

Iwan Davies
Planner
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
GPO BOX 404, PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

By email: iwan.davies@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Davies

Notice of Exhibition for Project EnergyConnect (NSW - Eastern Section) (SSI-9172452)

Thank you for your referral dated 17 January 2021 inviting comments from the Heritage Council of NSW on the above State Significant Infrastructure (SSI).

Energy Connect is a proposal for the construction and operation of a new High Voltage (HV) interconnector between NSW and South Australia. The EnergyConnect (NSW – Eastern Section) includes:

- Construction of about 540km of new double circuit transmission line (minimum 330 kV) and associated infrastructure between the Buronga substation and Wagga Wagga substation;
- Construction of Dinawan substation, about 170km west of Wagga Wagga;
- Expansion and upgrade to the existing Wagga Wagga 330kV substation;
- Establishment and upgrade of access roads; and
- Other ancillary work required to facilitate the construction of the proposal.

The following reports were considered in our assessment:

- *Technical Paper 3 – Historic Heritage Impact Assessment*, Navin Officer, December 2021 ('HHIS')

No items listed on the State Heritage Register are affected by the proposal.

One heritage item listed on the NPWS HHIMS (Yanga Pastoral Station Complex) is partly within the study area. The HHIS notes that this item has been previously assessed as having State heritage significance however this status has not been endorsed by the Heritage Council. The site will be traversed by the proposed transmission line and the Sheep Yards in the Willows Precinct would be impacted. The HHIS states that while the sheep yards do not fulfil the criteria for local significance on their own, they contribute to the overall significance of the site.

In addition, three unlisted heritage items identified during the heritage assessment would be impacted by the proposal: one survey marker tree (PEC-E-H1), Nyangay Pastoral Holding hut site (PEC-E-H4) and Bundure Railway Station artefact scatter (PEC-E-H3).

As delegate of the Heritage Council of NSW, I provide the following comments:

- The HHIS recommendation regarding temporary fenced exclusion zones around the impacted sites is supported and should be included as a condition of consent.
- As the hut site has been identified through desktop research only, the HHIS notes that an archaeological survey will occur when access is available to determine if the

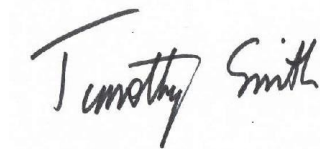
structure is extant, any associated archaeological potential and any potential for impact. This should be provided to HNSW to comment upon with RTS stage. The HHIS also notes that design finalisation will attempt to avoid/minimise direct impacts to the item, including options for siting the tower and access track. This is supported.

- The HHIS notes that, if harm to the sheep yards on the Yanga Pastoral Station cannot be avoided, consultation with NPWS would occur, and that where requested, archival recording of the sheep yards would occur and be provided to NPWS. This is supported and should be included as a condition of consent.
- The standard mitigation measures recommended in the HHIS, including induction requirements, monitoring and unexpected finds procedures are supported and should be included as conditions of consent.
- Should archaeological disturbance be required, the Applicant shall nominate a suitably qualified and experienced historical archaeologist to manage the historical archaeological program. This person must fulfill the Heritage Council's Excavation Criteria 2019 for the excavation of locally significant archaeology.
- An Archaeological Research Design and Excavation Methodology shall be prepared to guide the archaeological program. It shall be prepared according to Heritage Council of NSW guidelines.
- A final archaeological excavation report shall be prepared within 12 months of the completion of archaeological excavation. It should include details of any significant artefacts recovered, where they are located and details of their ongoing conservation and protection in perpetuity by the landowner. Copies of the final excavation report shall be provided to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE), the Heritage Council of NSW and to the local Council's local studies unit.

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.

This letter is provided in relation to Environmental Heritage only, as managed under the *Heritage Act 1977*. Heritage NSW notes extensive consultation and future referral responses on the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage impact assessment separately, as referred under the *National Parks & Wildlife Act 1974*. If you have any questions regarding the above advice, please contact Veerle Norbury, Senior Heritage Assessment Officer, at Heritage NSW on 9873 8616 or Veerle.Norbury@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Tim Smith OAM

Director, Heritage Assessments

Heritage NSW

Department of Premier & Cabinet

As Delegate of the Heritage Council of NSW

17/2/22