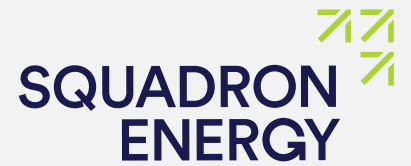


# ANNUAL COMPLIANCE REPORT



## EPBC 2011/6206


### Crudine Ridge Wind Farm

22 June 2023



Final

## Revision Control

Revision	Date	Issue	Author	Reviewed	Approved	Signature
1	22/06/23	Final/Issued	Z. Jokadar	M. McGuire	A. Gordijn	

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**DECLARATION OF ACCURACY**

In making this declaration, I am aware that sections 490 and 491 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cwth) (EPBC Act) make it an offence in certain circumstances to knowingly provide false or misleading information or documents. The offence is punishable on conviction by imprisonment or a fine, or both. I declare that all the information and documentation supporting this compliance report is true and correct in every particular. I am authorised to bind the approval holder to this declaration and that I have no knowledge of that authorisation being revoked at the time of making this declaration.

Signed:



Full name (please print): ALANA GORDIJN

Position (please print): ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGER

Organisation: SQUADRON ENERGY PTY LTD

Date: 22 JUNE 2023

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# 1 Project Description

The Crudine Ridge Wind Farm (CRWF) is situated approximately 45 km southeast of Mudgee and 45 kilometres north of Bathurst in the Central Tablelands of New South Wales. The wind farm site covers approximately 1,664 ha of land which has been mostly cleared for grazing. Areas of scattered remnant woodland exist across the site, and on the elevated ridges to the north, north-east and south. The area is of moderate-to-high elevation (820 m to 1,000 m above sea level, Australian Height Datum (AHD)). The nearest township is Mudgee, which is located to the north along the Castlereagh Highway.

Development Consent was granted by the NSW Planning Assessment Commission (SSD 6697) on 10 May 2016. This was later modified (MOD 1) on 21 June 2019 to realign the reduction in wind turbines from 77 to 37 and incorporate the revised road design for Aarons Pass Road. A further Modification (MOD 2) to consent was granted on 21 June 2020 to realign construction boundary from turbine A35 to turbine A38. An additional modification (MOD 3) was also granted 21 September 2020 to realign construction boundary to allow for the best alignment of cable trenching.

The Minister for Environment and Energy granted approval of CRWF on 4 April 2017 with conditions covered by EPBC 2001/6206. This was later varied by the Department of Agriculture Water and the Environment on 2 November 2021.

CRWF commenced operations on 20 December 2021. This report has been prepared to meet the requirements of Condition 10 of EPBC 2001/6206, for the reporting period 25 May 2022 – 24 May 2023.

## 2 Compliance Report

Table 1 - EPBC Table of Compliance

Number	Condition	Stage	Complies	Status/Comment
1	To minimise the impacts of the action on protected matters, the approval holder must:			
	a. Implement administrative conditions 1,4, 6, environmental conditions 19 (b)(c) - 23, 41, 42 of the Development Consent where they relate to monitoring, managing, mitigating, avoiding, offsetting, recording, or reporting on, impacts to protected matters.	All	Compliant	<p>Management of protected matters are contained within the approved Biodiversity Management Plan and Environmental Management Strategy. The administrative conditions referenced in Condition 1a have been implemented.</p> <p>An Independent Environmental Audit was conducted in September 2022, in accordance with the requirements of the Development Consent. The Independent Audit Report (Rev 0, dated 12/09/2022) confirms compliance with these conditions referenced under EPBC Condition 1.</p> <p>The Independent Environmental Audit Report is available on the Crudine Ridge Wind Farm project website.</p>
	b. Notify the Department in writing of any proposed change to the conditions of the Development Consent for which Condition 1a applies, no later than 2 weeks after formally proposing a change or becoming aware of the NSW Government proposing a change.	All	Not applicable	There was no proposed change to the conditions of Development Consent for which Condition 1a applies during the reporting period.
c. Notify the Department in writing of any change to the Development Consent for which Condition 1a applies within 2 weeks of a change being finalised.	All	Not applicable	There was no proposed change to the conditions of Development Consent for which Condition 1a applies during the reporting period.	
2	The person taking the action must secure the offset site by entering into a Stewardship Agreement by 10 June 2022, unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the Minister. The person taking the action must:	Construction	Compliant	<p>A formal extension was granted by the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment for CRWF to enter into a Stewardship Agreement by 31 August 2022.</p> <p>CRWF purchased 674 ha of land for securing the offset site, known as Glen Maye (lots 1 and 2 in DP 1209812).</p> <p>Consistent with the NSW <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act</i>, CRWF entered into a Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement (BS0050) on 19 August 2022, for the protection and ongoing conservation management of the offset site in perpetuity.</p>

