



**Trade &  
Investment**  
Resources & Energy

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V12/3373

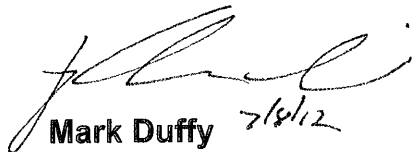
Dear Mr Philp

Thank you for your letter of 7 June 2012 concerning exhibition of the Environmental Assessment for the Bodangora Wind Farm (MP10\_0157).

This is a coordinated Division of Resources and Energy response. The Project raises no concerns from the perspectives of energy. Comments on the Environmental Assessment from minerals' perspective are attached.

For further information please contact Andrew Lewis, Executive Director Energy on (02) 8281 7403 or email [andrew.lewis@industry.nsw.gov.au](mailto:andrew.lewis@industry.nsw.gov.au)

Yours sincerely



**Mark Duffy** 7/8/12  
**Deputy Director General**  
**Division of Resources and Energy**

**Exhibition of Environmental Assessment for Bodangora Wind Farm  
(MP10\_0157) – Mineral Resources Submission**

The Branch is deeply concerned with Infigen Energy's failure to include correspondence from affected mineral exploration tenement holders and its apparent misrepresentation of real concerns regarding the mineral potential of the area and the adverse impact that the wind farm will have upon access to mineral resources for exploration and possible mining.

The primary concern with the proposal is the location of turbines WTG 44 and 45 in the area of the historical Kaiser Mine. This concern has already been brought to the attention of the proponent and the Department of Planning & Infrastructure, in earlier correspondence. While this is acknowledged within the Environmental Assessment (EA) (p 4-20), a copy of that correspondence is not included in the EA. Although the turbines are proposed to be sited away from the old mine shaft, they will still be within the area identified as having potential for significant gold and copper mineralisation (refer to Fig 1), based on currently available data.

The area is also covered by exploration licence EL6209, held by Somerset Minerals Pty Ltd. While the proponent provides evidence of their attempt to contact Somerset Minerals Pty Ltd the EA does not elaborate on what the company's response was and does not include a copy of correspondence received from them. The table on p 6-10 states that "consultation (with Somerset Minerals Ltd) has identified that no impact is expected".

The Branch has been informed that Somerset Minerals Pty Ltd did indeed forward a letter to the Department of Planning and Infigen Energy in April 2012, clearly stating its strong opposition to the placement of any turbines within EL6209 and highlighting the significant mineral potential of the area surrounding that exploration licence. The statement in the table on p 6-10 that "consultation (with Somerset Minerals Ltd) has identified that no impact is expected" is therefore not correct and could be construed as a "false and misleading statement". It also raises concern about the validity of the other comments in that table referring to correspondence with the other mineral exploration tenement holders in the project area.

The EA suggests that the locations of turbines WTG 44 and 45 need to be modified but does not suggest what the modifications will be. The Mineral Resources Branch strongly recommends that no turbines be placed within the area covered by EL6209.

In addition to areas demarcated as containing potential mineral resources there may be areas within the project area which have been identified by exploration companies as worthy of further exploration work. These areas can only be identified by proper consultation with the current exploration title holders. Again,

the EA indicates that the proponent has attempted to liaise with the exploration licence holders, however, it is considered that the discussion of the potential impacts of the wind farm upon mineral resources (Section 4.3.7) lacks detail. The following points are noted:

1. The EA states that Alkane Resources Ltd “confirmed that the project will have little impact on their investigations or prospects” (p 4-20). The Branch has been in contact with Alkane who have confirmed that no formal consultation has taken place. The company has also indicated that the current placement of turbine 43 may compromise future access to an area which has been the subject of recent exploration drilling. Accordingly, the nature of the consultation with Alkane Resources Ltd needs to be described. Any written documentation from that company should be included or if the advice was delivered verbally the name of the company representative who provided the advice should be identified.
2. No correspondence is presented from Windora Exploration Pty Ltd and no mention is made in Section 4.3.7 as to what their stance on the project is, though it is stated in the table on page 6-10 that “consultation (with Windora Exploration Pty Ltd) has identified that no impact is expected”. Advice from Windora should be included in the EA, as for that with Alkane.
3. Attachment E provides copies of email correspondence from Clancy Exploration Ltd and Goldfields Australasia Pty Ltd regarding their jointly held tenement EL6178. It appears that there were issues regarding minerals but the outcome is not documented and there is no mention of this in the text. EL6178 barely overlaps with the project area so inclusion of this correspondence is confusing. This issue needs to be clarified.
4. The table on p 6-10 lists Copper Strike Ltd as a licence holder in the area and Attachment E contains correspondence from them. However, this appears to relate to a matter in Queensland and is not associated with the Bodangora wind farm project. This is confusing and needs to be remedied.

The Mineral Resources Branch considers it most probable that the turbines and associated infrastructure would be impediments upon drilling and geophysical surveys, both airborne and ground based. They would also be obstacles to any future mining. Therefore, it is imperative that the proponent fully document its dealings with affected exploration companies in the project area, and continue liaising with title holders and the Mineral Resources Branch to ensure that any particular areas targeted for further exploration are not compromised.

Offset areas are discussed but at this stage it is not certain if any will be proposed. If offset areas are proposed in the future the Branch should be advised of their locations at the earliest possible time to ascertain if there is any potential conflict with mineral resources.

In conclusion, the Mineral Resources Branch will not support the wind farm proposal in its current form. Issues that need to be addressed include:

- Modification of the proposal in such a way that ensures turbines are situated away from areas of recognised mineral potential, and
- Correspondence with affected mineral exploration licence holders is adequately documented and clearly indicates that there are no conflicts with the project design and mineral exploration and possible future mining.

Should you wish to discuss any of the mineral resource matters mentioned above please contact the Mineral Resources Branch via email:  
[landuse.minerals@industry.nsw.gov.au](mailto:landuse.minerals@industry.nsw.gov.au)

FIG 1: BODANGORA WIND FARM EA TURBINE LAYOUT MAP

