



Sapphire
WIND FARM



Compliance Report
Sapphire Wind Farm, NSW
EPBC 2011/5854

Prepared by: Patric Millar CWP Asset Management
Date: 18 December 2017

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Revision Control					
Revision	Date	Change Description	Author	Review	Approved
A	15/12/2017	Draft	Patric Millar	Andrew Houston	Andrew Houston
1	19/12/2017	For Issue	Patric Millar	Andrew Houston	Andrew Houston

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This document has been approved on behalf of SWF1 Operations Pty Ltd (Sapphire Wind Farm) by:



Project Manager, Sapphire Wind Farm

19 December 2017

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Contents

Declaration of accuracy	6
Project Description.....	7
Compliance Table.....	8
Appendix 1 Confirmation of Acceptance of CEMP by DEE	16
Appendix 2 Confirmation of lodgement of Windermere Biobanking.....	17
Appendix 3 Confirmation of Lodgement of “Rockview South” Biobanking Application	18
Appendix 4 Letter to DEE Requesting Extension of time to Comply with EPBC2011/5854	19
Appendix 5 Email from NSW OEH Confirming Biobanking Assessments.....	21
Appendix 6 Fenner School ANU Research Proposal	22
Appendix 7 Commencement Letter to Department of Environment and Energy.....	27
Appendix 8 75 Turbine Layout Map	28

Declaration of accuracy

In making this declaration, I am aware that sections 490 and 491 of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth) (EPBC Act) make it an offence in certain circumstances to knowingly provide false or misleading information or documents. The offence is punishable on conviction by imprisonment or a fine, or both. I declare that all the information and documentation supporting this compliance report is true and correct in every particular. I am authorised to bind the approval holder to this declaration and that I have no knowledge of that authorisation being revoked at the time of making this declaration.

Signed 
Full name (please print): Andrew Houston
Position (please print): Project Manager Sapphire Wind Farm
Organisation (please print including ABN/ACN if applicable): CWP Asset Management 41 143 399179
Date 19/12/2017

Project Description

The Sapphire Wind Farm is situated 28 km east of Inverell and 18 km west of Glen Innes in the Northern Tablelands of NSW. The wind farm site covers approximately 8,921 ha of land that has been mostly cleared for grazing, however areas of scattered remnant woodland still exist across the site, and on the elevated ridges to the north, north-east and south. The area is of moderate-to-high elevation (750 m to 1,100 m above sea level, Australian Height Datum (AHD)), adjacent to the Waterloo Range to the east of the Project. The nearest township is Glen Innes, which is located approximately 18 km to the east along the Gwydir Highway.

The project involves a range of activities that vary over time and which move across the site as the development proceeds. Key stages and stage of development as at the time of reporting are shown in Table 1 Works Progress

Construction Activity	Progress December 2017
Site establishment including access provisions, fencing, installation of environmental controls, installation of site offices, laydown areas, a concrete batch plant and potential rock crushing facilities;	Completed
Construction of site access tracks to enable works to progress across the site;	Completed
Turbine site preparation for 75 3.6 MW V126 Vestas wind turbine sites	Completed
Substation site preparation;	Completed
Formation of concrete footings for turbines and the substation;	Completed
Installation of 33 kV underground cables and communication cables within each of the wind turbine clusters;	Underway
Installation of 33 kV overhead transmission lines and communication cables between the wind turbine clusters and the main collector substation;	Underway
identification and upgrade of transport routes to facilitate haulage of over-size and over-mass wind turbine and substation components;	Completed
Transportation of turbine and substation components from point of origin to the site storage and laydown areas;	Underway
Transport of turbine components to turbine sites and substation items to the substation site;	Underway
Erection of turbine structures;	Underway
Installation of up to six permanent wind monitoring masts;	Completed
Construction of a 330 kV substation and switchyard with associated structures and buildings;	Completed
Connection to the existing TransGrid 330 kV transmission line with a new 330 kV line turn in of approximately 0.6 km with an associated 60 m wide easement;	Completed
Installation of appropriate wind farm signage both during the construction and operational phases of the proposed development;	Construction signs completed
Substation and wind turbine commissioning trials; and	Not commenced
Site restoration, revegetation of disturbed areas and completion of drainage works.	Underway

