

Elisha Dunn
Planner
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
GPO BOX 404, PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

By email: elisha.dunn@dpie.nsw.gov.au

Dear Ms Dunn

Pre-referral consultation for Bendemeer Solar Farm (SSD-36651552)

Thank you for your referral dated 11 February 2022 inviting comments from the Heritage Council of NSW on the above State Significant Development (SSD) proposal.

The proposed development involves:

- construction, operation and decommissioning of a photovoltaic (PV) solar facility with a capacity of up to 210 MW(AC) that would supply electricity to the national electricity grid, and a BESS with an indicative capacity of 200 MW(AC).

The project site covers approximately 550 ha with the area of solar arrays, BESS and associated infrastructure anticipated to occupy approximately 365 ha (Development Footprint). This would include an onsite substation.

The report listed below was reviewed:

- Scoping Report Bendemeer Solar Farm prepared by NGH Pty Ltd dated January 2022.

It is noted that the project area does not include an item listed on the State Heritage Register (SHR) and that the locally listed heritage item 'Bendemeer Station' is within 1km of the project area.

It is recommended that the following SEARS are included:

Heritage and archaeology

- a) A Statement of Heritage Impact (SOHI) prepared by a suitably qualified heritage consultant in accordance with the guidelines in the NSW Heritage Manual. The SOHI is to address the impacts of the proposal on the heritage significance of the site and adjacent areas and is to identify the following:
 - all heritage items (state and local) within the vicinity of the site including built heritage, landscapes and archaeology, detailed mapping of these items, and assessment of why the items and site(s) are of heritage significance;
 - the impacts of the proposal on heritage item(s) including visual impacts;
 - the attempts to avoid and/or mitigate the impact on the heritage significance or cultural heritage values of the site and the surrounding heritage items; and
 - justification for any changes to the heritage fabric or landscape elements including any options analysis.

- b) If the SOHI identifies impact on potential historical archaeology, an historical archaeological assessment should be prepared by a suitably qualified archaeologist in accordance with the guidelines *Archaeological Assessment* (1996) and *Assessing Significance for Historical Archaeological Sites and Relics* (2009). 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 archaeological resource. Where harm is likely to occur, it is recommended that the significance of the 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 to guide any proposed excavations or salvage programme.

If you have any questions regarding the above advice, please contact Vibha Upadhyay, Senior Assessments Officer, at Heritage NSW on 9873 8587 or Vibha.Upadhyay@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Michael Ellis.

Michael Ellis
Manager, Assessments
Heritage NSW
Department of Premier & Cabinet
As Delegate of the Heritage Council of NSW
24/02/2022