

Agency Notifications

540 - Cabonne Shire Council Agency Notification- Molong BESS

From Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>

Date Thu 2/6/2025 5:24 PM

To council@cabonne.nsw.gov.au <council@cabonne.nsw.gov.au>

Cc Kate Wheeler <Kate.Wheeler@slrconsulting.com>; Richard Simmons <rsimmons@slrconsulting.com>; Ursula McInnes <umcInnes@slrconsulting.com>; Alice Buhrich <a.buhrich@virtusheritage.com.au>; Lilith Malcolm <l.malcolm@virtusheritage.com.au>

 1 attachment (2 MB)

540_Agency Notification_Cabonne Council.pdf;

Dear Cabonne Shire Council,

Virtus Heritage Pty Limited (hereafter, “Virtus Heritage”) has been engaged SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd on behalf of Stor-Energy 3 Pty Ltd to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA). The ACHA is needed to support a Scoping Report and request for Secretary Environmental Assessment requirements (SEARs) for establishing a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility at Lot 99 on DP1020247 and Lot 1 on DP542283 and connecting to Transgrid’s Molong Substation at 1 Deight Street and 19 Back Saleyards Road, Molong, NSW 2866 via a 132kV overhead transmission line (the Project Area).

The proposed works area is within the Cabonne Shire Council Local Government Area (refer to **Figure 1**).

Please see attached letter for the formal notification for consultation to your organisation, including contact details and more detailed information for the notification. If you are aware of Aboriginal people or groups who you believe may wish to register an interest, we request you please provide their contact details to Virtus Heritage by **5:00pm on 6 March 2025**.

If you would like to discuss this notification or have any questions about the proposed works, please contact us on (02) 6676 4354.

Thank you,



Virtus Heritage
CONSULTATION

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02) 6676 4354

VIRTUSHERITAGE.COM.AU

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6 February 2025

Cabonne Shire Council
PO Box 17 Molong NSW 2866
council@cabonne.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir or Madam,

Subject: Notification – Aboriginal Community Consultation for the proposed BESS at Lot 99/DP1020247 and Lot 1/DP542283 Molong, NSW 2866

Virtus Heritage Pty Limited (hereafter, "Virtus Heritage") has been engaged by SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd on behalf of StorEnergy 3 Pty Ltd to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA). The ACHA is needed to support a Scoping Report and request for Secretary Environmental Assessment requirements (SEARs) for establishing a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility at Lot 99 on DP1020247 and Lot 1 on DP542283 and connecting to Transgrid's Molong Substation at 1 Deight Street and 19 Back Saleyards Road, Molong, NSW 2866 via a 132kV overhead transmission line (the Project Area). The Project Area and Potential Disturbance Area is within the Orange Local Aboriginal Land Council area (refer to **Figure 1**).

The proposed activities have the potential to impact Aboriginal objects. The proposed activities would involve:

- Transport of construction personnel, equipment and materials to and from the Project Area during construction (dependent on construction schedule), including all associated heavy and light vehicle traffic movements.
- Site establishment works including limited vegetation clearing within the Project Area, bulk earthworks and a temporary construction compound.
- Road works to formalise a new driveway crossing from Back Saleyards Road and internal site access road for construction purposes and ongoing access.
- Construction of hardstand/laydown areas, fencing, internal roads, control room, auxiliary transformer, battery enclosures, and inverter/transformer/switchgear stations (referred to as Power Conversion Stations (PCS)).
- Construction of approximately 900m of overhead 132 kV transmission line to facilitate connection to the existing Transgrid's Molong Substation and associated high voltage concrete or steel poles and wiring.
- Acoustic attenuation (to be determined as part of a detailed assessment).
- Construction of ancillary works including a parking area, water tank, Operations and Maintenance (O&M) building (including storage structures), stormwater management infrastructure, security lighting and fencing.
- Vegetative screening and landscaping.
- The installation of 264 BESS units (maximum) within individual, modular containers, on hardstand footings with a total capacity of 150 MW/730MWh.

- The installation of 50 inverters on hardstand footings.
- Installation of subsurface wiring infrastructure throughout the Indicative BESS area.
- Commissioning and testing of all installed equipment on the Project Area.

As a part of the project, Virtus Heritage is engaged to undertake consultation with Aboriginal people according to NSW Environment and Heritage's *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010). The purpose of Aboriginal community consultation is to:

- Assist the proponent in understanding Aboriginal people's views and concerns (if any) about the project.
- Afford an opportunity for Aboriginal people who hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal object(s) and/or place(s) on or near the proposed project area to be involved in consultation.
- Provide Aboriginal people who hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal object(s) and/or place(s) on or near the proposed project area with the opportunity to participate in decision making about the management of their cultural heritage by providing the proponent information regarding cultural significance and feedback on management options.
- To understand cultural values present in the area.
- Assist the Minister for Minister for Planning and Public Spaces in their consideration of the State Significant Development Application.

Virtus Heritage is seeking to identify Aboriginal persons who hold cultural knowledge relevant to this project area and who may wish to register an interest. Those who choose to register will have the opportunity to provide culturally appropriate information and to comment on the cultural heritage significance of Aboriginal objects and the area.

If you are aware of Aboriginal people or groups who you believe may wish to register an interest, please provide their contact details to Virtus Heritage by 5:00pm on 6 March 2025.

Details including the name of the organisation or individual, the name of the contact person for organisations, and their postal address, telephone and fax numbers and email address (where available) should be sent to:

Alice Buhrich, Principal Heritage Advisor or Lilit Malcol, Archaeologist
Virtus Heritage
PO Box 101
Pottsville NSW 2489
Phone/Fax: (02) 6676 4354
Email: consultation@virtusheritage.com.au

Contact details for the proponent are:

Oliver Coleman
StorEnergy 3 Pty Ltd
1800 920 060
information@molong-battery.com.au

Please be advised that, as per the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents (DECCW 2010), the names of Aboriginal persons and groups who register an interest will be forwarded to NSW Environment and Heritage in the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, and yourselves.

If you would like to discuss this notification or have any questions about the proposed works, please contact me on (02) 6676 4354.

Sincerely,



Dr Alice Buhrich
Principal Archaeologist
Ph: 0488 035 778
a.buhrich@virtusheritage.com.au

Attached below: Figure 1. Molong BESS project area and location.

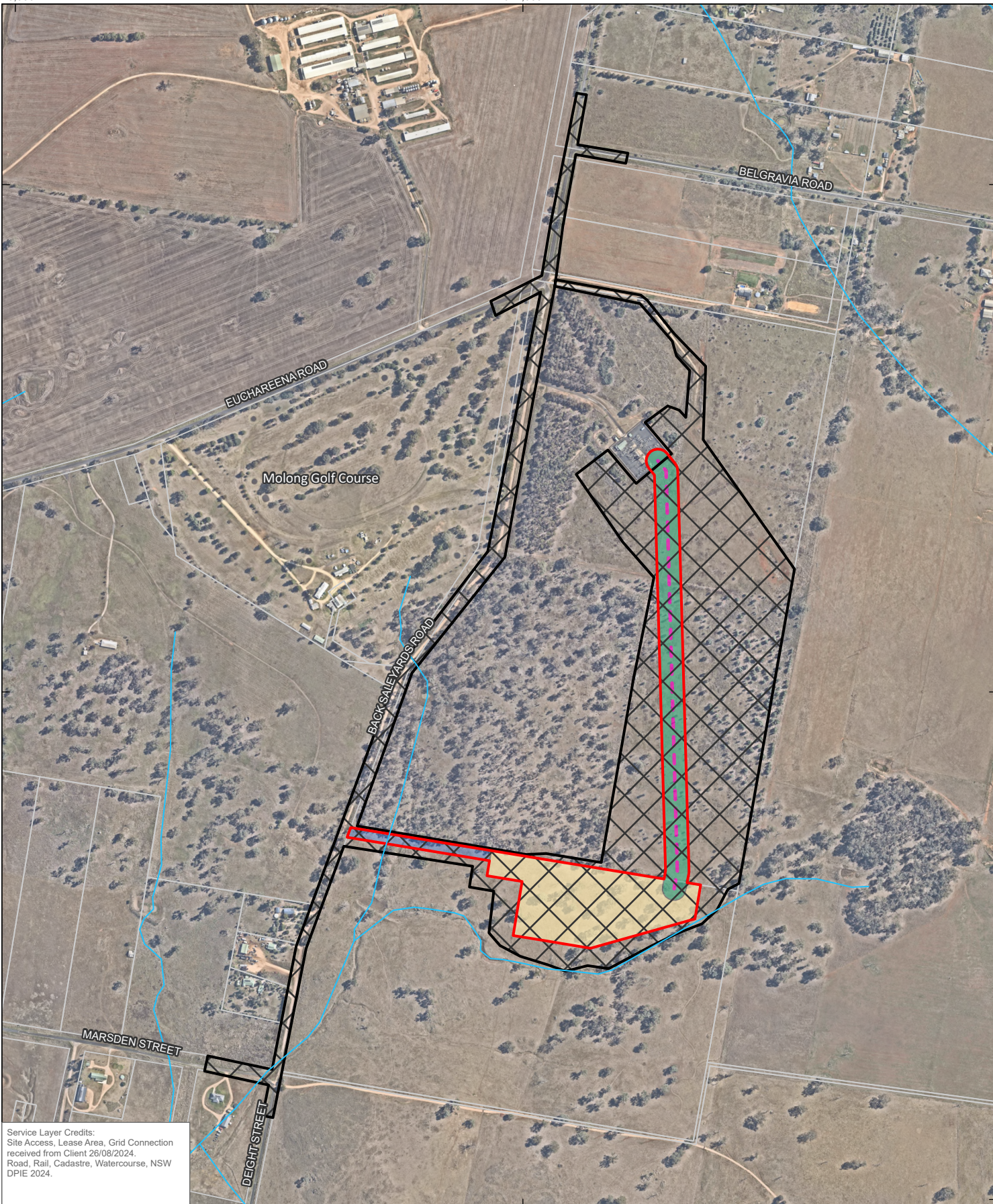
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Service Layer Credits:
Site Access, Lease Area, Grid Connection
received from Client 26/08/2024.
Road, Rail, Cadastre, Watercourse, NSW
DPIE 2024.

