

Samantha Oyston
Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
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Via: Major Projects Portal

ADVICE RESPONSE: Forbes Solar Farm

Stage: Advice on Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements

Development Application: SSD-72383210

Dear Samantha,

I refer to your correspondence dated 24 June 2024 inviting the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development – NSW Resources to provide comments on the Forbes Solar Farm (the Project) submitted by Forbes Solar Farm Pty Ltd (the Proponent).

NSW Resources has reviewed the information supplied in relation to the abovementioned Project and based on the review provides the following advice:

The project area is located within the Lachlan Orogen, a geological province prospective for a range of mineralization styles and deposit types including porphyry copper-gold, volcanogenic massive sulphide, orogenic gold mineralisation.

The proposed solar farm project area is entirely covered by mineral titles. Most of the subject site is covered by Exploration Licence (EL)8580 and a smaller part in the northwest corner of the site is covered by EL8555. Both ELs are held by Orange Minerals (NSW) Pty Ltd for Group 1 minerals. EL8580 expires on 26/05/2029 and EL8555 expires on 5/05/2025.

The project area covers most of Orange Mineral's Bald Hill North and Pinevale prospects, where they are targeting structurally controlled, orogenic style gold mineralisation, like the Calarie gold deposit (held under Mining Lease (ML) 739 by Orange Minerals), located approximately 4km southwest of the project area. NSW Resources considers parts of the project area to be highly prospective for this style of mineralisation.

NSW Resources recommends early engagement with Orange Minerals as required by the draft SEARs, to minimise the impact to exploration activities the company may have planned over the area, to avoid potential land use conflict and possible mineral resource sterilisation.

NSW Resources has no additional requirements to those in the draft SEARs and advises the Proponent to actively monitor the MinView map viewer at <https://minview.geoscience.nsw.gov.au> for mining title changes that may interact with this project. NSW Resources can assist with title holder contact details if required.

For further advice on this matter, please contact the undersigned or Industry Advisory & Mining Concierge unit - Industry Development branch on 02 4063 6860 or mining.concierge@regional.nsw.gov.au.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'G. Carney' in a cursive script.

Giselle Carney

A/Manager Industry Advisory and Mining Concierge
Industry Development
Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development – NSW Resources

for

Tony Linnane

Executive Director Strategy, Performance and Industry Development
Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development - NSW Resources