

From: [Government Relations](#)
To: [Jessica Fountain](#)
Cc: [Government Relations](#); [Airspace Protection](#); [Anthony Ko](#)
Subject: CASA's response - GI21/243 RMS: Notice of Exhibition – Bowmans Creek Wind Farm (SSD-10315)
[SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Wednesday, 5 May 2021 12:18:06 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Dear Ms Fountain

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Aviation Impact Assessment for the Bowmans Creek Wind Farm (SSD-10315).

Sections of the Bowmans Creek Wind Farm are within Restricted Area R583B (Military Flying) and Danger Area D600 (Military Jet Corridor). Therefore, it is important that NSW Planning invites comments from the Department of Defence (Defence). It is recommended that NSW Planning invites comments from Defence for all Wind Farms in NSW. The Aviation Impact Assessment advises that the Project will be referred to Defence by planning authority (page 27).

CASA considers the Bowmans Creek Wind Farm proposal to be a hazard to aviation safety, but the risks to aviation safety could be mitigated to some extent by the provision of obstacle lighting. CASA recommends that the wind farm is obstacle lit with medium intensity steady red lighting in accordance with the National Airports Safeguarding Framework Guideline D and section 9.31 of the CASA Part 139 (Aerodromes) Manual of Standards. On request, CASA is prepared to review a lighting plan that indicates which turbines are proposed to be lit. As the Aviation Safety regulator, CASA does not consider the effect of lighting on neighbours and notes that the Visual Impact Assessment does not cover obstacle lighting. However, there are recommended treatments for visual impact listed in Section 8.5 of the Aviation Impact Statement.

The Aviation Impact Statement section 3.8 'Rules of Flight' advises that aircraft are restricted to a height of 500 ft AGL (1,000 ft at night) but the height restrictions do not apply in relation to stress of weather or any other avoidable cause. The turbines will reach a height of 220m (722ft) above ground level. While pilots are required to fly no lower than 500ft above the ground or any object on the ground, a pilot could be off track or at a low level due to weather-related events, navigation difficulties and other circumstances including controllability issues. Aircraft will be required to navigate around the project site in low cloud conditions. The charting of a wind farm is a mitigator but does not eliminate the risk of an aircraft colliding with a turbine.

Further to Aviation Impact Assessment Recommendation 4, the Aviation Impact Statement sections 3.9.4 / 7.5 advise that aerial fire fighting operations are conducted in day VFR. Additional consultation with the NSW Rural Fire Service should be conducted regarding the possibility of night aerial fire fighting operations using night vision apparatus in future.

Further to Aviation Impact Assessment Recommendation 8, CASA recommends that the following Australian Standards be considered regarding the overhead transmission lines:

- AS 3891.1, Air navigation — Cables and their supporting structures — Marking and safety requirements, Part 1: Marking of overhead cables and supporting structures

- AS 3891.2, Air navigation — Cables and their supporting structures — Marking and safety requirements, Part 2: Low-level aviation operations.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Cathy

Cathy Koch

Section Manager

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From: Jessica Fountain <Jessica.Fountain@planning.nsw.gov.au>

Sent: Friday, 26 March 2021 6:03 PM

To: Airspace Protection <Airspace.Protection@casa.gov.au>

Cc: Anthony Ko <Anthony.Ko@planning.nsw.gov.au>

Subject: RMS: Notice of Exhibition – Bowmans Creek Wind Farm (SSD-10315)

Dear Agency

The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (Department) has received an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Bowmans Creek Wind Farm (SSD-10315).

The EIS will be publicly exhibited from 31 March 2021 to 11 May 2021.

The EIS can be viewed on the Department's Major Projects website at <https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/project/11691> from **31 March 2021**. If you wish to view the documents prior to this date, you will need to register an agency account on the Major Projects site. A User Guide is attached for your reference.

The Department invites you to advise on the proposal, including advice on recommended conditions by **11 May 2021**.

If you have any enquiries, please contact Anthony Ko on 8217 2022 or via email at anthony.ko@planning.nsw.gov.au.

Regards

Jess Fountain

DA Coordinator

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The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment acknowledges that it stands on Country which always was and always will be Aboriginal land. We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land and waters, and we show our respect for elders past, present and emerging. We are committed to providing places in which Aboriginal people are included socially, culturally and economically through thoughtful and collaborative approaches to our work.



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