 0 125 250 m

Coordinate System: GDA2020 MGA Zone 55

Scale: 1:10,000 at A4

Project Number: 620.041615

Date Drawn: 05-Feb-2025

Drawn by: NT

LEGEND

-  Watercourse
-  Primary Road
-  Cadastre
-  Project Area for ACH
-  Indicative Transmission Line Buffer
-  Indicative 132kV Transmission Line
-  Proposed Access Road
-  Indicative BESS Area
-  Potential Disturbance Area

MOLONG BESS

DISTURBANCE EXTENT



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FIGURE X

CLLS - Agency Notification - Molong BESS

From Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>

Date Thu 2/6/2025 5:42 PM

To admin.ct@lls.nsw.gov.au <admin.ct@lls.nsw.gov.au>

Cc Lilith Malcolm <l.malcolm@virtusheritage.com.au>; Alice Buhrich <a.buhrich@virtusheritage.com.au>; Kate Wheeler <Kate.Wheeler@slrconsulting.com>; Richard Simmons <rsimmons@slrconsulting.com>; Ursula McInnes <umcInnes@slrconsulting.com>

 2 attachments (2 MB)

540_Agency Notification_Central Tableland LLS.pdf; 620041615_RAP_FOX_Distrubance_20250205.pdf;

Dear LLS,

Virtus Heritage Pty Limited (hereafter, "Virtus Heritage") has been engaged SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd on behalf of Stor-Energy 3 Pty Ltd to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA). The ACHA is needed to support a Scoping Report and request for Secretary Environmental Assessment requirements (SEARs) for establishing a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility at Lot 99 on DP1020247 and Lot 1 on DP542283 and connecting to Transgrid's Molong Substation at 1 Deight Street and 19 Back Saleyards Road, Molong, NSW 2866 via a 132kV overhead transmission line (the Project Area).

The proposed works area is within the Cabonne Shire Council Local Government Area (refer to **Figure 1**).

Please see attached letter for the formal notification for consultation to your organisation, including contact details and more detailed information for the notification. If you are aware of Aboriginal people or groups who you believe may wish to register an interest, we request you please provide their contact details to Virtus Heritage by **5:00on on 6 March 2025**.

If you would like to discuss this notification or have any questions about the proposed works, please contact us on (02) 6676 4354.

Thank you,



Virtus Heritage

C O N S U L T A T I O N

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02) 6676 4354

V I R T U S H E R I T A G E . C O M . A U

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6 February 2025

Central Tablelands Local Land Services
66 Corporation Avenue PO Box 20 Bathurst NSW 2795
Admin.ct@lls.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir or Madam,

Subject: Notification – Aboriginal Community Consultation for the proposed BESS at Lot 99/DP1020247 and Lot 1/DP542283 Molong, NSW 2866

Virtus Heritage Pty Limited (hereafter, “Virtus Heritage”) has been engaged by SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd on behalf of StorEnergy 3 Pty Ltd to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA). The ACHA is needed to support a Scoping Report and request for Secretary Environmental Assessment requirements (SEARs) for establishing a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility at Lot 99 on DP1020247 and Lot 1 on DP542283 and connecting to Transgrid’s Molong Substation at 1 Deight Street and 19 Back Saleyards Road, Molong, NSW 2866 via a 132kV overhead transmission line (the Project Area). The Project Area and Potential Disturbance Area is within the Orange Local Aboriginal Land Council area (refer to **Figure 1**).

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- Assist the proponent in understanding Aboriginal people’s views and concerns (if any) about the project.



VIRTUS HERITAGE

- Afford an opportunity for Aboriginal people who hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal object(s) and/or place(s) on or near the proposed project area to be involved in consultation.
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- To understand cultural values present in the area.
- Assist the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces in their consideration of the State Significant Development Application.

Virtus Heritage is seeking to identify Aboriginal persons who hold cultural knowledge relevant to this project area and who may wish to register an interest. Those who choose to register will have the opportunity to provide culturally appropriate information and to comment on the cultural heritage significance of Aboriginal objects and the area.

If you are aware of Aboriginal people or groups who you believe may wish to register an interest, please provide their contact details to Virtus Heritage by 5:00pm on 5 March 2025.

Details including the name of the organisation or individual, the name of the contact person for organisations, and their postal address, telephone and fax numbers and email address (where available) should be sent to:

*Alice Buhrich, Principal Heritage Advisor or Lilit Malcom, Archaeologist
Virtus Heritage
PO Box 101
Pottsville NSW 2489
Phone/Fax: (02) 6676 4354
Email: consultation@virtusheritage.com.au*

Contact details for the proponent are:

*Oliver Coleman
StorEnergy 3 Pty Ltd
1800 920 060
information@molong-battery.com.au*

Please be advised that, as per the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents (DECCW 2010), the names of Aboriginal persons and groups who register an interest will be forwarded to NSW Environment and Heritage in the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, and yourselves.

If you would like to discuss this notification or have any questions about the proposed works, please contact me on (02) 6676 4354.

Sincerely,

Dr Alice Buhrich
Principal Archaeologist
Ph: 0488 035 778
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ABN 56 159 910 228

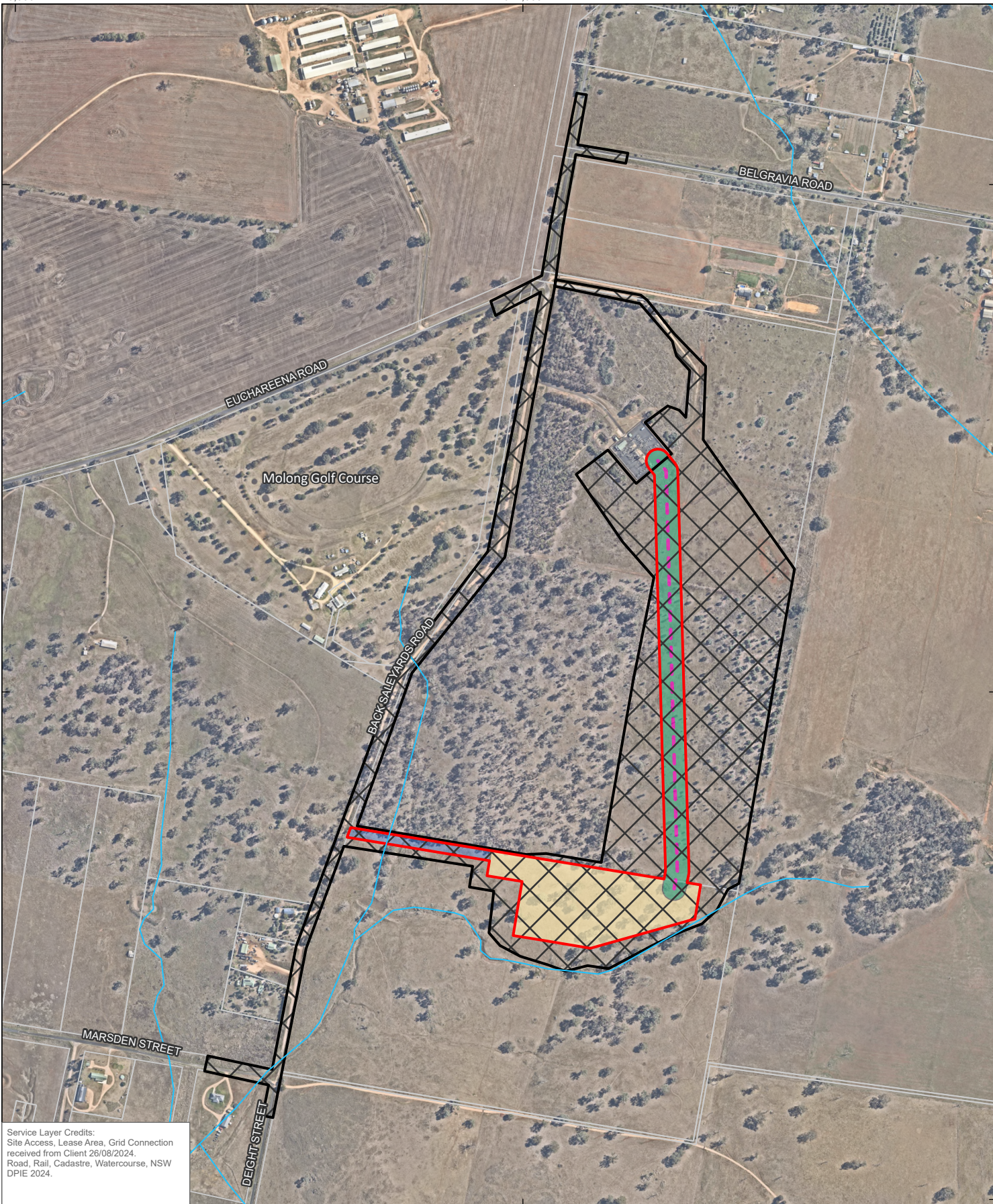
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0 125 250 m

Coordinate System: GDA2020 MGA Zone 55

Scale: 1:10,000 at A4

Project Number: 620.041615

Date Drawn: 05-Feb-2025

Drawn by: NT

LEGEND

- Watercourse
- Primary Road
- Cadastre
- Project Area for ACH
- Indicative Transmission Line Buffer
- Indicative 132kV Transmission Line
- Proposed Access Road
- Indicative BESS Area
- Potential Disturbance Area

MOLONG BESS

DISTURBANCE EXTENT



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FIGURE X

540 - HNSW Notification - Molong BESS

From Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>

Date Thu 2/6/2025 5:21 PM

To OEH HD Heritage Mailbox <heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au>

Cc Kate Wheeler <Kate.Wheeler@slrconsulting.com>; Richard Simmons <rsimmons@slrconsulting.com>; Ursula McInnes <umcInnes@slrconsulting.com>; Alice Buhrich <a.buhrich@virtusheritage.com.au>; Lilith Malcolm <l.malcolm@virtusheritage.com.au>

 1 attachment (2 MB)

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Thank you,



Virtus Heritage
CONSULTATION

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02) 6676 4354

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6 February 2025

NSW Environment and Heritage
Locked Bag 5020 Parramatta NSW 2124
heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir or Madam,

Subject: Notification – Aboriginal Community Consultation for the proposed BESS at Lot 99/DP1020247 and Lot 1/DP542283 Molong, NSW 2866

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Dr Alice Buhrich
Principal Archaeologist
Ph: 0488 035 778
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Attached below: Figure 1. Molong BESS project area and location.

