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Tatsiana Bandaruk  
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By email: [tatsiana.bandaruk@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:tatsiana.bandaruk@planning.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Ms Bandaruk

### **Wellington North Solar Farm (SSD 8895) - EIS Exhibition**

I refer to your correspondence dated 14 August 2018 seeking comments on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the abovementioned state significant development application. The proposal seeks to construct, operate and decommission a photovoltaic (PV) solar plant with an estimated capacity of 300 Mega Watts.

The following document has been reviewed for this assessment:

- *Environmental Impact Statement, Wellington North Solar Plant* prepared by ngh environmental (August 2018).

The proposed Wellington North Solar Plant is located on an agricultural property about 7 kilometres (km) north east of Wellington off Goolma Road in the Dubbo Regional Council Local Government Area (LGA). The proposed solar plant would connect to an existing Wellington Substation, approximately 3 km south of the site.

No State Heritage Register listed item are present within the proposed project area, however, the heritage item 'Noonee Nyrang homestead' listed on the Wellington Local Environmental Plan 2012 is within the proposed site. There are other locally listed items near the subject site. The EIS addresses the potential heritage impact of the development on the heritage items and comments that the proposed development will not have any direct impacts on the known heritage items.

However, since the exhibited EIS does not include a historical archaeological assessment, impact of the proposed development on potential archaeological relics and their significance cannot be ascertained. Therefore, if the development proposal is approved, the following condition is recommended to be included in the conditions of consent:

- Prior to any ground disturbance works occurring on the site, a suitably qualified historical archaeologist should be engaged to undertake an historical archaeological assessment of the site. The Assessment shall comply with Heritage Council of NSW guidelines including *Assessing Significance for Historical Archaeological sites and Relics 2009* and *Archaeological Assessments 1996*. This assessment should identify what relics, if any, are likely to be present, assess their significance and consider the impacts from the proposal on this potential resource. Where harm is likely to occur, it is recommended that the significance of the deposits or relics be considered in

determining an appropriate mitigation strategy. If harm cannot be avoided in whole or part, an appropriate Research Design and Excavation Methodology should also be prepared prior to any excavation occurring to guide any proposed excavations. The archaeological mitigation program should be directed by a person who satisfies the Heritage Council of NSW Excavation Director criteria commensurate with the activity and significance level identified.

If you have any questions regarding the above matter please contact Vibha Upadhyay, Senior Heritage Assessment Officer, at the Heritage Division, Office of the Environment and Heritage by telephone on 02 98738587 or email at [vibha.upadhyay@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:vibha.upadhyay@environment.nsw.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



17/09/2018

**Katrina Stankowski**

Senior Team Leader, Regional Heritage Assessments, North

Heritage Division

Office of Environment & Heritage

**As delegate of the Heritage Council of NSW**