



WHITSUNDAY  
CONSERVATION  
COUNCIL

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Contact: Secretary 0407 207 441

Mr. James Gilmour  
Gilmour Space Technologies  
By email: [james.gilmour@gspacotech.com](mailto:james.gilmour@gspacotech.com)

21 July 2022

Dear James,

**SUBMISSION to Bowen Orbital Spaceport Public Environment Report - 21/06/2022**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this latest report.

Further to our meeting some months ago, we would like to reiterate our concerns relating to;

**6.4.2.1 Noise Impacts on Terrestrial Fauna**

The report states;

*Consequently, it is expected that the noise generated at launch will startle birds, including listed threatened migratory and non-migratory waders and waterbirds (see Appendix H) and other least concern terrestrial fauna at the launch site and within the adjacent Caley Valley Wetlands. However, no substantive behavioural changes are expected: there will be no significant impact (DoE, 2013) on any important population of threatened or migratory species (including Australian painted snipe and osprey).*

There is no mention of the impact of excessive sound on bird embryos. And we note that Southern Launch mentioned that its test launches this year would provide the chance to measure what effect the noise would have on local species, so this is a very sensitive issue which should be investigated.

However, in your report the adjoining Caley Valley Wetlands are recognised as nationally important habitat for shorebirds and waterbirds (AMCS, 2013)

We do note that you will be incorporating a water deluge system on lift off, introducing high volume flows of water into the rocket exhaust to dissipate sound energy. But while it will slightly lower the noise generated in the environment for the first 5 or so seconds of engine burn it will rapidly the report states that this will become ineffective as the vehicle accelerates upward and clear of the Launch Pad.

As such, WCC insists that bird nesting periods be recognised and that launching of rockets is not scheduled during these times.

**6 Assessment of Impacts:**

This section of the report covers a multitude of areas. WCC expresses its concerns for the environment generally and for the;

**6.8 Coral Sea Marine Park and Coral Sea National Nature Reserves Ramsar Wetland** in particular.

We urge Gilmour Space to carefully select launch trajectories and Stage 1 dropzones to avoid interaction with sensitive receptors (eg. Islets and cays) and mitigate any adverse impact from their operations on the natural environment.

Sincerely,

Faye C Chapman  
Secretary  
Whitsunday Conservation Council Inc.

