

Neil Weston
Development Manager

RATCH Australia Development Pty Ltd

Via email: neil.weston@ratchaustralia.com

23/09/2021

Dear Mr Weston

Collector Wind Farm (MP10_0156)
Further Extension of Time to Retire Biodiversity Credit

I refer to your letter dated 8 September 2021 seeking a further extension of time to retire the biodiversity credits under condition B7 of project approval for the Collector Wind Farm (MP10_0156).

The Department notes that without further extension, the biodiversity credit liability for two communities (*PCT277 Blakely's Red Gum-Yellow Box grassy tall woodland of the NSW South Western Slopes Bioregion* and the *PCT290 Red Stringybark-Red Box-Long-leaved Box-Inland Scribbly Gum tussock grass-shrub low open forest on hills in the southern part of the NSW South Western Slopes Bioregion*) would need to be retired by 31 December 2021.

The Department has carefully reviewed your request to further extend the deadline for retirement of biodiversity credits to 30 June 2022 and notes that:

- this extension request is specifically in relation to retiring credits for PCT277 and PCT290 through a stewardship site;
- all other biodiversity credits required under the project approval have been retired through payment to the Biodiversity Conservation Fund;
- Ratch has submitted the revised Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement (BSA) application with the Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT) on 30 June 2021; and
- BCT has indicated there have been delays to the BCT's timeframes due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and it will require more time to finalise the BSA, and associated credit registration, than the current extension allows.

Accordingly, the Planning Secretary approves the proposed extension to retire the biodiversity credit through the proposed stewardship site for PCT277 and PCT290 as required under condition B7 of the project approval to 30 June 2022.

If you wish to discuss the matter further, please contact Natasha Homsey on 02 8275 1264 or at natasha.homsey@planning.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Nicole Brewer', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Nicole Brewer
Director
Energy Assessments

As nominee of the Secretary