

Our ref: DOC24/579550

Your ref: SSD-50587460

Samantha Oyston

Senior Environmental Assessment Officer

Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

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Letter uploaded to the Major Projects Planning Portal

Advice on Environmental Impact Statement – State Significant Development

Proposal: Panorama Battery Energy Storage System

Major Project reference: SSD-50587460

Received: 19 July 2024

Dear Samantha

Thank you for your referral seeking advice on the above State Significant Development proposal for a battery energy storage system near Bathurst.

In preparing this advice Heritage NSW has reviewed the following documents:

- Relevant sections of Environmental Impact Statement Panorama Battery Energy Storage System - prepared by SLR Consulting, dated 31 May 2024.
- Appendix H, Panorama BESS Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment - prepared by Austral Archaeology, dated 25 August 2023

Following the review of the above documents, Heritage NSW requests additional information to inform its advice to the Department on whether the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report adequately addresses the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements for the project, including the associated recommendations for the management of Aboriginal cultural heritage. Additional information is required in relation to the following matter.

- Heritage NSW notes that the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) search is greater than 12 months old at the time of submission. Heritage NSW requires, as per Requirement 1b of the *Code of Practice*, that AHIMS searches are contemporaneous with the project. We consider that AHIMS searches of over 12 months old need to be updated. Please update the AHIMS search.

Provided this matter can be addressed we have included recommended draft conditions of approval in **Attachment A**. If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact Alison

Lamond, Principal Assessments Officer, at Heritage NSW on 9873 8500 or
heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Nicole Davis

Nicole Davis
Manager Assessments
Heritage NSW
Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
As Delegate under *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*
18 August 2024

Attachment A – Recommended Draft Conditions for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

Below are our recommended draft conditions for the protection of Aboriginal Heritage.

Aboriginal Heritage

1. All reasonable steps must be taken to avoid harm, modification of or impact to Aboriginal objects except as authorised by this approval.
2. The Registered Aboriginal Parties must be kept informed about the SSD. The Registered Aboriginal Parties must continue to be provided with the opportunity to be consulted about the Aboriginal cultural heritage management requirements of the SSD.
3. A procedure for the management of unexpected Aboriginal objects and human remains must be developed in consultation with the Registered Aboriginal Parties and Heritage NSW. The procedure must be prepared in accordance with Heritage NSW guidelines and codes of practice and must be implemented for the duration of the project.