



OUT13/3677

Department of Primary Industries

Ms Anna Timbrell
Infrastructure Projects - Energy
NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

- 4 MAR 2013

anna.timbrell@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Ms Timbrell,

Crookwell 3 Wind Farm (MP 10_0034)
Response to exhibition of Environmental Assessment

I refer to your letters of 24 October 2012 requesting advice from the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) and separately from Crown Lands, a division within DPI, in respect to the above matter.

Comment by Agriculture NSW

Agriculture NSW raise no issues with the proposal.

For further information please contact Wendy Goodburn, Resource Management Officer (Goulburn office) on 4828 6635, or at: wendy.goodburn@industry.nsw.gov.au.

Comment by Fisheries NSW

Comment by Fisheries NSW is detailed in Attachment A.

For further information please contact Allan Lugg, Senior Fisheries Conservation Manager (Huskisson office) on 4428 3401, or at: Allan.Lugg@dpi.nsw.gov.au.

Comment by NSW Office of Water

The NSW Office of Water advises that it can support the project based on consideration of the comments and inclusion of the recommended conditions of consent detailed in Attachment B.

For further information please contact Tim Baker, Planning and Assessment Coordinator (Dubbo office) on 6841 7403, or at: Tim.Baker@water.nsw.gov.au.

Comment by Crown Lands

It is advised that Crown Lands has responded by separate letter direct to your Department on 29 November 2012.

For further information please contact John Flarrey, Group Leader (Goulburn office) on 4824 3714 or at: John.Flarrey@lands.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Phil Anquetil

Executive Director Business Services

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Attachment A
Crookwell 3 Wind Farm (MP 10_0034)
Response to exhibition of EIS
Comment by Fisheries NSW

Fisheries NSW is responsible for ensuring that fish stocks are conserved and that there is "no net loss" of key fish habitats upon which they depend. To achieve this, Fisheries NSW ensures that developments comply with the requirements of the *Fisheries Management Act 1994* (namely the aquatic habitat protection and threatened species conservation provisions in Parts 7 and 7A of the Act respectively) and the associated *Policy and Guidelines for Aquatic Habitat Management and Fish Conservation (1999)*. It is Fisheries NSW policy that all developments should aim to achieve no net impacts on receiving waterways.

Fisheries NSW notes that parts of Steeves Creek, First Creek and Pejar River and their tributaries are located within the proposed development area, which drain to the Wollondilly River and have the potential to be impacted by the proposed development.

Fisheries NSW concurs with the proposed safeguards and mitigation measures to minimise environment impacts, in particular those related to hydrology detailed in Chapter 21 of the Environmental Assessment (EA). All the proposed safeguards and mitigation actions listed in the EA and Appendices should be included in any project approval, and listed in the Construction and Operation Environmental Management Plans (CEMP and OEMP) and fully implemented by the proponent and its contractors.

Fisheries NSW recommends that any project approval require that installation of electrical cabling crossings of waterways on-site to be done by trenching or underboring in a manner which does not block fish passage. Fisheries NSW also recommends that any project approval require that the design and construction of any new or upgraded access track crossings of Steeves Creek, First Creek, Pejar River and Wollondilly River be undertaken in accordance with the Fisheries NSW *Policy and Guidelines for Fish Friendly Waterway Crossings (2004)* and *Why Do Fish Need to Cross the Road? Fish Passage Requirements for Waterway Crossings (2004)*. These documents are available at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au, under 'Aquatic Habitats' and 'Publications'.

Fisheries NSW also recommends that any project approval require that the design, construction and operation of new or upgraded unsealed access tracks be undertaken in accordance with the Office of Environment & Heritage *Erosion and sediment control on unsealed roads: A field guide for erosion and sediment control maintenance practices (2012)* (available at www.environment.nsw.gov.au).

End Attachment A

Attachment B

Crookwell 3 Wind Farm (MP 10_0034)

Response to exhibition of EIS

Comment by NSW Office of Water

Review comment

- The proposed works include a number of watercourse crossings for the internal access roads and cable installations. The Office of Water supports the proponent's Statement of Commitment to design watercourse crossings in accordance with the *"Guidelines for Controlled Activities on Waterfront Land"* and in consultation with the NSW Office of Water. This will aid in mitigating impacts to channel stability and hydrologic functioning, and ensure appropriate rehabilitation measures are applied. The proponent is advised that the guidelines have been updated since preparation of the environmental assessment and the current publication date is 2012. They can be accessed at:
<http://www.water.nsw.gov.au/Water-licensing/Approvals/Controlled-activities/Controlled-activities/default.aspx>
- The environmental assessment indicates water will be required for concrete batching and dust suppression with a total water demand of 21.55 ML. This is to be sourced from existing farm dams via the temporary transfer of a licensed entitlement of 33ML. The Office of Water can confirm that this arrangement has been completed.
- The proponent advised the Office of Water that the proposal in Section 21.3 of the environmental assessment to utilise groundwater is currently not being considered. The preferred back up water supply option is to tanker water from the Town Water Supply of Goulburn. The Office of Water requests this alternative proposal be confirmed and an agreement established with Goulburn-Mulwaree Council prior to commencement of activities.

Recommended conditions of consent

The NSW Office of Water requests the following conditions be included in any determination issued for the project:

1. The proponent shall prepare a Construction Environmental Management Plan and Operational Water Management Plan in consultation with and to the satisfaction of the NSW Office of Water prior to commencement of activities.
2. The design of waterway crossings for access roads and cable installations, and any associated in-stream works is to be included within the Construction Environmental Management Plan. These designs are to be prepared in accordance with NSW Office of Water *Guidelines for Controlled Activities on Waterfront Land (2012)*.
3. If rock anchoring is selected for wind tower foundations, a groundwater assessment is to be undertaken in consultation with the NSW Office of Water and endorsed prior to construction. The assessment is to assess the risk of impact on existing licensed groundwater users and groundwater dependent ecosystems and provide suitable mitigation measures. Any necessary licensing requirements under the *Water Management Act 2000* are also to be obtained.

End Attachment B