

Appendix C: Correspondence and consultation



Your Ref: SSD 18_9564

Contact: Lesley Duncan

Date: 2 November 2018

Martina Gassner Level 4 13 Cremorne Street RICHMOND VIC 3121

Dear Ms Gassner

RE: Wyalong Solar Farm - Subdivision

Reference is made to your email dated 25 October 2018 in relation to a proposed subdivision for the purpose of a switchyard. Council can advised that while the proposal is not consistent with the Bland Local Environmental Plan 2011, in principle support can be given for the subdivision as it is consistent with State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) 2007.

Accordingly, once the subdivision is approved by the Department of Planning as part of SSD 18_9564, Council would be in a position to issue a subdivision certificate.

Should you have any questions in relation to this matter please contact Council's Manager Development and Regulatory Services, Lesley Duncan, on 69722266.

Yours faithfully

Ray Smith General Manager



27 September 2018

Chris Grimshaw 9 Shire Street West Wyalong NSW 2671

Dear Chris,

Re: Proposed Wyalong Solar Farm Development

By way of introduction ESCO Pacific is a leading Australian developer of utility scale solar farms. Our leading project, the 148MW Ross River Solar Farm is currently in commissioning phase. Once operational the \$225 million dollar project will generate electricity to feed into the distribution network, equivalent to the average consumption of 65,000 homes.

ESCO Pacific wish to inform you of our proposed solar farm development on land located about 7 kms northeast of West Wyalong, along the Newell Hwy, Wyalong. A preliminary Development Application has been lodged with the Department of Planning and Environment and as part of this application process we are seeking your feedback on the project.

As neighbours to the proposed project, we would like to invite you to a community discussion about the project and answer any questions you may have. We will be holding a **Community Consultation Session** from 6:30pm on Wednesday 3 October 2018 at the West Wyalong Services and Citizens' Club.

Should you have further questions or wish to discuss the proposal in more detail or register your interest to attend the community meeting, please contact ESCO Pacific using the contact details below. If you would like to stay up to date with the progress of this project, please contact us to register your details.

Kind regards,

Martina Gassner Project Manager

M: 0409 482 824 E: <u>martina@escopacific.com.au</u> W: <u>www.wyalongsolarfarm.com.au</u>

website www.escopacific.com.au



Wyalong Solar Farm

ESCO Pacific is a leading Australian developer of utility scale solar farms with a proven track record of developing projects from early stage feasibility through to financial close and ultimately project commissioning.

Project Facts		
Capacity	Up to 130MW	
Technology	Horizontal Tracking	
Modules	~350,000 solar panels	
Project Cost	Approx. \$130 million	
Location	1409 Newell Highway, Wyalong NSW 2671	
Connection Point	132 kV Essential Energy Transmission network, expected to be within the site boundaries.	
Project Website	www.wyalongsolarfarm.com	



The Wyalong Solar Farm is a utility scale renewable energy project with an output measuring up to 130 megawatts (MW) that will generate clean and renewable electricity from the power of the sun. The project will generate enough electricity to power the equivalent of approximately 50,000 homes.

The \$130 million dollar project is located approximately 7 kms northeast of West Wyalong NSW within Bland Shire Council. The site was chosen due to its proximity to the grid network, lack of environmental constraints and flat land. The project will involve the installation of solar panel arrays across an area of up to 260 hectares within the project area and a local connection to the 132 kV Essential Energy Transmission network, expected to be within the site boundaries.

The solar farm will comprise of up to 350,000 solar photovoltaic modules, known more commonly as 'solar panels'. The solar panels are identical in type but larger in size to those used in residential solar installations installed on homes throughout Australia.

The solar panels will be installed on ground-mounted frames that will slowly track the daily horizontal movement of the sun. The solar panels will generate direct current ('DC') electricity that will be inverted to alternating current ('AC') via power conversion units. The power conversion units located within the site will feed AC electricity into an onsite power reticulation system before the power is centrally collected and dispatched to the local electricity distribution network via the Essential Energy transmission network.

website www.escopacific.com.au





Argent Minerals Limited Level 2 66 Hunter Street Sydney NSW 2000

C/O Mining Title Services

Attn: Bob Harrison 9 Kinsellas Lane Lane Cove North NSW 2066

Re: Proposed Wyalong Solar Farm (SSD9564)

To Whom it May Concern,

We refer to the NSW Department of Planning & Environment Resource & Geoscience Division response to the NSW Department of Planning & Environment Planning Services request for advice on the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) for the Wyalong Solar Farm, dated 7 September 2018.

