

# Appendix A BSC Correspondence



Our ref: DOC21/497289

Megan Richardson  
Development Manager  
Iberdrola Australia  
[megan.richardson@iberdrola.com.au](mailto:megan.richardson@iberdrola.com.au)

Dear Ms Richardson

### **Flyers Creek Wind Farm: Modification 5 and biodiversity offset package draft contents**

Thank you for your emails dated 8 and 15 June 2021 to the Biodiversity, Conservation and Science Directorate (BCS) of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) inviting comments on the scoping letter and biodiversity assessment for Flyers Creek wind farm modification 5 and the biodiversity offset package draft contents.

BCS understands that the proposed modification 5 will increase the maximum width of an 8.5-kilometre section of the 132kV power line easement from 45 metres to 70 metres. It is understood this modification is required to conform to best practice as a result of a bushfire risk assessment.

In addition, a biodiversity offset package, to calculate the biodiversity credit liability for the wind farm (excluding the power line) is to be prepared to satisfy condition D5 of the project approval.

### **Further field survey is not required for modification 5**

As stated in your scoping letter (dated 5 May 2021), the BDAR will be updated to reflect the proposed changes to the 132kV transmission line. As flora and fauna surveys have been conducted in the past five years in the proposed alignment for the BDAR prepared for the project in October 2018, no further field work is proposed. The revised BDAR will use the existing data. BCS supports this approach.

All relevant plot data and spatial data (ArcGIS compatible shapefiles) will need to be submitted with the BDAR.

### **Draft biodiversity offset package report contents**

The draft biodiversity offset package report contents provided to BCS on 15 June 2021 must include all information and data that will affect calculation of the biodiversity credit liability for the wind farm site (excluding the 132kV transmission line). As a result, an assessment of serious and irreversible impacts and prescribed impacts must be included in the content of the report.

All relevant plot data and spatial data (ArcGIS compatible shapefiles) will need to be submitted with the offset package report.

### **Transition arrangements for BAM 2020**

The Biodiversity Assessment Method 2020 came into effect on 22 October 2020. There are transitional arrangements in place to minimise the impacts that amendments to the BAM may have on proponents and landholders. **Attachment A** provides details of the transitional arrangements.



If you require any further information regarding this matter, please contact Liz Mazzer, Conservation Planning Officer, via [liz.mazzer@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:liz.mazzer@environment.nsw.gov.au) or (02) 6883 5325.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Renee Shepherd'.

**Renee Shepherd**  
**Acting Senior Team Leader Planning North West**  
**Biodiversity, Conservation and Science Directorate**

21 June 2021

cc: Nicole Brewer, Director Energy Resource Assessments, DPIE

### Transitional arrangements for the *Biodiversity Assessment Method 2020*

Clause 6.31 of the *Biodiversity Conservation Regulation 2017* provides that when the BAM is amended, a biodiversity assessment report (BAR) may be prepared based on the prior version of the BAM for the following designated periods;

- 12 months for a BDAR in respect of SSD/SSI or standard biocertification,
- 12 months or longer if approved by the Minister for a BDAR in respect of strategic biocertification,
- 6 months for BARs in respect of all other development or stewardship applications

A BAR prepared under these arrangements must state that it has been prepared based on the prior version.

This means that from 22 October 2020 until the end of the relevant designated transition period a BAR may be prepared using **either** the BAM 2017 **or** the BAM 2020, but not a combination of both.

If an Accredited Assessor has commenced preparing a BAR in accordance with the BAM 2017, it is recommended that they discuss the transition options with the proponent/landholder. If opting to continue using the BAM 2017, the BAR must be prepared within the relevant designated period and must include a statement that it has been prepared based on the BAM 2017. In addition, because BOAMs has been updated to reflect the BAM 2020 settings, an assessor continuing to prepare a BAR under the BAM 2017 should consult the [Release Notes](#) to ensure the correct BAM-C settings are applied.

Where an assessor proposes to apply BAM 2017 to a scattered tree (formerly paddock tree) or small area streamlined assessment, the assessor must contact BAM Support for guidance on how to use the BAM Calculator to apply the transitional arrangements. However, if the applicant or assessor proposes to apply BAM 2017 to a BSSAR, the applicant or assessor must contact the Biodiversity Conservation Trust to discuss use of this option.