



Iwan Davies
A/Team Leader – Resource & Energy Assessments
Planning Services Division
Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Our ref: DOC19/239462
Your ref: SSD9255

Emailed: iwan.davies@planning.nsw.gov.au

22 March 2019

Dear Mr Davies

Subject: New England Solar Farm (SSD9255) – Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

Thank you for the opportunity to provide advice on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) exhibition for the New England Solar Farm (SSD9255). This is a response from the Department of Planning and Environment – Division of Resources and Geoscience (the Division).

The SEARS issued for the proposal includes the requirement for consultation during the preparation of the EIS with exploration licence holders, quarry operators and mineral title holders. The Division specifically required the proponent to address the project's potential impacts on existing land uses including mining, mineral and petroleum rights. The Division requested the proponent consult with the Geological Survey of NSW (GSNSW, within the Division) regarding an area of identified high mineral potential, and any biodiversity offset sites.

The EIS includes a titles search, demonstrating there are no mining or exploration titles over the site. The proponent has consulted with GSNSW regarding the area of higher mineral significance. Potential impacts on exploration have been avoided through project refinement, by removing the area of higher mineral significance from the southern array area.

The EIS has addressed the requirements relating to mineral resources and land use compatibility. DRG note site-specific biodiversity offsets have not been identified. DRG has no residual issues for the proponent to address.

Any queries regarding the above information should be directed to the DRG - Land Use team at landuse.minerals@geoscience.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steven Palmer', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Steven Palmer
A/Manager, Land Use

for Paul Dale
Director, Land Use & Titles Advice