Compliance Table

Number	Condition	Stage	Complies	Date of Compliance	Status / Comment
1	The person taking the action must provide The Minister with a Construction Flora and Fauna Management Plan . The Construction Flora and Fauna Management Plan must:	Pre-construction	in progress	9/11/2016	Section 6.6 and Annex G of the CEMP (see Appendix 1 for confirmation of acceptance of CEMP by NSW DPE)
1(a)	meet the requirements of Conditions E21 and E22(f) of the NSW Minister for Planning and Environment's approval of the proposed action; and	Pre-construction	in progress	9/11/2016	Section 6.6 and Annex G of the CEMP (see Appendix 1 for confirmation of acceptance of CEMP by NSW DPE)
1(b)	include analysis of the impacts on Regent Honeyeater and Swift Parrot and how these impacts will be managed (including relocation and micro-siting).	Pre-construction	in progress	9/11/2016	Section 6.6 and Annex G of the CEMP (see Appendix 1 for confirmation of acceptance of CEMP by NSW DPE)
1	Commencement of construction may not occur until the Construction Flora and Fauna Management Plan has been approved by the Minister.	Pre-construction	in progress	9/11/2016	Section 6.6 and Annex G of the CEMP (see Appendix 1 for confirmation of acceptance of CEMP by NSW DPE)
2	Prior to commencement of operation of each stage of the action, the approval holder must provide for the Minister's approval a Biodiversity Offset Package (the Package) to protect and manage White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland ecological community (BGW), and habitat for the Regent Honeyeater, Swift Parrot and Border Thick-tailed Gecko in perpetuity. The Package must:	Pre-construction	in progress		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biobanking Offset package for "Windemere" was submitted to OEH 24 May 2017 for approval. (See Appendix 2 for "Windemere" Application) • Biobanking Offset package for "Rockview South" was submitted to OEH 5 June 2017 for approval (See Appendix 3 for "Rockview South" Application) • Letter to Environment and Energy on 4 December 2017 formally requesting extension of time to comply with this Condition due to

					significant delays by NSW OEH in assessing Biobanking Applications. (See Appendix 4 for copy of letter)
2(a)	Outline the purpose of the Package;	Pre-operation	in progress		
2(b)	Include map/s that clearly depict BGW, Border Thick-tailed Gecko, Regent Honeyeater and Swift Parrot habitat in the offset sites;	Pre-operation	in progress		
2(c)	Describe how the offset sites will be legally secured and managed to ensure the enduring value of the offset; and	Pre-operation	in progress		
2(d) i to iii	Provide for the protection of offset sites containing at least: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. 260 hectares of BGW at Offset Site A (Annexure A) within one year of the commencement of construction; ii. 165 hectares of habitat for the Border Thick-tailed Gecko at Offset Site B (Annexure A), or alternate offset sites for the Border Thick-tailed Gecko agreed in writing by The Minister, within five years of the commencement of operation; and iii. 725 hectares of habitat for the Regent Honeyeater and Swift Parrot at Offset Sites A and B (Annexure A), or alternate offset sites for the Regent Honeyeater and Swift Parrot agreed in writing by The Minister, within five years of the commencement of operation. 	Construction	in progress		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eco Logical Australia were engaged to deliver biodiversity conditions. Two properties will provide for both NSW and Commonwealth offset requirements - "Windemere" and "Rockview South". • "Windemere" was purchased by CWPAM. • CWPAM have entered into a contract with the owner of "Rockview South" to provide offset. • Biobanking Offset package for "Windemere" was submitted to OEH 24 May 2017 for approval. • Biobanking Offset package for "Rockview South" was submitted to OEH 5 June 2017 for approval.
2	Where an area of habitat is deemed suitable to meet the offset requirements of more than one species or	Construction	in progress		as above

	community, the area of habitat may count towards the offset requirements for each species or community.				
2A	The approval holder must legally secure Offset Sites A and B (or alternate offset sites agreed in writing by the Minister) in accordance with the approved Package. Evidence of the legal securing of the offset must be provided to the Department within one month of the offset sites being secured including associated GPS coordinates and shapefiles.	Construction	in progress		as above
3	The approval holder must provide for The Minister's approval an Offset Management Plan for offset sites specified in the approved Package. The Offset Management Plans (the Plans) must be consistent with the Package, and can only be submitted to The Minister for approval after the Package has been approved by The Minister. A Plan must include:	Construction	in progress		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biobanking Offset package for "Windemere" was submitted to OEH 24 May 2017 for approval. • Biobanking Offset package for "Rockview South" was submitted to OEH 5 June 2017 for approval. • Letter to Environment and Energy on 4 December 2017 formally requesting extension of time to comply with this Condition due to significant delays by NSW OEH in assessing Biobanking Applications
3 (a) to (i)	<p>a) a qualitative and quantitative analysis of the ecological values of the offset sites in relation to the matter/s being offset;</p> <p>b) measures to prevent and control pest animal, weed or pathogen incursions, including through edge effects, and feasible measures to eradicate invasive weed species;</p> <p>c) measures to prevent unauthorised public access;</p> <p>d) measures to maintain or enhance the values of the offset sites through ecologically sensitive fire regimes;</p>	Construction			

