

10 June 2020

Iwan Davies  
Team Leader  
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment  
GPO Box 39  
Sydney NSW 2001  
Our ref: CRWF-2-LET-027

Dear Mr Iwan Davies,

**RE: CRUDINE RIDGE WIND FARM SSD 6697-MOD1– REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL TWELVE MONTHS TO SECURE BIODIVERSITY OFFSETS (CoA 3.20 and 3.21)**

Crudine Ridge Wind Farm Pty Ltd (CRWF) is seeking agreement from the Secretary for an additional twelve months to formally secure Biodiversity Offsets pursuant to Condition 20 and Condition 21 of Schedule 3 of SSD6697 MOD1. The Department was formally notified that construction commenced on 12 April 2018, although works on site did not commence until August 2018. Furthermore, works on site ceased in early December 2019 and did not recommence until 19 August 2019.

During the period from December 2018 to August 2019 a Modification to the Conditions of Consent was being sought. The Modification included a reduction in the overall clearing footprint as the number of Wind Turbine Generators was reduced to 37. The reduction in clearing footprint may have impacted on the existing offset strategy so the preparation of the Stewardship Agreement was temporarily suspended. When the Modification was granted it included an additional offset requirement for disturbance to Aarons Pass Road and no changes to the previously approved Biodiversity Offset.

CRWF is committed to minimising the impact of the Project and have already undertaken the majority the requirements of Condition 20. The property known as “Glen Maye” which is located on Lots 1 and 2 in DP 1209812 and is described in Appendix 5 of SSD 6697 MOD1 was purchased in August 2018. The property has been destocked for over 18 months. Several conservation management activities have been undertaken on the property including fencing, fire and weed control.

The final botanical, weed and ecological survey work required for the preparation of a Stewardship Agreement for “Glen Maye” was delayed due to drought conditions for much of 2018 and all of 2019. This led to a delay in preparing the Stewardship Agreement. Following recent rains all the survey work has been completed and the preparation of the Stewardship Agreement is progressing. Our ecologists anticipate having a draft Stewardship Agreement for review before the end of June 2020 with the aim to formally lodge it by the end of July 2020.

From discussions with our ecologists the time between lodgement and registering of a Stewardship Agreement with the Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT) is between three and six months. To that end an extension of twelve months is requested to finalise the preparation, lodgement and approval of the Stewardship Agreement pursuant to Condition 3.20 of SSD 6697 MOD1.

Modification 1 of SSD 6697 required CRWF to secure additional Biodiversity Offsets for the clearing of vegetation along Aarons Pass Road. These requirements are outlined in Condition 3.21 of SSD 6697 MOD1 and outlines three potential options to secure the requisite biodiversity credits being:

- I. acquiring or retiring 'biodiversity credits' within the meaning of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*;
- II. making payments into the Biodiversity Conservation Fund; and
- III. funding a biodiversity conservation action that benefits the threatened entity impacted by the development, consistent with the 'Ancillary rules: Biodiversity conservation actions'.

CRWF has explored each of these options to determine the best possible outcome for both the Project and the environment. The best outcome environmentally would be to acquire and retire the requisite 'biodiversity credits' locally, however number and type of credits required to satisfy Condition 3.21 have not become available.

CRWF requests that the Secretary grant an additional twelve months to pursue local retirement of 'biodiversity credits', however if such credits do not become available then the full payment would be made into the Biodiversity Conservation Fund.

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 me on 0477 056 801 or [leannecross@cwprenewables.com](mailto:leannecross@cwprenewables.com).

Yours sincerely,



Leanne Cross  
Environment Manager  
CWP Renewables