



Regional
NSW

Natasha Homsey
Environmental Assessment Officer
Strategy and Performance
Department of Planning, Industry and
Environment
4 Parramatta Square
12 Darcy Street
Parramatta NSW 2150

Our ref: DOC20/909190

Your ref: SSI-10040

Emailed: via Planning Portal

25 November 2020

Dear Natasha

Subject: Project Energy Connect (NSW Western) – Advice on EIS

Thank you for the opportunity to provide advice on the above matter. This is a response from the NSW Department of Regional NSW – Mining, Exploration & Geoscience (MEG).

MEG has reviewed the Environmental Impact Statement for Project Energy Connect (NSW Western) and makes the following comments:

- On pages 141/152, the proponent states that consultation has occurred with Exploration Licence holder (EL8500) and Exploration Licence Applicant (ELA6062), who have advised the proposal is unlikely to impact their activities. Since the publication of the EIS, a new Exploration Licence Application (ELA6077) was submitted on July 12, 2020 by Relentless Resources Limited. MEG requests the proponent to contact Relentless Resources Limited to determine their level of interest.
- On page 27, the proponent states to offset the residual impacts to biodiversity, biodiversity offsets would be required in accordance with the Biodiversity Assessment Method. We request to be consulted in relation to the location of any biodiversity offset areas (both on and off site) or any supplementary biodiversity measures to ensure there is no consequent reduction in access to prospective land for mineral exploration, or potential for sterilisation of mineral or extractive resources.

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steven Palmer'.

Steven Palmer
Manager, Land Use Assessment
Geological Survey of NSW – Mining, Exploration & Geoscience.