

Ms Diana Charteris
Senior Planning Officer
Resource Assessments
Department of Planning & Environment
23-33 Bridge Street | GPO Box 39 SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Ms Charteris

Griffith Solar Farm Project (SSD 6604) – EIS Exhibition

I refer to your email of 14 March 2016 requesting comments on Neoen Australia Pty Ltd's Griffith Solar Farm Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) currently on exhibition.

NSW Department of Industry, Division of Resources & Energy (the Division) has reviewed the *Griffith Solar Farm EIS* dated March 2016 and provides the following comments within its area of responsibility.

The proposal is located about 7 km southeast of Griffith. There are no known mineral, petroleum or extractive resources within or adjacent to the project area.

The NSW Government is committed to providing a diverse, affordable and clean energy mix for NSW. Solar energy diversifies the energy mix and is supported under the Government's cornerstone renewable energy policy, the Renewable Energy Action Plan.

The Griffith Solar Farm is one of eight NSW solar farm projects that has been shortlisted for up to \$30 million of funding per project under the Australian Renewable Energy Agency's (ARENA) Competitive Round for Large-scale Solar PV. The Division is working with proponents to facilitate these projects in line with the NSW Government's commitments under the Renewable Energy Action Plan.

The Division supports the Griffith Solar Farm as it aligns with Government policy to increase renewable energy generation, jobs and investment in the State. The solar farm project has an estimated capital investment value of \$90 million and is expected to inject considerable funds into the local community of Griffith and support up to 90 direct jobs during construction.

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

Yours sincerely



Bryan Whitlock
A/Manager
Royalties & Advisory Services

19/4/16