

12 April 2022

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SSD-10452 Stubbo Solar Farm Biodiversity credits revision request

UPC\AC Renewables Australia (UPC\AC) propose to develop the Stubbo Solar Farm and associated Blue Springs Road Upgrade near Stubbo, NSW (the project). The project is designated as State Significant Development (SSD-10452). The project received development consent from the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) on 29 June 2021. The development consent requires the retirement of a specified number and class of biodiversity credits in accordance with the *NSW Biodiversity Offsets Scheme*, unless the Secretary agrees otherwise.

The attached report, prepared by Eco Logical Australia Pty Ltd (ELA), outlines further targeted threatened candidate species surveys and habitat assessments completed in accordance with the Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM) to determine the presence/absence of species credit species and provides updated credit offset requirement calculations for the project.

The development consent currently requires retirement of the 15 species credits as listed in Schedule 3, condition 14. However, following completion of additional targeted surveys and habitat assessments in September 2021, it now appears that the only species credit species requiring offset was Barking Owl (assumed present) at the Stubbo Solar Farm. No species credits were required for the Blue Springs Road Upgrade. The species credits required to offset the residual impacts of the proposed Stubbo Solar Farm and Blue Springs Road Upgrade should now be:

- Barking Owl (*Ninox connivens*) (Breeding) – 195 credits.

In addition, ecosystem credit requirements for Plant Community Type (PCT) 281 increased from 89 to 111 for the Blue Springs Road Upgrade area due to re-operation of the BAM Calculator and an increase in the biodiversity risk weighting for that PCT. The impact footprint for the project remains unchanged.

Requested revision for Schedule 3, condition 14, **Table 2: Ecosystem Credit Requirements**

Vegetation Community	PCT ID	Credits Required	
		Road Upgrades	Project site
Western Grey Box – cypress pine shrub grass shrub tall woodland	81	40	-
White Box grassy woodland	266	1	-
Rough-Barked Apple – Red gum – Yellow box woodland	281	111	354
Slaty Gum woodland (Moderate – good)	1177	19	
Narrow-leaved Ironbark – Red Stringybark – Black pine woodland	1770	-	2

Requested revision for Schedule 3, condition 14, **Table 3: Species Credit Requirements**

Species Credit Species	Credits Required	
	Road Upgrades	Project site
Barking Owl (<i>Ninox connivens</i>)	-	195

UPCIAC hereby request the Secretary to consider a revision of the credit offset requirement as outlined above and in the attached report.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Kind regards,

Cédric Bergé



Project Development Manager