



Planning &
Environment

17 December 2018

Iwan Davies
Senior Environmental Assessment Officer – Planning Services
Department of Planning & Environment
GPO BOX 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Your Ref: SSD 9564
Our Ref: DOC18/950633

Emailed: iwan.davies@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Davies,

Re: Wyalong Solar Farm Project (SSD 9564) – Environmental Impact Statement

Thank you for the opportunity to provide advice on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Wyalong Solar Farm Project (SSD 9564). This is a response from the Department of Planning & Environment – Division of Resources & Geoscience (the Division).

The Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) required the proponent to address the projects potential impacts on existing land uses including mining, mineral and petroleum rights. The SEARS also includes the requirement for consultation during the preparation of the EIS with exploration licence holders, quarry operators and mineral title holders. In this regard the Division identified Exploration Licence 8430 (EL8430) held by Argent Minerals Limited and required the proponent to consult with the titleholder.

The Division has reviewed the EIS for the Wyalong Solar Farm Project (SSD 9564). The EIS includes a map of the proposal area in relation to current exploration license EL8430, as well as mineral occurrences in the area. The EIS includes discussion of the potential impacts of the proposal on mineral exploration and development in the area including acknowledgement of the high prospectivity of the regional geology, the area of exploration license covered by the proposal site, current targets of exploration and operating mines in the region.

The EIS includes a record of consultation between the proponent ESCO Pacific Pty Ltd and Argent Minerals Limited. ESCO Pacific has also provided records of ongoing consultation during the public exhibition period to the Division. The Division has undertaken further discussions with the titleholder Argent Minerals Limited to establish the potential for the proposal to impact on exploration activities planned on the tenement. As a result of this the Division is satisfied that authentic consultation with the titleholder has been undertaken and recorded, that concerns regarding access to the tenement for exploration have been

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addressed, and that the Wyalong Solar Farm proposal will not impact on the titleholder's exploration activities.

The EIS has addressed all requirements relating to coal, petroleum and mineral resources. The Division has no further issues to raise with the proposal.

Queries regarding the above information should be directed to the Division of Resources & Geoscience - Land Use team at landuse.minerals@geoscience.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Helman
A/Manager – Land Use

for Paul Dale
Director – Land Use & Titles Advice