

Lisa Simonsen
Environment and Development Planner
Tilt Renewables Australia Pty Ltd
Via Major Projects Portal

11/03/2025

Subject: Liverpool Range Wind Farm – request for staging of biodiversity offsets

Dear Ms Simonsen,

I refer to your submission dated 15 January 2025, requesting the Planning Secretary's approval for staging the retirement of biodiversity credits as required by Schedule 3, Condition 18A of the development consent for the Liverpool Range Wind Farm (SSD-6696 as modified).

It is understood Tilt Renewables Australia proposes to stage the retirement of biodiversity credits to more accurately reflect the works proposed at each stage of the development.

I note your submission requests the following stages, which align with the proposed staging of the Biodiversity Management Plan (SSD-6696-PA-5):

- Stage 1: Pre-construction minor works, including:
 - geotechnical investigative drilling, being:
 - boreholes at a subset of the ancillary infrastructure locations including the Temporary Accommodation Camp, Operations and Maintenance Facilities and substation locations primarily on disturbed land.
 - boreholes at substation locations.
 - test hole locations along the proposed public road upgrades (primarily on existing pavement or in disturbed/cleared areas within the existing road corridor) and at substation locations.
 - Additional pre-construction minor works which will not impact biodiversity values including:
 - construction of a temporary site office and compound located within the Development Corridor near the proposed accommodation camp location.
 - cadastral surveys along property boundaries for a subset of freehold land and Crown land located within the development corridor and along a subset of public roads including Pandora Road.

- installation of water bore monitoring equipment at existing water bores as part of the water use licence.
- Stage 2: Road upgrades.
- Stage 3: Construction and commissioning of the development, includes the establishment and use of the temporary Accommodation Camp.
- Stage 4: Operation.
- Stage 5: Rehabilitation and Decommissioning.

It is noted in your letter dated 20 February 2025 that Table 1 identifies the number of minor work areas within PCT 483 – Grey Box White Box grassy open woodland on basalt hills in the Merriwa region, upper Hunter Valley (low condition DNG), Land Category 1 (exempt land) and Disturbed land. Table 2 of your letter details the calculated credit liability for the nominated pre-construction minor works, being:

- PCT 483 (low condition DNG), Brigalow Belt South Region/Liverpool Range Sub-region, proposed impact area of 0.001376 hectares – 1 credit (extrapolated).
- PCT 483 (low condition DNG), Brigalow Belt South Region/Pilliga Sub-region, proposed impact area of 0.000256 hectares – 1 credit (extrapolated).

In accordance with Schedule 3, Condition 19 you have provided the statement from the Biodiversity Conservation Trust dated 12 February 2025 confirming payment into the Biodiversity Conservation Fund and showing the two credits above have been retired for Stage 1.

It is noted that the number of credits requiring retirement during Stage 2 and Stage 3 of the development is yet to be determined but is to total the number specified in Table 8-1 and 8-2 in Appendix 8 of the consent.

Accordingly, as nominee of the Planning Secretary, I conditionally approve the staging of the retirement of biodiversity credits in accordance with Schedule 2, Condition 18A of the consent.

Prior to commencing any works on Stage 2 or Stage 3, you are to advise the Department of:

- the number and type of credits to be staged;
- the proposed credit liabilities allocated to each stage of the development;
- the methodology for calculating the impact area and the credit liabilities, including the supply of spatial files and calculations; and
- outcomes of consultation with the Conservation Programs, Heritage and Regulation Group (CPHR) within the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water.

The Department notes from your letter dated 20 February 2025 that Tilt Renewables Australia has committed to:

- develop and keep up to date a suitable cumulative vegetation clearing and disturbance register.
- ensure planned and actual clearing is kept to within the approved clearing limits and fauna species polygon for the development.
- provide the register to the Department within 3 months of concluding the vegetation/ground disturbance of each stage of the development for validation.

The Department requests that these commitments are included in the Biodiversity Management Plan for each stage of the development (where relevant).

If you wish to discuss the matter further, please contact Katie Weekes on (02) 4927 3223.

Yours sincerely



Nicole Brewer
Director
Energy Assessments

As nominee of the Planning Secretary