

Julia Green
Department of Planning

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Mallee Wind Farm SEARs (SSD-53293710) (Wentworth)

Dear Julia

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the Mallee Wind Farm draft SEARs (SSD-53293710).

The NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Agriculture collaborates and partners with our stakeholders to protect and enhance the productive and sustainable use and resilience of agricultural resources and the environment.

NSW DPI notes the project area is pastoral and dryland cropping lands considered Land and Soil Capability Class 4, 5 and 7. All lands are zoned RU1 Primary Production.

The draft SEARs have been reviewed for their consideration of agricultural lands and agricultural production and operations. NSW DPI notes that the Scoping Report commits to undertaking assessments of potential agricultural impacts and land use conflicts, as also covered in the draft SEARs. Some specific requirements include:

- A decommissioning management plan that outlines actions for returning the land capability to its pre-existing agricultural capacity.
- Rehabilitation plans for all turbine and infrastructure sites during and post construction with appropriate groundcover management using locally native species to limit dust and other land use conflict issues.
- The proposal includes allowing for (reuse of) worker accommodation. If this accommodation site is in a RU1 Primary Production zoned area, a Land Use Conflict Risk Assessment (LUCRA) should be undertaken as specific justification of the proposed worker accommodation site. This is in addition to a LUCRA on land management issues during and post construction as already required in the draft SEARs. The development of extra dwellings on RU1 Primary Production zoned lands remote from towns or villages increases the potential for land use conflicts. NSW DPI considers that the local community would benefit more from such accommodation in or adjacent to town or village centres with suitable infrastructure and utilities.
- Biosecurity management issues during and post construction must be assessed in relation to potential agricultural impacts (pests, weeds, and emergency animal diseases such as Japanese Encephalitis and Foot and Mouth Disease) including a risk assessment outlining the likely plant, animal, and community risks.

Should you require clarification on any of the information contained in this response, please do not hesitate to contact Lilian Parker on 0427812508 or by email at landuse.ag@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "L. Parker".

Lilian Parker
Agricultural Land Use Planning
Agricultural Strategic Initiatives
Signed 30-1-2023