



ANNUAL COMPLIANCE REPORT EPBC 2011/6206

Crudine Ridge Wind Farm

16 July 2021

Version 1

Author CWP Renewables

Client Crudine Ridge Wind Farm

Crudine Ridge Wind Farm, Mudgee, New South Wales

REVISION CONTROL

Revision	Date	Issue	Author	Reviewed	Approved	Signature
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1 Project Description

The Crudine Ridge Wind Farm (CRWF) is situated approximately 45 km southeast of Mudgee and 45 kilometres north of Bathurst in the Central Tablelands of New South Wales. The wind farm site covers approximately 1,664 ha of land which has been mostly cleared for grazing. Areas of scattered remnant woodland exist across the site, and on the elevated ridges to the north, north-east and south. The area is of moderate-to-high elevation (820 m to 1,000 m above sea level, Australian Height Datum (AHD)). The nearest township is Mudgee, which is located approximately 45 km to the north along the Castlereagh Highway.

Development Consent was granted by the NSW Planning Assessment Commission (SSD 6697) on 10 May 2016. This was later modified by the Independent Planning Commission when it approved SSD 6697-MOD1 on 21 June 2019. A further Modification (MOD 2) to consent was granted on 21 June 2020 to realign construction boundary from A35 to A38. An additional modification (MOD 3) was also granted 21 September 2020 to realign construction boundary to allow for the best alignment of cable trenching.

The Minister for Environment and Energy granted approval of CRWF on 4 April 2017 with conditions covered by EPBC 2001/6206.

The project involves construction, operation and decommissioning of CRWF. Construction on the site commenced on 25 May 2018 and works were suspended on 5 December 2018. Following the granting of Modification 1 by NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) works recommenced on site commencing with the upgrade of Aarons Pass Road on 19 August 2019 and resumption of works on the windfarm began on 26 February 2020.

As required by Condition 10 of EPBC 2001/6206, the following report covers the reporting period from 25 May 2020 – 24 May 2021. During the reporting period CRWF has been in a phase of construction and commissioning and will be moving to operations during the next reporting period.

The project involves a range of activities that vary over time which move across the site as the development proceeds. Key stages and stage of the development as of the time of reporting are shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1 - Works Progress

Construction Activity	Progress – May 2021
Installation of meteorological monitoring masts	Complete
Upgrade of Aarons Pass Road and Bombandi Road prior to the commencement of construction	Complete
Site establishment including access provisions, fencing, installation of environmental controls, installation of site offices, laydown areas, a concrete batch plant and potential rock crushing facilities	Complete
Construction of site access tracks to enable work to progress around the site	Complete
Turbine site preparation for 37 wind turbine sites	Complete
Substation site preparation	Complete
Formation of concrete footings for turbines and the substation	Complete
Installation of 33 kV underground cables and communication cables within each of the wind turbine clusters	Complete

Installation of 33 kV overhead transmission lines and communication cables between wind turbine clusters and the main collector substation	Complete
Identification and update of transport routes to facilitate haulage of over-size and over-mass wind turbine and substation components	Complete
Transport of turbine and substation components from point of origin to the site storage and laydown areas	Complete
Transport of turbine components to turbine sites and substation items to the substation site	Complete
Erection of turbine structures	Complete
Installation of up to six permanent wind monitoring masts	Complete
Construction of a 132 kV substation and switchyard with associated structures and buildings	Complete
Connection to the existing TransGrid 132 kV transmission line with a new 132 kV line turn in of approximately 16km with an associated 60m wide easement	Complete
Installation of appropriate wind farm signage both during the construction and operational phases of the proposed development	Complete
Substation and wind turbine commissioning trials	Commenced during reporting period
Site restoration, revegetation of disturbed areas and completion of drainage works	Commenced during reporting period

2 Compliance Report

Table 2 - EPBC Table of Compliance

Number	Condition	Stage	Complies	Status/Comment
1	To minimise the impacts of the action on protected matters, the approval holder must:	All	Compliant	
A	Implement administrative conditions 1,4, 6, 7, 8; environmental conditions 19 (b)(c) - 24, 41, 42 of the approval under the NSW Environment Planning and Assessment Act 1979, as per Development Consent SSD-6697 dated 10 May 2016, where they relate to monitoring, managing, mitigating, avoiding, offsetting, recording, or reporting on, impacts to protected matters.			Management of protected matters are contained within the approved Biodiversity Management Plan and Environmental Management Strategy.
B	Notify the Department in writing of any proposed change to the conditions of the NSW Government approval for which Condition 1 a applies, no later than 2 weeks after formally proposing a change or becoming aware of the NSW Government proposing a change.			The Department was notified of a proposed modification to the NSW Development Approval for site access tracks on 14 May 2020.
C	Notify the Department in writing of any change to the NSW Government approval for which Condition 1a applies within 2 weeks of a change being finalised.			The Department was notified of the approved modification to the NSW Development Approval for site access tracks on 28 May 2020.
2	If the approval holder does not secure the offset site through a NSW BioBanking Agreement, then the approval holder must protect the offset site under a legal instrument, approved by the Minister within 12 months of the commencement of construction. The legal instrument must:	Construction	Non-compliant	CRWF was issued an Infringement Notice ECB20/048 under Section 142 of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act dated 14th August for not having secured offsets within the required timeframe or having requested the Minister's approval for any other legal instrument as required by condition 2.
A	be registered on title of the offset site once approved, and			To bring this requirement into compliance it is understood that this condition will be varied by means of a Directed Variation.
B	provide for the protection and ongoing conservation management of the offset site in perpetuity.			CRWF has purchase 674 ha of land for securing the offset site, known as Glen Maye (lots 1 and 2 in DP 1209812). Consistent with the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Act, CWRF will enter into a Stewardship Agreement for the