Number	Condition	Stage	Complies	Status/Comment
	a. Lodge the Stewardship Agreement for registration on the title of the offset site within 6 months of the Stewardship Agreement being entered into.	Construction	Compliant	The BSA was registered on title on 12 September 2022, within 6 months of entering into the Stewardship Agreement.
	b. Provide written evidence to the Minister that the Stewardship Agreement for the offset site has been entered into within 10 business days of the agreement being entered into.	Construction	Compliant	On 29 August 2022, written evidence was provided to the Minister confirming that the Stewardship Agreement was entered into on 19 August 2022. The written evidence was provided to the Minister within 10 business days of the agreement being entered into.
3	The person taking the action must not clear more than 3.28 hectares of White Box Yellow Box Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland ecological community, for the development of the proposed action, as defined in Schedule 1 of this approval.	Construction	Compliant	A cumulative total of 2.48 ha of White Box Yellow Box Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland ecological community has been cleared by the development of the proposed action. No additional clearing of this community has been undertaken during the current reportable period.
4	The person taking the action must not clear known locations of Small Purple Pea ( <i>Swainsona recta</i> ) within the project area (identified within the Environmental Assessment). The person taking the action must not clear any additional populations of Small Purple Pea (not identified within the Environmental Assessment), without the approval of the Minister.	Construction	Compliant	All known locations of Small Purple Pea ( <i>Swainsona recta</i> ) within the project area (identified within the Environmental Assessment) were marked during construction as no go zones in the field and have not been cleared. All works have been completed within known locations of Small Purple Pea ( <i>Swainsona recta</i> ) and no known individuals were harmed.
5	The person taking the action must only construct, operate, and replace or upgrade, as necessary, up to 37 wind turbines. The person taking the action must ensure:	All	Compliant	A total of 37 turbines have been constructed.
	a. The wind turbines are micro-sited in accordance with the micro-siting restrictions in Conditions 7 and 8 of Schedule 2 of the Development Consent.		Not applicable	There were no changes to conditions 7 or 8 of Schedule 2 of the Development Consent during the reportable period.
	b. They notify the Department in writing of any changes to conditions to Condition 7 or 8 of Schedule 2 of the Development Consent, as those changes relate to the micro-siting of any wind turbine, and provide the final layout plan to the Department within 2 weeks of the change being made.		Compliant	Notwithstanding, notification was provided on 28/04/2022 to provide the Department with a revised final layout plan. The notification was for information purposes only as the changes to the Plan do not relate to micro-siting of any wind turbine. The amendments to the Plan were in regards to minor access track amendments, to illustrate the location of a wind monitoring mast and show involved and non-involved residents.

