

To: NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
From: Gliding Australia
Subject: Wallaby Creek Wind Farm significant development proposal, Narromine Shire

Gliding Australia appreciates the opportunity to provide comment on the proposed Wallaby Creek Wind Farm State Significant Development application. To date, Gliding Australia has not been consulted as part of the aviation assessment process.

While an Aviation Impact Assessment has been prepared (Appendix Q of the EIS), it does not consider the impacts and risks to gliding operations in the Narromine region. The risks are significant.

Narromine Aerodrome is one of Australia's premier gliding centres, supporting recreational flying, pilot training, cross-country soaring and major competitions. Narromine is internationally recognised for its favourable terrain, airspace and meteorological conditions for gliding and has hosted World Gliding Championships on multiple occasions, generating significant economic and tourism benefits for the region.

Glider towplanes and gliders launching on Narromine runways 11, 18 and 22 face obstacles reducing safe emergency landing options. Gliders returning on runways 29, 36 and 04 face obstacles in their glide path.

Gliders cannot rely on engine power to return to an aerodrome and may need to conduct outlandings in suitable paddocks. In the Narromine region, this has historically been conducted safely due to the availability of large open paddocks with relatively few obstacles.

The proposed wind farm introduces a significant new obstacle environment into an area currently relied upon for safe low-level manoeuvring and outlanding. This materially increases operational risk to gliding activities.

Gliding Australia, Narromine Gliding Club and other sports aviation bodies were not included in the consultation leading to the Aviation Impact Assessment produced by Aviation Projects.

The Aviation Impact Assessment is seriously flawed and has not been inclusive.

Gliding Australia is opposed to the current proposal for the Wallaby Creek Wind Farm.

Gliding Australia wishes to be consulted on the flaws and omissions in the Aviation Impact Statement.

Regards
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