

Trish McDonald
Acting Head of Project Development
Squadron Energy Services Pty Ltd
Level 1, 25 Bolton Street
Newcastle NSW 2300

06/03/2025

Subject: Spicers Creek Wind Farm – Revision of biodiversity credit liability for the pink-tailed legless lizard

Dear Mrs McDonald,

I refer to your letter dated 21 January 2025, requesting a reduction to the number of credits that must be retired under the development consent for the Spicers Creek Wind Farm (SSD-41134610) (the Project) for the pink-tailed legless lizard (*Aprasia parapulchella*) through post-approval targeted surveys. Condition B24 allows the credit liability for the species to be reduced subject to further surveys.

The Department has carefully reviewed the evidence provided and notes the following:

- The Project was approved in October 2024.
- The Project had an assumed presence species polygon for pink-tailed legless lizard within the Development Corridor, of which 4.9 ha was to be impacted within the Indicative Development Footprint and generated 139 species credits as detailed in Table 2 of Appendix 5 of the development consent.
- Surveys for the pink-tailed legless lizard were completed between September and November 2024 by Umwelt in accordance with the BAM (DPIE 2020), specifically the NSW BAM Survey Guideline for Threatened Reptiles (DPE 2022).
- The briefing note prepared by Umwelt (13 December 2024) states the pink-tailed legless lizard was not recorded within the assumed presence species polygon. It concluded that the Project will not impact the species and the 139 credits for the species are no longer required.
- Consultation was undertaken with the Biodiversity, Conservation and Science Group (BCS) within the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW). Correspondence from BCS dated 18 December 2024 states they have reviewed the briefing note and spatial data provided and acknowledges that the species was not recorded in the development corridor.
- BCS consider the species is unlikely to be impacted by the Project and has advised it supports a reduction in credits for this species.

Accordingly, as nominee of the Planning Secretary, I approve the credit reduction for the pink-tailed legless lizard in accordance with Condition B24 and the information detailed above.

Please ensure you make this document publicly available on the project website at your earliest convenience. If you wish to discuss the matter further, please contact Katie Weekes on (02) 4927 3223.

Yours sincerely



Nicole Brewer
Director
Energy Assessments

As nominee of the Planning Secretary