



Mr. Jonathan Kerr
Senior Planning Officer
Infrastructure Assessment
Department of Planning & Environment
Email: jonathan.kerr@planning.nsw.gov.au

Your reference: SSI-663
Our reference: DOC22/642717

Dear Jonathan,

Advice on Modification - State Significant Infrastructure (SSI-663) - M7 Motorway (Mod 6 Widening) (Blacktown)

Thank you for your referral uploaded to the Major Projects Portal on 3 August 2022, seeking advice on the proposed modification in relation to the above State Significance Infrastructure (SSI) proposal. Heritage NSW has reviewed the Environmental assessment - Aboriginal heritage component as requested and make the following comments.

Heritage NSW understands that a detailed Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment has been prepared as part of the impact assessment for the proposed modification, and that this assessment is documented in the Archaeological Survey Report (ASR), included in Appendix I (Aboriginal cultural heritage ASR). The methodology used for the preparation of the ASR was guided by the *PACHCI* (RMS 2011b) and the *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW* (2010), which involved a combination of desktop research, consultation with key Aboriginal stakeholders and site surveys.

I note that Deerubbin Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) was consulted in relation to all areas north of Elizabeth Drive, and Gandangara LALC was consulted in relation to all areas south of Elizabeth Drive. Both LALCs provided site officers for participation in the site survey undertaken to inform the assessment and assist in identifying areas of cultural heritage value. Each LALC produced their own cultural heritage survey reports, as per the PACHCI, and the management and mitigation measures provided in the ASR were developed in consultation with both LALCs. I also note that Transport for NSW (TfNSW) has undertaken an advertising campaign to engage with the Aboriginal community and gain an understanding of cultural values in the area, and that Transport will aim to embed those values in the detailed design of the proposed modification. Heritage NSW supports this stakeholder engagement initiative to aims to assist in informing the final detailed design for the modification.

I also note that the study area for this assessment was examined in relation to the construction footprint for the proposed modification, which includes those areas required for roadworks, bridge works, access for construction vehicles and plant, drainage infrastructure, noise walls, utilities and services adjustments, temporary stockpiles, temporary property adjustments and temporary construction ancillary facilities (such as construction compounds). In relation to the construction phase of the proposed M7 Widening, I note that there are 6 Aboriginal sites identified within and directly adjacent to the study area, however, none of these sites will be impacted by the proposed modification. The operational footprint of the proposed modification



will also be contained within the existing Westlink M7 lease area and includes areas required for both operation and maintenance. No impacts to Aboriginal heritage values are expected in relation to the operation of the proposed modification.

The ARS concludes that no further impact assessment is required in relation to Aboriginal cultural heritage. Based on the information provided in the ARS, Heritage NSW concurs that no additional assessment in relation to Aboriginal cultural heritage is required, and as such, further agency consultation is not required in relation to Modification 6, M7 Motorway (SSI-663).

Should you require any additional information in relation to this advice please contact me directly on 0409 394 343 or via email Nicole.Davis@environment.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely

Nicole Davis

Manager Assessments

Heritage NSW

Department of Planning and Environment

(As Delegate under *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*)

Date: 19 August 2022