actions to be undertaken if non-compliance is detected.
3. A condition requiring that ancillary plant and equipment (e.g. electrical compound(s), substation(s) and BESS) do not exceed a level of $L_{eq,15minutes}$ 35dB(A) at any residence not associated with the development.

Construction Activities:

4. All construction work at the premises must be conducted between 7am and 6pm Monday to Friday and between 8am and 1pm Saturdays and at no time on Sundays and public holidays.
5. Exceptions to construction hours - The following activities may be carried out outside the recommended construction hours:
 - a) construction that causes $L_{Aeq(15minute)}$ noise levels that are
 - i. no more than 5dB above Rating Background Level at any residence in accordance with the Interim Construction Noise Guideline (DECC, 2009); and
 - ii. no more than the Noise Management Levels specified in Table 3 of the Interim Construction Noise Guideline (DECC, 2009) at other sensitive land uses; or

- b) for the delivery of materials required by the police or other authorities for safety reasons; or
 - c) where it is required in an emergency to avoid the loss of lives, property and/or to prevent environmental harm; or
 - d) as approved through the process outlined in “Variation of construction hours” of this approval.
6. Variation of construction hours - The hours of construction activities specified under “Exceptions to construction hours” of this approval may be varied with the prior written approval of the Secretary. Any request to alter the hours of construction shall be:
- a) considered on a case-by-case or activity-specific basis
 - b) accompanied by details of the nature and justification for activities to be conducted during the varied construction hours
 - c) accompanied by written evidence that appropriate consultation with potentially affected sensitive receivers and notification of relevant Council(s) (and other relevant agencies) has been and will be undertaken
 - d) all feasible and reasonable noise mitigation measures have been put in place
 - e) accompanied by a noise impact assessment consistent with the requirements of the Interim Construction Noise Guideline (DECCW, 2009).
7. All feasible and reasonable noise mitigation measures be applied for construction activities to seek to achieve the Noise Management Levels (NML) outlined in the Interim Construction Noise Guideline (ICNG – DECC, 2009).
8. The proponent be required to prepare a Construction Noise and Vibration Management Plan for approval by the Secretary that describes how construction noise impacts will be minimised to the extent practicable. The plan should include a noise impact assessment that identifies and assesses noise impacts from the proposed location of construction compounds, internal haul roads, wind turbine generators [construction sites], concrete batching plants and mobile crushing and screening plants and the feasible and reasonable noise mitigation measures that will be applied to reduce construction noise impacts to the extent practicable.
9. If blasting is required for any reason during the construction or operational stage of the proposed development, blast impacts are to comply with the guidelines and criteria contained in ‘Australian and New Zealand Environment Council – Technical basis for guidelines to minimise annoyance due to blasting overpressure and ground vibration’ (ANZEC, 1990).

The following NSW policies have been considered in the review:

- Wind Energy: Noise Assessment Bulletin – For State significant wind energy development (Environment and Planning, 2016)
- South Australia Wind farms environmental noise guidelines (SA EPA, 2009)
- Noise Policy for Industry (EPA, 2017)
- NSW Interim Construction Noise Guideline (DECC, 2009)
- NSW Road Noise Policy (DECCW, 2011)
- Assessing Vibration: A Technical Guide (DECC, 2006)