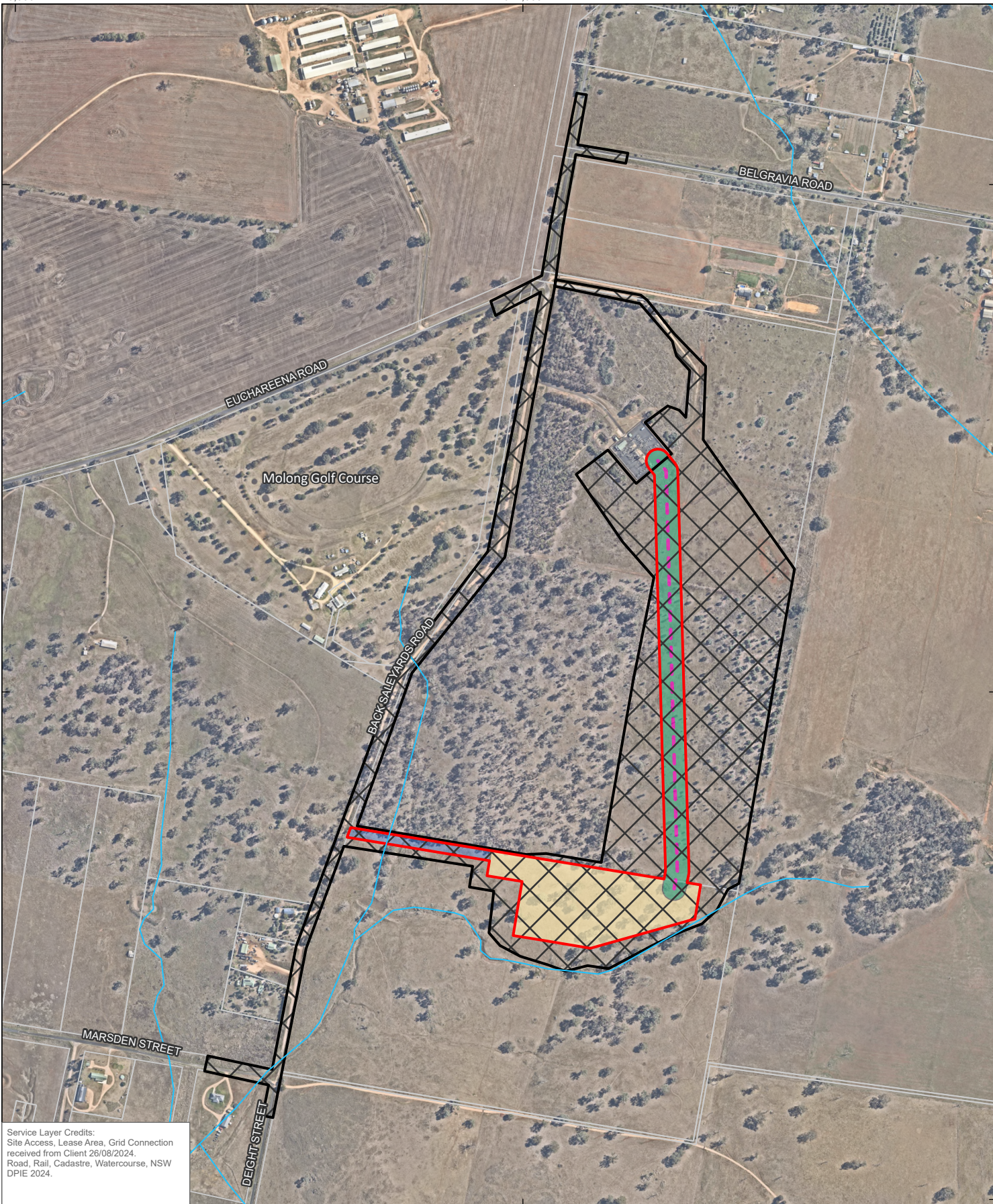
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received from Client 26/08/2024.
Road, Rail, Cadastre, Watercourse, NSW
DPIE 2024.

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Coordinate System: GDA2020 MGA Zone 55

Scale: 1:10,000 at A4

Project Number: 620.041615

Date Drawn: 05-Feb-2025

Drawn by: NT

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-  Cadastre
-  Project Area for ACH
-  Indicative Transmission Line Buffer
-  Indicative 132kV Transmission Line
-  Proposed Access Road
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-  Potential Disturbance Area

MOLONG BESS

DISTURBANCE EXTENT



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FIGURE X

540 - National Native Title Tribunal notification - Molong BESS

From Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>

Date Thu 2/6/2025 5:25 PM

To nntt@nsw.gov.au <nntt@nsw.gov.au>; enquiries@nntt.gov.au <enquiries@nntt.gov.au>

Cc Kate Wheeler <Kate.Wheeler@slrconsulting.com>; Richard Simmons <rsimmons@slrconsulting.com>; Ursula McInnes <umcInnes@slrconsulting.com>; Alice Buhrich <a.buhrich@virtusheritage.com.au>; Lilith Malcolm <l.malcolm@virtusheritage.com.au>

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Dear Registrar,

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Virtus Heritage
CONSULTATION

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02) 6676 4354

VIRTUSHERITAGE.COM.AU

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6 February 2025

National Native Title Tribunal
PO Box 12440 Brisbane QLD 4003
enquiries@nntt.gov.au

Dear Sir or Madam,

Subject: Notification – Aboriginal Community Consultation for the proposed BESS at Lot 99/DP1020247 and Lot 1/DP542283 Molong, NSW 2866

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As a part of the project, Virtus Heritage is engaged to undertake consultation with Aboriginal people according to NSW Environment and Heritage's *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010). The purpose of Aboriginal community consultation is to:

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Details including the name of the organisation or individual, the name of the contact person for organisations, and their postal address, telephone and fax numbers and email address (where available) should be sent to:

Alice Buhrich, Principal Heritage Advisor or Lilit Malcol, Archaeologist
Virtus Heritage
PO Box 101
Pottsville NSW 2489
Phone/Fax: (02) 6676 4354
Email: consultation@virtusheritage.com.au

Contact details for the proponent are:

Oliver Coleman
StorEnergy 3 Pty Ltd
1800 920 060
information@molong-battery.com.au

Please be advised that, as per the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents (DECCW 2010), the names of Aboriginal persons and groups who register an interest will be forwarded to NSW Environment and Heritage in the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, and yourselves.

If you would like to discuss this notification or have any questions about the proposed works, please contact me on (02) 6676 4354.

Sincerely,



Dr Alice Buhrich
Principal Archaeologist
Ph: 0488 035 778
a.buhrich@virtusheritage.com.au

Attached below: Figure 1. Molong BESS project area and location.

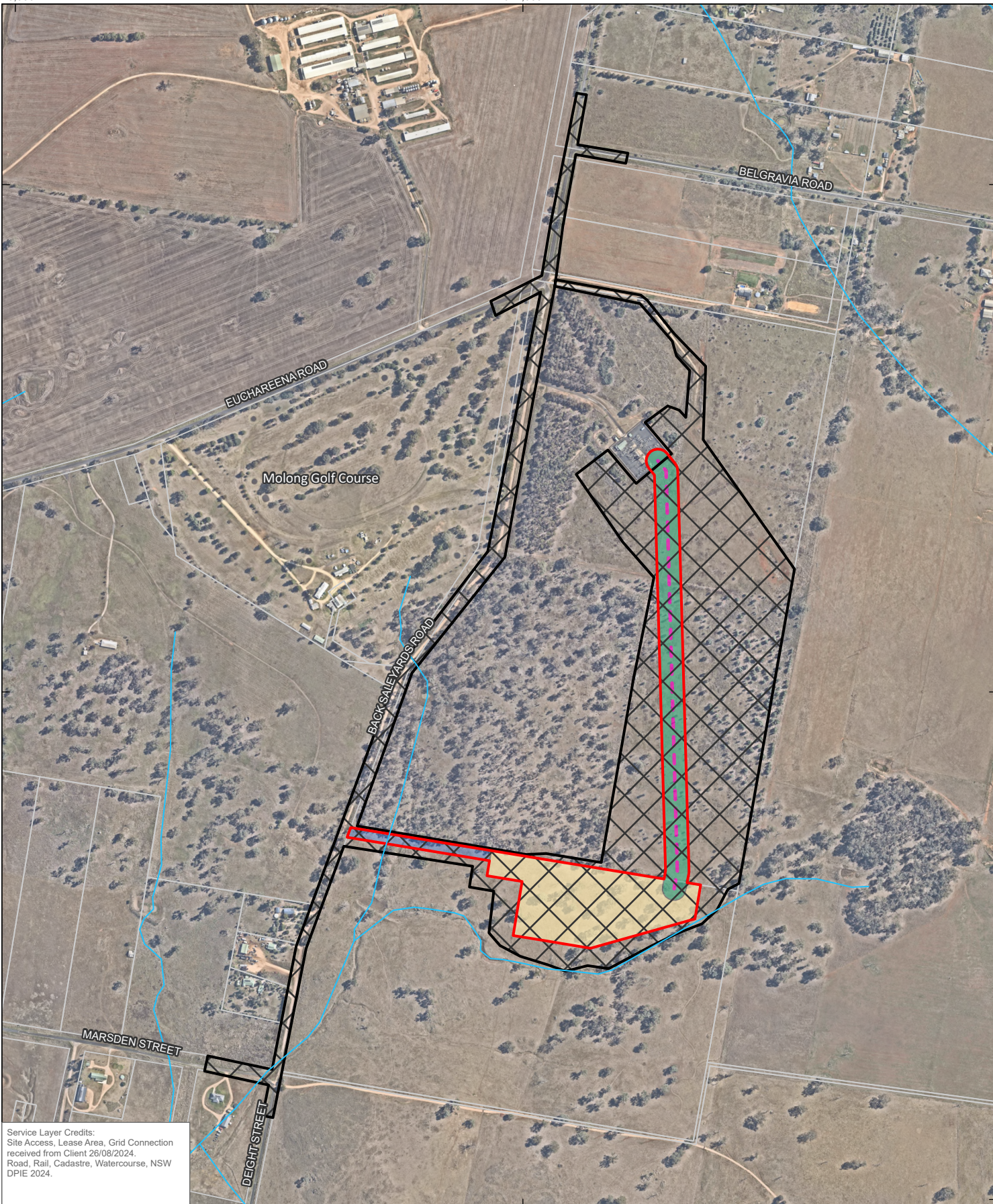
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Service Layer Credits:
Site Access, Lease Area, Grid Connection
received from Client 26/08/2024.
Road, Rail, Cadastre, Watercourse, NSW
DPIE 2024.

