

Department of Planning Housing and Infrastructure
C/o Major Projects Portal

tanja.ibsen@dpie.nsw.gov.au

Attention: Ms Tanja Ibsen

Bowmans Creek Wind Farm Stage 2 (SSD-73123714)

Dear Ms Ibsen

Thank you for your correspondence via the Major Projects Portal of 18 July 2024 and the opportunity to provide comment on the draft SEARs for the above proposal.

NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) collaborates with our stakeholders to protect and enhance the productive and sustainable use and resilience of agricultural resources and the environment.

We have reviewed the submitted documentation relating to the above proposal. It is acknowledged the project site is within the Hunter-Central Coast Renewable Energy Zone. The following advice is provided for consideration.

The Land Use Conflict Risk Assessment (LUCRA) should include potential conflicts with landowners of the site itself, as well as neighbours, and should be based on direct consultation where possible. It should take note of sensitive agricultural activities that should be considered in the final design and management of the project.

It is noted cumulative impacts from Bowmans Creek Wind Farm Stage 1 and other major projects within the area have the potential to create pressure on workers' accommodation. DPIRD acknowledges the commitment to prepare an Accommodation and Employment Strategy in consultation with Council, informed by consultation with local accommodation and employment service providers.

It is recommended that underground cabling be buried to a depth greater than 500mm. Where land is mapped as Biophysical Strategic Agricultural Land (BSAL) the minimum depth should be 800mm to ensure continued agricultural use during the Project's operational phase. The complete removal of buried infrastructure upon decommissioning is recommended to facilitate the land's return to full agricultural productivity.

The Decommissioning and Rehabilitation Plan should include an expected timeline for the decommissioning and rehabilitation program. Plans for rehabilitating turbine and infrastructure sites during and post-construction should specify the appropriate management of groundcover using locally native or otherwise suitable species to minimize dust and other land use conflict issues.

An assessment of biosecurity management issues during and post-construction must address potential agricultural impacts such as pests, weeds, and emergency animal diseases, such as Japanese Encephalitis and Foot and Mouth Disease, and include a risk assessment outlining the likely plant, animal, and community risks.

Potential impacts on limited agricultural resources and the ability to rehabilitate the land to enable continued agricultural investment are important issues requiring careful consideration and assessment. Industry guidelines and resource information (**Attachment A**) should also be provided to the proponent for their consideration when preparing the Environmental Impact Statement.

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

Sincerely



Helen Willis

Agricultural Land Use Planning Officer

Agriculture & Biosecurity | Agricultural Land Use Planning

Hunter Region

25 July 2024

Encl: Attachment A: Industry guidelines and resource information

Attachment A: Industry guidelines and resource information

Wind Farms

Title	Website link
Land Use Conflict Risk Assessment Guide	https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/lup/development-assessment2/lucra
Infrastructure Proposals on Rural Land	https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/lup/development-assessment2/infrastructure-proposals
The land and soil capability assessment scheme: second approximation 2012 (OEH)	https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/research-and-publications/publications-search/land-and-soil-capability-assessment-scheme
Australian Soil and Land Survey Handbook (CSIRO)	https://ebooks.publish.csiro.au/content/australian-soil-and-land-survey-field-handbook
Guidelines for Surveying Soil and Land Resources (CSIRO)	https://ebooks.publish.csiro.au/content/guidelines-surveying-soil-and-land-resources
Biosecurity Risk Management in Land Use Planning and Development	https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0018/1271241/managing-biosecurity-risks-in-land-use-planning-and-development-guide.pdf