



Australian Government

Defence

ID-EP-DLP&R/OUT/2024/BS52251280

Ellena Tsanidis

Environmental Planning Assessment Officer
Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
PARRAMATTA NSW 2150

Dear Ms Tsanidis,

**RE: PLANNING SECRETARY'S ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
REQUIREMENTS (SEARS) AQUILA WIND FARM PROJECT IN THE DUBBO
REGIONAL COUNCIL LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA LGA, NSW**

Thank you for referring your proposal to the Department of Defence (Defence) seeking comments on the Planning Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) associated with the proposed Aquila Wind Farm Project located at 40 kilometres northeast of Mudgee and 35 kilometers south of Orange, NSW.

The applicant proposes the construction of 48 Wind Turbine Generators (WTG) at a maximum height of 250m Above Ground Level (tip height). The proposal will also include ancillary infrastructure such as substations.

Defence has reviewed the applicant's Preliminary Environmental Assessment (Scoping Report) and recommends that Defence be engaged and included in any considerations for subsequent planning phases in relation to aviation safety. Due to the proposed height of the turbines up to 250 metres, Defence requests the opportunity to consult with military aviation operators to ensure that there would be no impact to Defence aircraft operations.

Should you wish to discuss the content of this advice further, my point of contact is Matt Williams at land.planning@defence.gov.au

Yours sincerely,

Timothy Hogan

Acting Director Land Planning and Regulation

Department of Defence

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07 March 2024