	<p>e) measures to enhance the offset values of Offset Site A (Annexure A);</p> <p>f) measures to maintain or enhance the offset values of Offset Site B (Annexure A);</p> <p>g) a monitoring and reporting regime for tracking offset conditions and the effectiveness of management measures;</p> <p>h) an adaptive implementation programme for the Plan; and</p> <p>i) timeframes for Plan implementation.</p>				
3	<p>Operation of the action may not commence until Offset Management Plans have been approved in writing by The Minister. The Plans, once approved, must be implemented.</p>	Pre-operation			Noted, currently awaiting assessment by NSW OEH of Biobanking Applications for "Windemere" and Rockview South" (See Appendix 5 for status of Biobanking Assessments)
3	<p><i>Note: For convenience, Offset Management Plans for multiple offset sites may be combined.</i></p>	Pre-operation			
3A	<p>If, in accordance with the Package, an offset site is to be legally secured under the NSW Biodiversity Banking and Offsets Scheme, the management plan developed under the NSW Biodiversity Banking Agreement for that offset site is an Offset Management Plan for the purposes of Condition 3.</p>	Pre-operation	In progress		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biobanking Offset package for "Windemere" was submitted to OEH 24 May 2017 for approval. • Biobanking Offset package for "Rockview South" was submitted to OEH 5 June 2017 for approval • Letter of Environment and Energy on 4 December 2017 formally requesting extension of time to comply with this Condition due to significant delays by NSW OEH in assessing Biobanking Applications
4	<p>To compensate for impacts on habitat for the Regent Honeyeater and Swift Parrot, the approval holder must contribute no less than \$250,000 (GST exclusive) in funding towards research by an appropriate</p>	Construction	in progress		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Australian National University (ANU) has been engaged to undertake this action

	<p>institution, to assist in building the body of knowledge regarding how these species interact with, and are impacted by, wind farms.</p> <p>This sum may be donated in five increments of at least \$50,000 to be paid annually, commencing on operation of the action and thereafter on each anniversary of this date until up until the fourth anniversary, with evidence of payment provided to The Department within 30 days of each payment being made. An alternative payment structure may be implemented, following agreement by The Department that the alternate payment structure will realise a benefit to the body of knowledge of the research project/s to be funded.</p> <p>The expected outcomes and milestones of this research project/s must:</p>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They will be working collaboratively with Brett Lane & Associates (BL&A) who prepared the Bird and Bat Adaptive Management Plan (BMAMP). • Final proposal submitted to CWPAM 15 December 2017 (See Appendix 6 for copy of ANU Research Proposal)
4 (a)	be consistent with the relevant Recovery Plans for the species;	Construction			as above
4 (b)	take into account any results from the Bird and Bat Adaptive Monitoring Program referred to in Condition C6 of the NSW Minister for Planning and Environment's approval of the proposed action dated 26 June 2013; and	Construction			as above
4 (c)	be made available to the Department, relevant state government agencies and to the public within 20 business days of their approval and published on the approval holder's website throughout the duration of the research project/s and action.	Construction			as above
4	Operation of the action must not commence until the payment structure, expected outcomes and milestones of the research project/s have been approved in writing by the Minister.	Construction			as above

5	If at any time the NSW Director General's Assessment Report and approval conditions (June 2013) are modified, the approval holder must notify the Department in writing of the actual date of the modification.	All	Yes	6/07/2016	CWP Renewables notified Commonwealth Minister of the proposed changes to the wind farm and that the NSW DPE has modified the Approval Conditions on 20/06/2016 (See Appendix 7 for copy of correspondence)
6	Within 10 days after the commencement of the action , the approval holder must advise the Department in writing of the actual date of commencement.	Pre-construction		9/12/2016	Within 10 days after the commencement of the action (See Appendix 8 for copy of correspondence)
7	The approval holder must maintain accurate records substantiating all activities associated with or relevant to the conditions of approval, including measures taken to implement the Offset Site Management Plan required by this approval, and make them available upon request to the Department. Such records may be subject to audit by the Department or an independent auditor in accordance with section 458 of the EPBC Act, or used to verify compliance with the conditions of approval. Summaries of audits will be posted on the Department's website. The results of audits may also be publicised through the general media.	Construction Operation	in progress		Ongoing
8	By 31 December of each year after the commencement of the action , the approval holder must publish a report on their website addressing compliance with the conditions of this approval over the previous 12 months, including implementation of the Management Documents. These compliance reports must remain on the website for 12 months from the date of publishing. Potential or actual non-compliance with any of the conditions of this approval must be reported to the Department in writing within	Construction Operation	in progress		Annual requirement by 31 December

	five business days of the approval holder becoming aware of the actual or potential non-compliance.				
9	Upon the direction of the Minister, the approval holder must ensure that an independent audit of compliance with the conditions of approval is conducted and a report submitted to the Minister. The independent auditor must be approved by the Minister prior to the commencement of the audit. Audit criteria must be agreed to by the Minister and the audit report must address the criteria to the satisfaction of the Minister.	All			As required by the Minister
10	If the approval holder wishes to carry out any activity otherwise than in accordance with the Management Documents as specified in the conditions, the approval holder must submit to the Department for the Minister's written approval a revised version of that Management Document. The varied activity shall not commence until the Minister has approved the varied Management Document in writing. The Minister will not approve a varied Management Document unless the revised Management Document would result in an equivalent or improved environmental outcome over time. If the Minister approves the revised Management Document, that Management Document must be implemented in place of the Management Document originally approved.	All			As required
11	If the Minister believes that it is necessary or convenient for the better protection of listed threatened species, listed ecological communities or listed migratory species to do so, the Minister may request that the approval holder make specified revisions to the Management Document specified in the conditions and submit the revised Management	All			As required by the Minister