In their response, the Resource & Geoscience Division recommend that ESCO Pacific should undertake a search of current mining and exploration titles and applications near the proposed Wyalong Solar Farm.

The Wyalong Solar Farm project is a utility scale renewable energy development with a capacity of up to 130 MW that would generate clean and renewable electricity from the power of the sun. Wyalong has been chosen as the location of the solar farm because of the relatively high solar irradiance in the region and the capacity of the Essential Energy electricity network to transmit the power generated by the project. The development site is located within an existing highly modified and cleared environment, therefore there is no dense bushland and only limited vegetation in or surrounding the site. The site comprises a mixture of grazed and cropped paddocks.

The solar farm operation will comprise up to 350,000 solar photovoltaic (PV) modules, known more commonly as 'PV Modules' or 'solar panels'. Access to the site during construction and operation is expected to be from the Newell Highway. More information about the project is available via the following link.

http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/page/development-categories/transport-communications--energy---water/generation-of-electricity-or-heat-or-cogeneration/?action=view_job&job_id=9564.

The project is coincidental with Exploration Licence EL8430 held by Argent Minerals identifying two copper-gold targets – Theia and Narragudgil (see Figures 1 & 2). The figures show there are currently no direct overlapping interests in the site. There are no operating quarries in the immediate vicinity of the site.



Furthermore, we can confirm there are no proposed offsite biodiversity offsets or supplementatry biodiversity measures that would reduce access to prospective land for mineral exploration.

Should you have any further queries regarding our proposed solar farm, please contact us directly. We request a response to this letter confirming Argent Minerals has no objection to the proposed Wyalong Solar Farm.

Yours sincerely

Martina Gassner Project Manager



M: 0409 482 824 | E: <u>martina@escopacific.com.au</u> Level 4, 13 Cremorne St, Richmond, Vic 3121 <u>www.escopacific.com.au</u>

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Martina Gassner

From:Martina GassnerSent:Wednesday, 26 September 2018 9:37 AMTo:bob@amts.com.auCc:Cedric BergeSubject:Wyalong Solar FarmAttachments:180926_Letter to Argent and Agent.pdf; Wyalong SF - Local Mineral Tenement
Map_25Sep18 (002).pdf

Hi Bob,

I just tried calling your office then.

ESCO Pacific is an Australian developer of ground mounted utility scale solar farms. We intend to develop the Wyalong Solar Farm (up to 130MW) in Wyalong, approximately 7kms northeast of West Wyalong, NSW. The project will involve the installation of solar panels arrays across an area of up to 260 hectares within the project area and a local connection to the NSW power grid.

Attached is a letter outlining the context of our engagement with Argent Minerals. Letters have been mailed to your office and the Argent Minerals office in Sydney.

More information about our project can be found here -

http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/page/development-categories/transport--communications--energy---water/generation-of-electricity-or-heat-or-co-generation/?action=view_job&job_id=9564

Ultimately, we request a response from Argent Minerals confirming they have no objection to our proposed solar farm.

If you have any questions, please get in touch.

Martina Gassner Project Manager



A: 0409 482 824 | E: <u>martina@escopacific.com.au</u> evel 4, 13 Cremorne St, Richmond, Vic 3121 <u>vww.escopacific.com.au</u>

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Martina Gassner

From:	Martina Gassner
Sent:	Wednesday, 10 October 2018 10:18 AM
То:	'matthew.robertson@argentminerals.com.au'
Cc:	Cedric Berge; 'bob@amts.com.au'
Subject:	Wyalong Solar Farm & EL8430

Hi Matthew,

Thanks for your time over the phone yesterday.

Just to confirm – Argent Minerals received information from ESCO Pacific on its proposed Wyalong Solar Farm. High level details about Argent Minerals' current review of exploration licence EL8430 with respect to the solar farm were discussed. Not conflicts of interest are anticipated.

Argent Minerals will provide a written response to ESCO Pacific within two weeks (19/10/18).

A copy of your response via email would be appreciated.

Kind regards,

Martina Gassner Project Manager



 A: 0409 482 824
 E: martina@escopacific.com.au

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 vww.escopacific.com.au

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Martina Gassner

From:	David Busch <david.busch@argentminerals.com.au></david.busch@argentminerals.com.au>
Sent:	Monday, 29 October 2018 3:13 PM
То:	Martina Gassner
Cc:	Matthew Robertson; Vinod Manikandan
Subject:	Re: Wyalong Solar Farm

Good afternoon Martina,

We have received preliminary advice from our lawyers, and intend to provide a formal response to you after further considering the advice.

