

11 April 2024

Luke Newman  
Senior Planning Advisor  
Tasmanian Planning Commission  
Ref: DOC/24/28718

Dear Luke,

### **Whaleback Ridge Renewable Energy Project**

Stellar Resources is a mineral exploration company, with a current focus on mineral exploration in and around the Zeehan area on the West Coast of Tasmania.

These areas include:

- Exploration lease:
  - EL13/2018
  
- Mining Leases:
  - 2023P/M
  - 2040P/M
  - 2M/2014
  - 10M/2017
  
- Retention Licence
  - RL5/1997

We have received correspondence from the Tasmanian Planning Commission that the Whaleback Ridge Renewable Energy project has been declared a Major Project under the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*.

As such, Stellar has reviewed the information provided by Westcoast Renewable Energy (WRE) in its Major Project Proposal (6 October 2023) and would like to make the following comments in relation to any interaction with any Stellar activities, underway or proposed:

- Whilst the project highlights that “no existing mining leases are within the Project Site”, this is due to the areas containing mining leases being excised from the project area. Multiple mining leases are wholly surrounded by the project area, including the Stellar Resource held mining lease at St Dizier (10M/2017). It should be noted that whilst the footprint of the current plan for extraction of the resource at St Dizier is excised from the Project Area, there is future potential for a project the size of St Dizier to expand its footprint in the future, well past what it is currently planned for.

- Mineral exploration and extraction are a dynamic industry, with priorities changing due to commodity price fluctuation, increase in value of previously undervalued commodities, change in access to commodities from external markets, and many other factors. Stellar would be concerned if infrastructure would be installed proximal to the St Dizer site that precluded any future development outside of the current mine design.
- The scale and the location of the project does cause some concern for future mineral exploration and extraction in an area that is highly prospective for mineral resources. Future application of geophysical methods of exploration in close proximity to the infrastructure related to the proposed WRE development may hamper the future ability to facilitate mineral exploration. Mineral Resources Tasmania commissioned a report in 2021 titled "EFFECTS OF INFRASTRUCTURE ON GEOPHYSICAL EXPLORATION" by Kate Hine and John Bishop, which highlights the difficulty in undertaking geophysical surveys in proximity to large scale wind turbine infrastructure.
- Whilst there is potential to undertake surveys before the infrastructure is installed, this would not finalise the work required over an area of this size into the future. As noted in the point above, mineral exploration and extraction are a dynamic industry, with priorities changing due to commodity price fluctuation, increase in value of previously undervalued commodities, change in access to commodities from external markets, and many other factors. Added to this, geophysical survey methods are constantly evolving, and as such, no survey is ever a "final" survey.

It was also noted that whilst Stellar's Exploration Lease EL13/2018 does fall within the proposal area, but largely within an exclusion zone, Stellar Resources were not noted in the Major Project Proposal as a "relevant mineral exploration licence holder". Stellar would seek assurances that WRE is aware that Stellar is a stakeholder in this project.

If you require any further information or clarification, please feel free to contact me.

Yours Sincerely,

Adam Frankcombe  
Stellar Resources  
145A Main Street Zeehan  
[adam.frankcombe@stellarresources.com.au](mailto:adam.frankcombe@stellarresources.com.au)  
0409 149 960

