



Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

PO Box 500, East Melbourne,
Victoria 8002 Australia
delwp.vic.gov.au

Application Reference: PA1800360

Grace Abou Abdallah
Environmental Resources Management
Level 6, 99 King Street
Melbourne VIC 3000

Dear Ms Abdallah,

**PLANNING PERMIT APPLICATION NO. PA1800360
REMOVAL OF NATIVE VEGETATION (ASSOCIATED WITH THE RYAN CORNER AND HAWKESDALE
WIND FARMS' EXTERNAL POWERLINE)
REQUEST FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

I refer to the application for Planning Permit PA1800360 submitted to the Minister for Planning C/- Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (the Department) on 23 May 2018.

An assessment of the application has revealed that, pursuant to section 54(1) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, further information is required for the Department to properly consider your application. The further information required, as outlined in more detail in the letter from Geoff Brooks, dated 28 June 2018 (ref. SP464373) is as follows:

1. Clarification of the Construction Footprint

Further information is requested to understand how a credible worst-case construction and access footprint has informed the extent of native vegetation removal, as the current proposal appears conservative and implausible. Information is required regarding how the pole sites will be accessed, what activities will occur within native vegetation patches, as well as ongoing maintenance requirements. This must include comment on the type and range of machinery and equipment required to construct the powerline, operational access, and equipment and materials storage requirements – particularly in existing, mapped patches of native vegetation.

2. Clarify the Approach to Vertical Clearance and 'Managing' Native Vegetation

Further information is requested about the native vegetation to be 'managed' (e.g. type, level and nature of management, heights, and percentage of overall vegetation 'managed'). A better understanding of what this means in practice is needed, in terms of whether these activities are plausible or whether they will result in the removal of native vegetation.

3. Wetland EVC Identification

Further information is requested in terms of a rationale for the timing of field surveys of wetland EVCs being in Autumn 2018. The capacity and suitability of an autumn survey to detect and record remnant patches of wetland EVCs and seasonally inundated vegetation types (such as Seasonal Herbaceous Wetlands (Freshwater) of the Temperate Lowland Plains) is questionable, and additional surveys are likely to be required.

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4. Native Vegetation Removal Associated with the Wind Farms

Further information is requested in terms of documentation confirming the extent of native vegetation removal that has already been approved and offset (including mapping files), such as within the wind farm boundaries. It is noted that all impacts associated with the current proposal (i.e. pole installation, access, vertical clearance etc.) must be accounted for.

5. Impacts to Golden Sun Moth

Further information is requested in terms of a rationale for discounting the presence of Golden Sun Moth on the site, as the proposed removal of native vegetation may impact on its habitat. This species has been recorded within about 15km of the study area and key host plants (*Rytidosperma spp.*) were recorded in EVCs encompassed by the project footprint.

6. EPBC Act Targeted Surveys

Further information is requested in relation to the need to complete targeted surveys for six EPBC Act listed flora species that are potentially present on the site. It is suggested that these surveys will need to be completed prior to a determination on the current application.

Please note the application will be re-referred to statutory authorities and further public notice may be given once the further information is provided.

Please provide all information as part of a complete set of updated application documents, together with a digital copy of the full updated application on USB.

This request for further information is made pursuant to section 54 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

Should you have any further queries in relation to this matter please do not hesitate to contact Tim Wild on (03) 9637 9169 or email tim.wild@delwp.vic.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,



DAVID NEVIN

Acting Director, State Planning Services

3 / 7 / 2018

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