



22 August 2024

Nicole Brewer  
Director, Wind & Transmission Assessments  
Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

via email: [REDACTED]

Dear Nicole,

**Spicers Creek Wind Farm (SSD-41134610)  
Questions on Notice and Request for Additional Information**

I refer to the State significant development application for the Spicers Creek Wind Farm Project (SSD-41134610) (**Application**), currently before the Independent Planning Commission (**Commission**) for determination.

Following the Commission's meeting with the Department on 14 August 2024, the Commission is seeking a response from the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (**Department**) on the following matter:

1. Please provide details of the Applicant's engagement, or attempt(s) to engage, with the holders of exploration licences that overlap the Site. Please also provide the outcomes and/or impacts of any such engagement on the project's proposed design.

The Commission is also seeking additional information relating to the Department's assessment (section 6.3.6 of the Department's Assessment Report) of serious and irreversible impacts (**SAII**):

2. The Commission notes the Department's Assessment Report incorporates differing estimates of the extent of Box Gum Woodland within NSW and is informed by advice provided by Dr Col Driscoll (referencing the NSW State Vegetation Type Map, 2023) to the Department in relation to the Moolarben Coal Project. The Panel seeks either:
  - a. confirmation from the Biodiversity, Conservation and Science (**BCS**) Group that the Department's assessment of SAII in relation to Box Gum Woodland (**BGW**), including commentary on the extent of BGW, is appropriate; or
  - b. a clear articulation of why BCS disagrees with the Department's approach in the Assessment Report.
3. In accordance with the framework for decision making set out within the *Guidance to assist a decision-maker to determine a serious and irreversible impact* (Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, 2019), please set out how each of Steps 1 to 5 of that Guidance have been followed in the assessment of all three entities at risk of SAII.



**New South Wales Government**  
Independent Planning Commission

In order to respond to the queries above, please consult as necessary with the Applicant and BCS. The Commission requests that the Department provide a response by **5pm on Wednesday 4 September 2024**.

Should you require any clarification in relation to the above, or wish to discuss further, please contact Kendall Clydsdale at [kendall.clydsdale@ipcn.nsw.gov.au](mailto:kendall.clydsdale@ipcn.nsw.gov.au) or at 02 9383 2101.

Yours sincerely,



Stephen Barry  
Planning Director