

Our Ref: A24/114372

21 March 2024

Mr John Ramsay  
Executive Commissioner  
Tasmanian Planning Commission  
[tpc@planning.tas.gov.au](mailto:tpc@planning.tas.gov.au)

Dear Mr Ramsay

**SES RESPONSE TO TASMANIAN PLANNING COMMISSION'S LETTER  
REQUESTING COMMENTS FROM THE STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE  
REGARDING ASSESSMENT CRITERIA FOR WHALEBACK RIDGE – MAJOR  
PROJECT**

I refer to your letter of the 13 March 2024, requesting comments from the State Emergency Service for the first stage of the major project process – to develop assessment criteria to be addressed in the major project impact statement for the Whaleback Ridge Major Project.

SES understands that the Whaleback Ridge Major Project comprises up to 500 wind turbines and ancillary infrastructure (including a network of access roads, electrical infrastructure and operations facilities, as well as temporary quarries and concrete batching to facilitate construction).

The project has a project site extending over 40,000 hectares and an estimated initial 30 year life. During the initial construction phase approximately 170 FTE positions are anticipated to be generated with an ongoing 16 FTE positions once operational, for the first stage of the project.

Given the scale and complexity of the Major Project over such a large project site and with a diversity of permanent and temporary infrastructure proposed, SES recommends that the major project impact statement address criteria relating to:

- flood risks to, and posed by, the development for the life of the development; and
- the potential of the development to cause increased risk from flood to other values.

Given the scale, complexity, and relative remoteness of the major project, SES recommends that the major project impact assessment address criteria relating to:

- emergency management risks and requirements for the full life of the project (this includes the construction, operation and decommissioning phases).

Please contact the Manager Flood Policy Unit – Chris Irvine, on 6173 2700, or by email [chris.irvine@ses.tas.gov.au](mailto:chris.irvine@ses.tas.gov.au), if you wish to discuss any of the matters raised in this submission.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several slanted, parallel strokes followed by a horizontal line.

Mick Lowe  
**Executive Director SES and Volunteers**