



Planning & Environment

**Planning Services
Resource and Energy Assessments**
Contact: Anthony Ko
Phone: (02) 8217 2022
Email: anthony.ko@planning.nsw.gov.au

Mr Jamie Chivers
Wind Energy Partners

Via email: jamie.c@someva.com.au

Dear Mr Chivers

Hills of Gold Wind Farm (SSD 9679) Environmental Assessment Requirements

I have attached the Environmental Assessment Requirements for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Hills of Gold Wind Farm.

The requirements are based on the information you have provided to date and reflect the standard assessment requirements within the *NSW Wind Energy Guideline for State Significant Wind Energy Development* (December 2016) (the guideline). The agencies comments are attached for your consideration and to inform ongoing consultation in preparing the EIS (see Attachment 2).

Please note that the Department may alter these requirements at any time, and that you must consult further with the Department if you do not lodge a development application and EIS for the project within the next two years.

If your proposal contains any actions that could have a significant impact on Matters of National Environmental Significance, then it will also require approval under the Commonwealth's *Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

This approval is in addition to any approvals required under NSW legislation. If you have any questions about the application of the EPBC Act to your proposal, you should contact the Department of the Environment and Energy in Canberra (6274 1111 or www.environment.gov.au).

The Department notes the project is located in an area with significant conservation values, which includes the Ben Halls Gap Nature Reserve directly adjacent to the project site, and expects this to be a primary consideration in the design of the project and assessment of its potential impacts.

The Department would like to draw your attention to the requirement in the guideline to consider impacts on existing dwellings, dwellings that are approved but are yet to be constructed or are under construction, dwellings for which a development application has been lodged, but a determination is yet to be made and existing dwelling entitlements on land within the vicinity of the wind energy project.

Finally, the Department would also like to draw your attention to consultation requirements in the guideline and the need for a comprehensive, detailed and genuine community consultation process.


Please contact the Department at least two weeks before you plan to submit the development application and EIS for the project. This will enable the Department to:

- confirm the applicable fee (see Division 1AA, Part 15 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000*); and
- determine the required number of copies of the EIS required for exhibition.

It is important for you to recognise that the Department will review the EIS for the project before putting it on public exhibition. If it fails to adequately address these requirements, you will be required to submit an amended EIS.

If you have any further enquiries or should you wish to clarify the assessment requirements, please contact Anthony Ko on the above details.

Yours sincerely



22/11/18

Steve O'Donoghue
A/Director
Resource and Energy Assessments
as nominee of the Secretary