



Our ref: DOC23/13407  
Your ref: SSI-53307723

Ms Rose-Anne Hawkeswood  
Team Leader  
Department of Planning and Environment  
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Advice provided via the Major Projects Portal

Dear Ms Hawkeswood

**Aboriginal Cultural Heritage – Recommended SEARs – Narrabri Lateral Project –  
SSI-53307723**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our recommended Aboriginal cultural heritage Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) for the proposed Narrabri Lateral Project (SSI-53307723).

We have reviewed the Scoping Report prepared by Santos (dated 23 December 2022) that was provided with the referral. We support the preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIS). We recommend that the ACHAR needs to include Aboriginal community and archaeological assessment (including test excavation where needed) conducted in accordance with Heritage NSW guidelines to inform the EIS.

Our recommended Aboriginal cultural heritage SEARs are attached.

Please note: the above comments relate only to Aboriginal cultural heritage matters under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. You may wish to seek separate advice from Heritage NSW in relation to matters under the *Heritage Act 1977*.

If you have any questions regarding the above advice please contact Nicole Davis, Manager Assessments, at Heritage NSW on (02) 4927 3156 or via email at [nicole.davis@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:nicole.davis@environment.nsw.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

**Rose O'Sullivan**  
Acting Manager Assessments  
Heritage NSW  
Department of Planning and Environment  
(As Delegate under *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*)

Date: 19 January 2023



## **Heritage NSW – Aboriginal Cultural Heritage – Recommended Secretary’s Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs)**

**Project Name: Narrabri Lateral Pipeline, SSI-53307723**

1. The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) must identify and describe the Aboriginal cultural heritage values that exist across the whole area that will be affected by the development and document these in an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR). This may include the need for surface survey and test excavation. The identification of cultural heritage values must be conducted in accordance with the [Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation in NSW \(DECCW 2010\)](#), and be guided by the [Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in New South Wales \(OEH 2011\)](#).
2. Consultation with Aboriginal people must be undertaken and documented in accordance with the [Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents \(DECCW 2010\)](#). The significance of cultural heritage values for Aboriginal people who have a cultural association with the land must be documented in the ACHAR.
3. Impacts on Aboriginal cultural heritage values are to be assessed and documented in the ACHAR. The ACHAR must demonstrate attempts to avoid impact upon cultural heritage values and identify any conservation outcomes. Where impacts are unavoidable, the EIS must outline measures proposed to mitigate impacts. Any objects recorded as part of the assessment must be documented and notified to Heritage NSW.
4. The assessment of Aboriginal cultural heritage values must include a surface survey undertaken by a qualified archaeologist. The result of the surface survey is to inform the need for targeted test excavation to better assess the integrity, extent, distribution, nature and overall significance of the archaeological record. The results of surface surveys and test excavations are to be documented in the ACHAR.
5. The ACHAR must outline procedures to be followed if Aboriginal objects are found at any stage of the life of the project to formulate appropriate measures to manage unforeseen impacts.
6. The ACHAR must outline procedures to be followed in the event Aboriginal burials or skeletal material are uncovered during construction to formulate appropriate measures to manage the impacts to this material.

***NOTE: The process described in the Due Diligence Code of Practice for the protection of Aboriginal objects in NSW (DECCW 2010) is not sufficient to assess the impacts on Aboriginal cultural heritage of State Significant Development***