

Cameron Ashe
Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
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Letter uploaded to the Major Projects Planning Portal

Input to SEARs – State Significant Development

Proposal: Rothbury Battery Energy Storage System

Major Project reference: SSD-85939708

Received: 13 June 2025

Dear Mr Ashe,

Thank you for your referral dated 13 June 2025 inviting SEARS input from the Heritage Council of NSW on the above State Significant Development (SSD) proposal.

Heritage NSW has reviewed the provided scoping report and draft Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements included in your referral. Noting the projects proximity to the local heritage item 'Old North Road remnant' and the potential for historical archaeology acknowledged in the scoping report, Heritage NSW recommends that the following are included as the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements with respect to environmental heritage in relation to the proposed. Rothbury Battery Energy Storage System (SSD-85939708):

1. A suitably qualified heritage consultant is to:
 - a. Identify all heritage items within the site and its vicinity including built heritage, landscapes and archaeology, map these items, and assess why the items and site(s) are of heritage significance;
 - b. Assess the impacts of the proposal on any identified heritage items in accordance with the Guidelines for Preparing Statements of Heritage Impact. Discuss the attempts to avoid and/or mitigate the impact on the heritage significance of the site and the surrounding heritage items including any options analysis.
 - c. Assess the visual impacts of the proposal on any heritage item(s) within the view catchment of the proposal.
 - d. A historical archaeological assessment should be prepared by a suitably qualified archaeologist in accordance with the guidelines Archaeological Assessment and Assessing Significance for Historical Archaeological Sites and Relics.

As the site contains a local heritage item, and other local items are in the vicinity, you should seek advice from the relevant local council.

If you have any questions about this correspondence, please contact Alison Lamond at Heritage NSW on (02) 9873 8500 or heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely

Alison Lamond

Alison Lamond
Manager Assessments
Heritage NSW
Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
As Delegate of the Heritage Council of NSW

18 June 2025