

Our ref: HMS ID 12596

Rita Hatem
Senior Environmental Assessment Officer
Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
Rita.Hatem@planning.nsw.gov.au

Letter uploaded to the Major Projects Planning Portal

Advice on Environmental Impact Statement – State Significant Development

Proposal: Stoney Creek Battery Energy Storage System

Major Project reference: SSD-75680468

Received: 18 November 2025

Dear Rita,

Thank you for your referral seeking advice on the above State Significant Development proposal.

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

- Relevant sections of Environmental Impact Statement Stone Creek BESS - prepared by SLR, dated 30 October 2025
- Stoney Creek BESS Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report - prepared by Virtus Heritage, dated August 2025

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 (ACHAR) adequately addresses the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) for the project, including the associated recommendations for the management of Aboriginal cultural heritage. Additional information is required in relation to the matters outlined in **Attachment A**.

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

Yours sincerely,

Corey O'Driscoll

Corey O'Driscoll

A/Practice Lead

Major Projects

Heritage NSW

Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

As Delegate under *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*

16 December 2025

Attachment A – Detailed Aboriginal cultural heritage advice

Aboriginal Community Consultation

1. Heritage NSW note that a project Registered Aboriginal (RAP) indicated during consultation that the project area is situated within a songline that runs from Gunnedah to Burning Mountain. We note that the project area is situated approximately 100 km north of Gunnedah, with Burning Mountain situated a further 130 km south. In consideration of this, please clarify:
 - a. Is the project area within, or in the vicinity of the songline?
 - b. If any specific information was received about the songline, including stories, location and/or values?
2. Should additional specific cultural information be received regarding the songline, Heritage NSW recommend that it is added to the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) as an *Aboriginal Ceremony and Dreaming* site.

Archaeological Assessment

3. We note that Figure 4 of the ACHAR shows proposed survey transects and not track logs. As per Requirement 5 of the *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (DECCW 2010; Code of Practice), please provide detailed and thorough mapping which includes all survey track logs.