	Document for the Minister's written approval. The approval holder must comply with any such request. The revised approved Management Document must be implemented. Unless the Minister has approved the revised Management Document, then the approval holder must continue to implement the Management Document originally approved, as specified in the conditions.				
12	If, at any time after five years from the date of this approval, the approval holder has not commenced the action, then the approval holder must not commence the action without the written agreement of the Minister.	Pre-construction	Yes	9/12/2016	Construction commenced 9 December 2016 (See Appendix 7 for copy of Letter to DEE notifying commencement)
13	Unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the Minister, the approval holder must publish the Offset Plan(s) referred to in these conditions of approval on their website. The Offset Plan(s) must be published on the website within 1 month of being approved by the Minister and remain on the website for the life of the approval.	Construction Operation			Noted
14	Unless otherwise agreed to in writing by The Minister, the approval holder must not construct or operate more than 109 wind turbines. Any request to construct or operate more than 109 (and up to 159) turbines must include an analysis of impacts relevant to protected matters, and measures to avoid, mitigate and offset those additional impacts.	Construction Operation			75 WTG's will be constructed (See Appendix 8 for map)

Appendix 1 Confirmation of Acceptance of CEMP by DEE



Australian Government
Department of the Environment and Energy

Mr Ed Mounsey
Chief Operating Officer
CWP Renewables
PO Box 1708
Newcastle NSW 2300

EPBC 2011/5854: Sapphire Wind Farm, NSW, Construction Flora and Fauna Management Plan.

Dear Mr Mounsey

Thank you for your email dated 28 September 2016 to the Department, requesting approval of the Construction Flora and Fauna Management Plan (CFFMP) in accordance with condition 1 of the approval for EPBC 2011/5854.

Officers of this Department have reviewed and advised me on the CFFMP and the requirements of approval condition 1. On this basis, and as a delegate of the Minister for the Environment and Energy, I have decided to approve the CFFMP. The plan must now be implemented.

In accordance with EPBC approval condition 10, if the approval holder wants to act other than in accordance with this approved plan, the approval holder must submit a revised plan for approval. Until the Minister (or delegate) has approved the revised plan, the approved version of the plan must continue to be implemented.

If you require further information regarding the above please contact Nathan O'Brien on (02) 6275 9682 or by email: post.approvals@environment.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Monica".

Monica Collins
Assistant Secretary
Compliance & Enforcement Branch
Environment Standards Division

18 Nov. 2016

Appendix 2 Confirmation of lodgement of Windermere Biobanking

 Reply  Reply All  Forward

Wed 24/05/2017 1:02 PM



Robert Humphries <roberth@ecoaus.com.au>

Submission of Windemere Biobank Site application

To Phil Wood

Cc Patric Millar; Greg Steenbeeke; Deanne Hickey

 You replied to this message on 24/05/2017 2:06 PM.

Thanks Phil

Patric, I confirm that we have now submitted the application to register Windemere as a Biobank site.

We hope to submit Rockview South later this week subject to receiving the signed application form from John Hunter.

Phil, you should shortly see all the associated files/reports including high resolution figures, Certificate of titles, Deposit Plan showing easements and GIS files.

If anything is missing please advise.

Please note that the accredited assessor for this site was Greg Steenbeeke whilst we was with ELA (now back at OEH Metro Region).

The application has been submitted in Greg's name as he did all the field work, the credit calculations and prepared the reports.

Should following the audit, we need to make any amendments, we assume that the assessment will be re-allocated back to ELA and we will assign a new assessor, however, we hope to be able to have Greg attend the site audit if one is required (Dimitri Young in North-East Branch has already been on-site with Greg).

Regards

Robert Humphries

Manager **BioBanking** and Biocertification Impact Assessment & Offsets Programs
Manager RTO Training Services

Appendix 3 Confirmation of Lodgement of “Rockview South” Biobanking Application

Reply Reply All Forward

Fri 2/06/2017 2:58 PM



Robert Humphries <roberth@ecoaus.com.au>

Submission of Rockview Sth Biobank Application

To Patric Millar; jhunter8

Cc Ed Mounsey; Mark Branson

You replied to this message on 5/06/2017 1:07 PM.

Action Items

+ Get more add-ins

Patric/John, confirming that Rockview Sth was submitted to OEH today (as well as Windermere about a fortnight ago).

Now in the hands of OEH and when they get around to doing the review/site audit.

I expect this will be several months away, but if asked by DPE/DotEE re progress with securing offsets etc, at least you can advise that applications have been submitted.

Regards

Robert Humphries

Manager BioBanking and Biocertification Impact Assessment & Offsets Programs
Manager RTO Training Services

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Eco Logical Australia is a Registered Training Organisation offering a range of nationally accredited courses in environmental impact assessment. We can also tailor training courses for specific industry needs.

