



OUT16/30985

Melanie Prior  
DA Coordinator  
Resource Assessments, Business Systems and Compliance  
Department of Planning & Environment  
23-33 Bridge Street | GPO Box 39 SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Ms Prior

**Silverton Wind Farm (MP 08\_0022 MOD 3)**

I refer to a letter dated 29 July 2016 from the Division of Resources & Energy (the Division) providing comments on the Silverton Wind Farm Developments Pty Ltd (AGL Energy Limited) for the Silverton Wind Farm project (MP 08\_0022 MOD 3).

NSW Department of Industry, Division of Resources & Energy (the Division) has reviewed the Silverton Wind Farm (MP 08\_0022 MOD 3) dated July 2016 and provides the following comments within its area of responsibility.

The project area is located approximately 25km north west of Broken Hill in the Broken Hill City and Wentworth Shire Local Government Areas. The proposal seeks (amongst other items) to reduce the maximum number of turbines from 282 to 172, increase the maximum turbine tip height from 155m to 180m and increase the maximum turbine generation capacity from 3.6 megawatts to 5 megawatts.

The majority of the project area is covered by Exploration Licence Application (ELA) No. 5279 lodged for Group 1 minerals by Silver City Minerals Limited in April 2016. A small part of the southern and south western project area is covered by ELA No. 5318, which is held by Proton Geoscience Pty Ltd (for Group 1 minerals) and was applied for in July 2016. Geological Survey NSW (GSNSW) requested that AGL consult (or continue consultation) with the applicant (Silver City Minerals) of ELA No. 5279.

GSNSW notes that AGL have consulted with the applicant (Silver City Minerals) of ELA 5279, as requested, and a record of the consultation has been documented in the EIS (ref. section 3.11 p55 'Community & Stakeholder Engagement').

GSNSW notes that the proposed modifications will have a lower impact on exploration activities than those outlined in the original project scope. GSNSW has no further concerns to raise at this stage of the planning process however, as ELA No. 5318 has been lodged since the meeting with AGL in May 2016, GSNSW requests that AGL consult with Proton Geoscience (applicants for ELA No. 5318).

The NSW Government is committed to providing a diverse, affordable and clean energy mix for NSW. Wind energy is a key part of that mix. NSW has an abundance of excellent wind resources and established electricity infrastructure that makes it attractive to wind farm developers.

Wind farms drive investment and growth in regional NSW and provide alternate, non-rainfall dependent income streams for traditional farming communities. Wind energy diversifies the

energy mix and is supported under the Government's cornerstone renewable energy policy, the Renewable Energy Action Plan. Increasing wind energy in NSW will also help the NSW Government meet its commitment to support the national Renewable Energy Target of 33,000 gigawatt hours by 2020.

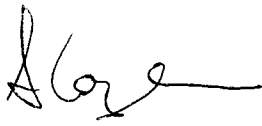
The Division supports the Silverton Wind Farm as it aligns with Government policy to increase renewable energy generation, jobs and investment in the State.

The updated 200 MW Silverton Wind Farm is expected to inject considerable funds into the local community of Broken Hill, with a capital value of up to \$500 million and a community fund of approximately \$15,000 per year. The project is also expected to support 150 jobs during the construction stage.

The Division's Renewable Energy Advocate and Industry Investment & Export Support branch will continue to work with AGL Energy to support development of the Silverton Wind Farm as it progresses through to construction and commissioning stages.

Should you have any enquires regarding this matter please contact Steve Cozens, Senior Project Officer, Royalty & Advisory Services on 9842 8573.

Yours sincerely

 2/9/16

per

Zane West  
**Manager Royalties & Advisory Services**

cc. AGL Energy Limited  
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