

11 September 2018

Tatsiana Bandaruk
Environmental Assessment Officer – Planning Services
Department of Planning & Environment
GPO BOX 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Your Ref: SSD8895
Our Ref: DOC18/599681

Emailed: tatsiana.bandaruk@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Miss Bandaruk,

Re: Wellington North Solar Farm (SSD 8895) – Environmental Impact Statement

Thank you for the opportunity to provide advice on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Wellington North Solar Farm Project (SSD 8895). This is a response from the Department of Planning & Environment – Division of Resources & Geoscience (the Division).

The Division's specific requirements for the Wellington North Solar Farm (SSD 8895) required the proponent to include an assessment of the development's compatibility with existing land uses on the site and adjacent land including operating mines, extractive industries, mineral or petroleum resources and exploration activities. Furthermore, the SEARs also included a requirement for consultation with exploration licence holders, quarry operators and mineral title holders. The Division indicated that the proposal area is considered highly prospective for porphyry copper-gold mineralisation and volcanic massive sulphide (VMS) deposits.

The Division has reviewed the EIS for the Wellington North Solar Farm and notes the proponent has undertaken a search of the Division's MinView and Common Ground Viewer and identified the current exploration licences EL6178 held by Modeling Resources Pty Ltd and EL8505 held by Drummond West Pty Ltd with results shown on a map and described in text.

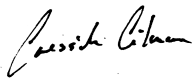
The Division acknowledge that efforts regarding consultation by the proponent with affected titleholders and quarry operators has been outlined in the EIS. The Division notes Modeling Resources Pty Ltd's request to obtain geotechnical data generated in the Project's construction and that consultation with the title holder is ongoing. A response from Drummond West Pty Ltd regarding the proposed solar farm is yet to be provided. The Division sent current contact details for the exploration licence holder to the proponent on 22 May 2018. It is noted that the proponent will continue to seek contact with Drummond West. The Division requests that evidence of successful contact and consultation with Drummond West be provided.

Consultation with title holders should continue throughout the planning stages of the project. The Division has no resource sterilisation concerns in relation to current and future access to quarry resources.

The Division notes that no biodiversity offset sites have been proposed at this stage of the Project. The Division's preference is to locate any potential offsets onsite if possible to avoid loss of access for exploration and possible future extraction of resources in other areas of this highly prospective region of the State.

Queries regarding the above information should be directed to the GSNSW Land Use team at landuse.minerals@geoscience.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Cressida Gilmore
Manager – Land Use

for Paul Dale
Director – Land Use & Titles Advice