



**Catchment Management
Authority**
Central West

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File: CW00082

Mr Toby Philip
A/Manager - Energy Infrastructure Projects
NSW Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Attn: James Archdale

3 August, 2012



Dear Mr Philip,

Subject: Central West CMA comments on the Environmental Assessment for Bodangora Wind Farm (MP 10_0157)

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the environmental assessment for the proposed Bodangora Wind Farm Project.

The Central West CMA wishes to submit the following comments on the Environmental Assessment in relation to the adequacy of the proponent's addressing of the Director General's Requirements.

The Central West CMA is a statutory authority with the charter of improving the management and preservation of the catchment's natural, social and cultural resources. As such an authority, a key role of the Central West CMA is to engage the community and be the conduit for community concerns in matters of natural resource management. This role is reflected in the key objectives of the Central West Catchment Action Plan 2011-2021. This document outlines priority systems for land, water, biodiversity and communities, and can be found on our website at www.cw.cma.nsw.gov.au

These key areas will be reflected in the points covered in the Central West CMA's response, namely:

- Native Vegetation (including biodiversity values);
- Water (surface and ground water);
- Cultural Heritage and engagement with the Aboriginal community; and
- Community engagement in an ongoing capacity.

Native Vegetation and Habitat:

The Central West CMA has statutory requirements under the Native Vegetation Act (2003). As the proposed project is classified as a Major Project and is assessed under Pt3A of the EP&A Act (1979), the Native Vegetation Act (2003) is not triggered for permission to clear native vegetation.

In terms of the protection of existing native vegetation values, the Central West CMA notes that the environmental assessment states the project will be located in a primarily cleared landscape and that the estimated maximum loss of native vegetation collectively across the project area will be 1.32ha.

Native vegetation loss will be mitigated by the consideration of turbine and road placement to minimise impact of vegetation and habitat values, particularly for the habitat of the Superb Parrot. It is also noted that large mature trees with hollows will be retained for habitat value.

The Central West CMA encourages the development of the Flora and Fauna Management Subplan within the Construction Environmental Management Plan for the project. We see this document as being key to outline the mitigation strategies to minimise impact to native vegetation and habitat across the project area.

Water:

As part of the Central West CMA's review of the environmental assessment, consultation with NSW Office of Water have stated that they have no concerns with the proposed project.

The Central West CMA notes the detail that will be included in the Soil and Water Management subplan within the Construction Environmental Management Plan to mitigate the risk of impact particularly on local water supplies.

Cultural Heritage and consultation with the Aboriginal community:

The Central West CMA notes the consultation process with the Aboriginal communities as outlined in the environmental assessment and encourage the ongoing approach to consult with the Wellington Local Aboriginal Land Council if it once again becomes functional during the construction and operation phases of the project.

It is noted that a Cultural Heritage Management Protocol that documents the procedures required to avoid or mitigate impact on cultural heritage will be developed. The Central West CMA encourages that this is developed in consultation with the local community members on matters of cultural heritage.

The Central West CMA particularly notes the proposed requirement for site awareness training for construction staff on site identification and procedures to follow if sites are identified. It is strongly encouraged that this training be undertaken by a training provider that is connected to the country in question, or if this is not available, that input from local Aboriginal community members be incorporated into the training.

Community engagement:

The Central West CMA is aware that there are some concerns in the local community regarding the approaches to community consultation on the project to date. There have recently been issues raised in the local media and public meetings held in regard to concerns about information not being distributed, along with concerns raised about noise and the health concerns connected to low frequency emissions.

In regard to the ongoing community consultation of the proposed project, the Central West CMA notes the proposed formation of a Community Consultation Committee to assist with the future stages of the community consultation in the project. We strongly encourage that this group be formed in time to address the commitments made in the environmental assessment around community consultation.

In summary, the Central West CMA has no objections to the proposed project based on the environmental assessment as presented to the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure. We do however strongly encourage the proponent to deliver on the commitments outlined for the construction and operation of the project.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to comment on the environmental assessment for this project. If you have any questions with regard to the supplied comments, please do not hesitate to contact Jen Shearing at the details listed at the top of this letter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jane Chrystal". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Jane Chrystal
A/General Manager
Central West CMA