

Our ref: HMS ID 6696

Ms Julia Green  
Senior Environmental Assessment Officer  
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment  
PO BOX 404  
PARRAMATTA NSW 2124  
**By email:** julia.a.green@dpie.nsw.gov.au

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## Request for Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (Victoria to NSW Interconnector West (SSI-72887208))

Dear Ms Green

Thank you for your referral dated 4 July 2024 inviting comments from the Heritage Council of NSW on the above State Significant Infrastructure (SSI) proposal.

The proposed SSI site does not include any State Heritage Register items. It does contain a number of local heritage items and the documentation provided notes that large portions of the proposed alignment have not previously been subject to heritage assessment.

Heritage NSW has reviewed the draft Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements included in your referral which include the following requirements for environmental heritage:

- assess the impact to historic heritage having regard to the *Assessing heritage significance guideline* (DPE, 2023).

It is recommended that the draft Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements with respect to environmental heritage be revised as follows:

1. A Statement of Heritage Impact (SOHI) prepared by a suitably qualified heritage consultant in accordance with the *Guidelines for preparing Statements of Heritage Impact*. 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:
  - a. 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;

- b. the impacts of the proposal on heritage item(s) including visual impacts;
  - c. 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
  - d. justification for any changes to the heritage fabric or landscape elements including any options analysis.
2. An historical archaeological assessment should be prepared by a suitably qualified archaeologist in accordance with the guidelines Archaeological Assessments and Assessing Significance for Historical Archaeological Sites and Relics. 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.

As the alignment contains local heritage items, and other local items are in the vicinity, advice should be sought from the relevant local councils.

If you have any questions about this correspondence, please contact James Cole, Senior Assessments Officer at Heritage NSW on (02) 9873 8535 or [heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au)

Yours sincerely

*Rochelle Johnston*

Rochelle Johnston  
Senior Manager, Major Projects  
Heritage NSW  
Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water  
As Delegate of the Heritage Council of NSW  
11 July 2024