				<i>protection and ongoing conservation management of the offset site in perpetuity.</i>
3	<i>The person taking the action must not clear more than 3.28 hectares of White Box Yellow Box Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland ecological community, for the development of the proposed action, as defined in Schedule 1 of this approval.</i>	<i>Construction</i>	<i>Compliant</i>	<i>A cumulative total of 2.48 ha of White Box Yellow Box Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland ecological community has been cleared by the development of the proposed action.</i>
4	<i>The person taking the action must not clear known locations of Small Purple Pea (Swainsona recta) within the project area (identified within the Environmental Assessment). The person taking the action must not clear any additional populations of Small Purple Pea (not identified within the Environmental Assessment), without the approval of the Minister.</i>	<i>Construction</i>	<i>Compliant</i>	<i>All known locations of Small Purple Pea (Swainsona recta) within the project area (identified within the Environmental Assessment) were marked during construction as no go zones in the field and have not been cleared.</i> <i>All works have been completed within known locations of Small Purple Pea (Swainsona recta) and no known individuals were harmed</i>
5	<i>The person taking the action must only construct, operate, and replace or upgrade, as necessary, up to 37 wind turbines.</i>	<i>Pre-construction</i>	<i>Compliant</i>	<i>Only 37 turbines have been constructed.</i>
6	<i>The person taking the action must not construct or place any wind turbines at locations A53, A54, A55, A56, A57, A58, A61, A66, A67, A68, A69, A71, A73, A78, A79, A80, A81, A82, A83, A84 as indicated on Schedule 2 of this approval.</i>	<i>Pre-construction</i>	<i>Compliant</i>	<i>These sites have been removed from the approved site layout and have not been constructed.</i>
7	<i>The person taking the action must not construct any additional turbines at a future time in the project site area indicated on Schedule 2 of this approval, except for those referred to in condition 5.</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>	<i>Compliant</i>	<i>No additional turbines have been constructed.</i>
8	<i>Within 30 days after the commencement of the action, the person taking the action must advise the Department in writing of the actual date of commencement of the action.</i>	<i>Pre-construction</i>	<i>Compliant</i>	<i>Advice that the commencement of the action which occurred 25/05/2018 was given to the Minister on 04/06/2018.</i>
9	<i>The person taking the action must maintain accurate records substantiating all activities associated with or relevant to the conditions of approval, including measures taken to implement the management plans, reports, strategies, agreements required by this approval, and make them available upon request to the Department. Such records may be subject to audit by the Department or an independent auditor in accordance with section 458 of the EPBC</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>	<i>Compliant</i>	<i>Ongoing record keeping of activities and how such activities impact on protected matters.</i>

Act, or used to verify compliance with the conditions of approval. Summaries of audits will be posted on the Department's website. The results of audits may also be publicised through the general media.

10	Within three months of every 12 month anniversary of the commencement of the action, the person taking the action must publish a report on their website addressing compliance with each of the conditions of this approval, including implementation of any management plans as specified in the conditions. Documentary evidence providing proof of the date of publication and non-compliance with any of the conditions of this approval must be provided to the Department at the same time as the compliance report is published.	All	Compliant	The commencement of the action anniversary is 25 May (as notified to the Department per Condition 8). This report addresses compliance with each of the conditions between 25 May 2020 to 24 May 2021.
11	Any potential or actual contravention of the conditions of this approval (including contravention of a commitment made in a management plan, program or strategy) must be reported to the Department within 7 days of the approval holder becoming aware of the actual or potential contravention.	All	Complaint	No potential or actual contraventions of the conditions or approval required to be reported.
12	Upon the direction of the Minister, the person taking the action must ensure that an independent audit of compliance with the conditions of approval is conducted and a report submitted to the Minister. The independent auditor must be approved by the Minister prior to the commencement of the audit. Audit criteria must be agreed to by the Minister and the audit report must address the criteria to the satisfaction of the Minister.	All	Not applicable	Not triggered.
13	If, at any time after 5 years from the date of this approval, the person taking the action has not substantially commenced the action, then the person taking the action must not substantially commence the action without the written agreement of the Minister.	Pre-Construction	Compliant	CWP as the person undertaking the action substantially commenced the action on 25 May 2018.

3 New Environmental Risks

During this reporting period, CRWF was in a stage of construction and commissioning and no new environmental risks were identified. During the next reporting period, CRWF will be completing construction and commissioning works and transitioning into the operational phase of the project which presents similar environmental risks however the risks to items such as vegetation through clearing will be reduced.



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Final Audit Report

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