

Our ref: SSD 41134610

Mr Andrew Mills
Chair
Independent Planning Commission
GPO Box 3415
Sydney NSW 2001
ipcn@ipcn.nsw.gov.au

30/07/2024

Subject: Spicers Creek Wind Farm – Referral to the Independent Planning Commission

Dear Mr Mills

The Department has completed its assessment of the merits of the application for the Spicers Creek Wind Farm (SSD 41134610).

The application is referred to the Independent Planning Commission for determination as Warrumbungle Shire Council objected, more than 50 unique submissions objected to the project and Squadron Pty Ltd (the Applicant) has made a reportable political donation.

The Applicant proposes to develop a new State significant wind farm located about 35 kilometres (km) north east of Wellington in the Dubbo Regional and Warrumbungle Shire Local Government Areas.

The project as proposed would have a generating capacity of around 700 megawatts (MW) and would connect to the Energy Corporation of NSW's (EnergyCo) approved CWO REZ Transmission Line via direct connection to one of the onsite substations.

During the exhibition of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) the Department received a total of 68 submissions, of which 67 were unique, in addition to advice from 15 government agencies and the two host Councils. The Department also received comments from Mid Western Regional Council. Of the public submissions, 57 objected to the project, seven supported the project and three provided comments. Warrumbungle Shire Council objected to the project.

The Applicant has offered to enter into a community benefit scheme / voluntary planning agreement with Dubbo Regional Council and Warrumbungle Shire Council, to support the provision of community enhancement projects, with contributions of a total of 1.5 % of CIV (indexed to CPI) to be split proportionately between councils.

In assessing the merits of the project, the Department has considered the environmental, social and economic impacts of the project, submissions on the EIS, relevant environmental planning instruments, the suitability of the site, and the public interest, in accordance with the requirements of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

Department of Planning and Environment



During the assessment process the Department visited the site, and consulted with local residents, Councils and relevant government agencies.

Based on this assessment, the Department considers that the project is approvable, subject to the recommended conditions of consent. I have attached a copy of the Department's assessment report and other relevant documents for the Commission's consideration.

If you have any questions, please contact Nicole Brewer on [REDACTED] or via email at [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Nicole Brewer
Director
Energy Assessments