 0 125 250 m

Coordinate System: GDA2020 MGA Zone 55

Scale: 1:10,000 at A4

Project Number: 620.041615

Date Drawn: 05-Feb-2025

Drawn by: NT

LEGEND

-  Watercourse
-  Primary Road
-  Cadastre
-  Project Area for ACH
-  Indicative Transmission Line Buffer
-  Indicative 132kV Transmission Line
-  Proposed Access Road
-  Indicative BESS Area
-  Potential Disturbance Area

MOLONG BESS

DISTURBANCE EXTENT



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FIGURE X

540 - Native Title Service Corp Ltd notification - Molong BESS

From Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>

Date Thu 2/6/2025 5:20 PM

To information@ntscorp.com.au <information@ntscorp.com.au>; NTSCORP Notifications <notifications@ntscorp.com.au>

Cc Kate Wheeler <Kate.Wheeler@slrconsulting.com>; Richard Simmons <rsimmons@slrconsulting.com>; Ursula McInnes <umcInnes@slrconsulting.com>; Lilith Malcolm <l.malcolm@virtusheritage.com.au>; Alice Buhrich <a.buhrich@virtusheritage.com.au>

 1 attachment (2 MB)

540_Agency Notification_NTSCorp.pdf;

Dear Registrar,

Virtus Heritage Pty Limited (hereafter, "Virtus Heritage") has been engaged SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd on behalf of Stor-Energy 3 Pty Ltd to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA). The ACHA is needed to support a Scoping Report and request for Secretary Environmental Assessment requirements (SEARs) for establishing a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility at Lot 99 on DP1020247 and Lot 1 on DP542283 and connecting to Transgrid's Molong Substation at 1 Deight Street and 19 Back Saleyards Road, Molong, NSW 2866 via a 132kV overhead transmission line (the Project Area).

The proposed works area is within the Cabonne Shire Council Local Government Area (refer to **Figure 1**).

Please see attached letter for the formal notification for consultation to your organisation, including contact details and more detailed information for the notification. If you are aware of Aboriginal people or groups who you believe may wish to register an interest, we request you please provide their contact details to Virtus Heritage by **5:00pm on 6 March 2025**.

If you would like to discuss this notification or have any questions about the proposed works, please contact us on (02) 6676 4354.

Thank you,



Virtus Heritage
CONSULTATION

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02) 6676 4354

VIRTUSHERITAGE.COM.AU

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6 February 2025

Native Title Service Corp
PO Box 2105 Strawberry Hills NSW 2012
information@ntscorp.com.au

Dear Sir or Madam,

Subject: Notification – Aboriginal Community Consultation for the proposed BESS at Lot 99/DP1020247 and Lot 1/DP542283 Molong, NSW 2866

Virtus Heritage Pty Limited (hereafter, "Virtus Heritage") has been engaged by SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd on behalf of StorEnergy 3 Pty Ltd to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA). The ACHA is needed to support a Scoping Report and request for Secretary Environmental Assessment requirements (SEARs) for establishing a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility at Lot 99 on DP1020247 and Lot 1 on DP542283 and connecting to Transgrid's Molong Substation at 1 Deight Street and 19 Back Saleyards Road, Molong, NSW 2866 via a 132kV overhead transmission line (the Project Area). The Project Area and Potential Disturbance Area is within the Orange Local Aboriginal Land Council area (refer to **Figure 1**).

The proposed activities have the potential to impact Aboriginal objects. The proposed activities would involve:

- Transport of construction personnel, equipment and materials to and from the Project Area during construction (dependent on construction schedule), including all associated heavy and light vehicle traffic movements.
- Site establishment works including limited vegetation clearing within the Project Area, bulk earthworks and a temporary construction compound.
- Road works to formalise a new driveway crossing from Back Saleyards Road and internal site access road for construction purposes and ongoing access.
- Construction of hardstand/laydown areas, fencing, internal roads, control room, auxiliary transformer, battery enclosures, and inverter/transformer/switchgear stations (referred to as Power Conversion Stations (PCS)).
- Construction of approximately 900m of overhead 132 kV transmission line to facilitate connection to the existing Transgrid's Molong Substation and associated high voltage concrete or steel poles and wiring.
- Acoustic attenuation (to be determined as part of a detailed assessment).
- Construction of ancillary works including a parking area, water tank, Operations and Maintenance (O&M) building (including storage structures), stormwater management infrastructure, security lighting and fencing.
- Vegetative screening and landscaping.
- The installation of 264 BESS units (maximum) within individual, modular containers, on hardstand footings with a total capacity of 150 MW/730MWh.

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Virtus Heritage
PO Box 101
Pottsville NSW 2489
Phone/Fax: (02) 6676 4354
Email: consultation@virtusheritage.com.au

Contact details for the proponent are:

Oliver Coleman
StorEnergy 3 Pty Ltd
1800 920 060
information@molong-battery.com.au

Please be advised that, as per the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents (DECCW 2010), the names of Aboriginal persons and groups who register an interest will be forwarded to NSW Environment and Heritage in the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, and yourselves.

If you would like to discuss this notification or have any questions about the proposed works, please contact me on (02) 6676 4354.

Sincerely,



Dr Alice Buhrich
Principal Archaeologist
Ph: 0488 035 778
a.buhrich@virtusheritage.com.au

Attached below: Figure 1. Molong BESS project area and location.

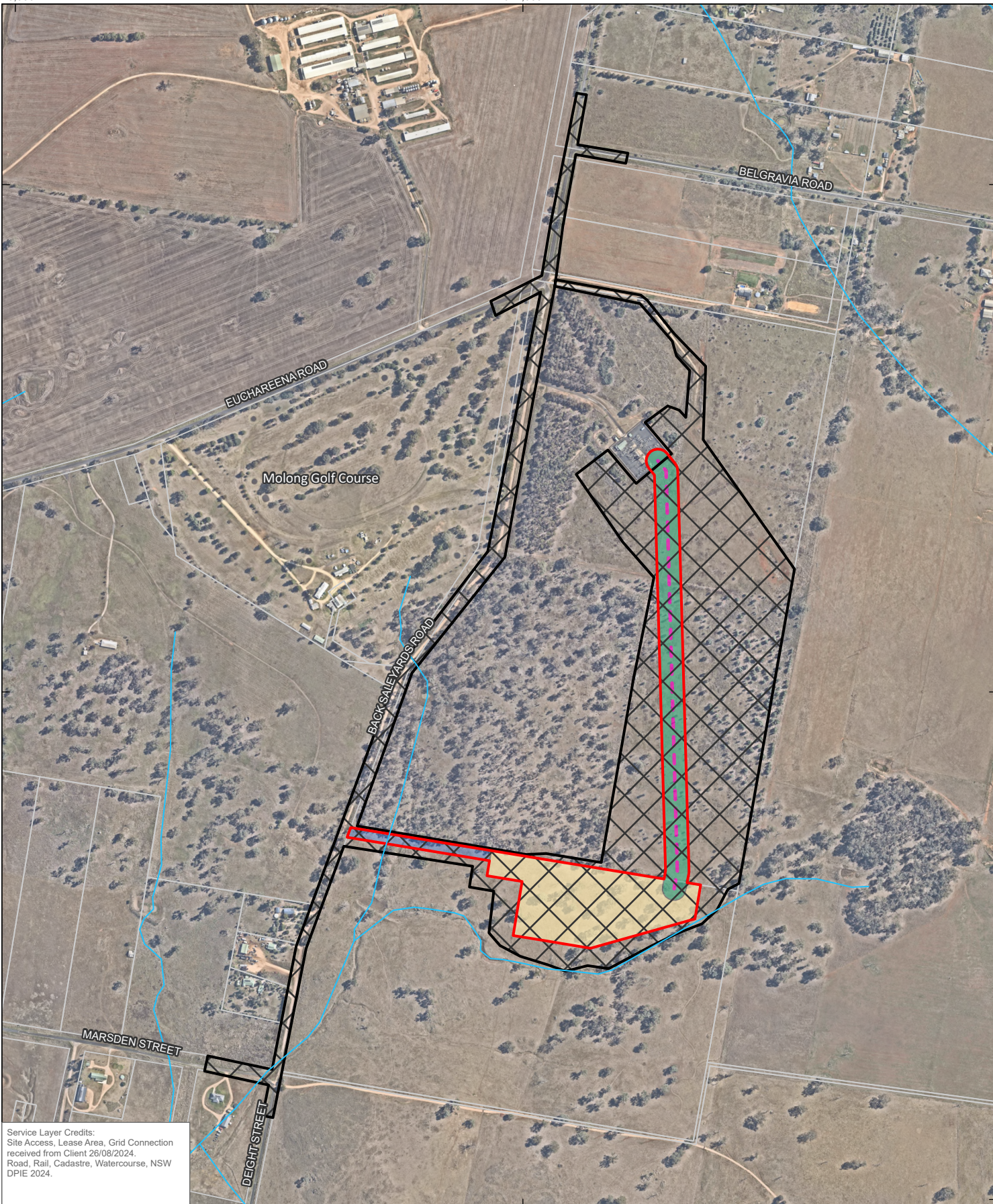
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Service Layer Credits:
Site Access, Lease Area, Grid Connection
received from Client 26/08/2024.
Road, Rail, Cadastre, Watercourse, NSW
DPIE 2024.