You may wish to note that we have concerns in relation to potential conflicts with our minerals exploration and potential future mine development within the tenement.

Whilst we anticipate being in a position to provide a considered response as soon as possible in the short term, this will not be possible by 31 October 2018 due to other high priority matters requiring our attention. ESCO may also wish to note that there are also other stakeholders in our West Wyalong project, including but not necessarily limited to limited our joint venture partner Golden Cross Operations, royalty holder Royal Gold Inc., and the New South Wales Government.

I will keep you updated as we progress our response.

Regards,

David Busch CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



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From: Martina Gassner <martina@escopacific.com.au>
Date: Monday, 29 October 2018 at 11:04 am
To: Matt Robertson <matthew.robertson@argentminerals.com.au>

Cc: David Busch <david.busch@argentminerals.com.au> Subject: RE: Wyalong Solar Farm

Good Morning Matthew,

We are approaching our EIS lodgement date and were hoping to understand Argent Minerals' position with regard to our proposed Wyalong Solar Farm proposal.

A response by mid week (31 October) would be appreciated.

Please advise if this is not possible.

Thanks,

Martina Gassner Project Manager



 A: 0409 482 824
 E: martina@escopacific.com.au

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 vww.escopacific.com.au

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From: Martina GassnerSent: Thursday, 25 October 2018 1:50 PMTo: matthew.robertson@argentminerals.com.auSubject: Wyalong Solar Farm

Hello Matthew,

Would you by chance have an update regarding our proposed solar farm and Argents exploration licence over the same area?

I understand your lawyers are preparing advice.

An update would be appreciated. Kind regards

Martina

Get Outlook for iOS



Sep 25, 2018 11:25

any information contained in this publication is inferred.



Waylong Solar Farm - Sensitive Receptors (Neighbours within 2km)

ID	Date	Stakeholder	Method of Engagement	Comment
R5	23/08/2018	Sensitive Receiver	Phone	Land Owner (LO) called on behalf of ESCO Pacific
R3	23/08/2018	Sensitive Receiver	Phone	LO called on behalf of ESCO Pacific - R3 related to LO (R1)
				ESCO called to update R3 on project and discuss any potential concerns. None raised. R3 generally supportive of p
R3	3/09/2018	Sensitive Receiver	Phone	happy to meet ESCO ahead of the community information session.
R5	4/09/2018	Sensitive Receiver	Phone	ESCO contacted R5 to discuss the project and provide some background on the company. R5 was receptive to info welcomed the forthcoming community information session later in September 2018. R5 is particularly interested i arrangements. Phone call was followed up with an email on the 5/9/18 containing further information about site a attached map).
R5	20/09/2018	Sensitive Receiver	Email	ESCO contacted R5 to discuss the community session on 3 October 2018.
R5	20/09/2018	Sensitive Receiver	Email	R5 emailed to confirm note about the community session received, but was unable to meet separately.
R5	20/09/2018	Sensitive Receiver	Phone	ESCO spoke with R5 to discuss the community session and meeting up to discuss and concerns. Also discussed pro take photos for the visual impact assessment. R5 invited ESCO to take photos from within property boundary on the ESCO will need to contact LO to arrange access closer to the time.
R3	27/09/2018	Sensitive Receiver	Phone	ESCO called to update R3 on project and discuss upcoming community information session on 3 October 2018 and property. R3 will attend community information session. R3 did not want to meet at property at this stage.
R5	27/09/2018	Sensitive Receiver	email	Following up on community information session and offer to meet R5 on property.
R3	27/09/2018	Sensitive Receiver	Letter	Project introduction, contact details, fact sheet, feedback form
R5	27/09/2018	Sensitive Receiver	Letter	Project introduction, contact details, fact sheet, feedback form
кJ	27/05/2018	Sensitive Receiver		
R5	27/09/2018	Sensitive Receiver	Email	R5 confirmed they will not attend Community Session but was still interested in understanding the views of the sol property.
R5	2/10/2018	Sensitive Receiver	Email	ESCO replied to R5 confirming a visualisation of the proposed solar farm from the property will be provided in adva exhibition phase.
R5	3/10/2018	Sensitive Receiver	Site visit	Visited R5 property to take photos of view to proposed solar farm.
R1	3/10/2018	Land Owner	Site visit	Site visit to discuss views from property and project status.
R2	3/10/2018	Sensitive Receiver	Phone	Discussed project and community session. R2 generally supportive of project. Offer to meet declined. Instead, cor call was held. Follow up information to be sent to R2.
R3	4/10/2018	Sensitive Receiver	Site visit	Viewed proposed solar farm from property boundary. Site visit to be followed up by consultation with R3 on photo
R5	11/10/2018	Sensitive Receiver	Email	ESCO supplied R5 with a visualisation representing the view of the solar farm from R5 property. A follow up phone afternoon 1:15pm.
R5	16/10/2018	Sensitive Receiver	Email	Discussed view of solar farm from R5 property. Resident expressed some concern with the view. Expressed intere vegetation buffer. R5 highlighted national phone line that runs in line with fence, this would have to be considered vegetation buffer was established on R5 property.
R2	24/10/2018	Sensitive Receiver	Letter	Project introduction, contact details, fact sheet, feedback form.
R3	31/10/2018	Sensitive Receiver	Letter	Sent R3 copy of photomontage showing the view from property to proposed solar farm (mail)
R5	31/10/2018	1	Email/Phone	Emailed R5 copy of photomontage showing the view from property to proposed solar farm
R3	7/11/2018	Sensitive Receiver	Phone	Message left for R3 regarding the photomontage sent last week. Offer to discusss.
R5	7/11/2018	Sensitive Receiver	Phone	ESCO spoke to R5 regading the photomontage sent last week. R5 requested email from last week to be resent. To Friday 9/11/2018.
R3	7/11/2018	Sensitive Receiver	Phone	ESCO spoke with R3 regarding photomontage and general project update. No concerns expressed. R3 supportive would like more information on job opportunities at the appropriate time.
R5	9/11/2018	Sensitive Receiver	Phone	Phone call to discuss photomontage and future landscape plan at R5 property.





