

Appendix

E

E.4 | Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Part 3

B.5 Stage 4 – Aboriginal feedback of the draft ACHA

See Section 3.4 for a summary of comments.

B.6 Additional consultation

Bundy Culture, RAP Report 22/01/2024

Mon 1/22/2024 10:13 AM

To: Julian Kasby <julian.kasby@sparkrenewables.com>; Will Stone <Will.Stone@sparkrenewables.com>; Taylar Reid <treid@emmconsulting.com.au>; Alan Williams <awilliams@emmconsulting.com.au>

📎 1 attachments (2 MB)

22nd January 2024.pdf;

CAUTION: This email originated outside of the Organisation.

Yamma Biyambul Mayiny (Hello all people)

Please find attached my report for my survey week last week at the Dinawan Wind Project.

Can you confirm receipt of this via a return email please ?

Guwayu (Safe Travels)

"I respectfully acknowledge the traditional custodians of my land, The Wiradjuri people"

"Always Was, Always Will Be"

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22nd January 2024.

Taylor Reid,

EMM Consulting.

Julian Kasby & Will Stone,

Spark Renewables.

Yamma Biyambul Mayiny (Hello all people)

Please find following my report for Dinawan Wind Project. My report covers my recommendations for further testing and survey as well as some cultural items that Spark Renewables needs to address.

Cultural Immersion and Monitor Contracted.

- I insist that a "Cultural Advisor" for Cultural Knowledge, with duties of the overseeing of "Due Diligence" and "Unexpected Finds" is contracted by Spark Renewables as a "Monitor" to both the Wind and Solar Projects. This person will be able to record items to AHIMS as an AHIMS Registered Aboriginal Person. His person will also have full cultural knowledge of the area. Will be a Wiradjuri person, cultural knowledge holder and still practise their cultural ways and be fully aware of Wiradjuri and surrounding clan and tribal groups and their protocols. This person, who would be qualified in AHIMS recording, will also be able to record and if needed move Wiradjuri items, not already recorded, to an area that would offer better safety from damage and as such would allow work to continue in the area of sensitivity. Remember that Wiradjuri/Aboriginal items and places are protected even if not recorded, so any damage to these items can result in heavy penalties.*
- I also insist that Spark Renewables deliver "Cultural Awareness Programs" to all of your staff and contractors by a culturally qualified Wiradjuri Knowledge Holder.*

Spark Renewables already have someone who is doing Aboriginal Community Engagement, this role is important, however the current role does not give your company a layer of protection and understanding around your company's reasonability with regards to the protection and saving of Wiradjuri places and items. I believe that the new role, "Aboriginal Cultural Advisor", is one that could potentially save your company hundreds of thousands of dollars in possible fines for the possibility of someone destroying areas of Wiradjuri importance.

This Aboriginal Cultural Advisor would be able to access your work site very quickly and avoid the need for lengthy waiting times to have Wiradjuri items and places inspected. Please be aware that Ignorance is no longer an excuse for the destruction or damage of our Wiradjuri places and items.

Further Test Pits and Survey Work.

With regards to my survey with EMM during my work last week, we inspected several very large areas in preparation for the proposed Dinawan Wind Farm. The following dot points are some issues I will raise with EMM and also Spark Renewables.

- *I request that extensive test pits and excavation be done on a very sensitive site that we found and recorded last week. The site comprises of at least 5 Wiiny Ngurang (Fire Camps) "Hearths" and several artefacts. This area is of high sensitivity to our Wiradjuri people and needs to have further testing and survey done. See "Map 1 Test Pit Area" (Page 3)*

GPS Location 55H 375930 6125568

- *Also, further walking survey to be done in the same area of highly sensitive area. See Map 2 (Page 3)*

GPS Location 55H 375930 6125568

- *Re-survey area, See Map 3 (Page 4) Due to very poor ground visibility and the fact that at least 2 Hearths were located and reported in this area (these where found on the exposed areas) this area needs to be surveyed when the ground cover is slashed, or when the vegetation has thinned out.*

GPS Location 55H 358350 6132405

I also would say that I'm very proud that Spark Renewables are taking great care to listen to the information being supplied from EMM and also from our RAPs with regards to the protection of very significate Wiradjuri areas and items.

