



Mr Ralph Northey
Environment and Community Manager
567 Broke Rd
Singleton NSW 2330

24/02/2022

Dear Mr Northey

**Bulga Optimisation Project (SSD 4960)
Conservation Bond Expert and Minor Extension**

I refer to your request dated 13 December 2021 seeking the Planning Secretary's endorsement of Mr Thomas Scott of ERR Australia to verify the costs calculated for the Bulga Conservation Bond in accordance with condition 35(b) of Schedule 3 of SSD 4960.

The Department has reviewed the information you have provided regarding Mr Thomas Scott's experience and agrees that he is suitably qualified to verify the costs calculated for the Bulga Conservation Bond.

Accordingly, the Planning Secretary confirms that Mr Thomas Scott is a suitably qualified person as required by condition 35(b) of Schedule 3 of SSD 4960.

The Department also notes you were requesting a minor extension of time for submission of the Conservation Bond to allow for any amendments following the outcomes of a recent Independent Environmental Audit (IEA). However, following the completion of the IEA it was confirmed that there were no recommendations regarding the implementation of the Biodiversity Offset Strategy, and therefore the extension would not be required.

If you wish to discuss the matter further, please contact me on (02) 4908 6896.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joe Fittell'.

Joe Fittell
Team Leader
Resource Assessments

As nominee of the Planning Secretary