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Appendix 4 Letter to DEE Requesting Extension of time to Comply with EPBC2011/5854



19 December 2017
Ref: AH/DEE001
Department of Environment and Energy
Attention: Hagen Ganahl
GPO Box 787
Canberra
ACT 2601

Request for Extension Time Sapphire Wind Farm NSW EPBC 2011/5854

Dear Hagen Ganahl (*Secretary's Delegate*)

Approval EPBC No. 2011/5854 as modified was granted 21 June 2016 to SWF Operations Pty Ltd for the construction and operation of a 109 turbine windfarm between Glen Innes and Inverell. Notification of commencement of the activity was given to the Department of Environment and Energy on 19 December 2016 with the commencement date being specified as 9 December 2016.

A request is hereby made to the Assistant Secretary Compliance and Enforcement Branch for an extension of four months for compliance with Conditions of Approval 2, 3 and 4 of EPBC No. 2011/5854. The reason for the request for the extension of time is to allow the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) to fully assess the BioBanking Applications for the properties that SWF have secured for BioBanking purposes and to allow SWF to complete negotiations with Fenner School at the Australian National University (ANU) to deliver research outcomes.

SWF is fully committed to the securing and offsetting areas of suitable native vegetation to ameliorate the impacts of clearing on site. To that end SWF purchased "Windemere" a 300.36 ha former grazing property to satisfy the requirements of Condition of Approval 2 (d) (i) and entered into a binding contract with the owners of "Rockview South" to satisfy the requirements of Condition of Approval 2 (d) (ii) and (iii).

The properties were assessed using the BioBanking Assessment Methodology 2014 (BBAM 2014) NSW Office of Environment and Heritage [OEH] 2014b. The BioBanking Application for "Windemere" was submitted to OEH on 24 May 2017 and "Rockview South" was submitted to OEH on 2 June 2017. The full package of documents submitted to OEH is provided as Enclosure 1 (Windemere Biobanking Assessment Report, Windemere Biobank Application, Windemere Management Actions (OEH Standard Template), Windemere Credit Report, Rockview South Biobanking Assessment Report, Rockview South Biobank Application, Rockview South Management Actions (OEH Standard Template), Rockview South Credit Report). At the time of submission to OEH BioBanking Assessments generally took three to four months to complete.

Due to proposed changes in the NSW biodiversity management legalisation framework OEH received an unprecedented number of BioBanking Applications during May and June. The large amount of BioBanking

applications received by OEH combined with the lack of trained staff within OEH to undertake assessment, audits and review of BioBanking Applications has led to significant delays in OEH's ability to deliver BioBanking Agreements. This has severely reduced SWF's ability to meet the required time frames as outlined in the Conditions of Approval.

OEH have indicated that they may be able to undertake field audits in mid-December with the view to registering the BioBanking Agreement in mid-February 2018. A full email trail with OEH, SWF and Ecological Australia regarding the status of both applications is contained in the enclosures.

Brett Lane and Associates (BLA) were engaged by SWF to prepare and manage the Bird and Bat Adaptive Management Plan (BBAMP) for the site once operations commence. The BBAMP was approved by OEH in August 2017. A copy of the approved BBAMP is contained in the enclosures.

Running concurrently with the preparation of the BBAMP SWF have been negotiating with the Fenner School ANU and BLA for the delivery of the research component outlined in Condition of Approval 4. These negotiations have experienced delays due to the unavailability of key staff for face to face meetings in Canberra, however an active email trail has been established. The most recent a draft research proposal being circulated by email on 31 November 2017. Representatives of SWF, BBLA and Fenner School are meeting in Canberra on 11 December to finalise the research program for submission to the Board of SWF for their endorsement and approval.

The four-month extension of time requested by SWF will allow us to comply with the Conditions of Approval for EPBC No. 2011/5854. The request takes into account time that will be lost due to Office closures over the Christmas and New Year period and is based on the best information available from OEH, BLA and Fenner School at ANU.

Kind regards,



Andrew Houston
Project Manager
Sapphire Wind Farm On behalf of the Employers Representative

Enclosures:

Windemere Biobanking Assessment Report,
Windemere Biobank Application,
Windemere Management Actions (OEH Standard Template),
Windemere Credit Report,
Rockview South Biobanking Assessment Report,
Rockview South Biobank Application,
Rockview South Management Actions (OEH Standard Template),
Rockview South Credit Report
Email trail John Seidel NSW Office of Environment and Heritage regarding Biobanking assessment time lines
Bird and Bat Adaptive Management Plan Sapphire Wind Farm

Appendix 5 Email from NSW OEH Confirming Biobanking Assessments

 Reply  Reply All  Forward



Thu 14/12/2017 12:25 PM

Krister Waern <krister.waern@environment.nsw.gov.au>

RE: Windemere - Sapphire Wind Farm - BA 379 (North east) update

To: Patric Millar

 You forwarded this message on 15/12/2017 8:00 AM.

Hi Patric,

As discussed, I won't be able to do the site inspections until the second or third week of January. I apologies for the delay.

I will be able to inspect both Rockview and Windemere in January.