0 125 250 m

Coordinate System: GDA2020 MGA Zone 55

Scale: 1:10,000 at A4

Project Number: 620.041615

Date Drawn: 05-Feb-2025

Drawn by: NT

LEGEND

- Watercourse
- Primary Road
- Cadastre
- Project Area for ACH
- Indicative Transmission Line Buffer
- Indicative 132kV Transmission Line
- Proposed Access Road
- Indicative BESS Area
- Potential Disturbance Area

MOLONG BESS

DISTURBANCE EXTENT



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FIGURE X

540 - Orange LALC notification - Molong BESS

From Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>

Date Thu 2/6/2025 5:23 PM

To reception@olalc.com.au <reception@olalc.com.au>

Cc Kate Wheeler <Kate.Wheeler@slrconsulting.com>; Richard Simmons <rsimmons@slrconsulting.com>; Ursula McInnes <umcInnes@slrconsulting.com>; Alice Buhrich <a.buhrich@virtusheritage.com.au>; Lilith Malcolm <l.malcolm@virtusheritage.com.au>

 1 attachment (2 MB)

540_Agency Notification_OLALC.pdf;

Dear Orange Local Aboriginal Land Council,

Virtus Heritage Pty Limited (hereafter, “Virtus Heritage”) has been engaged SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd on behalf of Stor-Energy 3 Pty Ltd to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA). The ACHA is needed to support a Scoping Report and request for Secretary Environmental Assessment requirements (SEARs) for establishing a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility at Lot 99 on DP1020247 and Lot 1 on DP542283 and connecting to Transgrid’s Molong Substation at 1 Deight Street and 19 Back Saleyards Road, Molong, NSW 2866 via a 132kV overhead transmission line (the Project Area).

The proposed works area is within the Cabonne Shire Council Local Government Area (refer to **Figure 1**).

Please see attached letter for the formal notification for consultation to your organisation, including contact details and more detailed information for the notification. If you are aware of Aboriginal people or groups who you believe may wish to register an interest, we request you please provide their contact details to Virtus Heritage by **5:00pm on 6 March 2025**.

If you would like to discuss this notification or have any questions about the proposed works, please contact us on (02) 6676 4354.

Thank you,



Virtus Heritage
CONSULTATION

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02) 6676 4354

VIRTUSHERITAGE.COM.AU

Virtus Heritage is committed to the spirit of reconciliation and acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians and the Traditional Custodians of the states and territories of Australia. We recognise the Traditional Owners of the lands we work within. We pay our respect to Elders past, present and emerging in maintaining the culture, country and their spiritual and historical connections to the lands and waters.

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6 February 2025

Orange Local Aboriginal Land Council
120 Byng St Orange NSW 2800
reception@olalc.com.au

Dear Sir or Madam,

Subject: Notification – Aboriginal Community Consultation for the proposed BESS at Lot 99/DP1020247 and Lot 1/DP542283 Molong, NSW 2866

Virtus Heritage Pty Limited (hereafter, "Virtus Heritage") has been engaged by SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd on behalf of StorEnergy 3 Pty Ltd to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA). The ACHA is needed to support a Scoping Report and request for Secretary Environmental Assessment requirements (SEARs) for establishing a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility at Lot 99 on DP1020247 and Lot 1 on DP542283 and connecting to Transgrid's Molong Substation at 1 Deight Street and 19 Back Saleyards Road, Molong, NSW 2866 via a 132kV overhead transmission line (the Project Area). The Project Area and Potential Disturbance Area is within the Orange Local Aboriginal Land Council area (refer to **Figure 1**).

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- Site establishment works including limited vegetation clearing within the Project Area, bulk earthworks and a temporary construction compound.
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- Construction of hardstand/laydown areas, fencing, internal roads, control room, auxiliary transformer, battery enclosures, and inverter/transformer/switchgear stations (referred to as Power Conversion Stations (PCS)).
- Construction of approximately 900m of overhead 132 kV transmission line to facilitate connection to the existing Transgrid's Molong Substation and associated high voltage concrete or steel poles and wiring.
- Acoustic attenuation (to be determined as part of a detailed assessment).
- Construction of ancillary works including a parking area, water tank, Operations and Maintenance (O&M) building (including storage structures), stormwater management infrastructure, security lighting and fencing.
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Alice Buhrich, Principal Heritage Advisor or Lilit Malcol, Archaeologist
Virtus Heritage
PO Box 101
Pottsville NSW 2489
Phone/Fax: (02) 6676 4354
Email: consultation@virtusheritage.com.au

Contact details for the proponent are:

Oliver Coleman
StorEnergy 3 Pty Ltd
1800 920 060
information@molong-battery.com.au

Please be advised that, as per the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents (DECCW 2010), the names of Aboriginal persons and groups who register an interest will be forwarded to NSW Environment and Heritage in the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, and yourselves.

If you would like to discuss this notification or have any questions about the proposed works, please contact me on (02) 6676 4354.

Sincerely,



Dr Alice Buhrich
Principal Archaeologist
Ph: 0488 035 778
a.buhrich@virtusheritage.com.au

Attached below: Figure 1. Molong BESS project area and location.

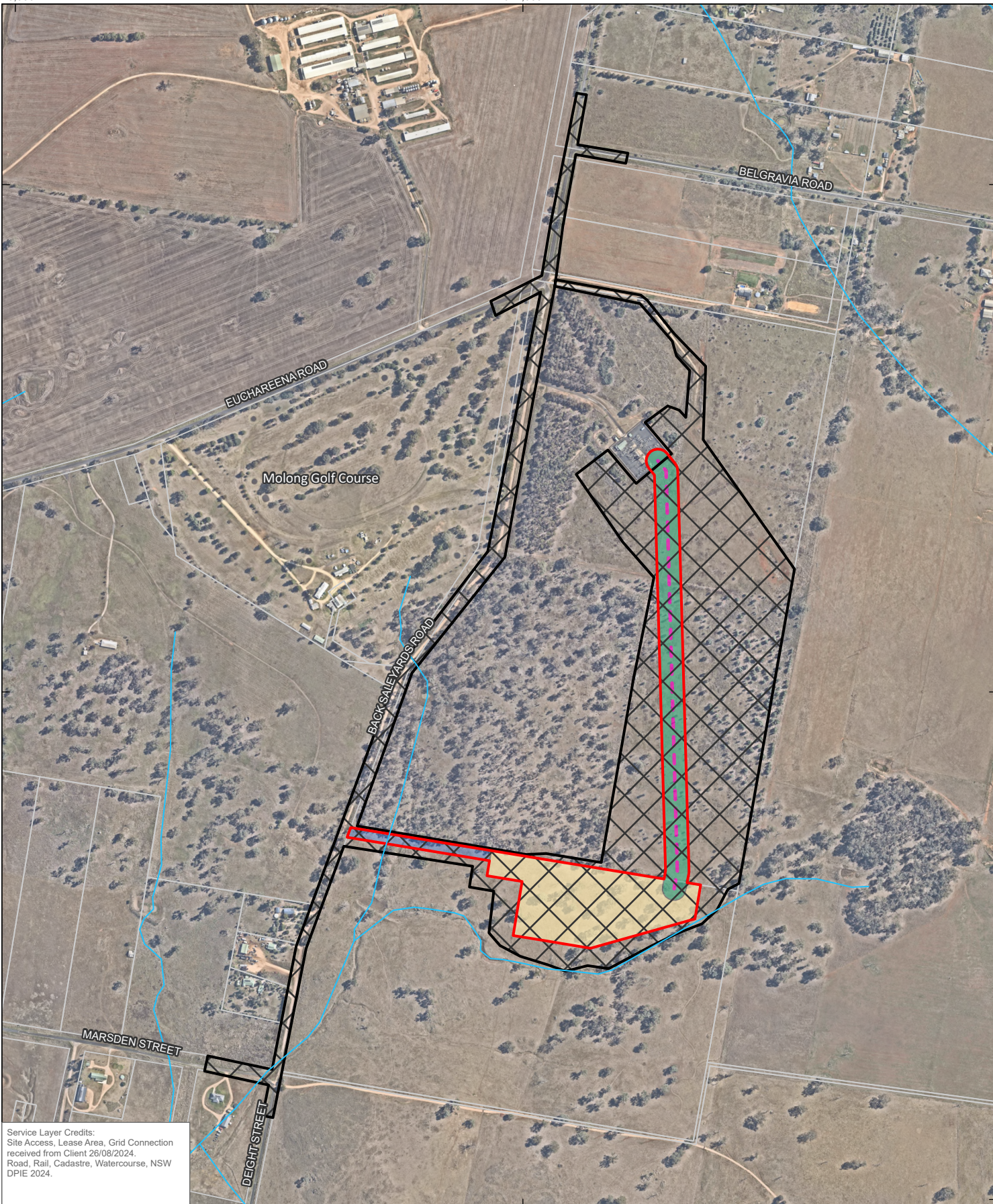
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Road, Rail, Cadastre, Watercourse, NSW
DPIE 2024.

