



Australian Government
Department of Defence
Estate and Infrastructure Group

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ID-EP-DLP&R/OUT/2018/AF33677546

Mr Keith Tonkin
Managing Director
Aviation Projects
PO BOX 116
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Dear Mr Tonkin

RE: Notification Regarding Wind Farm – Flyers Creek Wind Farm

Thank you for your correspondence of 10 May 2018 referring the abovementioned wind farm proposal to the Department of Defence (Defence) for comment. Defence understands that the proposal is to construct up to 38 wind turbines at a height of 160 AGL on a site approximately 24 km south of the town of Orange in New South Wales.

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 proposed 160 metre AGL 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 notes that the *National Airports Safeguarding Framework Guideline D – Managing the Risk to Aviation Safety of Wind Turbine Installations (Wind Farms)/Wind Monitoring Towers* recommends that where a wind turbine 150 metres or taller in height is proposed away from aerodromes, the proponent should conduct an aeronautical risk assessment. It also recommends that the risk assessment be submitted to the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) to determine whether the proposal is a hazard to aircraft safety and requires approved lighting or marking. Defence supports this requirement and believes that in this instance, it would be prudent for the risk assessment of this proposal to be sent to CASA for consideration.

If CASA determines that obstacle lighting is to be provided, it should be compatible with persons using night vision devices. If LED lighting is proposed, the frequency range of the LED light emitted should be within the range of wavelengths 665 to 930 nanometres.

If wind monitoring towers are constructed as part of the proposal, Defence notes that the *National Airports Safeguarding Framework Guideline D – Managing the Risk to Aviation Safety of Wind Turbine Installations (Wind Farms)/Wind Monitoring Towers - Paragraph 39* recommends the top 1/3 of wind monitoring towers are painted in alternating contrasting bands of colour in accordance with the Manual of Standards for Part 139 of the Civil Aviation Safety Regulations 1998.

Defence has no objection to the proposed wind farm.

Should you wish to discuss the content of this advice further, my point of contact is Mr Michael Ellis at DSRGIDEP.ExecutiveSupport@defence.gov.au or by telephone on (02) 6266 8124.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sonya Dare', with a long horizontal line extending to the left.

Sonya Dare
Director
Land Planning and Regulation
Estate Planning Branch

25 June 2018