Number	Condition	Stage	Complies	Status/Comment
	c. They provide the Department with a map showing the location of each wind turbine and information on how the location of the wind turbines are consistent with the micro-siting requirements of the Development Consent. The map and information must be provided to the Department by 31 December 2021.		Compliant	Map provided to the Department on 20 December 2021.
6	The person taking the action must not construct or place any wind turbines at locations A53, A54, A55, A56, A57, A58, A61, A66, A67, A68, A69, A71, A73, A78, A79, A80, A81, A82, A83, A84 as indicated on Schedule 2 of this approval.	Pre-construction	Compliant	These sites have been removed from the approved site layout and have not been constructed.
7	The person taking the action must not construct any additional turbines at a future time in the project site area indicated on Schedule 2 of this approval, except for those referred to in condition 5.	Ongoing	Compliant	No additional turbines have been constructed.
8	Within 30 days after the commencement of the action, the person taking the action must advise the Department in writing of the actual date of commencement of the action.	Pre-construction	Compliant	Advice that the commencement of the action which occurred 25 May 2018 was given to the Minister on 04 June 2018.
9	The person taking the action must maintain accurate records substantiating all activities associated with or relevant to the conditions of approval, including measures taken to implement the management plans, reports, strategies, agreements required by this approval, and make them available upon request to the Department. Such records may be subject to audit by the Department or an independent auditor in accordance with section 458 of the EPBC Act, or used to verify compliance with the conditions of approval. Summaries of audits will be posted on the Department's website. The results of audits may also be publicised through the general media.	Ongoing	Compliant	Accurate records have been maintained substantiating the activities associated with or relevant to the conditions of approval, and impacts on Protected Matters.



Number	Condition	Stage	Complies	Status/Comment
10	Within three months of every 12 month anniversary of the commencement of the action, the person taking the action must publish a report on their website addressing compliance with each of the conditions of this approval, including implementation of any management plans as specified in the conditions. Documentary evidence providing proof of the date of publication and non-compliance with any of the conditions of this approval must be provided to the Department at the same time as the compliance report is published.	All	Compliant	<p>The commencement of the action anniversary is 25 May (as notified to the Department per Condition 8).</p> <p>This report addresses compliance with each of the conditions between 25 May 2022 to 24 May 2023 and will be published on the project website. Documentary evidence will be provided to the Department via email.</p> <p>The compliance report for the 2021 – 2022 reporting period was published on the Crudine Ridge Wind Farm project website on 08/06/2022, within three months of the anniversary of the commencement of the action. On 08/06/2022, CRWF wrote to the Department via email to notify that the report had been published on the project website that day and provided a direct link to the report on the website.</p>
11	Any potential or actual contravention of the conditions of this approval (including contravention of a commitment made in a management plan, program or strategy) must be reported to the Department within 7 days of the approval holder becoming aware of the actual or potential contravention.	All	Compliant	No potential or actual contraventions of the conditions or approval required to be reported.
12	Upon the direction of the Minister, the person taking the action must ensure that an independent audit of compliance with the conditions of approval is conducted and a report submitted to the Minister. The independent auditor must be approved by the Minister prior to the commencement of the audit. Audit criteria must be agreed to by the Minister and the audit report must address the criteria to the satisfaction of the Minister.	All	Not applicable	The Minister has not directed an independent audit of compliance with the conditions of the approval.
13	If, at any time after 5 years from the date of this approval, the person taking the action has not substantially commenced the action, then the person taking the action must not substantially commence the action without the written agreement of the Minister.	Pre-Construction	Not applicable	The Minister granted approval of CRWF on 4 April 2017. The action substantially commenced on 25 May 2018.

### **3 New Environmental Risks**

The project is continuing to operate, and no new environmental risks were identified during the reporting period.

Squadron Energy is Australia's leading renewable energy company. Proudly Australian owned, our mission is to be a driving force in Australia's transition to a clean energy future by providing green power to our customers.

We develop, operate and own renewable energy assets in Australia, with 1.1 gigawatts (GW) of renewable energy in operation and a development pipeline of 20GW.

With proven experience and expertise across the project lifecycle, we work with local communities and our customers to lead the transition to Australia's clean energy future.

Squadron Energy acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia. We pay our respects to Elders past and present.

