

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: CopperString Transmission Line Project, Queensland EPBC Ref: 2019/8416 [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Wednesday, 25 September 2019 12:44:07 PM

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 26 July 2019 11:58 AM
Subject: CopperString Transmission Line Project, Queensland EPBC Ref: 2019/8416

Dear [REDACTED],

On behalf of CuString 2.0 and further to our recent ongoing discussions regarding this project, further development of the project description has been undertaken since the EPBC Referral Decision 17 May 2019. This further development work has led to two proposals that CopperString considers important to be integrated into the Project and evaluated within the EIS and approvals processes. These proposals include:

1. The option to add a spur line to connect the Kennedy Renewable Energy Project (including the Kennedy Wind and Solar developments into the CopperString Project; and
2. An option to adjust the eastern connection point with the electricity network to an area (Lansdown) identified with the Townsville City Council Planning scheme as an industrial and energy park.

In both cases CopperString considers that these changes will result in a more robust project, and importantly provide support for the policies and programs of the Queensland Government through enabling the development of renewable energy resources as well as supporting the Townsville City Council Planning Scheme. Both the proponents of the Kennedy Energy Project and Townsville City Council have indicated support for these amendments.

CopperString requests that the connection to the Kennedy Renewable Energy Project and the shift in proposed eastern connection point at Lansdown be included as part of the project 'action' and considered during the EIS and approvals process.

As part of this further corridor evaluation and refinement of the transmission corridor options, GHD has undertaken a desk top review of potentially relevant Matters of National Environmental Significance within a 5km buffer zone of the proposed corridor centreline and can confirm the following:

Lansdown

The species identified are generally consistent with the species listed in the project referral documentation and now the Draft Terms of Reference.

Seven marine species were identified in the search that were not included within the draft Terms of Reference as potential listed migratory species or potential listed threatened species. These are: Magpie Goose (*Anseranas semipalmata*), Great Egret (*Ardea alba*), Cattle Egret (*Ardea ibis*), Black-eared Cuckoo (*Chrysococcyz osculans*), White-bellied Sea-Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*), Rainbow Bee-eater (*Merops ornatus*), and Painted Snipe (*Rostratula benghalensis (sensu lato)*).

Kennedy

Eight marine species were identified in the search that were not included within the draft Terms of Reference as potential listed migratory species or potential listed threatened species. These are: Magpie Goose (*Anseranas semipalmata*), Great Egret (*Ardea alba*), Cattle Egret (*Ardea ibis*), Black-eared Cuckoo (*Chrysococcyz osculans*), White-bellied Sea-Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*), Rainbow Bee-eater (*Merops ornatus*), Painted Snipe (*Rostratula benghalensis (sensu lato)*), and Freshwater Crocodile (*Crocodylus johnstoni*). The impact to identified species along the proposed route will require investigation during the Environmental Impact Assessment process.

We are satisfied that the inclusion of the two corridor options within the project action will not alter the Ministers decision that the proposed action is likely to have a significant impact on the following matters protected by the EPBC Act:

- Threatened species and communities (section 18 & section 18A)

- Migratory species (section 20 & section 20A).

Accordingly we seek your further guidance regarding this matter and what additional information you might require to formalise these amendments to the project description as part of a minor or major change to the action.

In addition we can confirm that the Queensland Coordinator General has reviewed the proposed variations to the project corridor and deemed that the project assessment can proceed 'without delay' as it is still in general accordance with the Project Initial Advice Statement. The Draft Terms of Reference has included materials regarding these additional options and were released for public comment on 8 July 2019.

For further information regarding the proposed change please refer to the attached material which includes the letter from CuString 2.0 to the Queensland Coordinator General.

If you have any question please do not hesitate to contact myself or John Kier (0447 718 277).

Regards

[Redacted signature block]

GHD
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