0 125 250 m

Coordinate System: GDA2020 MGA Zone 55

Scale: 1:10,000 at A4

Project Number: 620.041615

Date Drawn: 05-Feb-2025

Drawn by: NT

LEGEND

- Watercourse
- Primary Road
- Cadastre
- Project Area for ACH
- Indicative Transmission Line Buffer
- Indicative 132kV Transmission Line
- Proposed Access Road
- Indicative BESS Area
- Potential Disturbance Area

MOLONG BESS

DISTURBANCE EXTENT



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FIGURE X

540 - ORALRA notification - Molong BESS

From Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>

Date Thu 2/6/2025 5:24 PM

To adminofficer@oralra.nsw.gov.au <adminofficer@oralra.nsw.gov.au>

Cc Kate Wheeler <Kate.Wheeler@slrconsulting.com>; Richard Simmons <rsimmons@slrconsulting.com>; Ursula McInnes <umcInnes@slrconsulting.com>; Alice Buhrich <a.buhrich@virtusheritage.com.au>; Lilith Malcolm <l.malcolm@virtusheritage.com.au>

 1 attachment (2 MB)

540_Agency Notification_ORALRA.pdf;

Dear Registrar,

Virtus Heritage Pty Limited (hereafter, “Virtus Heritage”) has been engaged SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd on behalf of Stor-Energy 3 Pty Ltd to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA). The ACHA is needed to support a Scoping Report and request for Secretary Environmental Assessment requirements (SEARs) for establishing a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility at Lot 99 on DP1020247 and Lot 1 on DP542283 and connecting to Transgrid’s Molong Substation at 1 Deight Street and 19 Back Saleyards Road, Molong, NSW 2866 via a 132kV overhead transmission line (the Project Area).

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Thank you,



Virtus Heritage
CONSULTATION

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02) 6676 4354

VIRTUSHERITAGE.COM.AU

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6 February 2025

Office of Registrar, Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 (NSW)
PO Box 787 Parramatta NSW 2124
adminofficer@oralra.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir or Madam,

Subject: Notification – Aboriginal Community Consultation for the proposed BESS at Lot 99/DP1020247 and Lot 1/DP542283 Molong, NSW 2866

Virtus Heritage Pty Limited (hereafter, "Virtus Heritage") has been engaged by SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd on behalf of StorEnergy 3 Pty Ltd to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA). The ACHA is needed to support a Scoping Report and request for Secretary Environmental Assessment requirements (SEARs) for establishing a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility at Lot 99 on DP1020247 and Lot 1 on DP542283 and connecting to Transgrid's Molong Substation at 1 Deight Street and 19 Back Saleyards Road, Molong, NSW 2866 via a 132kV overhead transmission line (the Project Area). The Project Area and Potential Disturbance Area is within the Orange Local Aboriginal Land Council area (refer to **Figure 1**).

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Virtus Heritage
PO Box 101
Pottsville NSW 2489
Phone/Fax: (02) 6676 4354
Email: consultation@virtusheritage.com.au

Contact details for the proponent are:

Oliver Coleman
StorEnergy 3 Pty Ltd
1800 920 060
information@molong-battery.com.au

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Sincerely,



Dr Alice Buhrich
Principal Archaeologist
Ph: 0488 035 778
a.buhrich@virtusheritage.com.au

Attached below: Figure 1. Molong BESS project area and location.

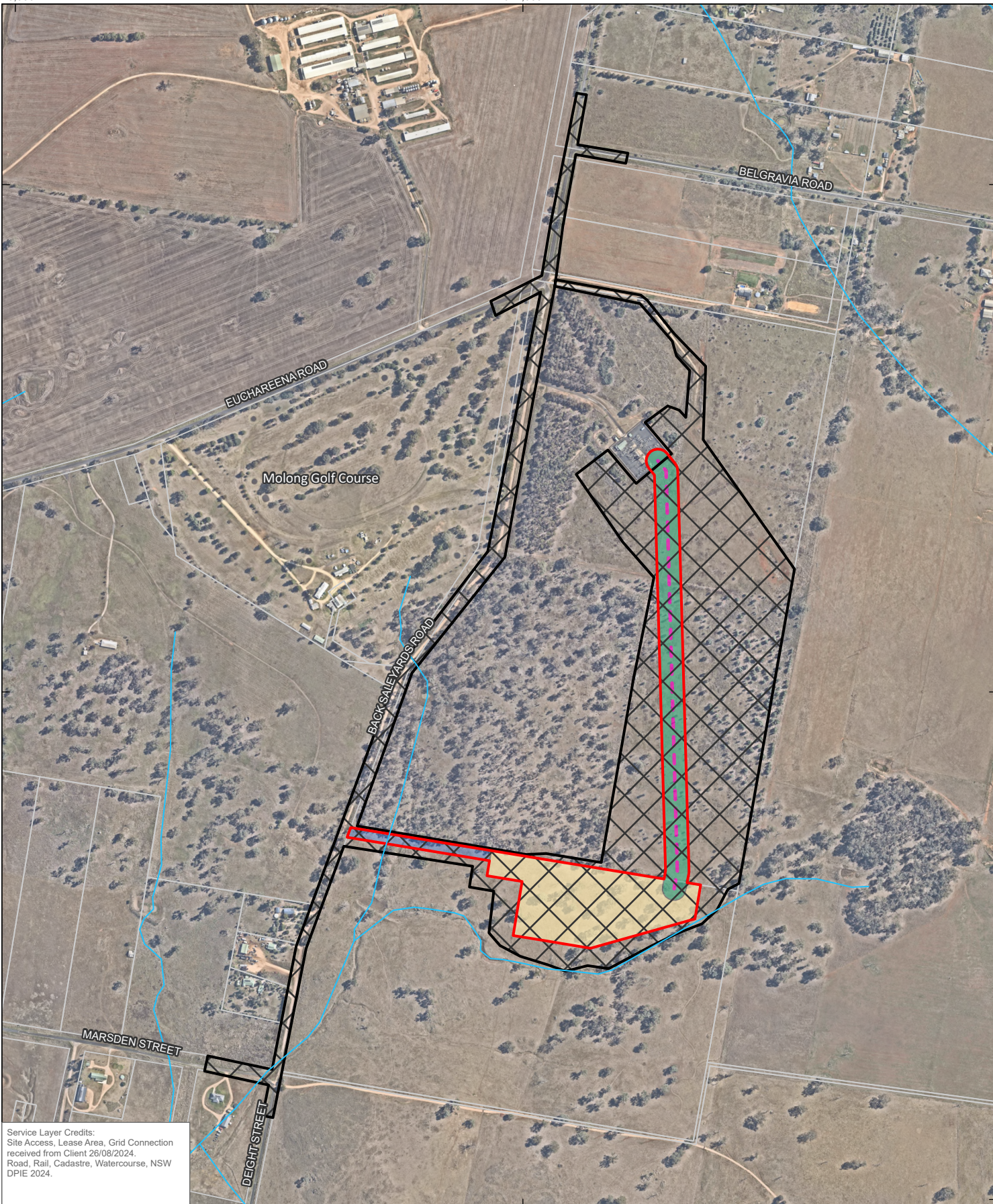
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Road, Rail, Cadastre, Watercourse, NSW
DPIE 2024.

0 125 250 m

Coordinate System: GDA2020 MGA Zone 55

Scale: 1:10,000 at A4

Project Number: 620.041615

Date Drawn: 05-Feb-2025

Drawn by: NT

LEGEND

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- Primary Road
- Cadastre
- Project Area for ACH
- Indicative Transmission Line Buffer
- Indicative 132kV Transmission Line
- Proposed Access Road
- Indicative BESS Area
- Potential Disturbance Area

MOLONG BESS

DISTURBANCE EXTENT



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FIGURE X

Agency Responses

Heritage NSW Aboriginal stakeholder list for Transgrid's Molong Substation at 1 Deight Street and 19 Back Saleyards Road, Molong.

From Barry Gunther <Barry.Gunther@environment.nsw.gov.au>
Date Wed 12/02/2025 2:10 PM
To Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>

 2 attachments (2 MB)

Heritage NSW Aboriginal stakeholder list for Transgrid's Molong Substation at 1 Deight Street and 19 Back Saleyards Road, Molong, Cabonne LGA.docx; 540_Agency Notification_HNSW.pdf;

Hi Alice,

Please find attached the Heritage NSW Aboriginal stakeholder list for Transgrid's Molong Substation at 1 Deight Street and 19 Back Saleyards Road, Molong.

regards

Barry Gunther
Aboriginal Senior Assessment Officer
Heritage NSW
Department of Climate Change,
Energy, the Environment and Water

This email is intended for the addressee(s) named and may contain confidential and/or privileged information.

If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender and then delete it immediately.

Any views expressed in this email are those of the individual sender except where the sender expressly and with authority states them to be the views of the NSW Office of Environment, Energy and Science.

PLEASE CONSIDER THE ENVIRONMENT BEFORE PRINTING THIS EMAIL

List of Aboriginal Stakeholders held by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water for the purposes of the Aboriginal Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010.

The purpose of this letter is to assist you as the proposed applicant in undertaking Aboriginal community consultation in accordance with the relevant legislation and guidelines.

The consultation process involves getting the views of, and information from, Aboriginal people and reporting on these. It is not to be confused with other field assessment processes involved in preparing a proposal and an application. Consultation does not include the employment of Aboriginal people to assist in field assessment and/or site monitoring. Aboriginal people may provide services to proponents through a contractual arrangement however, this is separate from consultation. The proponent is not obliged to employ those Aboriginal people registered for consultation. Consultation as per these requirements will continue irrespective of potential or actual employment opportunities for Aboriginal people.

