

26 July 2022

Contact: *Justine Clarke*
Telephone: *0457 535 955*
Our ref: *D2022/74484*

Natasha Homsey
Department of Planning & Environment
Locked Bag 5022
PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

Dear Ms Homsey

Burrendong Wind Farm (SSD-8950984) – Revised request for SEARs

Thank you for your Major Projects Planning Portal referral dated 13 July, requesting WaterNSW's input into the revised SEARs request for SSD-8950984. It is understood that the proposal is for the construction, operation and decommissioning of up to 105 Wind Turbine Generators (WTGs) and associated ancillary infrastructure, with a total capacity around 650 MW.

The revised scope now has subject lands (project area) located adjacent to Lake Burrendong water catchment and on WaterNSW lands. WaterNSW recognises the development of the project will bring significant benefits to NSW in terms of clean, green generation and the ability to put downwards pressure on electricity prices. However, the use of WaterNSW land for the project is currently being considered and a final decision on support will be made once appropriate due diligence has been undertaken. The comments below relate to the development of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and does not constitute support for the project.

WaterNSW has reviewed the revised project scoping report and requests the proponent address the following in the EIS to protect the quality of the local water supply and WaterNSW lands.

- Impact assessment – the applicant must consider and identify the direct and/or indirect impacts to WaterNSW lands and infrastructure when preparing the EIS. This may include (but is not limited to) impacts on access, interface conflicts, biodiversity, and electromagnetic interference.
- Hydrological assessment – the EIS must include a hydrological assessment that assesses the potential impacts on the quantity and quality of surface and groundwater resources within the Burrendong Water Catchment Area from the proposal. The assessment should investigate the potential impacts in relation to erosion and sediment, water availability, and potential pollution of watercourses during construction.
- Consultation – WaterNSW requests to be a stakeholder and included within the EIS consultation plan.

WaterNSW would appreciate being advised when the EIS is exhibited, 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 Justine Clarke at justine.clarke@waternsw.com.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Alison Kniha", written over a horizontal line.

ALISON KNIHA
Catchment Protection Planning Manager