



Our ref: DOC21/696348

Rose-anne Hawkswood
Planning and Assessment
Major Projects
By email: rose-anne.hawkswood@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Rose-anne

Bowden Silver Mine Proposal Mid-Western LGA (SSD 5765) Response to RTS report

Heritage NSW (HNSW) has reviewed the Response to Submissions (RTS) report that was lodged with the Department of Planning Infrastructure and Environment (DPIE) regarding the 23 July 2020 HNSW submission (DOC20/ 586040).

As you are aware, Heritage NSW (HNSW) identified that the assessment and consultation conducted by the proponent was adequate, with respect to the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs). The HNSW submission recommended (with explanation) for a skill development opportunity for the Registered Aboriginal Parties to increase knowledge on stone artefact analysis and artefact management. HNSW acknowledge that the RTS accepts the HNSW recommendation (RTS 2021:429 and 58).

HNSW request clarification on RTS

The RTS request that DPIE not condition the HNSW recommendation in the Development Approval, preferring that it be accommodated within the post approved Aboriginal heritage management plan framework. If it is DPIE preference to accept the RTS request, HNSW wish clarification from the proponent that the HNSW recommendation be actioned in a manner as described in the HNSW submission.

HNSW do not agree that the proposed approach provided in the RTS, involving the RAPs in the salvage and management of artefacts, carries the same intent as our recommendation. The RTS refers to the conventional approaches used in managing heritage in post approved projects. Whilst HNSW accepts the proposed management recommendations, our aim is to extend the activity to develop skills for interested parties willing to learn other methods for identifying, analyzing and managing their heritage. HNSW believes this skill set is transferable to future projects whereby Aboriginal perspectives on ACH assessment data can be better balanced and grounded with scientific approaches.

HNSW thank the proponent for considering and accepting our recommendation but wish to avoid any misrepresentation on the meaning of the recommendation during the consultation phase of the draft Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan or, if conditioned in the Development Consent. HNSW is willing to conference this matter with the proponent and DPIE.

If you have any questions regarding the above advice, please contact Phil Purcell, Archaeologist at Heritage NSW on (02) 68835341 or phil.purcell@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'SH', written in a cursive style.

Dr Samantha Higgs

Senior Team Leader
ACH Regulation, North
Heritage NSW
Department of Premier and Cabinet
16 August 2021