

Elle Donnelley
Acting Senior Planning Officer
Resource Assessments & Planning Services
Department of Planning & Environment
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Dear Elle

Gilgandra Solar Farm (SSD 6785) – Environmental Impact Statement Exhibition

I refer to your email dated 3 April 2017 inviting the Division of Resources & Geoscience (DRG) to provide comments on the Gilgandra Solar Farm Project (SSD 6785) – Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Exhibition submitted by Neoen Australia Pty. Ltd. (the Proponent).

DRG has reviewed and assessed the adequacy of information provided in the '*Gilgandra 40MW Solar Farm – Environmental Impact Statement*' dated March 2017 and provides the following advice within its area of responsibility.

DRG has reviewed the EIS and notes that the Proponent has addressed Geological Survey of NSW (GSNSW) requirements to consider mining (and quarrying) activity in the proposal area. The proponent has correctly noted that there are no current mineral or petroleum titles covering or adjacent to the site. GSNSW notes that the proposal area does not contain any identified significant mineral or energy resources and there is no active exploration in the vicinity of the site.

DRG supports the proposed Gilgandra Solar Farm as it aligns with Government policy to increase renewable energy generation, jobs and investment in the State. Specifically, the proposal is aligned to the State's NSW Renewable Energy Action Plan, and would deliver positive social aspects, drive investment and growth in regional NSW and provide alternate income streams. Increasing solar energy in NSW will assist the Government in meeting its commitment to support the national Renewable Energy Target of 33,000 gigawatt hours (GWh) by 2020.

The 40 megawatt (MW) solar farm has an estimated capital investment value of approximately \$63 million and would support up to 110 jobs during the peak construction period.

Should you have any enquires regarding this matter please contact Adam Banister, Acting Senior Advisory Officer, Royalties & Advisory Services on 02 4931 6439.

Yours sincerely



for
Zane West
Manager Royalties & Advisory Services
3 May 2017