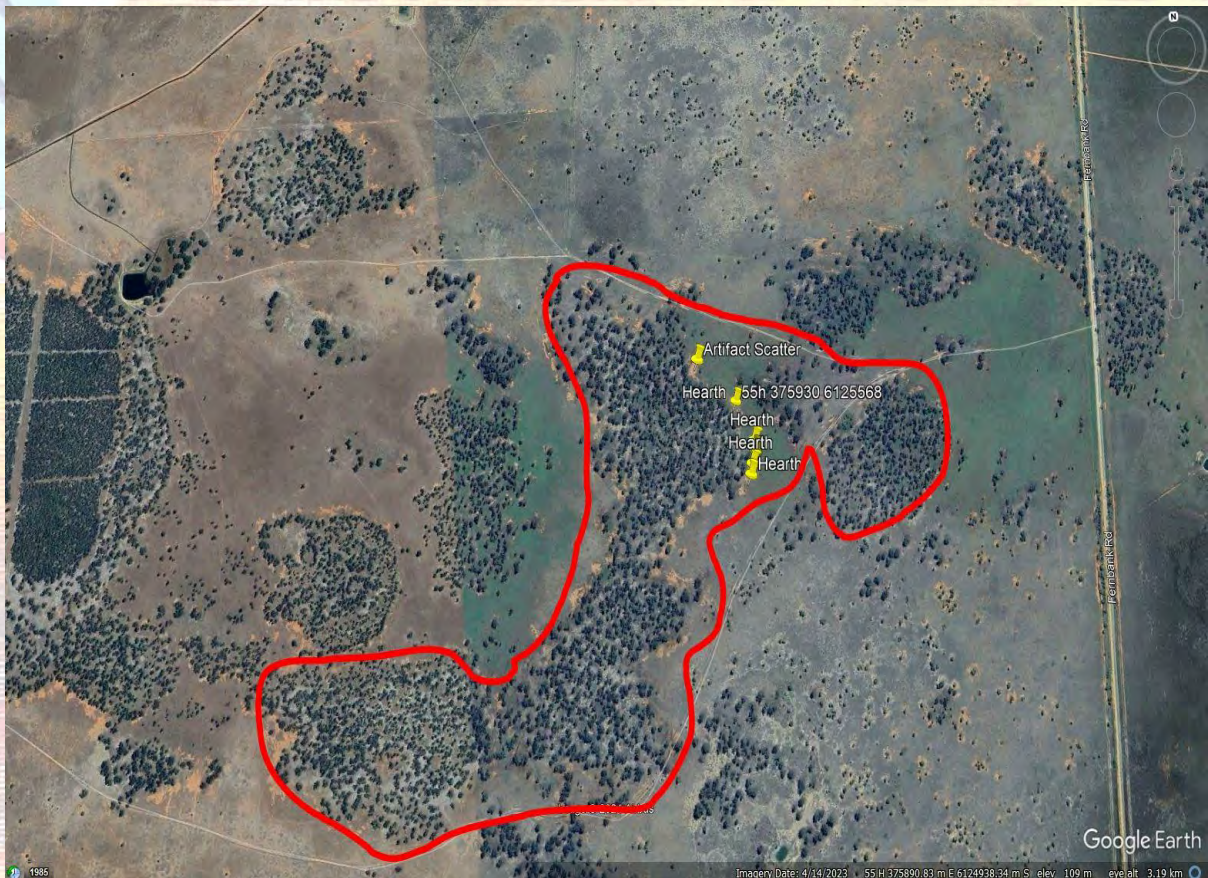
Thank you for your "Yindyamarra" (Respect)

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Map 1 Test Pit Area GPS Location 55H 375930 6125568

