



CABONNE COUNCIL

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28 February 2024

Ellena Tsanidis
Environmental Assessment Officer
NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (Energy Assessments)
Via email: Ellena.Tsanidis@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Ellena,

AQUILA WIND FARM (SSD-67667971) ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

Thank you for your email of 15 February 2024 requesting council's requirements for the EIS for the proposed Aquila Wind Farm State Significant development.

Council requests that the following considerations be included in the requirements for the State Significant development for the proposed wind farm EIS (draft SEARS):

1. General Requirements

The General Requirements are supported though council requests consideration of the following:

- 2nd bullet point, 2nd sub-bullet point – making it clear that any road upgrades need to consider the entire route selection (from port to site) for construction and where workers are intended to be housed during construction and operation.
- 2nd bullet point, 4th sub-bullet point, 2nd dash – while 5km of a proposed turbine initially seems a reasonable distance, topography and siting plays a significant role on development impact (visual and noise with prevailing winds). Therefore, it is suggested that 10km be used [other components of the EIS such as noise and visual assessments can comment upon potential impacts within this area of influence].
- 4th bullet point – it is requested that this be expanded to 'the terms of any proposed voluntary planning agreement with a council impacted upon by the proposed development.' This makes it clear that councils that have local infrastructure impacted by the development, or a community impacted by it, will need to be included in the VPA, not just the council that the development is proposed within.

2. Key Issues

- Landscape and Visual
 - In line with request in the General Requirements section, please require the visual assessment to be based on a 10km radius from any proposed wind turbine.
- Noise and Vibration
 - In line with request in the General Requirements section, please require the noise and vibration assessment to be based on a 10km radius from any proposed wind turbine.
- Heritage
 - Specific mention should be made of the need to investigate European Heritage values including agricultural and mining history.
- Transport
 - 4th bullet point – in ‘traffic haulage routes from port’ consider including the need to assess road and bridge widths along the proposed route to identify any upgrades.
- Water and soils
 - 1st bullet point – add reference to identifying volume of water required for concrete footings and source to be obtained.
- Hazards and Risks
 - In regard to Bushfire (4th bullet point) – consider changing the 4th sub-bullet point to ‘consider any potential site impacts and cumulative impacts of the proposed development when combined with adjacent proposed wind farm (Kerr’s Creek) on the aerial fighting of bushfires.’
- Social Impact
 - The study should also specifically include an assessment of the availability of temporary housing for construction workers. The study should consider the timing and likely impacts on availability due to other approved major developments. Lessening the impact of single occupant vehicles travelling to work should also be considered – solutions such as bussing workers to site or carpooling should be explored.
- Waste
 - Council would like to see a particular focus on how decommissioning a site will work and how this relates to waste generation. Is there likely to be a long-term impact upon a nearby landfill that needs to be considered?

3. Plans and Documents

- No additional requirements.

4. Legislation, Policies and Guidelines

- No additional requirements.

5. Engagement

- Council supports being nominated as being required to be consulted with, together with others including affected landowners and community groups.
- Council would like to see the affected landowners as clarified as being within the 10km radius of a proposed turbine and that community groups also includes any local action groups opposed to wind farms.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment to your department of Cabonne Council's requirements. Should you have any further enquiries please contact council's Development Services Department on 6392 3247 during business hours.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Richard Pamplin', with a long, sweeping underline.

Richard Pamplin

DEPARTMENT LEADER – DEVELOPMENT SERVICES