In accordance with Clause 60 (10) of the National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019, where an agreement of the kind listed below specifies or identifies a modified or alternative consultation process for the purposes of Part 6 of the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974, the applicant is to undertake consultation in accordance with the modified or alternative process. The applicable agreements are:

- a) a registered Indigenous Land Use Agreement under the Native Title Act 1993 of the Commonwealth entered into between an Aboriginal community and the State,
- b) a lease entered into under Part 4A of the Act,
- c) an agreement entered into by the Secretary and a board of management reserved under Part 4A of the Act that has the consent of Aboriginal owner board members for the land concerned,
- d) an agreement entered into between an Aboriginal community and the Department of Planning, Industry and the Environment.

Where you believe your application is wholly or partially located within an area subject to any of the above agreements, please provide further correspondence (including mapping, if required) detailing the applicable agreement and its relationship to the application area to heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au. Heritage NSW will respond with further advice.

Where the above does not apply, please proceed with consultation in accordance with the Clause 60 (1-9) of the National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019 and Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010 (the "Consultation Requirements"). A copy of the Consultation Requirements can be found on the OEI website at: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/cultureheritage/commconsultation/09781ACHconsultreq.pdf>.

Under the Consultation Requirements, a proponent is required to provide Aboriginal people who may hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the cultural significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places as relevant to the proposed project area, with an opportunity to be involved in consultation. Section 3.3.1 of the Consultation Requirements states that Aboriginal people who can provide this information are, based on Aboriginal lore and custom, the traditional owners or custodians of the land that is the subject of the proposed project.

The Consultation Requirements also state that:

Traditional owners or custodians with appropriate cultural heritage knowledge to inform decision making who seek to register their interest as an Aboriginal party are those people who:

- continue to maintain a deep respect for their ancestral belief system, traditional lore and custom
- recognise their responsibilities and obligations to protect and conserve their culture and heritage and care for their traditional lands or Country
- have the trust of their community, knowledge and understanding of their culture, and permission to speak about it.

This list is provided to proponents in accordance with Clause 60(2)(a)(i) of the National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019 and section 4.1.2 of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010.

The stakeholders identified on this list may have an interest in the proposed project area and may hold knowledge relevant to determining the cultural significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places.

How to use this list

- Contact the organisations/individuals who have indicated an interest in the relevant LGA/s and invite them to register an interest in your project.
- Do not reproduce the attached list in publicly available reports and other documents. Your report should only contain the names of the organisations and individuals who you have invited to register an interest in your project and those who have registered as stakeholders for your project.
- Note that the provision of this Aboriginal stakeholder list does not override a proponent's requirement to also advertise in the local newspaper and to seek from other sources the names of any other Aboriginal people who may hold cultural knowledge as required under clause 60 (2) of the National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019.
- Please refer to Clause 60 of the National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019 and the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010 for further information on the requirements of the consultation process.
- If contact details of stakeholders are found to be incorrect or outdated, please contact heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au

Last updated January 2025

Heritage NSW reference: D0C25/101363

Transgrid's Molong Substation at 1 Deight Street and 19 Back Saleyards Road, Molong

Aboriginal Stakeholder List Cabonne Local Government Area

Organisation/ Individual	Contact Name	Email Address	Phone	Mobile	Fax	Postal Address	Additional information
Thomas Dahlstrom	Thomas Dahlstrom	gamila_roi@yahoo.com.au	-	0403 529 119	-	1-122 Glebe Point Road Glebe NSW 2037	Offers ACH value by using 3D Laser and Drone technology
Judy Bell	Judy Bell	belljudy@yahoo.com.au		0410 133651		5 Willaroo St Peak Hill NSW 2869 6 McNamara St Pearce ACT 2607	
Girragirra Murun Aboriginal Corporation	Diana Astin	girragirramurun@yahoo.com		0433837512		PO Box 148 Wellington NSW 2820 PO box 981 Ulladulla NSW 2539	
Wingarra Wilay Aboriginal Corporation	Raymond Moon	wingarrawilay@yahoo.com		0450087707		PO Box Wellington NSW 2820	

RE: SR25/169 - 540 - National Native Title Tribunal notification - Molong BESS [SEC=OFFICIAL]

From Geospatial Search Requests <GeospatialSearch@NNTT.gov.au>

Date Mon 10/02/2025 2:43 PM

To Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>

OFFICIAL

Your ref: 540 Molong BESS Our ref: SR25/169

Dear Anya

Thank you for your search request, please find your results below.

Search Results

The results provided are based on the information you supplied and are derived from a search of the following Tribunal databases:

0. Schedule of Native Title Determination Applications
 1. Register of Native Title Claims
 2. Native Title Determinations
 3. Indigenous Land Use Agreements (Registered and notified)

Results for overlapping native title matters in NSW:

Feature ID	Tenure	Cadastral Data As At	Feature Area SqKm	Overlapping Native Title Feature				
				NNTT File Number	Name	Category	Overlap Area SqKm	% Selected
1//DP1122375	FREEHOLD	16/01/2025	0.0169	No overlap			-	
1//DP542283	FREEHOLD	16/01/2025	0.7337	No overlap			-	
24//DP756883	FREEHOLD	16/01/2025	0.0339	No overlap			-	
86//DP756876	FREEHOLD	16/01/2025	0.1005	No overlap			-	
87//DP756876	FREEHOLD	16/01/2025	0.0700	No overlap			-	
88//DP756876	FREEHOLD	16/01/2025	0.0658	No overlap			-	
99//DP1020247	FREEHOLD	16/01/2025	3.3717	No overlap			-	

For more information about the Tribunal's registers or to search the registers yourself and obtain copies of relevant register extracts, please visit our [website](#).

Information on native title claims and freehold land can also be found on the Tribunal's website here: [Native title claims and freehold land](#).

Please note: There may be a delay between a native title determination application being lodged in the Federal Court and its transfer to the Tribunal. As a result, some native title determination applications recently filed with the Federal Court may not appear on the Tribunal's databases.

The search results are based on analysis against external boundaries of applications only. Native title applications commonly contain exclusions clauses which remove areas from within the external boundary. To determine whether the areas described are in fact subject to claim, you need to refer to the "Area covered by claim" section of the relevant Register Extract or Schedule Extract and any maps attached.

Search results and the existence of native title

Please note that the enclosed information from the Register of Native Title Claims and/or the Schedule of Applications is **not** confirmation of the existence of native title in this area. This cannot be confirmed until the Federal Court makes a determination that native title does or does not exist in relation to the area. Such determinations are registered on the National Native Title Register.

The Tribunal accepts no liability for reliance placed on enclosed information

The enclosed information has been provided in good faith. Use of this information is at your sole risk. The National Native Title Tribunal makes no representation, either express or implied, as to the accuracy or suitability of the information enclosed for any particular purpose and accepts no liability for use of the information or reliance placed on it.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact us via GeospatialSearch@NNTT.gov.au

Regards,

Geospatial Searches

National Native Title Tribunal | Perth

Email: GeospatialSearch@nntt.gov.au | www.nntt.gov.au

From: Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>

Sent: Monday, 10 February 2025 12:55 PM

To: Geospatial Search Requests <GeospatialSearch@NNTT.gov.au>

Subject: Re: SR25/169 - 540 - National Native Title Tribunal notification - Molong BESS [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Caution: This is an external email. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Michelle,
I have added the parcel IDs in the attached word document
Thanks,
Anya



Virtus Heritage

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Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW

(02) 6676 4354

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From: Geospatial Search Requests <GeospatialSearch@NNTT.gov.au>

Sent: 10 February 2025 12:05 PM

To: Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>

Subject: RE: SR25/169 - 540 - National Native Title Tribunal notification - Molong BESS [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Your ref: 540 Molong BESS **Our ref:** SR25/169

Dear Anya

Thank you for the additional information. However, we do not conduct searches by address. Please provide the parcel IDs on the search request form so we can process your request.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact us via GeospatialSearch@NNTT.gov.au

Regards,

Geospatial Searches

National Native Title Tribunal | Perth

Email: GeospatialSearch@nntt.gov.au | www.nntt.gov.au

From: Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>

Sent: Monday, 10 February 2025 7:55 AM

To: Geospatial Search Requests <GeospatialSearch@NNTT.gov.au>

Subject: SR25/169 - Re: 540 - National Native Title Tribunal notification - Molong BESS [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Caution: This is an external email. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Apologies, Michelle,
Please see the attached Geospatial Search form for our project area.
Thank you,
Anya Graubard
Senior Anthropologist

From: Geospatial Search Requests <GeospatialSearch@NNTT.gov.au>
Sent: 07 February 2025 12:15 PM
To: Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>
Subject: RE: 540 - National Native Title Tribunal notification - Molong BESS [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Good Morning

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for your Search request.

I am currently looking at your request, but the attached Search Form is blank, could you please fill out the form and return it to me, so that I can complete your request.

Thank you for your time.

Regards,
Michelle Dunstall

Geospatial Searches
National Native Title Tribunal | Perth
Email: GeospatialSearch@nntt.gov.au | www.nntt.gov.au

From: Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>
Sent: Friday, 7 February 2025 5:20 AM
To: nntt@nsw.gov.au; Enquiries <Enquiries@nntt.gov.au>; Geospatial Search Requests <GeospatialSearch@NNTT.gov.au>
Subject: Re: 540 - National Native Title Tribunal notification - Molong BESS

Caution: This is an external email. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,
Please see attached geospatial search form for the area mentioned below.
Thank you,



Virtus Heritage

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Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW

(02) 6676 4354

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From: Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>

Sent: 06 February 2025 5:25 PM

To: nntt@nsw.gov.au <nntt@nsw.gov.au>; enquiries@nntt.gov.au <enquiries@nntt.gov.au>

Cc: Kate Wheeler <Kate.Wheeler@slrconsulting.com>; Richard Simmons <rsimmons@slrconsulting.com>; Ursula McInnes <umcinnnes@slrconsulting.com>; Alice Buhrich <a.buhrich@virtusheritage.com.au>; Liliith Malcolm <l.malcolm@virtusheritage.com.au>

Subject: 540 - National Native Title Tribunal notification - Molong BESS

Dear Registrar,

Virtus Heritage Pty Limited (hereafter, "Virtus Heritage") has been engaged SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd on behalf of Stor-Energy 3 Pty Ltd to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA). The ACHA is needed to support a Scoping Report and request for Secretary Environmental Assessment requirements (SEARs) for establishing a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility at Lot 99 on DP1020247 and Lot 1 on DP542283 and connecting to Transgrid's Molong Substation at 1 Deight Street and 19 Back Saleyards Road, Molong, NSW 2866 via a 132kV overhead transmission line (the Project Area).

