

23 February 2018

Tim Stuckey  
Resource & Energy Assessments  
Department of Planning & Environment  
GPO Box 39  
Sydney NSW 2001

Emailed: tim.stuckey@planning.nsw.gov.au

Your Reference: SSD 8643  
Our Reference: OUT18/3159

Dear Mr Stuckey,

**Re: Sapphire Solar Farm (SSD 8643) – Environmental Impact Statement  
Exhibition**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide advice on the subject proposal. This is a response from NSW Department of Planning & Environment – Division of Resources & Geoscience, Geological Survey of New South Wales (GSNSW).

GSNSW required the proponent to identify on a map current mining leases and exploration licences and applications within the vicinity of the project site, and undertake consultation with any titleholders. In addition GSNSW requested that the proponent clarify the proposed sequence of land use, particularly in relation to ML1687 (OUT17/33034).

GSNSW acknowledges that the proponent has addressed land use in relation to mining, exploration and minerals in the EIS, reviewed the DRG online MinView and Common Ground Viewer, and identified exploration and mining titles and applications in the vicinity of the Project site (Refer to page 119 of the EIS) on a map. The proponent has provided GSNSW directly with evidence of consultation with the adjacent and impacted titleholders to the project area. GSNSW notes that Coordination Deeds between the parties are in the process of being drafted (Refer page 6 of the EIS).

Titleholders for ML1687, ML1374 & EL8536 (Jesasu Pty Ltd and Eastern Feeder Holdings Pty Ltd) have directly provided to GSNSW the sequence of land use and rehabilitation for these titles as requested. The Environmental Sustainability Unit within the Division of GSNSW is still awaiting clarification on the final rehabilitation for ML1687 from the titleholders for the finalisation of this title.

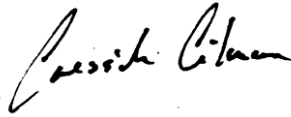
A proposed Biobanking Agreement Application has been submitted to OEH (Refer to page 102 of the EIS and page 52 of Appendix B) at Windemere, Kings Plains. An Exploration Licence Application (ELA5592 identified on Figure 7-7 page 120 of the EIS) sits over this area. GSNSW has concerns relating to the biobanking application and resource sterilisation. This area is prospective for sapphires and the proposed biodiversity offset area may adversely affect explorers for potential resources. GSNSW requests to be consulted in relation

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to the proposed location of any biodiversity offset areas or any supplementary biodiversity offset measures to ensure there is no consequent reduction in access to prospective land for mineral exploration, or potential for sterilisation of mineral resources.

Queries regarding the above information, and future requests for advice in relation to this matter, should be directed to the Division of Resources & Geoscience - Land Use team at [landuse.minerals@industry.nsw.gov.au](mailto:landuse.minerals@industry.nsw.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cressida Gilmore', written in a cursive style.

Cressida Gilmore  
Manager - Land Use