

Our ref: SSD-59235464

Mr Stephen Barry

Planning Director

Independent Planning Commission NSW

Via email

03/06/2025

Subject: Pottinger Wind Farm – Response to Questions on Notice

Dear Mr Barry

I refer to your letter dated 28 May 2025, seeking responses to the following two questions on the proposed Pottinger Wind Farm (the project) for consideration by the NSW Independent Planning Commission (Commission). The Department's response to the Commission's questions is set out below.

Question 1: The Department's Assessment Report states that the project would generate sufficient energy to power around 593,000 homes per year. Please explain how this figure has been calculated. The Commission notes that, given the Applicant's Environmental Impact Statement and Response to Submissions report state that the energy generation could power around 830,000 homes annually, the Commission has requested the same information from the Applicant.

The estimate of approximately 593,000 homes powered per year, as stated in the Department's Assessment Report, is based on the modelling developed by the Data Analytics Team within the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (NSW DCCEEW).

This modelling applies a capacity factor of 29% to all wind farm projects within the South West Renewable Energy Zone (SW REZ) and is consistent with the analysis undertaken by the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO). The capacity factor represents the estimated output of the project compared to its maximum possible output operated at full capacity for the whole year.

To ensure consistency across assessments of other wind farm projects within the SW REZ, the Department has adopted AEMO's capacity factor in its calculation. However, the Department acknowledges that the capacity factor may vary across individual sites within the SW REZ and even within the project site and notes that the Applicant may be better placed to provide site specific information and capacity factor for the project site.

Question 2: The oversized and over-mass (OSOM) vehicle transport route from the Port of Adelaide is proposed to travel through the towns of Wilcannia and Ivanhoe, among others. Has the Department had any correspondence with Central Darling Shire Council regarding the project and possible traffic and road impacts in its Local Government Area? The Commission notes that it has also asked the Applicant about its consultation with Central Darling Shire Council in this regard.

The Department notes that the proposed OSOM transport route from the Port of Adelaide to the project site would be approximately 1,200 km long, with almost half of its length (approximately 600 km) being within NSW. The route crosses multiple local government areas (LGAs), including the towns of Wilcannia and Ivanhoe within the Central Darling Shire LGA.

The Department usually consults with only those Councils along the OSOM transport route where the road upgrades are proposed. The project's OSOM transport route follows the State network through the towns of Wilcannia and Ivanhoe (Barrier Highway and Cobb Highway respectively) and does not propose any road upgrades within the Central Darling Shire LGA. As such, the Department has not had direct correspondence with the Central Darling Shire Council in relation to this project.

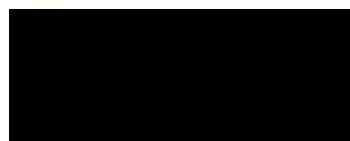
The Department notes that the project identified that there may be a need to use the rest stop areas and pullover bays along the Barrier Highway and Cobb Highway within the Central Darling Shire LGA. However, these areas would be entirely located within the road reserve and Transport for NSW (TfNSW) is the relevant roads authority. These areas would be detailed in the Transport Strategy developed by the Applicant in consultation with TfNSW as required under the Department's recommended conditions.

Conclusion

The responses have been provided to the Commission for consideration in assessing and determining the project.

If you wish to discuss the matter further, please contact Nicole Brewer on [REDACTED] or [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely,



Nicole Brewer
Director
Energy Assessments