

Our Ref: 4651_R03_Newtricity_Mead_20191216a_itr

16 December 2019

Tim Mead
Newtricity Developments Biala Pty Limited
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SYDNEY NSW 2000
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Dear Tim

**Re: Confirmation of Biodiversity Credit Requirement for Modification 2 Revised
Project Disturbance Area - Internal Electrical Reticulation Network**

Umwelt (Australia) Pty Limited (Umwelt) is pleased to provide this letter to Newtricity Developments Biala Pty Limited (Newtricity) to assist with the assessment process of Modification 2 for the Biala Wind Farm (the Project). Specifically, Modification 2 incorporates changes to the internal electrical reticulation network.

Umwelt understand that the Biodiversity Conservation Division (BCD) of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) requested the Biobanking Credit Calculator (the Calculator) assessment for the Project be updated to consider the additional 0.62 hectares of impacts to native vegetation as a result of the revised internal electrical reticulation network layout.

Umwelt have been given the authority by Newtricity to access and revise the Calculator assessment for the Project on their behalf. This revision included the following tasks:

- Accessed the current version of the Calculator assessment for the Project which was prepared as part of the original development assessment process for the Biala Wind Farm - Proposal 128/2016/3738MP Version 2.
- Combined the additional areas of impact to native vegetation associated with the revised internal electrical reticulation network layout from Table 5.1 of the Statement of Environmental Effects (Umwelt 2019) with the areas existing within the Calculator assessment.
- The additional areas were added to the applicable vegetation zone (combined Plant Community Type and Condition Zone) as used in the original assessment with no changes made to the vegetation zones.
- No other component of the Calculator was changed other than the total area of the vegetation zone.
- The revisions to the Calculator were completed by Bill Wallach, Senior Ecologist and Accredited BioBanking, FBA and BioCertification Assessor with Umwelt.

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The results of the updates to the Calculator are presented below in **Table 1**. This table shows an increase of four credits for *PCT 351 - Brittle Gum - Broad-leaved Peppermint - Red Stringy open forest in the north-western part (Yass to Orange) of South Eastern Highlands Bioregion* and an increase of six credits for *PCT 1097 - Ribbon Gum - Narrow-leaved Peppermint grassy open forest on basalt plateaux, Sydney Basin Bioregion and South Eastern Highlands Bioregion*.

It is important to note that as outlined in the Statement of Environmental Effects (Umwelt 2019) Newtricity has committed to limiting the Project's impacts to native vegetation to the impact areas provided in the existing development consent and therefore the increased impact assumed in the updated calculator assessment are not expected to occur. Newtricity considers that this outcome will be achievable through the avoidance and minimisation measures implemented as part of the Biodiversity Management Plan.

We trust this information meets with your current requirements. Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned on 1300 793 267 should you require clarification or further information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Merrell', is positioned above the printed name.

John Merrell
Executive Manager Environment NSW & ACT

References

Umwelt, 2019. *Statement of Environmental Effects: Biala Wind Farm – Minor Modification Internal Electrical Reticulation Network, Final November 2019*.

Table 1 **Revised Biobanking Credit Calculator Assessment (Proposal 128/2016/3738MP Version 2)**

Plant Community Type	Biometric Condition	Approved Project Impact Area (ha)	Approved Project Credits Required	Mod 2 Impact (ha)	Total Impact Area (ha)	Total Credits Required	Credit Difference
351 - Brittle Gum - Broad-leaved Peppermint - Red Stringy open forest in the north-western part (Yass to Orange) of South Eastern Highlands Bioregion	Moderate_Good_Moderate	0.67	44	0.19	0.86	48	+4
	Moderate_Good_Sparse	0.24		0.05	0.29		
	Moderate_Good_DNG	1.11	0	0.2	1.31	0	0
1097 - Ribbon Gum - Narrow-leaved Peppermint grassy open forest on basalt plateaux, Sydney Basin Bioregion and South Eastern Highlands Bioregion	Moderate_Good_Moderate	1.05	41	0.18	1.23	47	+6