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Department of Planning and Environment  
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*Advice referred through the Major Project Portal*

Dear Natasha

**Advice on Response to Submissions – State Significant Development– Oxley Solar Farm – SSD 10346**

Thank you for your referral dated 14 September 2022, seeking input from Heritage NSW (HNSW) on the Response to Submissions for the above State Significant Development (SSD) proposal.

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

- *Submissions Report, Oxley Solar Farm*, dated 20 September 2022, prepared by NGH Pty Ltd for Oxley Solar Farm
- *Archaeological Report-Subsurface Testing and Additional Survey, Oxley Solar Farm (SSD 10346)*, dated 28 September 2022, prepared by NGH Pty Ltd for Oxley Solar Farm

HNSW have reviewed the additional information provided in response to matters raised in our submissions letter, dated 9 April 2021. HNSW is satisfied that the supplied documentation substantially addresses the matters raised in our letter by identifying and assessing the impacts of the proposal on the Aboriginal cultural heritage values within the development area, in accordance with the project SEARs and HNSW Guidelines.

We understand additional Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment in areas of proposed new development has been undertaken in consultation with representatives of the Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs).

Overall, a total of 33 isolated finds, 21 artefact scatters, seven cultural trees, six contemporary scarred trees, two scarred trees and one unfired clay and grass bowl were recorded during the Aboriginal heritage assessments undertaken to date for the project.

We also understand that a program of test excavation was undertaken in areas of potential archaeological deposit (PAD) to inform the proposed development design, in line with HNSW recommendations. A total of 21 PADs were recorded during the assessments with those proposed to be impacted subject to test excavation.

Based on the findings from the additional assessment, refinements have been made to the proposed development footprint including reductions in the temporary impact areas and the proposed implementation of exclusion zones to protect all cultural and modified tree sites, areas of PAD and other Aboriginal sites.

It is understood that of the total Aboriginal sites, six sites will be subject to direct impacts and eight sites will be subject to indirect impacts from the development proposal. As outlined in Table 8-3 of the Archaeological Report (NGH 2022) a program of surface collection is proposed to mitigate harm to any extant Aboriginal objects associated with sites not subject to test excavation or harm avoidance measures.

HNSW supports the proposed harm avoidance and salvage mitigation strategy, in accordance with the methods to be developed in an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan (ACHMP) to be prepared for the project.

It is understood that the arrangements for the long-term management of salvaged Aboriginal objects are yet to be finalised with the RAPs. As recommended in the ACHAR, HNSW supports the inclusion of procedures for unexpected finds and recovered object management to be developed in the ACHMP, prior to ground disturbance works occurring.

As per our previous comments, it is recommended that the development and implementation of management and mitigation measures be undertaken in consultation with the Aboriginal community, in accordance with the HNSWs *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 the above comments, please contact Rebecca Yit, Senior Assessments Officer on [rebecca.yit@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:rebecca.yit@environment.nsw.gov.au)

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N91 Davis'.

Nicole Davis  
Manager Assessments  
Heritage NSW  
Department of Planning and Environment

25 October 2022