

**Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water**

Our ref: OUT24/11796

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NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure  
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6/08/2024

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Subject: Junction Rivers Wind Farm (SSD-30448824) – Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Tatsiana Bandaruk,

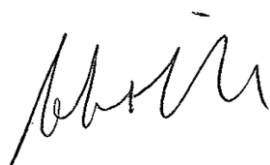
I refer to your request for advice sent on 11 July 2024 to the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) Water Group about the above matter.

The proposed development is for a 750 megawatt wind turbine wind farm with 96 turbines, located within the NSW South-West Renewable Energy Zone.

DCCEEW Water has reviewed the Environmental Impact Statement and has recommendations regarding water supply and licensing, works on waterfront land and sewage management. Please see Attachment A for more detail.

Should you have any further queries in relation to this submission please do not hesitate to contact DCCEEW Water Assessments [water.assessments@dpie.nsw.gov.au](mailto:water.assessments@dpie.nsw.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



Rob Brownbill,  
Manager, Water Assessments, Knowledge Division  
Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

## Attachment A

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### Detailed advice to DPHI Planning & Assessment regarding the Junction Rivers Wind Farm (SSD-30448824) – Environmental Impact Statement

#### 1.0 Water supply and licensing

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##### 1.1 Recommendation – prior to determination

The Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure request the proponent to clarify the ability to obtain a secure water supply for the project. This is to include confirmation of relevant agreements where required and to demonstrate sufficient entitlement can be obtained where necessary.

##### Explanation

Insufficient information has been provided to confirm access to a secure and appropriately authorised water supply for the project. The proposal provides several options to supply the estimated 500ML required during the 2 year construction phase. This includes access to council water supplies, on-site or local bores, dams, river sources and recycled water. The feasibility and reliability of these should be confirmed to ensure a secure water supply can be obtained and the requirement for additional water entitlement if necessary. It is noted that surface water collected under a harvestable right may only be used within the property on which it has been collected.

##### 1.2 Recommendation – prior to determination

The Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure request the proponent to confirm the requirement for new bores, pumps or dams, and if required complete an impact assessment of their construction and operation.

##### Explanation

Should new bores, dams or pumps, or additional water extraction from existing water supply works be required, these should be identified, and their impacts assessed to enable exemptions to water legislation approval requirements under section 4.41 of the EP&A Act 1979 to apply. For new works, these impacts should be assessed against relevant legislation and policy including the Water Sharing Plans.

##### 1.3 Recommendation – post approval

The Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure advise the proponent that should the requirement to intercept groundwater be identified, that a water access licence (WAL) must be obtained prior to any take occurring unless an exemption applies under the Water Management (General) Regulation 2018.

##### Explanation

Whilst this project is perceived to have a low level of risk to groundwater, a lack of groundwater level data within the project area indicates it is not certain that aquifer interference will not occur.

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Under the *Water Management Act 2000*, if groundwater is intercepted a WAL must be obtained prior to any water take occurring unless an exemption under Clause 7 of Schedule 4 of the *Water Management (General) Regulation 2018* applies. An exemption may be available if water take is less than or equal to 3 ML per water year, subject to the development meeting other exemption requirements, such as:

- the water is not taken for consumption or supply;
- the person claiming the exemption keeps a record of the water taken under the exemption and provides this to the Minister within 28 days of the end of the water year; and
- the records are kept for 5 years.

Further information on these requirements and other information on licensing and approvals, exemptions, including an exemption application form and a form to report and record water taken can be found at:

<https://water.dpie.nsw.gov.au/licensing-and-trade>

## 2.0 Waterfront Land

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### 2.1 Recommendation – post determination

The Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure request the proponent to ensure works on waterfront land are consistent with the “Guidelines for Controlled Activities on Waterfront Land (DPE 2022)”. This includes “Guidelines for laying pipes and cables in watercourses on waterfront land (DPE 2022)”.

#### Explanation

Based on the information presented in the EIS it is expected that adverse impacts to waterfront land will be avoided. This is due to works within waterfront land being limited to access tracks and cables, and that there is the intent for works on waterfront land to be designed and constructed consistent with relevant guidelines. It is noted an outdated reference to the guidelines has been included in the EIS and the current reference is “Guidelines for Controlled Activities on Waterfront Land (DPE 2022)”.

## 3.0 Local water utility water supply impacts

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### 3.1 Recommendation – prior to determination

The Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure request the proponent to:

- Confirm the volume of potable and non-potable water to be sourced from town water supplies (either directly or by water carting) during construction and/or operation.
  - Demonstrate that the relevant local water utilities are satisfied that the town water systems can accommodate the water demands without impacting existing services.
  - Confirm with the relevant local water utilities, the impact of the project and potential additional costs from infrastructure upgrades or increased operational activities.
  - Confirm water carting arrangements by providing detail that there are carting providers available to cart water for the construction phase of the project.
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## Explanation

Detail should be provided on whether town water supply is a viable option and if this is the preferred water source. DCCEEW encourage the proponent to engage the local water utility early in the process to determine the viability of town water supply to support the project.

## 4.0 Sewage impacts

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### 4.1 Recommendation – prior to determination

The Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure request the proponent to:

- Confirm the method of disposal/transfer of sewage, effluent and/or septage, including availability of liquid waste contractors, during both the construction and operational phases.
- Confirm with the relevant local water utility which sewerage system will receive and manage the sewage load (if this option is preferred), and if this system can accommodate the wastewater demands without impacting existing services.
- Confirm with the relevant local water utility, the impact of the project and potential additional costs from infrastructure upgrades or increased operational activities.

## Explanation

An option is proposed to take waste to local waste management facilities but there are no specifics or demonstrated arrangements/agreements provided.

End Attachment A

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