

11 August 2025



Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure  
4 Parramatta Square,  
12 Darcy Street  
Parramatta NSW 2150

Dear Planning Secretary,

**Re: Crudine Ridge Wind farm (SSD-6697 Mod 3) – Independent Environmental Audit #4**

An Independent Environmental Audit (IEA) was undertaken on behalf of Crudine Ridge Wind Farm Pty Ltd (CRWF) to meet the requirements of Condition 8, Schedule 5 of State Significant Development Approval SSD-6697 Mod 3.

The audit was conducted on site by KPMG on 8 July 2025. The audit team was led by Dylan Jones of KPMG, and CRWF was represented on site by Zeina Jokadar and Kacee Milnes. Please see Table 1 for CRWF's responses to the findings and recommendations outlined in Section 4.13 and the Executive Summary of the audit report.

I trust that the Independent Environmental Audit meets the requirements of the Department in addressing Condition 8 of Schedule 5. CRWF will make the audit report publicly available on the Crudine Ridge Wind Farm project website, along with the summary of recommendations/observations and responses provided in **Table 1**.

Pursuant to Condition 4, Schedule 5 of SSD-6697 (Mod 3), CRWF has completed a review of the strategies, plans, and programs required under the consent. The review determined that no updates are necessary at this time. All relevant documents were recently revised to reflect the operational phase of the project. The auditor also did not recommend any updates and concluded that the CRWF site operations and management teams have demonstrated a strong awareness of their environmental obligations, including management plan requirements and relevant consent conditions.

Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me on 0476 88 2365

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Zeina', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Zeina Jokadar  
Environmental Advisor  
For and behalf of Crudine Ridge Wind Farm Pty Ltd ACN 623533102

**Table 1 KPMG Audit recommendations and proponent's response**

| Reference  | Requirement Details   | IEA Recommendation  | CRWF response and proposed action  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <b>Opportunity for Improvement</b><br><b>CRWF-04_OFI-1</b> | <b>3-19 Biodiversity - Operating Conditions</b><br>The Applicant shall:<br>(a) ensure, unless the Secretary agrees otherwise, that no more than:<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5.7 hectares of Box Gum Woodland is cleared for the development, including the 0.95 hectares that would be cleared for the Aarons Pass Road upgrades;</li> </ul> | There is an opportunity for the project to develop an operational phase vegetation clearance tracker to 'draw down' on residual approved limits. The tracker should be maintained as a live document to be able to validate current total clearance amounts and demonstrate ongoing compliance during operations. | CRWF has implemented a vegetation clearance tracker, maintained as a live document within the project's SharePoint register. This register identifies native vegetation types as outlined in Condition 19 of Schedule 3, detailing both the areas cleared and the remaining allowable clearance. It is reviewed and updated as required whenever clearing activities involving listed vegetation types occur. CRWF remains committed to ensuring the register is regularly updated to support ongoing operational compliance.  |
| <b>Opportunity for Improvement</b><br><b>CRWF-04_OFI-2</b> | <b>3-23 Biodiversity Management Plan - Implementation</b><br>Following approval, the Applicant must implement the measures described in the Biodiversity Management Plan.<br><br><i>Biodiversity Management Plan Table 11 (Weed and Pest management Measures) requires the installation of bait/traps around building assets to control rat/mice.</i>       | Install rodent traps as soon as practicable to avoid potential rodent infestations which would attract birds to site and may result in increased levels of bird strikes.  | CRWF currently implements the following actions:<br><br>Site inspections are conducted regularly as part of operations and maintenance (O&M) activities. All relevant environmental observations made throughout the month—such as those related to dust, noise, erosion, waste, weeds, vegetation rehabilitation, pests, and incidental bird and bat strikes—are compiled by the Operations Manager into a monthly inspection checklist. This checklist is aligned with the Conditions of Approval and includes any required corrective actions.<br><br>Recent actions undertaken by CRWF include:<br><br>Rodent activity was recorded in the previous month's inspection report. In response, the Operations Manager has engaged a pest control service to install traps; this action has been scheduled for completion within Q4 2025. CRWF will continue to monitor and record any new or increased pest activity in the monthly inspection checklist. |
| <b>Opportunity for Improvement</b><br><b>CRWF-04_OFI-3</b> | <b>5-2 Environmental Management Strategy - Implementation</b><br>Following approval, the Applicant shall implement the Environmental Management Strategy.<br><br><i>EMS Section 6.2.1 (Site Induction) states "All staff and contractors working on site will be required to undertake a site induction prior to commencing work on the site."</i>          | Update the Site Induction training to incorporate all relevant environmental aspects, including biodiversity protocols and a summary of key compliance requirements such as the SSD, EPL and EPBC approvals   | The Operations Manager and Environmental Advisor have reviewed the current Site Induction package in detail. As part of this review, the Environmental Advisor will develop additional training slides that highlight the site's environmental sensitivities—including noise, visual impacts, biodiversity, heritage, erosion and sediment control, pollution, and bird and bat strikes—along with relevant management procedures.<br><br>The additional slides will be completed by 30 September 2025.  |

| Reference | Requirement Details  | IEA Recommendation  | CRWF response and proposed action  |
|-----------|--|---|--|
|           | <p><i>Inductions will address the requirements of this EMS and highlight the relevant roles and responsibilities.</i></p> <p><i>EMS Section 6.2.2 (Environmental Training) states “Targeted environmental training will be conducted for key operational tasks or work areas that are considered particularly sensitive e.g. site access and biodiversity management. The environmental training content will be developed by Project Environment Officer in consultation with the Site Manager”</i></p> | <p>Consider implementing an environmental awareness training program for all GE and CRWF employees to raise awareness of key requirements such as biodiversity management requirements.</p> | <p>To further enhance environmental awareness, the Operations Manager and/or Environmental Advisor will implement a biannual training program for GE personnel. This program will focus on biodiversity and heritage site sensitivities, outline associated management measures, and reinforce notification requirements to support compliance across operations.</p> <p>The first Environmental awareness training will be provided by 30 November 2025</p> |