



Australian Government

Department of Defence
Estate and Infrastructure Group

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Director

Resource Assessments
Planning and Assessment
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
Locked Bag 5122
PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: SSI-12590060 EIS REPORT – HUNTER POWER PROJECT (KURRI KURRI POWER STATION), HART ROAD, LOXFORD NSW 2326

Thank you for referring the above Environmental Impact Statement to the Department of Defence (Defence) for comment. Defence understands that this application is for the development of a gas fired power station at Kurri Kurri, NSW. Defence has reviewed the proposal and in particular the plume associated with the proposal for any possible impact on the safety of flying operations at RAAF Base Williamtown and its advice is provided below.

Based on the information provided and earlier consultation with consultants engaged by the proponent, Defence agrees that it is appropriate that the Critical Plume Extent (CPE_ (mAHD) be based on the 99.9% percentile statistic of hourly results and a Critical Plume Velocity (CPV) of 6.1 m/s. This approach is also consistent with subject matter advice from government bodies including the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) and Defence stakeholder input.

The height at which the velocity of the merged plume from the two proposed 36m high exhaust stacks falls below 6.1m/s (0.1 percent exceedance or 99.9th percentile) is 867m AHD (2845ft AHD). On this assessment, Defence considers that the construction of the power station will not adversely impact upon civil or military flying operations at RAAF Base Williamtown / Newcastle Airport, provided that the following mitigating measures are adhered to.

Defence requests that a permanent charted Danger Area is to be promulgated using Global Airspace Solutions dimensions to account for the vertical plume velocities generated from the plant. The parameters of the Danger Area will include a vertical elevation of 884 metres (2,900 feet) and a horizontal radius of 155 metres, it should include a note to avoid the Danger Area.

In addition, I note that CASA have also assessed the plume and in correspondence dated 27 April 2021 they have requested that the proponent conduct another plume study once a vendor is selected and the final design is approved. Defence concurs with this request.

It is therefore requested by Defence that if the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment issue an approval for the relevant State Significant Infrastructure application that the proponent be advised on such approval to liaise with and provide information on the final design and emission parameters to the following organisations so that required mitigation measures can be put in place:

- Department of Defence – Estate Planning Branch ;
- Civil Aviation Safety Authority;
- Aeronautical Information Service - Air Force
- Air Services Australia;
- Newcastle Airport Pty LTD; and
- Global Airspace Solutions.

Defence will undertake to work with CASA and Airservices Australia with regard to the mitigation measures proposed by the above mentioned organisations.

Should you wish to discuss the content of this advice further, my point of contact is Mr Tim Hogan contactable at land.planning@defence.gov.au or by telephone on (02) 6266 8686. Please also note our new Defence group email address for all land planning matters.

Yours sincerely

Charles Mangion
Director Land Planning & Regulation

8 June 2021

Cc: Branch Manager, Air Navigation, Airspace and Aerodromes, Civil Aviation Safety Authority.
CEO, Strategic Airspace, Ms Cathy Pak-Poy