

18 May 2018

Natasha Homsey
Environmental Assessment Officer
Department of Planning & Environment
GPO BOX 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Your Ref: Gunnedah Solar Farm Project SSD8658
Our Ref: OUT18/7382/DOI

Emailed: Natasha.homsey@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Ms Homsey

Re: Gunnedah Solar Farm Project (SSD 8658) – EIS Exhibition

Thank you for the opportunity to provide advice on the Environmental Impact Statement for the Gunnedah Solar Farm Project (SSD 8658). This is a response from the Department of Planning & Environment – Division of Resources & Geoscience, Geological Survey of New South Wales (GSNSW).

GSNSW specific requirements for the Gunnedah Solar Farm Project (SSD 8658) required the proponent to include in the EIS a mining and exploration title and application search referencing DRG's MinView database with results to be shown on a map (s). Further, identify any operating mines, extractive industries, mineral or petroleum resources and exploration activities on the site or adjacent lands, and make contact with titleholders and show authentic consultation for their interest in the project. The Division requested to be consulted in relation to any proposed biodiversity offsets or supplementary biodiversity measures.

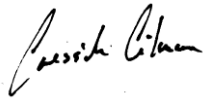
GSNSW has reviewed the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Project and acknowledges the proponent has undertaken a search of DRG's MinView database. The search identified that there is a coal exploration licence, EL7241 held by the Secretary, NSW Department of Planning and Environment, and a petroleum licence, PEL0001 held by Australian Coalbed Methane (Santos) over the Project site with results shown on a map (Reference: EIS Main Report - 6.3.2 - *Existing Environment*, pages 99 -101).

GSNSW notes that the proponent has effectively consulted with the affected titleholders to date and has provided evidence of responses (Reference: Appendix L, pages 20-22). GSNSW also notes that Santos has requested their inclusion on the proponent's distribution list in order to receive information about progress in relation to the proposal.

Regarding biodiversity measures, the proponent has contacted OEH and because the proposal does not involve the removal of remnant native vegetation stands on the Site, a Flora Assessment was deemed adequate by OEH (Reference: Appendix D, page 3).

Queries regarding the above information, and future requests for advice in relation to this matter, should be directed to the GSNSW Land Use team at 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