



Julie Green
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Department of Planning and Environment
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Our reference: DOC22/640017-2

Advice referred through the Major Project Portal

Dear Julie

Request for Advice – State Significant Development – Rye Park Wind Farm (SSD 6693 MOD 2)

Thank you for your referral dated 26 July 2022, inviting comment from Heritage NSW (HNSW) on the above State Significant Development (SSD) Modification proposal.

HNSW understands the Project was granted Development Consent SSD 6693 under the *Environmental, Planning and Assessment Act 1979* on 22 May 2017 and subsequent Modification (MOD 1) approval received on the 15 April 2021. The Project is being developed by Rye Park Renewable Energy Pty Ltd, a subsidiary of Tilt Renewables (Tilt) and is currently under construction with operation expected to commence in early 2024.

In response to ongoing stakeholder consultation and to facilitate increased project efficiencies, Tilt is seeking to modify Consent SSD 6693 through changes to the alignment of several sections of access track. Whilst the revisions seek to increase the footprint of the Development Corridor it is understood that the proposed modifications address challenges of constructability by decreasing the amount of disturbance and reduce the scale of construction activities required in sensitive and topographically constrained areas (waterway/riparian zones and gully crossings).

In preparing the below advice, HNSW has reviewed the following documentation:

- *Rye Park Wind Farm – Modification Application 2 Report – Development Consent State Significant Development: 6693-MOD 2, July 2022*, prepared by Rye Park Renewable Energy Pty Ltd
- *Appendix E: Third Addendum to the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA): Rye Park Wind Farm Modification 2, May 2022*, prepared by NGH Pty Ltd

HNSW is satisfied that the supplied documentation, fulfils regulatory requirements by adequately identifying and assessing the impacts of the proposed modification on the Aboriginal cultural heritage values within the Modification 2 project area.

A total of 21 Aboriginal sites are located within the entire project footprint. It is understood that a program of surface collection and salvage excavation was previously undertaken to mitigate harm to Aboriginal objects associated with 18 of the Aboriginal sites proposed to be impacted by the project, in accordance with the salvage methods developed in the Rye Park Wind Farm Heritage Management Plan (HMP) (NGH 2021).

Surface collection and salvage excavation is still proposed at four site locations (AHIMS 51-4-0430 AFTS2 + PAD; AHIMS 51-5-0327 AFT3 + PAD; AHIMS 51-1-0153 SU30/L2 and PAD 1). Although situated within the Modification 2 footprint, the proponent has indicated that Aboriginal objects associated with AHIMS 51-4-0445 IF20 isolated find and Potential Archaeological Deposit PAD 4 (unregistered on AHIMS), will not be impacted.

Updated HMP needs to be supplied. In accordance with Schedule 3 Condition 25 (b) of the Development Consent for SSD 6693, dated 22 May 2017, HNSW requests a copy of the HMP be supplied following updates made to the document in consultation with HNSW in May 2021 (DOC21/298252-2).

AHIMS site registrations need to be submitted. We note that several Aboriginal sites listed in Tables 6-1 and 6-2 of the Third Addendum ACHA report (NGH 2022) do not have corresponding AHIMS numbers. As per our previous correspondence on 3 May 2021 regarding outstanding AHIMS site registration concerns in the HMP, HNSW requires that this matter is also addressed in the current report.

Aboriginal Site Impact Recording Forms (ASIRF) must be submitted. It appears that updates to AHIMS site cards have not been completed following site mitigation activities within the project area. In accordance with Section 7.1 of the HMP (NGH 2021), Aboriginal Site Impact Recording Forms (ASIRF) for all impacted sites must be submitted to the AHIMS Registrar for inclusion on the AHIMS database as soon as possible.

Implementation of the proposed mitigation measures be undertaken in consultation with the Aboriginal community. HNSW understands the proponent is committed to meaningful engagement and that consultation with the Aboriginal community will be ongoing for the life of the project. HNSW recommends that the implementation of the proposed mitigation measures be undertaken in consultation with the Aboriginal community, in accordance with the HMP and HNSW's *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents* (DECCW 2010), to ensure continued Aboriginal engagement and involvement in all stages of the project.

If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact Rebecca Yit, Senior Assessments Officer at Heritage NSW, on 4927 3244 or rebecca.yit@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Kym McNamara
Senior Assessments Officer
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Department of Planning and Environment

Date: 3 August 2022