

UPC\AC Renewables Australia Pty Ltd
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Suite 2, Level 2, 13 – 17 Castray Esplanade
Battery Point, TAS, 7004

29th January 2021

Dear Compliance Team,

**New England Solar Farm (SSD-9255)
Deferment of biodiversity credits retirement**

Pursuant to Schedule 3, condition 10 of the New England Solar Farm (NESF) development consent, prior to commencing the Development, the applicant must retire biodiversity credits of a number and class specified under this condition, subject to the Secretary's discretion. Development is defined as 'the development as described in the EIS'.

UPC\AC Renewables (UPC) is the applicant for the New England Solar Farm. There is currently a modification application (MOD 1) which is under assessment by the Department of Planning, Industry, and Environment (DPIE). This modification application relates to NESF road upgrade works and should it be approved, the number and type of biodiversity offset credits required to be retired under the NESF development consent will vary from the current approval.

UPC intends to commence the development works for the solar farm that are not subject to change as a result of MOD 1, as soon as permitted. To avoid a potential delay to the commencement of construction, UPC proposes that the obligation to retire biodiversity credits be deferred until two weeks after the approval of MOD 1. Under this approach, once MOD 1 is approved, the company will immediately arrange payment into the Biodiversity Conservation Fund to satisfy the project's offset obligation. Details on this process are outlined in the following link <https://www.bct.nsw.gov.au/cards/pay-fund-offset-development>.

Please advise if this approach is agreeable to the Department.

Kind Regards,



Tim Kirk
Project Development Manager
UPC\AC Renewables Australia