

SARA reference: 2112-26517 SDA

Applicant reference:

20 May 2022

Chalumbin Wind Farm Pty Ltd
C/-Attexo
Wickham Street, Ground Floor, 108
FORTITUDE VALLEY QLD 4006
chris.cantwell@attexo.com.au

Attention: Mr Chris Cantwell

Dear Mr Cantwell

SARA advice notice – Chalumbin Wind Farm

(Advice notice given under section 35 of the Development Assessment Rules)

The State Assessment and Referral Agency (SARA) advises that your development application has not adequately demonstrated compliance with the State Development Assessment Provisions (SDAP).

SARA has reviewed your response to the information request and advice notice received on 31 March 2022 and as indicated in the conversation with you on 20 May 2022, the following issues with the proposed development have been identified:

SDAP State code 23: Wind farm development	
Flora and fauna	
1.	<p>Issue</p> <p>The following issues have been identified with the updated Bird and Bat Management Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the statement that collision risk modelling is not considered necessary at this time has not been justified. It is important to understand when (if at all) collision risk modelling would be appropriate. there appears to be a word missing from section 8.1.2 (page 64) of the BBMP - <i>if, once additional mitigation measures are implemented the impact trigger is recurring, operational may be considered in consultation with relevant regulators.</i> <p>Action</p> <p>Provide an updated Bird and Bat Management Plan which includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> clarification with respect to the circumstances in which collision risk modelling would be appropriate updated incomplete sentence, suggested missing work is operational 'shut down' or

	'curtailment'.
2.	<p><u>Issue</u></p> <p>The updated Ecology Assessment Report (EAR) includes additional information on impacts to the Greater Glider. However, it is not clear if the project will cause fragmentation impacts to the Greater Glider, due to inconsistencies within the EAR.</p> <p>The EAR rationale for the adoption of a 50m clearance width as the threshold at which crossing infrastructure will be installed is unclear. Section 9.2.2 of the EAR states that widths less than 100 are likely to cause a barrier, while Appendix G relies upon the 50m threshold for the Yellow-bellied Greater Glider.</p> <p>Optimal widths at which to install crossing infrastructure is not explored to be sufficiently considered within section 8.20 or justified within section 10 of the EAR.</p> <p>For reference, other wind farm developments with similar site constraints have adopted lower thresholds for the installation of crossing infrastructure.</p> <p><u>Action</u></p> <p>Provide an updated EAR including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • confirm if the project is likely to cause fragmentation impacts on the Greater Glider • clarify whether the commitment to deliver crossing relates to both Greater Glider species. • detail the commitment to delivery crossing infrastructure with Appendix G of the EAR • provide additional information to demonstrate the adoption of a 50m clearing width as the threshold at which Greater Glider crossing infrastructure be installed is appropriate.
Acoustic amenity	
3.	<p><u>Issue</u></p> <p>The following issues have been identified with the additional information provided with respect to the noise impact assessment report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the location of the sole background noise monitoring equipment appears to be located approximately 50 meters from the receptor dwellinghouse and within overgrown vegetation. This location is likely to provide higher levels of background noise (wind and insects) due to the close proximity of the vegetation to the microphone • the assumption that the dominant source of background noise is from insects irrespective of the time of year, is not supported. Insect activity and noise is likely to be seasonally different • on the basis that the data collected in the noise modelling survey was heavily dominated by insect activity it should be excluded from the noise impact analysis • the use of rainfall data from a weather station at Woodleigh, 7km from the nearest wind turbine generator, does not align with wind farm planning guidelines • only wind monitoring was placed beside the noise monitoring equipment. Rainfall monitoring should also have been undertaken co-located near to the noise monitoring equipment capable of recording data in 10-minute intervals. <p><u>Action</u></p> <p>Further justify the acceptability of background noise monitoring undertaken and impact assessment with respect to the points detailed above.</p>

	<p>It is recommended that the noise impact assessment be updated to exclude background noise from insect activity. This may require a resurvey with equipment capable of recording the requisite octave or third octave statistics. A recognised method for filtering out insect noise affected data can then be used with the resulting baseline regression curve and subsequent noise limits established.</p> <p>Consideration should also be given to including a co-located weather station capable of recording wind and rainfall in 10-minute intervals if a resurvey is undertaken.</p> <p>Note Failure to satisfactorily comply with the State Development Assessment Provisions, the following minimum noise limits would be imposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 35 dBA during the night period; and • 37 dBA during the day period (6am to 10pm).
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Please note that unlike an information request, assessment timeframes do not stop when advice is provided by SARA.

How to respond

It is recommended that you address these issues promptly and provide a response to SARA by 30 May 2022. If you decide not to respond, your application will be assessed and decided based on the information provided to date.


Under the [Development Assessment Rules](#) (DA Rules), the issuing of advice does not stop the assessment timeframes. If you intend to provide additional information, it should be provided in a timely manner to allow sufficient time for the information to be considered. As such, you are strongly encouraged to consider using the 'stop the clock' provisions under s32 of the DA rules, to allow sufficient time for you to consider and respond to SARA's advice; and for SARA to consider any new or changed material provided.

If you wish to utilise the 'stop the clock' provisions, you should give notice to the assessing authority (assessment manager or referral agency) whose current period you wish to stop. This can be done through MyDAS2 or via correspondence.

You are requested to upload your response and complete the relevant tasks in [MyDAS2](#).

If you require further information or have any questions about the above, please contact John Irving, Principal Planner on 4758 3421 or via email DAAT@dasilgp.qld.gov.au who will be pleased to assist.

Yours sincerely



Sallie Battist
Manager

Development details

Development details	
Description:	<p>Development permit</p> <p>Material change of use for Wind farm (94 turbines, weather monitoring, substations and associated infrastructure)</p> <p>Operational work for Clearing native vegetation</p>
SARA role:	Assessment manager
SARA trigger:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part 4, Division 2, s21, Item 2.b (4.2.21.2.b) – Material change of Use for a Wind farm (Planning Act 2016) • Schedule 8, Table 4, Item 3.b (8.4.3.b) - Operational work that is the clearing of native vegetation (Planning Regulation 2017)
SARA reference:	2112-26517 SDA
Assessment criteria:	<p>State Development Assessment Provisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State code 16: Clearing native vegetation • State code 23: Wind farm development