I will contact you early in the new year to organise date/times

Happy to discuss
Krister

From: Patric Millar [<mailto:Patric.Millar@cwpm.com.au>]

Sent: Wednesday, 13 December 2017 7:57 AM

To: Krister Waern <krister.waern@environment.nsw.gov.au>

Subject: Windemere - Sapphire Wind Farm - BA 379 (North east) update

Hi Krister

I've been trading emails with John Seidel and Nicky Owner about our Biobanking Agreement for the property known as Windemere for the Sapphire Wind Farm. In an email yesterday Nicky Owner indicated that she was no longer involved in the Biobanking Project and that you would be taking on her workload. In previous correspondence with John Seidel he indicated that the field audit would be undertaken prior to the Christmas break. Can you please let me know if this is still the case?

Kindest regards
Patric

Patric Millar
Environmental Technical Advisor
Sapphire Wind Farm Project

CWP Asset Management Pty Ltd

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Appendix 6 Fenner School ANU Research Proposal

Sapphire Wind Farm Swift Parrot and Regent Honeyeater Project

ANU Fenner School of Environment and Society

Background – ANU involvement in Swift Parrot and Regent Honeyeater Research

The Fenner School of Environment and Society has been working on research and contributing to the development of national actions plans for both the Swift Parrot and Regent Honeyeater over the last 13 years.

Specific activities have included:

- Habitat modelling
- Field surveys
- Addressing landscape conservation issues
- Community engagement
- Development of specific management actions and plans

The ANU Fenner School team contributing to this effort include the key personnel below.

Prof Rob Heinsohn is the Swift Parrot and Regent Honeyeater research team leader. He has over 25 years' experience conducting field based research on endangered bird species. He currently leads a team of three post-doctoral researchers, a research officer and a PhD student (see below) with projects aimed at addressing landscape scale conservation issues affecting both species. Funding for these projects comes from two ARC grants, two mining offset grants, an SOS (NSW Govt) grant, and multiple small grants.

Dr Debbie Saunders is a post-doctoral researcher with 15 years' experience managing, developing and implementing threatened species recovery plan projects, with particular expertise on the critically endangered Swift Parrot. This includes building strong partnerships; securing threatened species program funding; providing expert threatened species' advice; delivering community engagement programs; populating and managing databases; and conducting threatened species research incorporating novel technologies.

Mr. Ross Crates is a PhD student investigating improved methods for detection of Regent Honeyeaters and the ecology of their breeding and large scale movements. He has recently led development on a breakthrough survey technique for detecting elusive Regent Honeyeaters across SE Australia. He located over 30 Regent Honeyeater nesting attempts in 2015, and recently found a number of birds in non-breeding habitat in early 2016.

Proposed Project approach

To ensure the project is implemented in a timely and professional manner, and explicitly addresses the Minister's approval requirements, we propose that the project be

implemented and managed by Dr Saunders and Mr Crates. Prof. Heinsohn and other team members would provide significant in-kind contributions in relation to additional technical expertise on both the target species, in-depth statistical analysis and preparation of regular project reports and scientific publications.

Swift Parrot research

The specific elements of Swift Parrots research, with the leadership of Dr Saunders, will focus on:

- Identification of winter habitat use across the landscape by examining eight years of data on Swift Parrot habitat use throughout the species' winter range, including the Glen Innes region. This information would be analysed and evaluated by experts in the context of the Sapphire Wind Farm (provided by CWP Asset management), habitat/vegetation mapping (where available) and bioclimatic modelling for the species' winter range.
- Identify behavioural characteristics of swift parrots and corresponding risk factors in relation to potential collision hazards from windfarm structures and sites. Relevant data on bird strikes of co-occurring species from the Bird and Bat Adaptive Monitoring Program would also be considered when evaluating potential strike risk behaviours.
- This project would directly contribute to implementing each of the following recovery actions from the ***Swift Parrot National Recovery Plan*** as summarised below.
 - ✓ Action 1 - Identify the extent and quality of habitat – evaluation of swift parrot winter habitat in relation to the Sapphire Wind Farm
 - ✓ Action 2 - Manage and protect Swift Parrot habitat at the landscape scale – provide land managers with unique insights on the potential collision risks posed by windfarm structures and sites throughout the species' winter range
 - ✓ Action 3 - Monitor and manage the impact of collisions – identification of areas where collision risk from windfarms may be greatest to enable strategic planning and targeted monitoring

Regent Honeyeater research

Due to low levels of previous field survey effort, current ecological knowledge of the Regent Honeyeater in the northern tablelands is poor. Therefore, the Regent Honeyeater research, implemented by Mr Crates, will focus on:

- Expert analysis of the suitability of habitat for Regent Honeyeaters in proximity to the Sapphire Wind Farm. This will be achieved using a combination of bioclimatic habitat modelling, vegetation mapping (where available) and an initial detailed field assessment of suitable habitat at the Sapphire Windfarm site and surrounding Glen Innes region.
- Based on the results of this initial habitat assessment, surveys for both Swift Parrots and Regent Honeyeaters will be planned according to the habitat present and its suitability for wintering and/or breeding.

