

Our ref: HMS ID 14217

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Advice on Environmental Impact Statement – State Significant Infrastructure

Proposal: Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro Energy Storage

Major Project reference: SSI-77018220

Received: 30 March 2026

Dear Jess,

Thank you for your referral seeking advice on the above State Significant Infrastructure (SSI) proposal.

In preparing this advice Heritage NSW has reviewed the following documents:

- Relevant sections of Environmental Impact Statement Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro Energy Storage - prepared by EMM Consulting, dated 25 February 2026
- Appendix M: Statement of Heritage Impact Lake Lyell (SoHI) - prepared by EMM Consulting, dated November 2025
- Appendix N: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (VIA) – prepared by EMM Consulting, dated January 2026

Following review of the above documents, Heritage NSW note the following:

- There are no SHR listed items within the project area other than the Town Camp (discussed below). The SoHI has not identified any unlisted built heritage items within the project area.
- The SoHI has identified one heritage item in the vicinity which would have views impacted by the proposed SSI – *Highland House*, located at 209 Martins Road Rydal, which is listed on the Lithgow Local Environmental Plan 2014 (L169). The statement of significance for this item notes that it has historical and research significance at State level. The VIA assesses that visual

impacts on this item would be moderate and the SoHI assesses that resulting heritage impacts would be minor. We consider that the visual impacts would be unlikely to adversely impact on the State historical and research significance of the item.

Town Camp

- The Town Camp project area (a location being considered for a temporary workforce accommodation camp) is partly located within the curtilage of the State Heritage Register (SHR) listed item '*Lithgow Valley Colliery and Pottery Site*' (SHR 00078). The extant built heritage structures within the SHR curtilage are located outside of the SSI project area.
- The SoHI assessed that visual impacts on the SHR listed item can be managed through consideration of setbacks and building height of proposed new structures, and landscape design. The SoHI assesses that the SSI would likely have a moderate-to-minor visual impact on SHR 00078 during the camp's operation, depending on the detailed design.
- The SoHI assessed that the Town Camp project area has known potential to contain archaeological relics of State heritage significance that are contributory to the overall significance of the site. The SoHI found that the proposed works would have a major adverse impact on archaeological relics and therefore the overall significance of the site. Heritage NSW supports this conclusion.
- There are no other SHR listed items in the vicinity that would likely be impacted by the SSI development on the Town Camp site. The VIA assesses that the Town Camp would likely have little visual impact beyond its immediate surroundings which do not include any SHR listed items.
- The SoHI assesses that the Lakeside Camp is preferred to the Town Camp in relation to heritage impacts. Heritage NSW support this assessment as regarding both built heritage and non-Aboriginal archaeology.

In consideration of the above points, and as delegate of the Heritage Council of NSW, I provide the following comments:

- The Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirement (SEAR) regarding preparation of the SoHI (as regards built heritage) has been met.
- Additional information is required for Heritage NSW to advise the Department on whether the environmental impact assessment complies with the SEAR regarding non-Aboriginal archaeology.

Our review has identified the following key matter must be addressed in order for Heritage NSW to provide advice regarding all environmental heritage aspects of the project approval:

1. Heritage NSW understands that historical transport routes as well as Cox's Stockade No. 2 and associated convict burials are situated within the project area but outside of the construction footprint. Please update the SoHI to include mapping overlays indicating the locations of these sites as regards the project area and construction footprint, in order for Heritage NSW to confirm that appropriate heritage impact assessment has been undertaken and appropriate management measures are provided.

As the site contains a local heritage item, and other local items are in the vicinity, advice should be sought from the relevant local council.

If you have any questions about this correspondence, please contact Sarah McGuinness, Senior Assessments Officer at Heritage NSW on (02) 9873 8500 or heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely,

Alison Lamond

Alison Lamond
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As Delegate of the Heritage Council of NSW
4 May 2026