

Department of Premier and Cabinet

Executive Building 15 Murray Street HOBART TAS 7000 Australia
GPO Box 123 HOBART TAS 7001 Australia
Ph: 1300 135 513 Fax: (03) 6233 5685
Web: www.dpac.tas.gov.au



Ms Ann Cunningham
Chairperson, Development Assessment Panel
Tasmanian Planning Commission
Email: tpc@planning.tas.gov.au

Dear Ms Cunningham

Exhibition of draft assessment criteria – North-East Wind Major Project

Thank you for your letter dated 26 June 2023, inviting comment on the draft assessment criteria prepared by the Development Assessment Panel for the North-East Wind Major Project.

The Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC), has administrative responsibility for the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975* and is therefore a Relevant Regulator under section 60Z of the *Land Use Planning Approvals Act 1993*. Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania, as the responsible unit within DPAC, provided the Tasmanian Planning Commission with an Assessment Requirement Notice for the project on 15 September 2022. Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania have been individually notified of the draft assessment criteria and will provide their own response to the Development Assessment Panel.

The draft assessment criteria have been reviewed by other relevant divisions within DPAC. The only issue which has been raised, relates to the security and resilience of the wind farm which - if constructed and operational - would be considered an item of critical infrastructure. As such, it may be covered by the Australian Government's *Security of Critical Infrastructure Act 2018* or similar frameworks which would impose broad obligations to mitigate hazards to the facility.

While such considerations may not be necessary or reasonable at this stage of the process, DPAC wanted to alert you to the fact the security of critical infrastructure, is a matter of concern for the Tasmanian and Australian Governments. Should you wish to include these considerations, it may be appropriate to address them under "4.1.1 Transport, traffic and access" of the draft assessment criteria. The Panel can then have regard to whether access points and supporting infrastructure are suitable for meeting security, resilience and emergency management needs of a facility of this type.

Kind regards

Craig Limkin
Associate Secretary

11 July 2023