

24 May 2021

Iwan Davies
Team Leader
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Mr Iwan Davies,

RE: BANGO WIND FARM SSD 6686 – REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL TWELVE MONTHS TO SECURE BIODIVERSITY OFFSETS (CoA 3.19)

Bango Wind Farm Pty Ltd (BWF) is seeking agreement from the Secretary for a twelve (12) month extension to formally secure Biodiversity Offsets pursuant to Condition 19 of Schedule 3 (CoA 3.19) of SSD 6686.

CoA 3.19 requires:

Within two years of the commencement of construction, unless the Secretary agrees otherwise, the Applicant must retire the required biodiversity credits, to the satisfaction of OEH.

The retirement of the credits must be carried out in accordance with the NSW Biodiversity Offsets Policy for Major Projects, and can be achieved by:

- a) acquiring or retiring 'biodiversity credits' within the meaning of the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016;*
- b) making payments into an offset fund that has been established by the NSW Government; or*
- c) providing suitable supplementary measures.*

Construction on the Bango Wind Farm commenced on 14th August 2019. Accordingly, the required biodiversity credits are to be retired by 14th August 2021.

In accordance with CoA 3.18, the biodiversity offset credit liability for the Bango Wind Farm was approved by the Biodiversity, Conservation and Science Directorate (BCS) on the 16th of September 2020, following approximately 16 months of consultation with BCS. Given the delay in approval of the offset credit liability, BWF were significantly compromised in the ability to meet the timeframe requirements for CoA 3.19 and are therefore seeking an extension of time.

Since approval of offset credit liability, BWF have:

1. purchased BioBanking credits from a private seller (LA242 – 106 x Biobanking credits; LA271 – 8 x Biobanking credits; and Squirrel Glider – 6 x Biobanking credits);
2. commenced preparing an Application to the Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT) to establish a Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement (BSA) to generate Biodiversity Credits;

3. submitted an application for an 'Assessment of Reasonable Equivalence of Biodiversity Credits' to BCS on 5th of March 2021, to determine the credit obligation under the 'Biodiversity Assessment Methodology' (BAM). The Statement of Reasonable Credit Equivalence was received from the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) on the 19th of May 2021; and
4. investigated options to pay into the Biodiversity Conservation Fund (BCF) to discharge part of the credit liability for Plant Community Type 335 (LA271), which does not exist on the Biodiversity Stewardship Site (BSS) and for which there are no biodiversity credits currently available on the open market. As the Statement of Reasonable Credit Equivalence has now been received (per Point 3 above), BWF can now proceed with steps to pay into the BCF to discharge part of its credit obligation for PCT335.

Based on discussions with our ecologists and representatives from the BCT (South East region), the time between lodgement and registering of a BSA with the BCT can be extensive. To that end, an extension of twelve months is requested to finalise the preparation, lodgement, and approval of the BSA Application, and subsequently, to retire Biodiversity Credits generated from the BSA to fulfil the credit liability.

BWF is committed to minimising the impact of the Project and have already commenced some conservation management at the Stewardship Site, including stock exclusion and feral pest management.

I look forward to your hearing from you and hope for you to consider this request favourably. If you require additional information or to further discuss, please contact Alana Gordijn on 0414 934 538 or alana.gordijn@cwprenewables.com.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leanne Cross'.

Leanne Cross
Environment Manager
CWP Renewables