

CLAUSE – 10A COBAR BIOHUB

FILE: D7-4

AOP REFERENCE: 1.6.3

ATTACHMENT: YES

AUTHOR: *Director of Planning & Environmental Services, Garry Ryman*

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with details of a proposed State Significant Development and authorise comments on the proposal being provided to both the Department of Planning and Environment and the proposed Renewed Carbon Pty Ltd.

Background

Council received advice from the Department of Planning and Environment on 8 January 2019 confirming that Renewed Carbon Pty Ltd has applied for the Planning Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARS) for a proposed biomass processing facility at Lot 604 in DP761557, Lots 1 & 2 in DP755665 and Lot 684 in DP761738 Barrier Highway, Cobar.

A copy of the Preliminary Environmental Assessment document lodged with the Department of Planning and Environment is provided in the Attachment to this report.

Further, a copy of the SEARS is also provided in the Attachment.

The proponent is required to consult with Council during the preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed development. The Department has also advised that Council has the opportunity to identify any additional matters that should be addressed in the EIS that have not been covered in the SEARS and such matters will be passed onto the proponent.

Issues

A review of the Preliminary Environmental Assessment and the SEARS identified the following additional or specific matters that should be addressed by Renewed Carbon Pty Ltd in its EIS for the proposed biomass processing facility.

- A detailed assessment of the socio-economic, traffic and transport, water supply and waste management in the EIS as key issues to the Cobar Local Government Area.
- Consultation with the Cobar Local Aboriginal Land Council.
- Any impact that the project may have on mineral resources and the need to consult with the Resources Regulator with the Department of Planning and Environment.
- Consultation with the Forestry Corporation of NSW, including the relevance of the *Forestry Act 2012* to the project.

- Assess the suitability and condition of the local road networks to service the project.
- Detail proposed traffic management procedures and road maintenance requirements to minimise the impact of the project on local road networks.
- Commit to making development contributions at a level of at least the maximum payable under the Cobar Infrastructure Contributions Plan 2012 or higher depending on the consultation with Council during the preparation of the EIS particularly in terms of the impact on local infrastructure and potential impacts identified by a detailed socio-economic assessment of the project. It is noted that Council will be seeking to enter into a Planning Agreement with the Proponent of the project.
- A detailed assessment of any potential demand or reliance on the Cobar town water supply allocation during both the construction and operational stages of the project.
- Detail proposed waste management measures relative to the project and any need for waste disposal within the Cobar Local Government Area.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1. That Council authorise the Director of Planning and Environmental Services to submit formal comments on behalf of Council to the Department of Planning and Environment in respect of the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement for the Cobar Biohub project in line with matters outlined in the subject report.**
- 2. That Council authorise the Director of Planning and Environmental Services to engage the services of Warwick Giblin, Managing Director, Oz Environmental Pty Ltd to assist Council in its consultation with Renewed Carbon Pty Ltd in respect of the Cobar Biohub project.**
- 3. That the Director of Planning and Environmental Services writes to Renewed Carbon Pty Ltd on behalf of Council to formally commence consultation regarding the Cobar Biohub project.**
- 4. That voting on this matter be record on the basis of an automatic division as required by legislation.**