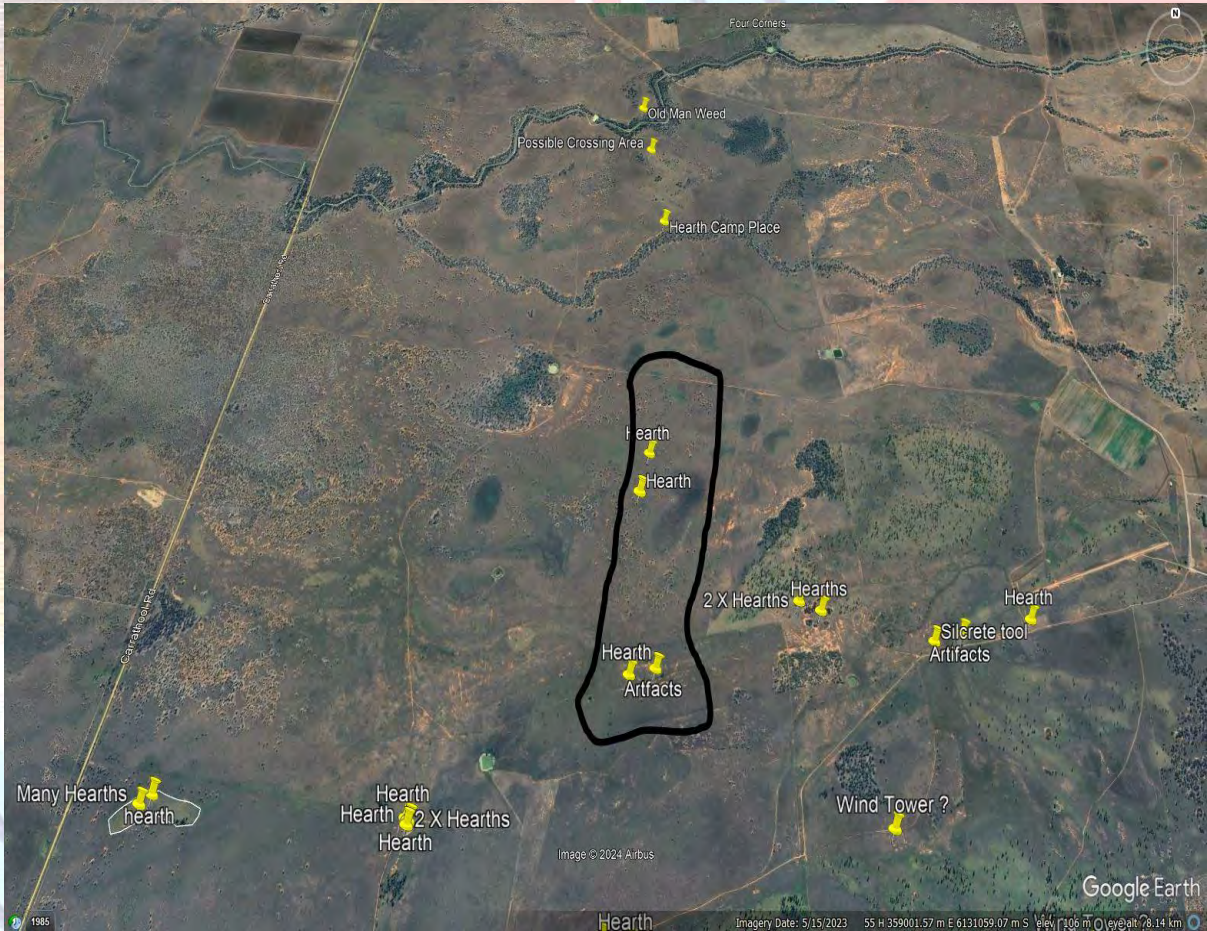


Map 2 Extra Survey for Sensitive Area. GPS as Per Map 1



Map 3 Area for Survey due to poor visibility.

GPS Location 55H 358350 6132405



Dinawan Energy Hub - ACH - project update

Alan Williams <awilliams@emmconsulting.com.au>

Wed 8/17/2022 8:58 PM

To: Alan Williams <awilliams@emmconsulting.com.au>

Cc: Kate Cox <kcox@emmconsulting.com.au>; David Richards <drichards@emmconsulting.com.au>

Dear All

Thank you for your ongoing interest in the Aboriginal cultural heritage investigations of the proposed Dinawan Energy Hub between Jerilderie and Coleambally. This project was initially notified to your organisation in late 2021, with additional information on the project provided in late February 2022. This latest communication was undertaken by Austral Archaeology Pty Limited and included reporting results of a preliminary investigation (primarily a desktop review), and a proposed assessment methodology for field survey of the study areas. The proposed works in this document have not been enacted to date.

Since February 2022, Spark Renewables Pty Limited – the Proponent – has undertaken a process to identify and engage a consultant to undertake the broader environmental impact assessment of the two projects (the solar farm and the wind farm). Aboriginal heritage forms a part of this broader environmental consideration of the projects, which also includes studies such as ecology, traffic, noise, etc. The proposed works by Austral Archaeology have been paused while this process has been undertaken.

Recently, EMM Consulting Pty Limited has been engaged to undertake the scoping phase of this process. This is the first step in the process, and includes the development of a short document that is provided to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) to advise them of the project and seek their feedback on the environmental assessment requirements that Spark Renewables would need to undertake for them to assess the project. From an Aboriginal heritage perspective, the scoping report will utilise the preliminary information developed by Austral Archaeology, so there is unlikely to be any further activities or inputs into this document. It is, however, expected that advice from DPE will be that a formal Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment for the two projects would be required. This is the process briefly outlined in Austral Archaeology's February 2022 advice.

