

Our ref: HMS ID 11588

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Letter uploaded to the Major Projects Planning Portal

Advice on Environmental Impact Statement – State Significant Infrastructure

Proposal: Mount Piper to Wallerawang Transmission Project

Major Project reference: SSI-70279722

Received: 22 August 2025

Dear Ms Matarazzo,

Thank you for seeking advice from Heritage NSW regarding the above State Significant Infrastructure (SSI) proposal. It is understood that the project involves the construction of a 330kV transmission line between the Mount Piper and Wallerawang 330kV substations, approximately 8km in length.

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

- Relevant sections of *Mount Piper to Wallerawang Transmission Line Upgrade Project Environmental Impact Statement* (EIS)- prepared by Transgrid, dated 21 August 2025.
- *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report: Mount Piper to Wallerawang Transmission Line Upgrade Project* (ACHAR) - prepared by OzArk Environment & Heritage, dated 19 August 2025.

Following the review of the above documents, it is recommended that the Department requests additional information to inform advice from Heritage NSW on whether the ACHAR 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 requested in relation to the matters outlined in **Attachment A**.

Please note that this response relates only to Aboriginal cultural heritage regulation matters. If you have any questions about this correspondence, please contact James Cole, Senior Assessments Officer at Heritage NSW on (02) 9873 8500 or heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely,

Alison Lamond

Alison Lamond
Manager
Major Projects Heritage NSW
Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
As Delegate under *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*
22 September 2025

Attachment A - Detailed Aboriginal cultural heritage advice

Prior to approval

Prior to approval, Heritage NSW recommends that the Department request additional information from the proponent in relation to the matters outlined below. This information is requested to ensure that the ACHAR demonstrates compliance with relevant assessment guidelines, including the *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents* (DECCW 2010), *Code of practice for archaeological investigation of Aboriginal objects in NSW* (DECCW 2010), and the *Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011).

Consultation

1. Please update the consultation documentation provided with the EIS to include evidence of consultation relating to the following matters:
 - a. Stage 1 consultation mailout to statutory agencies, and any agency responses.
 - b. Evidence that all Aboriginal people identified in statutory agency responses were contacted and invited to register for consultation.
 - c. Evidence that the assessment methodology and test excavation methodology were provided to Mingaan Aboriginal Corporation and Koori Digs. Heritage NSW does note that a late registration was accepted from Mingaan Aboriginal Corporation.
 - d. Evidence that the draft ACHAR was provided to Koori Digs.

This may include documentation such as copies of dated email records with relevant email addresses shown.

Archaeological survey

2. Please update the mapping provided in Figure 6-2 of the ACHAR to provide greater context to the track logs by reducing the mapping scale.

Test excavation

3. Please clarify the number of test units excavated as a part of the excavation program. Section 7.4 states that 18 test units were excavated, but Figure 7-3 and Table 7-3 indicate that 17 test units were excavated.
4. Table 7-3 states that all test units were excavated in 5cm spits, please confirm whether this is the case or update the table to reflect how the methodology was implemented.
5. Section 7.4 states that the 18 test units totalled 9m², however it is noted that 18 test units measuring 50cm by 50cm would total an excavated area of 4.5m². Please provide commentary on this, and how this calculation affects the discussion of artefact density in Section 7.5.1 and the assessment of significance for the site in Section 8.2.

Significance assessment

6. Noting that one knapped glass artefact was identified during test excavations, please provide additional discussion of the historic values of the site, including potential connections with historically recorded Aboriginal occupation at Pipers Flat and the nearby recorded potential burial ground referenced in Section 5.1 of the ACHAR.

Impact assessment

7. Please provide further detail on the works required within the boundary of Lidsdale 2 PAD Extension / AHIMS 45-1-2994 for use as a brake and winch site.

Post approval

Following approval, Heritage NSW advises that the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan must include additional information relating to the matters outlined below. This information is requested to ensure that appropriate and actionable mitigation measures are in place to manage impacts to Aboriginal cultural heritage.

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan

8. Detailed mitigation measures which will be implemented to ensure that:
 - a. impacts to WPS-PAD 2 by vegetation clearance activities are avoided.
 - b. impacts to Springvale Colliery / AHIMS 45-1-0237 will be avoided during construction, use, and maintenance of the proposed access track at this location.
 - c. impacts to Lidsdale 2 PAD Extension / AHIMS 45-1-2994 will be avoided by use of this location as a brake and winch site.
9. Consideration of additional test excavation surrounding Transect 3, Test Unit 4 of Springvale Colliery / AHIMS 45-1-0237 to inform the detailed design, with the intent of siting the proposed access road in this area to avoid areas of highest artefact density.
10. A requirement for the AHIMS site card for Springvale Colliery / AHIMS 45-1-0237 to be updated to include detail of the works carried out within the boundaries of the site, and the mitigation measures implemented to avoid impacts to the site.