Waylong Solar Farm – Stakeholders (Other)

Date	Stakeholder	Method of Engagement	Comment
9/05/2018	Essential Energy Port Macquarie	Meeting	Meeting regarding grid application.
/ /	Department of Planning and Environment -		
10/05/2018	Sydney	Meeting	Project introduction presentation.
13/06/2018	Bland Shire Council	Meeting	Project introduction presentation.
15/06/2018	Office of Environment and Heritage	Council chambers	Project update.
15/06/2018	The Registrar, Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983	Letter	Request for information on Aboriginal Parties.
17/06/2018	Bland Shire Council	Letter	Request for information on Aboriginal Parties.
24/08/2018	Department of Planning and Environment	Email	Confirmation from Iwan that the PEA Scoping report has been uploaded to DPE website and SEARs sent to agencies for
25/08/2018	Bland Shire Council	Telephone/email	Project update, request for information.
20/09/2018	Bland Shire Council	Finley Jobs Fair	Spoke with Jeff Stien at the Finley Jobs Fair - discussed the upcoming Wyalong Community Sesssion in West Wyalong.
21/09/2018	Bland Shire Council	Phone	Spoke with Jeff Stien - discussed the upcoming Wyalong Community Sesssion in West Wyalong. Discussed advertising t broadly.
26/09/2018	Argent Minerals	Letter	Letter introducing project, and NSW DPE Resource & Geoscience division request for mining and exploration titles and search, ultimately seeking a response from Argent Minerals regarding the proposed solar farm.
26/09/2018	Argent Minerals C/O Mining Title Services	Phone/Letter	Letter introducing project, and NSW DPE Resource & Geoscience division request for mining and exploration titles and search, ultimately seeking a response from Argent Minerals regarding the proposed solar farm.
27/09/2018	Department of Industry	Email/Phone	Called to discuss Land Use Conflict Assessment requirements.
27/09/2018	Argent Minerals C/O Mining Title Services	Phone	Following up on ESCO email introducing the Wyalong Solar Farm. Briefly discussed Argent prospects south of the proper area. Early indication that there are no conflicting land use issues to resolve with Argent Minerals.
28/09/2018	Department of Industry	Email	DPI confirmed they are satisfied with ESCO's proposed approach to landuse risk assessment in the Wyalong EIS.
03/10/2018	Bland Shire Council	Meeting	Proposed meeting with new Mayor Cr Bryan Monaghan prior to the community information session. Meeting to discus timescales and anticiapted queries from the community ahead of community information session.
03/10/2018	All community stakeholders	Meeting/Presentation	Community Consultation Session – West Wyalong Services and Citizens Club 6:30-8pm.
	All community		Email to all registered community stakeholders, thanking them for their attendance at the community information sess
08/10/2018	stakeholders	Email	encouraging them to get in touch with any questions.
09/10/218	Argent Minerals	Phone	Follow up phone call regarding Argents Mineral Exploration Licence 8430. They received information about the propos and are now assessing against mineral licence. No issues anticipated.
10/10/2018	Argent Minerals	Email	Follow up email confirming they intend to submit response by email. Expect mid October.
10/10/2018	Argent Minerals	Email	Confirming Argent has engaged Lawyers Steinpreis Paganin to review proposal and prepare a response to ESCO.
10/10/2018	Roads and Maritime Services	Phone/email	Traffic Consultants Impact Australian seeking response from RMS on proposed approach to traffic impact assessment (I
31/10/2018	Bland Shire Council	Email/Phone	Email and follow up phone call to Bland Shire Council to discuss Lot 160 reconfiguation and council in principle support site to accommodate the Wyalong Solar Farm switchyard.



