



Australian Government
Department of Defence

Charles Mangion
Director Land Planning and Regulation
Brindabella Business Park (BP26-1-A052)
PO Box 7925
Department of Defence
CANBERRA BC ACT 2610
☎: (02) 6266 8191
✉: charles.mangion@defence.gov.au

ID-EP-DLP&R/OUT/2020/BS14486980

Pavel Davidyuk
Aviation Projects
PO Box 116
TOOWONG DC QLD 4066

Dear Pavel

RE: BOWMANS CREEK WIND FARM AVIATION IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Thank you for referring the abovementioned request to the Department of Defence (Defence) for comment. Defence understands that this application is for a windfarm including up to 72 wind turbines to a maximum 220 metres above ground level (AGL) at a location approximately 10 km east of Muswellbrook, NSW.

Defence has conducted an assessment of the proposed wind farm for potential impacts on the safety of military flying operations as well as possible interference to Defence communications and radar.

The project site is located partly within the Restricted Area R583B and Danger Area D600 utilised by aircraft originating from RAAF Base Williamtown. The proposed location of the wind farm will result in a reduction of useable airspace by Defence aircraft for low flying activity. Therefore, Defence requests that the Wind Farm be obstacle lit in accordance with Civil Aviation Safety Regulation 139 and the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) Manual of Standards 139. If Light Emitting Diode (LED) lighting is applied, the frequency range of the LED light emitted should be within the range of wavelengths 665 to 930 nanometres to allow for visibility to persons using night vision devices.

Defence is unable to tolerate any further reduction in the use of Restricted Area R583B and Danger Area D600. Therefore, any proposed changes to the location of the wind turbines must be notified to Defence as early as possible for reassessment.

The proposed turbines meet the requirements for reporting of tall structures. There is an ongoing need to obtain and maintain accurate information about tall structures so that this information can be marked on aeronautical charts. Marking tall structures on aeronautical charts assists pilot navigation and enhances flight safety. Airservices Australia (ASA) is responsible for recording the location and height of tall structures. The information is held in a central database managed by ASA and relates to the erection, extension, or dismantling of tall structures, the top of which is above:

- a. 30 metres AGL, that are within 30 kilometres of an aerodrome; and
- b. 45 metres AGL elsewhere.

The proposed structures will meet the above definition of a tall structure. Defence therefore requests that the applicant provide ASA with “as constructed” details. The details can be emailed to ASA at vod@airservicesaustralia.com.

Defence has no objection to the proposed wind farm provided that the project complies with the above conditions.

Should you wish to discuss the content of this advice further, my point of contact is Adam Murray at land.planning@defence.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Charles Mangion
Director Land Planning & Regulation

13 October 2020