- Identify behavioural characteristics of regent honeyeaters and corresponding risk factors in relation to potential collision hazards from windfarm structures and sites. Relevant data on bird strikes of co-occurring species from the Bird and Bat Adaptive Monitoring Program would also be considered when evaluating potential strike risk behaviours.
- This project would directly contribute to implementing the following recovery strategies identified in the **Regent Honeyeater National Recovery Plan**:
 - ✓ Strategy 1: Improve the extent and quality of regent honeyeater habitat – identification of potentially suitable sites and surveys conducted over three years within the poorly surveyed region around the Sapphire Wind Farm.
 - ✓ Strategy 3: Increase understanding of the size, structure and population trends of the wild population of Regent Honeyeaters – targeted surveys provide complementary population data for informing and adapting range-wide monitoring programs.

Project dates

Commencement date: July 2018

Completion date: July 2021

Project milestones and deliverables

The following milestones for this project will provide unique insights on the target species' behaviours and habitats, within the vicinity of the Sapphire Windfarm site, as well as more broadly. This will fill a significant knowledge gap in relation to how these species may interact with, or be impacted by, wind farms. The project will also provide a sound basis upon which future strategic windfarm management decisions can be made to improve the conservation of these species in regions impacted by wind farms. The project is proposed to be implemented over three years instead of five to ensure adequate resources are available to conduct the required field surveys and complex scientific analyses each year. All milestones will be reported on within project update and annual reports, as detailed in the deliverables table below.

	Milestone	Delivery date
1	Initial field habitat assessment and survey site identification of the Sapphire Wind Farm and surrounds	Year 1
2	Surveys designed for target species based on above habitat assessment	Year 1
3	Compilation of available habitat mapping and modelling data for target species (winter habitat for swift parrots and winter/breeding habitat for regent honeyeaters)	Years 1-2
4	Surveys for target species implemented within the Glen Innes region	Years 1-3
5	Behavioural characteristics of target species identified and risk evaluation undertaken	Year 2
6	Analysis and evaluation of all project data in regards to the potential risk of windfarms to the target species	Year 3

Deliverables	Delivery format	Delivered to	Reporting frequency	Responsibility
Project update reports (1 page)	PDF via email	CWP Asset Management	Every 6 months, Years 1-3	ANU
Annual project reports, including financial reports	PDF via email	CWP Asset Management	Annually, Years 1-3	ANU
Annual project reports	PDF via email	Government agencies (NSW & C'wealth)	Annually, Years 1-3	CWP Asset Management
Annual project reports	Available on CWP web page	Public	Annually, Years 1-3	CWP Asset Management
Scientific publications in peer reviewed journals	PDF via email, Journal web page	CWP Asset Management, public	Year 3	ANU

Project budget

Description	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	TOTAL
	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	
INCOME				
Offset funding	83,000	83,000	84,000	250,000
Total Income	83,000	83,000	84,000	250,000
EXPENSES				
Personnel (including on-costs)	69,729	71,821	73,976	215,526
Travel field expenses	11,491	11,491	11,491	34,474
Other project expenses	2,741	2,741	2,741	8,224
Total Expenses	81,220	83,312	85,467	250,000

Payment schedule

Payment type	Payment amount	Payment schedule
Initial project payment	\$83,000	Signing of project agreement July 2018
Progress payment	\$83,000	Upon provision of annual project report July 2019
Final payment	\$83,000	Upon provision of annual project report July 2020
Total	\$250,000	

Project governance

A small working group would be established to oversee the delivery of the outputs to meet the requirement of the EPBC provisions. This would include:

- Fenner School, ANU
- Department of Environment, EPBC Unit
- CWP Asset Management
- Nominated expert for BBAMP implementation (as advised to DG).

This working group would meet on an annual basis, either in person or via phone, prior to delivery of each annual project report. The role of the working group would include:

- Agree on scope of project and detailed activities for each year
- Review and provide comments on annual project reports
- Ensure lessons learnt from the implementation of the BBAMP of the Sapphire Wind Farm are incorporated into risk assessment evaluations.

Project management

Our ANU team has a wealth of experience successfully processing and delivering on environmental offset contracts and has well-established administrative processes for project management.

This project would utilise ANU's Research Office which manages and facilitates professional contract services, project reporting against milestones at agreed intervals (e.g. every 6-12 months) and delivery of project outcomes on time and to budget. The Research Office also has a dedicated Finance Team who provide professional and auditable financial services, including monthly account reports to actively keep track of expenditure and ensure all financial processing is done in an efficient and timely manner.

Appendix 7 Commencement Letter to Department of Environment and Energy



Delivering Energy. Powering Communities.

19 December 2017

Mr Hagen Ganahl
Assistant Director
Post Approvals Section
Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Energy
By email.

Dear Hagen,

Sapphire Wind Farm (2011/5854) – Condition of Approval 6

In accordance with Condition 6 of the Project Approval (2011/5854) for Sapphire Wind Farm (the Project), I am writing to advise you that the Project commenced construction on December 9, 2016. The project is not currently planned to be constructed in stages.

