

Our ref: DEPN22/543

4 July 2022

Mr Matt Lachlan
[REDACTED]



Department of
**State Development, Infrastructure,
Local Government and Planning**

Dear Mr Lachlan

I am writing as you have previously expressed interest in the Chalumbin Wind Farm application. The application has now been approved by the State Assessment and Referral Agency (SARA) following a detailed assessment against the State Development Assessment Provisions including State Code 16 (Native vegetation clearing) and State Code 23 (Wind farm development) which included independent technical advice from acoustic and ecological consultants. In addition, SARA gave careful consideration to the issues raised by those who commented on the application.

The decision has been made subject to conditions, including a requirement for an environmental offset to counter impacts to Matters of State Environmental Significance.

A Preliminary Rehabilitation Plan has also been approved that will see 70% of impacted vegetation restored over the lifetime of the wind farm. The plan includes measures to require the early restoration of vegetation that is cleared for construction purposes and a separate plan includes measures to manage, re-use and salvage cleared vegetation.

In addition to the rehabilitation and management of vegetation, the Preliminary Rehabilitation Plan and Construction and Environmental Management Plan conditions require specific measures to rehabilitate waterways and habitats for endangered and vulnerable species.

Noting the adjacent Wet Tropics World Heritage Area, approved development is set back least 600m from the sites boundary to mitigate any potential direct impacts on this area, including impacts on character, scenic amenity and landscape values of the locality.

The site location and selection is proponent led, with wind resource, access and proximity to transmission lines being key considerations. In this instance due to the ecological value of this site the proponent has modified the project to reduce in size by 50% to avoid areas of highest ecological significance.

A copy of SARAs decision is available on the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning's (the department) website at <https://planning.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/planning-framework/state-assessment-and-referral-agency/sara-application-material> by searching application reference '2112-26517 SDA'.

1 William Street
Brisbane Queensland 4000
PO Box 15009
City East Queensland 4002
Telephone 13 QGOV (13 74 68)
Website www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au
ABN 29 230 178 530

If you require any further information, please contact Mr Phil Joyce, Director, Planning Group, in the department, by telephone on on (07) 3452 7449 or by email at [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "C. Aston".

Christopher Aston
Acting State Planner
Planning Group