



Our ref: DOC21/906321

Nathan Heath
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
Locked Bag 5022
Parramatta NSW 2124

By email: nathan.heath@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Nathan Heath

Notice of Exhibition of application for Upper South Creek Advanced Water Recycling Centre (SSI 8609189)

Thank you for your referral dated 15 October 2021 inviting comments from the Heritage Council of NSW on the above State Significant Infrastructure (SSI) proposal.

The proposed Stage 1 development involves:

- Building and operating the Advanced Water Recycling Centre to treat a daily wastewater flow, known as the average dry weather flow (AWRC), of up to 50 megalitres per day (ML/day)
- Building all pipelines to cater for up to 100 ML/day flow coming through the AWRC (but only operating them to transport and release volumes produced by Stage 1).

The following reports were considered in our assessment:

- *Upper South Creek Advanced Water Recycling Centre Project. Statement of Heritage Impact*, prepared by Extent Heritage and dated 5 May 2021, and
- *Upper South Creek Advanced Water Recycling Centre Project. Historical Archaeological Assessment* prepared by Extent Heritage and dated 13 August 2021.

The proposed SSI affects the State Heritage Register (SHR) item Upper Canal System (Pheasants Nest Weir to Prospect Reservoir) (SHR no. 01373) located at Prospect NSW. It is noted that the proposed works intersect with the Upper Canal only at one location. At this location the proposed pipeline is to be installed below the Upper Canal without any direct impact on its heritage fabric. It is however, recommended that the Upper Canal in this area be monitored during installation of pipeline to ensure there is no damage to the Canal due to vibration or impact. If any damage is noticed, work must stop immediately and only resume following rectification and mitigation measures being put in place.

The project will intersect with Aboriginal archaeological sites and up to seven historical archaeological sites, one of which is of State heritage significance, the remainder of local significance. Heritage NSW will provide separate advice on Aboriginal archaeology to the Department for this matter.

As delegate of the Heritage Council of NSW, I provide the following comments related to historical archaeology:

- Heritage NSW supports the demonstrated efforts to achieve avoidance of the State significant archaeology associated with Blaxland's Farm (PAS1 in this report);

- The mitigation and management measures in this report address the archaeological potential and significance of PAS 1 to 10;
- Heritage NSW supports the recommendation to conduct archaeological testing to establish the presence/absence of State and/or locally significant archaeological deposits in PAS 1, 2, 3, 8, 9 and 10, and assess their nature, extent and preservation status and inform next steps regarding their management.
- Heritage NSW notes that testing should ideally be conducted ahead of decision on the SSI application as preservation *in situ* rather than archaeological salvage is the Heritage Council's preferred approach to managing substantially intact and confirmed State significant archaeology.
- Heritage NSW encourages the Applicant to make further efforts to achieve avoidance through redesign in cases where State significant archaeology is identified within the development footprint.
- It would be a preferred outcome to conduct the testing as early as possible prior to finalizing design in the area of the State significant archaeology and to commit to avoidance and protection of these remains as part of the project. HNSW seeks confirmation of this approach by the Proponent for the project at RTS stage.

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

If you have any questions regarding the above advice, please contact Rajat Chaudhary, Senior Heritage Assessment Officer at Heritage NSW on (02) 9873 8521 or rajat.chaudhary@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Steven Meredith
Director
Heritage Programs
Heritage NSW
Department of Premier and Cabinet
As Delegate of the Heritage Council of NSW
23 November 2021