



Rob Beckett
Department of Planning, Industry &
Environment
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

Our ref: DOC19/961423

Your ref: SSD 9874

Emailed: rob.beckett@planning.nsw.gov.au

11 November 2019

Dear Mr Beckett

Subject: Walla Walla Solar Farm (SSD 9874) – Environmental Impact Statement

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above matter. This is a response from the NSW Department of Planning, Industry & Environment – Division of Resources & Geoscience (the Division).

The SEARs issued for the proposal includes the requirement for consultation during the preparation of the EIS with exploration licence holders, quarry operators and mineral title holders. The Division specifically required the proponent to include in the EIS a title search and address the project's potential impacts on existing land uses including Hurricane Hill Quarry operated by Boral Resources Pty Limited. The Division requested the proponent consult with the Geological Survey of NSW (GSNSW, within the Division) regarding biodiversity offset sites.

The EIS has addressed the requirements relating to mineral resources and land use compatibility. A titles search with results shown on a map has been included in the EIS, demonstrating there are no mining or exploration titles over the site. The proponent has consulted with Boral Resources Pty Limited, operators of Hurricane Hill Quarry with a record of consultation included within the EIS.

The Division notes site-specific biodiversity offsets have not been identified at this stage and the proponent proposes to retire biodiversity credits generated by the impact of the proposal through the NSW Biodiversity Offset Scheme. To ensure there is no reduction in access to prospective land for mineral exploration, or potential for sterilisation of mineral or extractive resources, the Division requests it be consulted on the proposed location of any biodiversity offset areas (both on and off site) or any supplementary biodiversity measures.

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@geoscience.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Helman'.

Andrew Helman

Senior Geoscientist – Land Use Assessment

Geological Survey of NSW, Division of Resources & Geoscience