Katrina O'Reilly Team Leader Compliance Department of Planning and Environment Queanbeyan NSW 2620



19 September 2022

Dear Ms O'Reilly,

Re: Crudine Ridge Wind Farm (SSD 6697) - Independent Environmental Audit

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 6697 for the Crudine Ridge Wind Farm (SSD 6697).

The IEA was undertaken on site by SNC-Lavalin Atkins Australasia (SNC) on 21 July 2022. The audit team comprised Richard Peterson and Constance Georgiou from SNC who were accompanied on site by James McNamara and Michael McGuire representing Crudine Ridge Wind Farm.

Please see below CRWF response to the recommendations made:

 Review and update the environmental management strategy so it focusses on key operational environmental issues. The review should include updating site environmental checklists if required.

The environmental management strategy is currently under review and a draft revision has been submitted to the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) for approval. The proposed amendments focus on enhancing operational environmental management and remove aspects associated only with construction that are no longer relevant.

2. Monitor the ongoing effectiveness of project rehabilitation works on an ongoing basis, noting the potential for dieback during drought conditions.

The CRWF site manager is responsible for monitoring and rectifying the ongoing effectiveness of rehabilitation on site. This will be monitored during monthly inspections and / or general site surveillance.

3. Complete the operational noise testing report and communicate results to complainants.

The operational noise monitoring report has been independently reviewed to verify the technical elements and conclusions of the report. It is intended that the report will be submitted to DPE at the end of September 2022.

4. Complete obligations relating to biodiversity offsets as a priority.

The Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement (BSA) has been entered into with the Biodiversity Conservation Trust and is currently being registered on title by the Land Registry Services. BSA obligations are on track as per compliance requirements.

5. Monitor weed distribution particularly in the upcoming spring and summer months adapt control strategies to ensure uncontrolled proliferation does not occur.

As part of the rehabilitation inspection and general site surveillance, inspections of weeds will be undertaken by the CRWF site manager. Particular attention will be given during the spring and summer months.

Please do not hesitate to contact me on 0477 056 801 if you would like to discuss anything further.

Yours sincerely,

Leanne Cross

Environmental Manager

CWP Renewables