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5/11/2018	Bland Shire Council	Email (letter)	Letter received from Bland Shire Council providing in principle support to reconfiguration of Lot 160.
	NSW DPE Resource &		ESCO Pacific called to discuss exploration licence EL8430, agreement conditions, expiration dates and rights of licence I
7/11/2018	Geoscience Division	Phone	Information received via phone call and webportal – DIGS/. https://search.geoscience.nsw.gov.au/
	All community		Email to all registered community stakeholders, providing a project update on DA lodgement and the public exhibition
13/11/2018	stakeholders	Email	encouraging stakeholders to get in touch with any questions.

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on period and

phone +61 3 8595 2406 info@escopacific.com.au website www.escopacific.com.au

Proposed Wyalong Solar Farm

Community Information Session

ESCO Pacific invites local residents to attend a community information session on the proposed Wyalong Solar Farm (up to 130 MW), approximately 7kms northeast of West Wyalong, NSW. The project will involve the installation of solar panels arrays across an area of up to 260 hectares within the project area and a local connection to the NSW power grid.

Date: Wednesday 3rd October 2018, 6.30 – 7.30pm **Venue**: West Wyalong Services and Citizens' Club 100 Monash Street West Wyalong NSW 2671

Please register your interest to attend at <u>info@escopacific.com.au</u> or contact us on 03 8595 2406.

For more information please visit ESCO Pacific website www.escopacific.com.au



Solar farm proponents to address Council

An advertisement in a recent "Advocate" regarding a proposed Solar Farm at Wyalong has the town talking and guessing.

Bland Shire Councillor, Liz McGlynn used the Questions and Statements segment of the



June Council meeting to ask if there was any further information about the proposal.

General Manager, Ray Smith simply stated the project proponents would be addressing the July meeting.

The "Advocate" also made contact with the proponents for further information, but at the time of going to print had not received any feedback.

The advertisement stated that ESCO Pacific Pty Ltd intended to develop a utility scale solar farm (up to 130MW) in Wyalong, approximately 7kms northeast of West Wyalong.

It stated the project would involve the installation of solar panels arrays across an area of up to 260 hectares within the project area and a local connection to the NSW power grid.

Aboriginal people or other parties who hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal object(s) and/or place(s) within the vicinity of the Wyalong project area were invited to participate in consultation with ESCO Pacific Pty Ltd regarding the proposed project.

The consultation was to enable assessment of Aboriginal cultural heritage associated with the project area.



For further information contact:

LANDMARK 148 Main Street West Wyalong Harcourts NSW 2671

Phone 6972 2224

SHOP

LOCALLY

West Wyalong Girral Football & Netball Club Meeting 6.30pm S&C Club **Tuesday, October 2**

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FOR SALE

Responsibilities of the role include:

- Administrate office supplies, hardware, buildings and utilities, petty cash, stationery, services, work functions, site security and visitors
- Attend to Reception enquiries
- Create and complete work orders and defects in Maximo
- Complete purchasing and receipting in Maximo
- Maintain chemwatch and hazardous materials registers, including participating in audits

Help prepare regular reports as required

Maintain and organise testing and tagging of equipment and associated registers.

To be successful in this key role, you must have:

- A minimum of 1-3 years' experience in an office environment
- Administration and document management practices
- Proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Outlook

To express interest in this role, please send your resume to Lydia Beaven-Davis; Lydia.Beaven-Davis@jhg.com.au Applications will close on October 20, 2018.

West Wyalong Advocate, Friday, September 28, 2018, Page 9