



Compliance Report

Crudine Ridge Wind Farm, NSW

EPBC 2011/6206

25th May 2019 to 24th May 2020

Prepared by: CWP Renewables

Date: 24 August 2020

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This document has been approved on behalf of CRWF Nominees Pty Ltd (Crudine Ridge Wind Farm) by:



Brendan McAvoy

Head of Construction CWP Renewables

24 August 2020

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Declaration of accuracy

In making this declaration, I am aware that sections 490 and 491 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act) make it an offence in certain circumstances to knowingly provide false or misleading information or documents. The offence is punishable on conviction by imprisonment or a fine, or both. I declare that all the information and documentation supporting this compliance report is true and correct in every particular. I am authorised to bind the approval holder to this declaration and that I have no knowledge of that authorisation being revoked at the time of making this declaration.

Signed 
Full name (please print): Brendan McAvoy
Position (please print): Head of Construction
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Date 24/08/2020

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1. Project Description

The Crudine Ridge Wind Farm is situated approximately 45 km south east of Mudgee and 45 kilometres north of Bathurst in the Central Tablelands of NSW. The wind farm site covers approximately 1,664 ha of land that has been mostly cleared for grazing, however areas of scattered remnant woodland still 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 10/05/2016. This was later modified by the Independent Planning Commission when it approved SSD 6697-MOD1 on 21/06/2019. A further Modification was granted on 21/06/2020 to realign construction boundary from A35 to A38.

The Minister for Environment and Energy granted approval on 04/04/2017 with conditions covered by EPBC 2001/6206.

The project involves construction, operation and decommissioning of the wind farm. Construction on the site commenced on 25/5/2018 and works were suspended on 5/12/2018. 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 19/08/2019 and resumption of works on the windfarm on 26/02/2020.

Key stages of development during the 2nd year reporting period are shown in Table 1 Works Progress. The reporting period is from 25/5/2019 – 24/5/2020.

Table 1. Works Progress

Construction Activity	Reporting period progress
Installation of meteorological monitoring masts	Completed August 2018
Upgrade of Aarons Pass Road and Bombandi Road prior to commencement of construction;	Commenced August 2018 Works Put on hold 2018
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;	Commenced August 2018 Suspended December 2018
Construction of site access tracks to enable works to progress across the site;	Commenced August 2018 Suspended December 2018
Turbine site preparation for 37 wind turbine sites;	Commenced August 2018 Suspended December 2018
Substation site preparation;	Commenced September 2018 Suspended December 2018
Formation of concrete footings for turbines and the substation;	Commenced February 2020
Installation of 33 kV underground cables and communication cables within each of the wind turbine clusters;	Not Commenced during reporting period
Installation of 33 kV overhead transmission lines and communication cables between the wind turbine clusters and the main collector substation;	Not Commenced during reporting period
identification and upgrade of transport routes to facilitate haulage of over-size and over-mass wind turbine and substation components;	Commenced July 2019

Transportation of turbine and substation components from point of origin to the site storage and laydown areas;	Not Commenced during reporting period
Transport of turbine components to turbine sites and substation items to the substation site;	Not Commenced during reporting period
Erection of turbine structures;	Not Commenced during reporting period
Installation of up to six permanent wind monitoring masts;	Completed August 2018
Construction of a 132 kV substation and switchyard with associated structures and buildings;	Commenced February 2020
Connection to the existing TransGrid 132 kV transmission line with a new 132 kV line turn in of approximately 16 km with an associated 60 m wide easement;	Not Commenced during reporting period
Installation of appropriate wind farm signage both during the construction and operational phases of the proposed development;	Commenced August 2018
Substation and wind turbine commissioning trials; and	Not Commenced
Site restoration, revegetation of disturbed areas and completion of drainage works.	Commenced September 2018

2. Compliance Report

Table 2. EPBC compliance table

Number	Condition	Stage	Complies	Status / Comment
1	To minimise the impacts of the action on protected matters , the approval holder must:			
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 .	All	Compliant	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.	All	Non - Compliant	A request to modify the NSW Government approval was lodged with the DPIE and later approved 21/06/2019. The Department was notified of the modification request made to the DPIE, by way of letter 18/01/2019. This notification however did not provide detailed information regarding the proposed changes to offsetting requirements and has been deemed a noncompliance by the Department .
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.	All	Non - Compliant	The Department was not notified of the changes to the NSW Government approval within 2 weeks of the changes being finalised.

