



22 March 2024

Nicole Brewer
Director
Energy Assessments
Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

via email: nicole.brewer@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Nicole,

Thunderbolt Wind Farm Request for Information

I refer to the State significant development application for the Thunderbolt Wind Farm (SSD-10807896) (**Application**), currently before the Independent Planning Commission (**Commission**) for determination.

The Commission is seeking information from the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (**Department**) on the following matters.

Water Resources

Please provide the following:

- a) the estimated capacity of the Pine Creek Dam;
- b) details on what arrangements are in place for the Applicant to access the dam water. Does this arrangement involve the holder of Water Access Licence 36029?;
- c) advise whether the Department is satisfied that use of water from the Pine Creek Dam as well as any potential erosion into waterways associated with the Project would not negatively impact the Namoi River Snapping Turtle (Bell's Turtle) on Site, downstream or in Pine Creek Dam;

Firefighting Operations

- d) The potential for the turbines to restrict aerial firefighting in the locality has been raised in multiple submissions to the Commission. Is the Department confident that the development will not restrict aerial firefighting in the locality?;
- e) please clarify whether the proposed water tank capacity of 20,000L is sufficient for the firefighting needs of a wind farm development, including in times of drought and limited surface water access; and

Accommodation

- f) the Commission is aware that EnergyCo operates a housing and accommodation working group. Is the Department aware of any policies, strategies or guidance available in relation to managing accommodation impacts associated with renewable energy projects?

In order to respond to the queries above, please consult as necessary with the Applicant and NSW Rural Fire Service. The Commission requests that the Department provide a response by **5pm on Tuesday 2 April 2024**.

Should you require any clarification in relation to the above, or wish to discuss further, please contact Callum Firth at callum.firth@ipcn.nsw.gov.au or (02) 9383 2018.

Yours sincerely,



Stephen Barry
Planning Director