



Department of Primary Industries

OUT20/7185

16 June 2020

Ms Tatsiana Bandaruk
Major Projects Website
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

Dear Ms Bandaruk

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the above proposal as per referral dated 22 May 2020.

The NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI) Agriculture is committed to the protection and growth of agricultural industries, and the land and resources upon which these industries depend. Important issues are the potential impact on limited agricultural resources and the ability to rehabilitate the land to enable continued agricultural investment.

Whilst this proposal has described a range of impacts on land zoned primary production, the following are suggested to deal with the issues of agricultural landuse and stability as a result of the windfarm development:

- In addition to the geotechnical testing of specific areas of the development area, a detailed assessment of the representative soil types that occur in the development footprint area is recommended. As noted in the assessment, some of the soils require careful attention as they can be subject to erosion if managed inappropriately. Representative soil pits are requested for the main topographic features, and specific soil landscape units that the windfarm clusters and roads/underground cabling (the disturbance foot print) will impact that will help provide the soil construction limitations and land management operations required. This soil survey should use current standards as a baseline to information requirements that include:
 - *Australian Soil and Land Survey Handbook (CSIRO, 2009)*
 - *Guidelines for Surveying Soil and Land Resources (CSIRO, 2008)*
 - *The land and soil capability assessment scheme: second approximation (OEH, 2012).*
- Pre-construction Minor Works (Section 4.6.1.2, Page 166) indicates that surveys will be done. This should include soil surveys as outlined above to suit the linear nature of the development in a landscape setting, and provide important information about the soils for construction and final rehabilitation.

- A closure strategy should include details on the land's return to agricultural use. This is where the baseline soil assessment, as noted, above will assist in returning land to a similar capability and production capacity. It provides measurable outcomes to help achieve pre-development soil and landscape conditions.
- The development notes that underground transmission lines are buried below ploughing depth. The recommended depth we consider should be 600mm

Should you require clarification on the information contained in this response, please contact myself on phone 68811250.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mary Kovac".

Mary Kovac
Agricultural Land Use Planning Officer
Agricultural Land Use Planning Unit