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 Minster within 12 months of the commencement of construction. The legal instrument must:	Construction	Non - Complaint	<p>The offset site was not secured by a NSW BioBanking Agreement within 12 months of the commencement of construction (25/05/2019), nor did the approval holder establish a legal instrument approved by the Minister.</p> <p>Consistent with Appendix 5 of the NSW Government approval, 674 ha of land, known as Glen Maye (lots 1 and 2 in DP 1209812) has been purchased and a Biobanking Stewardship Agreement is being prepared for lodgement with the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust.</p> <p>CRWF understand that the Department will vary the EBPC Approval to amend Condition 2, consistent with NSW Approval.</p>
a	be registered on title of the offset site once approved, and	Construction	Not applicable	An alternate legal agreement has not been sought or approved by the Minister. Refer above.
b	provide for the protection and ongoing conservation management of the offset site in perpetuity.	Construction	Not applicable	An alternate legal agreement has not been sought or approved by the Minister. Refer above.
3	The person taking the action must not clear more than 3.28 hectares of <i>White Box Yellow Box Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland</i> and <i>Derived Native Grassland</i> ecological community, for the development of the proposed action, as defined in Schedule 1 of this approval.	Construction	Complaint	0.4 ha of <i>White Box Yellow Box Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland</i> and <i>Derived Native Grassland</i> ecological community were impacted on during the reporting period.
4	The person taking the action must not clear known locations of Small Purple Pea (<i>Swainsona recta</i>) 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	Construction	Complaint	All known locations of Small Purple Pea (<i>Swainsona recta</i>) within the project area (identified within the Environmental Assessment) have been marked in the field and have not been cleared.

	within the Environmental Assessment), without the approval of the Minister .			No works have commenced within known locations of Small Purple Pea (<i>Swainsona recta</i>).
5	The person taking the action must only construct, operate, and replace or upgrade, as necessary, up to 37 wind turbines.	Pre-construction	Compliant	Only 37 turbines will be constructed.
6	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.	Pre-construction	Complaint	These sites have been removed from the approved site layout.
7	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.	Ongoing	Complaint	No additional turbines will be constructed
8	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 .	Pre-construction	Compliant	Advice that the commencement of the action which occurred 25/05/2018 was given to the Minster on 04/06/2018.
9	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 Act, or used to verify compliance with the conditions of approval. Summaries of audits will be posted on the	Ongoing	Complaint	Ongoing record keeping of activities and how such activities impact on protected matters .

	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	CWP as the person taking the action notified the Department substantially commenced the action , on 25/05/2018. This report details the activities undertaken by CWP as the person taking the action , pursuant to the period 25/05/2019 to 24/05/2020.
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.	Ongoing	Non - Compliant	The Department has deemed that the abovementioned non compliances were not notified and deemed a noncompliance with condition 11.
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 .	Ongoing	Not triggered	Noted

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 taking the action substantially commenced the action , on 25/05/2018.
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3. New Environmental Risks

No new environmental risks were identified during the reporting period. Work on site has only impacted on 0.4 ha of the approved *White Box Yellow Box Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland* and *Derived Native Grassland* ecological community. All the remaining areas have been identified and flagged off.

All known locations of Small Purple Pea (*Swainsona recta*) within the project area (identified within the **Environmental Assessment**) have been marked in the field and have not been cleared. No works have commenced within known locations of Small Purple Pea (*Swainsona recta*).