

Ms Megan Richardson
Development Manager
Iberdrola Australia
By email

13/08/2021

Dear Ms Richardson

**Flyers Creek Wind (MP 08_0252)
Increased Vegetation Clearance and Tree Removal (MP08_0252-PA-13)**

I refer to the letter prepared by Arcadis dated 25 June 2021 which was submitted in accordance with Conditions D1 and D3 of the approval for Flyers Creek Wind (MP 08_0252). The letter requests the agreement of the Planning Secretary to revised endangered ecological community (EEC) clearing extent and impacted numbers of hollow bearing trees.

The Department has carefully reviewed the request and notes that:

- the existing approval (as modified) authorises clearing for the overall project including the wind farm and infrastructure, and the associated transmission line;
- the values for EEC clearing extent and hollow bearing trees clearing in conditions D1 and D3 correlate to the impacts of the transmission line only;
- the applicant seeks revised clearing limits to reflect clearing within previously approved; disturbance footprints for the overall project;
- the approval requires updating the baseline mapping for the vegetation and key habitat within the final disturbance area and this was completed in 2019/20 in accordance with the Biodiversity Assessment Method under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*;
- the approval provides for the offsetting of these impacts; and
- the final credit liabilities for the project calculated and offset under the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme;
- the Department's Biodiversity, Conservation and Science directorate has reviewed the letter prepared by Arcadis and supports the request.

Accordingly, the Planning Secretary agrees that:

- no more than 28.1 hectares of critical EEC may be cleared for the project, and
- no more than 189 hollow bearing trees may be removed for the project.

Notwithstanding the above, the Department notes that the letter outlines the potential to reduce clearing within these limits by micro-siting elements of the project. The Department supports your ongoing work to reduce the biodiversity impacts of the project, noting that the approval obliges you to minimise the clearing of native woodland vegetation, scattered paddock trees and fauna habitat (including rocky outcrops) within the approved disturbance footprint, and this obligation should be given effect to through your Construction Flora and Fauna Management Plan.

The Department acknowledges that you have separately lodged a modification that proposes to revise the maximum width and seek approval for realignment of parts of the 132kV transmission line easement, and that the modification request assesses the impact of clearing associated with that proposal. The Department is progressing the assessment of the modification and will be in contact with you separately.

If you wish to discuss the matter further, please contact Dominic Crinnion on (02) 9274 6495.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Nicole Brewer', with a stylized, cursive script.

Nicole Brewer
Director
Energy Assessments

As nominee of the Planning Secretary