



**Australian Government**  
**Civil Aviation Safety Authority**

AIRSPACE AND AERODROME REGULATION

File Ref: EF11/1146-30

23 August 2016

Ms Melanie Prior  
DA Coordinator  
Resource Assessments, Business Systems and Compliance  
Department of Planning and Environment  
GPO Box 39  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Melanie.Prior@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Ms Prior,

**SILVERTON WIND FARM**

CASA has reviewed the Aeronautical Assessment 16-0264-01 for the Silverton Wind Farm located near Broken Hill NSW, dated 9 July 2016.

The proposal was originally for 282 turbines however this number is to be reduced to 172 and the turbine heights to be increased from 155 m to 180 m.

With regard to Visual Flight Rules (VFR) operations, pilots are permitted to fly as low as 500 ft AGL. The turbines will reach to a height of 594 ft.

The location of the wind farm is remote of any certified or registered aerodromes, and there are very few aircraft landing areas in the near vicinity of the site. CASA is aware that there is a landing area at nearby Eldee Station which was not considered in the Aeronautical Assessment. We would suggest that when planning the location of turbines that approaches and departures from the airstrip be considered and the station owners consulted.

There are no identified VFR air routes in the area and the wind farm is wholly enclosed within class G airspace.

In assessing CASA's duty of care, we consider the proposal in its proposed format unlikely to be a hazard to aviation safety given the current levels of limited civilian air activity in the area.

As military aircraft operate to lower heights than civilian aircraft, the Department of Defence should be contacted to confirm that they do not have concerns with the wind farm not being lit.

Should the planning authority or the military require lighting, CASA would recommend that the wind farm be lit with steady red low intensity lighting at night as per Section 9.4 of the CASA Manual of Standards Part 139. Characteristics for low intensity are stated in subsection 9.4.7.

AGL is reminded that despite CASA comment, AGL has a duty of care to consider with regard to ensuring the Wind Turbines do not present a hazard to aircraft operators. Should aircraft operations in the vicinity of the wind farm change, AGL must reconsider their duty of care to aircraft operators and the travelling public.

Changes to the Lowest Safe Altitudes as published by Airservices are mentioned within the Aeronautical Assessment. CASA would therefore recommend that the proposal only proceed if

both Airservices and the operators of Broken Hill Airport agree to the changes to airspace required to cater for this development.

Once completed, the coordinates and survey heights of each turbine must be reported to the Airservices Australia email below for inclusion in the ERSA publication:  
[vod@airservicesaustralia.com](mailto:vod@airservicesaustralia.com)

CASA would be pleased to answer any questions on 131 757.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Windebank', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Matthew Windebank  
Aerodrome Engineer