

Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI)
C/- Major Projects Portal

Attention: Lauren Clear, lauren.clear@dpie.nsw.gov.au

Ben Bullen Wind Farm SEARs SSD-79294216

Dear Madam,

I refer to your request of 16 January 2025 for advice on the draft SEARs for the above project.

Agriculture plays a vital role in supporting state, regional and local economies, and strengthening the social bonds and character of rural communities. The NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Agriculture and Biosecurity (the Department) collaborates and partners with our stakeholders to protect and enhance the productive and sustainable use and resilience of agricultural resources and the environment.

The Department has reviewed the Scoping Report and draft SEARs and note the EIS is to undertake an agricultural assessment, soil survey, cumulative impact assessment and land use conflict risk assessment (LUCRA) for the project.

To ensure all agricultural issues are addressed, the issued SEARs should include the following matters in addition to the matters contained in the draft:

- A **rehabilitation and decommissioning management plan** that commits to removing infrastructure to ensure future return to agricultural land uses, including below ground infrastructure where risk of soil erosion is low/can be managed.
- **Biosecurity** (weeds, pests, emergency animal diseases) management during and post construction and operation to be assessed and protocols developed in relation to potential **agricultural impacts**. It is suggested the Biosecurity Risk Management in Land Use Planning and Development Guide¹ be referred for further information and resources.
- Any subdivision of land below the MLS should not result in additional dwelling eligibilities.

There are numerous SSD projects in the locality that may have a bearing on accommodation requirements for construction staff. The Department recommends that any Temporary Workers Accommodation is located near existing settlements to limit impacts on agricultural land and provide access for residents to services and facilities.

¹ https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0018/1271241/managing-biosecurity-risks-in-land-use-planning-and-development-guide.pdf

Should you require clarification of any of the information contained in this response, please do not hesitate to contact me on 0487023845 or by email at landuse.ag@dpird.nsw.gov.au

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nita Scott'.

Nita Scott

Climate & Natural Resources, Agriculture & Biosecurity
Central West and Orana Region

31 January 2025