Spark Renewables and/or EMM will be in contact in the coming weeks and months as the scoping report is completed, and the larger environmental assessment (including Aboriginal heritage) progresses. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me on 0438 104 740

Thanks

AI

Dr Alan Williams FSA FRSA MAACA

Associate Director

National Technical Leader, Aboriginal Heritage

Bushfire, Ecology, Heritage and Spatial Solutions



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Dinawan Energy Hub - AFG meeting #1 - 6/7 March 2023

Alan Williams <awilliams@emmconsulting.com.au>

Wed 3/8/2023 11:37 AM

To: Alan Williams <awilliams@emmconsulting.com.au>

Cc: Taylor Reid <treid@emmconsulting.com.au>; Melanie Thomson <mthomson@emmconsulting.com.au>

Dear All,

Thank you for your time earlier this week to meet and discuss the Dinawan Energy Hub (solar and wind) projects, near Coleambly, NSW. Please find below the minutes of our meeting/s, please let me know if they are any errors or omissions and I'll happily update

Meeting (Monday 10am-12pm, 6 March 2023 - Muddy Lane Café, Arcade Lane, Coleambly) – Alan Williams, Taylor Reid, Sam Elias (EMM); Roselyn Simpson, Allan McKenzie (Griffith LALC); Bruce Crowe, Jason Crowe (Bidya Marra Consultancy); Roley Williams, Jason Matthews (Narrandera Aboriginal Community Affairs)

Online meeting (Tuesday 10-11am, 7 March 2023) – Alan Williams, Mel Thomson (EMM); Mark Saddler (Bundyi Aboriginal Cultural Knowledge)

Apologies: Uncle Robert Carroll (Bundyi Aboriginal Cultural Knowledge)

Key activities and outcomes

- AW provided an introduction to the project and discussed the proposed Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment process. This included:
 - Outlining the proposed projects, including the general location, their context in relation to other studies (such as Project Energy Connect and Yanco Delta Wind Farm), and the main project elements for both the solar and wind farms. This included that the solar and wind farms were being assessed as separate projects, despite significant overlap. As such, two reports would ultimately be developed. A brief discussion was also undertaken of the Renewable Energy Zones (REZ), their purpose and broader potential benefits to the local Aboriginal community.
 - Providing a brief history of the project and EMM's involvement, including the discussion of the Austral Archaeology due diligence of the site and some of their initial consultation over the last 12 months.
 - Outlining the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment process, including the consultation process, desktop review (discussing AHIMS data), and with a focus on the upcoming field survey and potential test excavations if needed. This included the proposed length of the survey, and its staggered approach focussing first on the proposed solar farm and then the wind farm. The discussions outlined some of the survey targets, including creek lines, remnant vegetation and known sand dune/lunette type environments that may be present. Some discussions on the test excavations that would only be undertaken where subsurface cultural deposits were considered probable and could not be avoided by the project.
 - Outlining the timing of the ACHA process focussing on the field survey activities, future AFG meetings, and potential next steps. This included an initial survey of the solar immediately with wind farm investigations after Easter. Additional tasks and reporting to occur after this. A second meeting to discuss the findings of the solar farm and lessons learned prior to the wind farm investigations was also discussed.
- TR ran through the safety documentation for the proposed fieldwork and outlined the logistics and plans for the field survey following the meeting.

Key discussion points

- Discussion focussed on improving participants understanding of the process and project, and how it related to other nearby projects (mostly as a result of being in the REZ).
- Discussion around other recent studies, including the Yanco Delta Wind Farm to the south were undertaken, with an exploration of their findings and what it might mean for the project. References were made to the discovery of camp sites, culturally modified trees, hearths and oven mounds found elsewhere, and which may be expected in the study area. Some reference was also made to a wetland and associated lunette type deposits in the Yanco Delta Wind Farm site, and that similar highly significant deposits may also be present.
- Some discussion of the broader environment, with a focus on major river systems such as Murrumbidgee to the north, demonstrating the importance of the region to the Wiradjuri people.
- MS provided translation of some of the place and town names in the region, all being based on Wiradjuri language.

Happy to discuss,

Thanks

AI

Dr Alan Williams FSA FRSA MAACAI MEIANZ

Associate Director

Technical Lead, Aboriginal Heritage



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M 0438 104 740

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Connect with us

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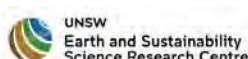
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