If you require further information, please contact me using the details below.

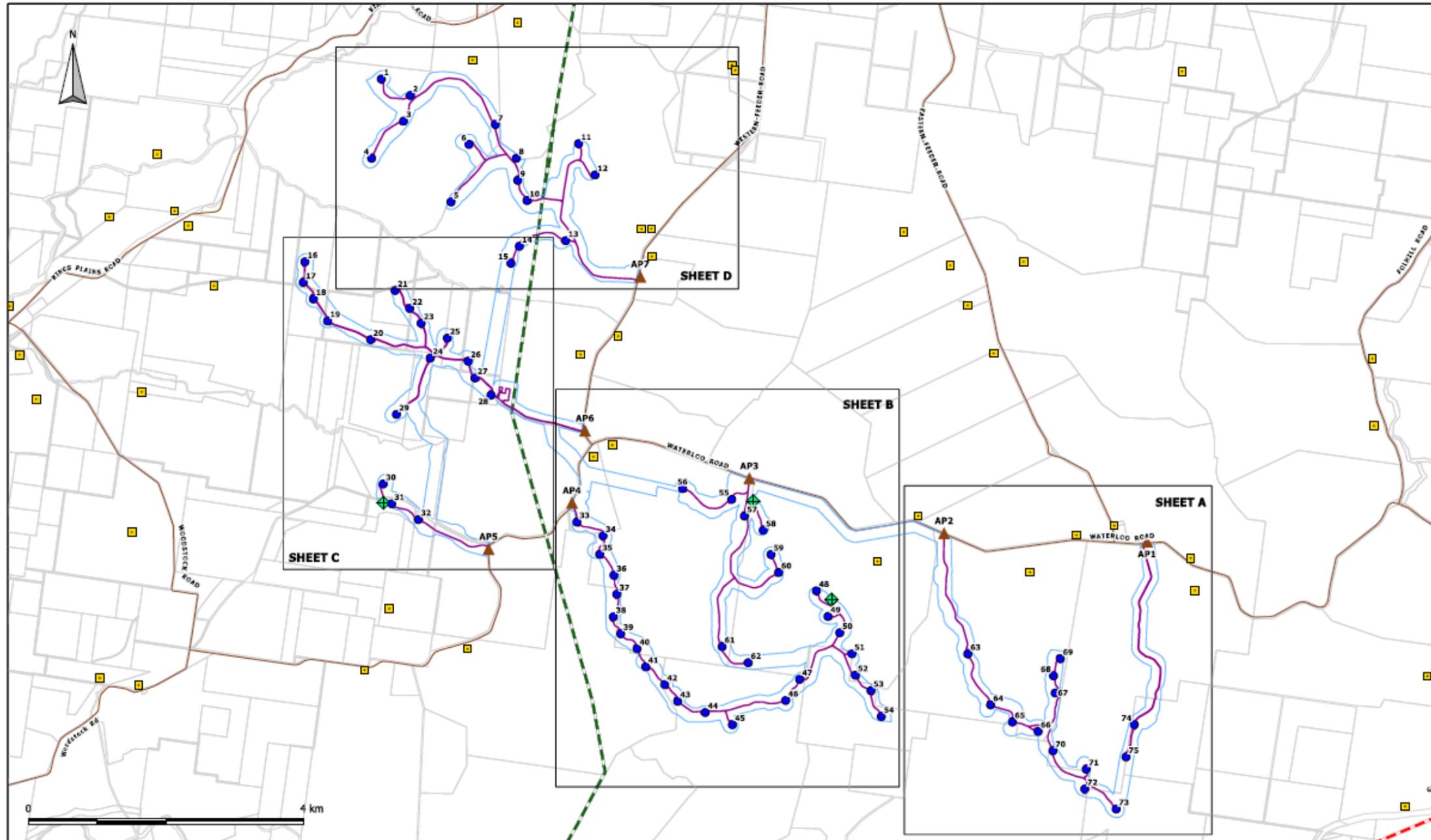
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "E. Mounsey".

Edward Mounsey
CWP Renewables Pty Ltd
ed.mounsey@cwprenewables.com.au
Mob: 0428 998 311

Cc. Nathan O'Brien, Post Approvals Section.

Appendix 8 75 Turbine Layout Map



LEGEND		COMPANY		TITLE	
● Turbine (75)	▲ Project Access Points	SAPPHIRE WIND FARM PTY LTD		SCHEDULE G: SITE MAP OVERVIEW	
— Permanent Works	— 132kV Transmission Line				
■ Residence	— 330kV Transmission Line	DATE	SCALE	DWG NO	REV
◆ AEMO/Power Mast	— Site Area	21 SEP 2016	1:54000	SAP-109	A
		DRAWN BY	CHECKED BY	SHEET	VER
		B KRONENBERG	A OAKEY	1 OF 6	1
				JOB NO	SIZE
				080602	A3

