

Ms Mikayla Henderson Environmental Officer Bango Wind Farm Pty Ltd 2 Market Street Newcastle, NSW, 2300

22/06/2021

Dear Ms Henderson,

Bango Wind Farm (SSD 6686) Extension of Time to Secure Biodiversity Offsets

I refer to your request (SSD-6686-PA-27) for an extension of time to secure biodiversity offsets as required under the conditions of consent for the Bango Wind Farm (SSD 6686).

The Department notes that:

- as construction commenced on 14 August 2019, the biodiversity credits are required under the consent to be retired by 14 August 2021;
- the biodiversity offset credit liability for the Bango Wind Farm was approved by the Biodiversity, Conservation and Science Directorate (BCS) on 16 September 2020, following extensive consultation with BCS;
- since the approval of the offset credit liability, CWP Renewables:
 - has purchased BioBanking credits from a private seller for part of the required offset;
 - o has received a Statement of Reasonable Credit Equivalence from BCS on 19 May 2021;
 - has submitted an application to Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT) to establish a Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement (BSA); and
 - has investigated options to pay into the Biodiversity Conservation Fund (BCF) to discharge the residual credit liability which does not exist on the Biodiversity Stewardship Site (BSS) and for which there are no biodiversity credits currently available on the open market and
 - can proceed with steps to pay into the BCF to discharge part of its credit obligation; and
 - has committed to the immediate ongoing management of the stewardship site to ensure the ongoing biodiversity values of the site are maintained.

Accordingly, the Planning Secretary has granted an extension of time until 14 August 2022 for the formal securement of biodiversity offsets under the conditions of consent for the Bango Wind Farm Wind Farm (SSD 6686).

If you wish to discuss the matter further, please contact Callum Firth at <u>callum.firth@dpie.nsw.gov.au</u>.

Yours sincerely

Nicole Brewer Director Energy Assessments

As nominee of the Planning Secretary