



Department of Planning and Environment

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Mr Luke Fania
Environment and Sustainability Manager
NSW Electricity Networks Operations Pty Limited
180 Thomas Street
HAYMARKET, NSW, 2000
5 December 2023

Dear Mr Fania

**Project EnergyConnect (NSW - Eastern Section) (SSI-9172452)
Independent Environmental Auditor 2023**

I refer to your letter dated 30 November 2023, seeking the agreement of the Planning Secretary of the Department of Planning and Environment ("the department") of the suitability of the auditor's qualifications, experience and independence to undertake an independent audit of the Project EnergyConnect (NSW - Eastern Section) ("the development"), in accordance with Schedule 2, Condition D11 of State significant infrastructure approval SSI 9172452 ("the approval").

Having considered the qualifications and experience of Mr Ken Holmes of Barnett and May Pty Ltd, the Planning Secretary endorses the appointment of Mr Holmes to undertake the audit in accordance with Condition D11 of the approval. This approval is conditional on Mr Holmes being independent of the development and maintaining Exemplar Global certification. The department reserves the right to request an alternate auditor or audit team for future audits.

Please ensure this correspondence is appended to the Audit Report.

The audit is to be conducted in accordance with the Department's Independent Audit Post Approval Requirements (May 2020). A copy of the requirements can be located at <https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Assess-and-Regulate/About-compliance/Compliance-policy-and-guidelines/Independent-audit-post-approval-requirements>. Auditors may wish to have regard to AS/NZS ISO 19011 Australian/New Zealand Standard: Guidelines for quality and/or environmental management systems auditing.

Audit Report, including the response to any recommendations contained in the audit report and a timetable to implement the recommendations is to be submitted to the Planning Secretary, with the Audit Report.

Failure to meet these requirements will require revision and resubmission of the Audit Report.

Yours sincerely

Katrina O'Reilly

Team Leader Compliance *as nominee of the Planning Secretary*

Department of Planning & Environment

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