

14 July 2025

Contact: Justine Clarke
Telephone: 0457 535 955
Our ref: D2025/87442

Michael Dimitrakopoulos
Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
Locked Bag 5022
PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

Bondo Wind Farm (SSD-86276211) – Request for SEARs

Dear Sir/ Madam,

Thank you for your referral dated 30 July 2025 requesting WaterNSW's input into project SEARs. It is understood that the proposal will consist of approximately 149 wind turbine generators (WTGs), with an electricity generation capacity of approximately 1.2 gigawatts (GW). Supporting infrastructure required will include two 400 Megawatt (MW) /1600 Megawatt hour (MWh)(4-hour capacity) battery energy storage systems (BESS), construction and operational compounds, substations, road access and connection to existing electrical transmission lines.

It is noted that the proposal is between Blowering Reservoir (17 km south-west of the project area) and Lake Burrinjuck (10 km north-east of the project area), which are both WaterNSW owned and managed lands, including critical water supply infrastructure.

WaterNSW has reviewed the project Scoping Report (SR) and draft SEARs and found that the proposal is located near WaterNSW lands, assets or infrastructure. However, due to the project scope and site layout, we do not anticipate any significant interaction or impacts to our lands or operations.

However, to protect the quality of the local water supply and WaterNSW land and assets we do request that the proponent address the following in the EIS:

- Water – given the potential significant earthworks and impacts on overland waterflow paths, the Project EIS would need to include measures to address potential soil erosion, overland flow and water quality impacts, including impacts on surrounding waterways, and the Murrumbidgee catchment in general. We support the assessment approach proposed in the scoping report to address impacts to water.
- Network connections and capacity – the proposed capacity for the wind farm is 400 MW with a 4-hour duration. According to the SR, the proposal includes connections to both Line 2 and Line 3 (330kV), with a potential future connection to the HumeLink 500kV line. Further interrogation into network capacity and allocation rights is expected in the EIS. Including the grid loading analysis.
- Access – The wind farm project footprint is large, with potential access routes passing close to WaterNSW lands. All proposed access routes should be clearly defined and impacts to any adjacent lands along the routes identified.

Notwithstanding the above comments, we consider that the provided draft SEARs are expected to cover the required environmental assessment components.

WaterNSW would appreciate being advised when the EIS is exhibited for further review, and requests the Department continues to consult with us on any proposal that may impact on our assets, infrastructure or land, using the email address Environmental.Assessments@waternsw.com.au

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at justine.clarke@waternsw.com.au.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JC' followed by a long horizontal flourish.

JUSTINE CLARKE
A/ Environmental Planning Assessments & Approvals Manager