The proposed works area is within the Cabonne Shire Council Local Government Area (refer to **Figure 1**).

Please see attached letter for the formal notification for consultation to your organisation, including contact details and more detailed information for the notification. If you are aware of Aboriginal people or groups who you believe may wish to register an interest, we request you please provide their contact details to Virtus Heritage by **5:00on on 6 March 2025**.

If you would like to discuss this notification or have any questions about the proposed works, please contact us on (02) 6676 4354.

Thank you,



Virtus Heritage

C O N S U L T A T I O N

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW

(02) 6676 4354

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Reply: 540 - ORALRA notification - Molong BESS

From Aboriginal Owners <aboriginalowners@oralra.nsw.gov.au>

Date Mon 10/02/2025 1:06 PM

To Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>

 2 attachments (2 MB)

540_Agency Notification_ORALRA.pdf; 20250210-AO Search ACHA-Virtus Heritage-Battery Energy Storage System Molong NSW-Orange LALC.pdf;

OFFICIAL

Good morning Alice

Please find attached the response from the Office of the Registrar, ALRA to your email and letter of 6 February 2025 regarding the proposed development of a Battery Energy Storage System (Lot 99 on DP1020247 & Lot 1 on DP542283) connecting to Transgrid's Molong Substation at 1 Deight Street and 19 Back Saleyards Road Molong NSW, as part of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA).

Please note, we now have an Aboriginal Owners email mailbox to which such requests can be sent in future. Please email your ACHA requests to aboriginalowners@oralra.nsw.gov.au

Kind regards

The Aboriginal Owners team

Office of the Registrar, Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983

T (02) 8575 1160 **E** aboriginalowners@oralra.nsw.gov.au

www.oralra.nsw.gov.au

PO Box 787

PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

Working days Monday to Friday, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm



I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land and pay respects to Elders past and present. I also acknowledge all the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff working with NSW Government at this time.

The Office of the Registrar stands on Aboriginal land. We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land and we show our respect for Elders past, present and emerging through thoughtful and collaborative approaches to our work, seeking to demonstrate our ongoing commitment to supporting the return of land to Aboriginal people as compensation for past dispossession; and to support self-determination through participation and representation in the land council network.

Please consider the environment before printing this email.

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

From: Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>

Sent: Thursday, 6 February 2025 5:25 PM

To: Admin Officer <adminofficer@oralra.nsw.gov.au>

Cc: Kate Wheeler <Kate.Wheeler@slrconsulting.com>; Richard Simmons <rsimmons@slrconsulting.com>; Ursula McInnes <umcInnes@slrconsulting.com>; Alice Buhrich <a.buhrich@virtusheritage.com.au>; Lilith Malcolm <l.malcolm@virtusheritage.com.au>

Subject: 540 - ORALRA notification - Molong BESS

[CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.]

Dear Registrar,

Virtus Heritage Pty Limited (hereafter, “Virtus Heritage”) has been engaged SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd on behalf of Stor-Energy 3 Pty Ltd to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA). The ACHA is needed to support a Scoping Report and request for Secretary Environmental Assessment requirements (SEARs) for establishing a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility at Lot 99 on DP1020247 and Lot 1 on DP542283 and connecting to Transgrid’s Molong Substation at 1 Deight Street and 19 Back Saleyards Road, Molong, NSW 2866 via a 132kV overhead transmission line (the Project Area).

The proposed works area is within the Cabonne Shire Council Local Government Area (refer to **Figure 1**).

Please see attached letter for the formal notification for consultation to your organisation, including contact details and more detailed information for the notification. If you are aware of Aboriginal people or groups who you believe may wish to register an interest, we request you please provide their contact details to Virtus Heritage by **5:00pm on 6 March 2025**.

If you would like to discuss this notification or have any questions about the proposed works, please contact us on (02) 6676 4354.

Thank you,



Virtus Heritage

C O N S U L T A T I O N

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW

(02) 6676 4354

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Reply: 540 - ORALRA notification - Molong BESS

From Aboriginal Owners <aboriginalowners@oralra.nsw.gov.au>

Date Mon 2/10/2025 1:06 PM

To Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>

 2 attachments (2 MB)

540_Agency Notification_ORALRA.pdf; 20250210-AO Search ACHA-Virtus Heritage-Battery Energy Storage System Molong NSW-Orange LALC.pdf;

OFFICIAL

Good morning Alice

Please find attached the response from the Office of the Registrar, ALRA to your email and letter of 6 February 2025 regarding the proposed development of a Battery Energy Storage System (Lot 99 on DP1020247 & Lot 1 on DP542283) connecting to Transgrid's Molong Substation at 1 Deight Street and 19 Back Saleyards Road Molong NSW, as part of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA).

Please note, we now have an Aboriginal Owners email mailbox to which such requests can be sent in future. Please email your ACHA requests to aboriginalowners@oralra.nsw.gov.au

Kind regards

The Aboriginal Owners team

Office of the Registrar, Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983

T (02) 8575 1160 **E** aboriginalowners@oralra.nsw.gov.au

www.oralra.nsw.gov.au

PO Box 787

PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

Working days Monday to Friday, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm



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The Office of the Registrar stands on Aboriginal land. We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land and we show our respect for Elders past, present and emerging through thoughtful and collaborative approaches to our work, seeking to demonstrate our ongoing commitment to supporting the return of land to Aboriginal people as compensation for past dispossession; and to support self-determination through participation and representation in the land council network.

Please consider the environment before printing this email.

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

From: Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>

Sent: Thursday, 6 February 2025 5:25 PM

To: Admin Officer <adminofficer@oralra.nsw.gov.au>

Cc: Kate Wheeler <Kate.Wheeler@slrconsulting.com>; Richard Simmons <rsimmons@slrconsulting.com>; Ursula McInnes <umcInnes@slrconsulting.com>; Alice Buhrich <a.buhrich@virtusheritage.com.au>; Lilith Malcolm <l.malcolm@virtusheritage.com.au>

Subject: 540 - ORALRA notification - Molong BESS

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Dear Registrar,

Virtus Heritage Pty Limited (hereafter, "Virtus Heritage") has been engaged SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd on behalf of Stor-Energy 3 Pty Ltd to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA). The ACHA is needed to support a Scoping Report and request for Secretary Environmental Assessment requirements (SEARs) for establishing a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility at Lot 99 on DP1020247 and Lot 1 on DP542283 and connecting to Transgrid's Molong Substation at 1 Deight Street and 19 Back Saleyards Road, Molong, NSW 2866 via a 132kV overhead transmission line (the Project Area).

The proposed works area is within the Cabonne Shire Council Local Government Area (refer to **Figure 1**).

Please see attached letter for the formal notification for consultation to your organisation, including contact details and more detailed information for the notification. If you are aware of Aboriginal people or groups who you believe may wish to register an interest, we request you please provide their contact details to Virtus Heritage by **5:00pm on 6 March 2025**.

If you would like to discuss this notification or have any questions about the proposed works, please contact us on (02) 6676 4354.

Thank you,



Virtus Heritage

C O N S U L T A T I O N

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW

(02) 6676 4354

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past, present and emerging in maintaining the culture, country and their spiritual and historical connections to the lands and waters.

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10 February 2025

By email: consultation@virtusheritage.com.au

Alice Buhrich
Principal Heritage Advisor
Virtus Heritage
PO Box 101
POTTSVILLE NSW 2489

Dear Alice

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment – Proposed development of a Battery Energy Storage System (Lot 99/DP1020247 & Lot 1/DP542283) connecting to Transgrid's Molong Substation at 1 Deight Street and 19 Back Saleyards Road Molong NSW: request for list of potential Aboriginal stakeholders

We refer to your email and letter to this Office, dated 6 February 2025, requesting contact information for Aboriginal organisations, stakeholders and/or people who may have cultural knowledge relevant to the proposed development of a Battery Energy Storage System (Lot 99/DP1020247 & Lot 1/DP542283) connecting to Transgrid's Molong Substation at 1 Deight Street and 19 Back Saleyards Road Molong NSW, as part of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA).

Under Section 170 of the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* (NSW), the Office of the Registrar is required to maintain the Register of Aboriginal Owners (RAO) for New South Wales. A search of the RAO has shown that there are currently no Registered Aboriginal Owners in the project area.

The proposed works area falls within the boundaries of Orange Local Aboriginal Land Council. We suggest you contact Orange Local Aboriginal Land Council (contact details provided below), as they may wish to participate or contribute.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K Carter".

Karen Carter
Project Officer
Office of the Registrar, Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983

Orange Local Aboriginal Land Council
PO Box 10
ORANGE NSW 2800
02 6361 4742

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Public Notices

Aboriginal Heritage

Lot 99/DP1020247 and Lot 1/DP542283 Molong, NSW 2866

SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd (SLR) on behalf of StorEnergy 3 Pty Ltd (Stor) proposes to undertake an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) to support a State Significant Development (SSD) Application for development at Lot 99 on DP1020247 and Lot 1 on DP542283 (the project area) and connecting to Transgrid's Molong Substation at 1 Deight Street and 19 Back Saleyards Road, Molong, NSW, 2866. The project includes the establishment of a new Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), access road, and overhead 132 kV transmission line (approximately 900m) between the BESS and Transgrid's existing Molong Substation. The proposed activities would include:

- Transport of construction personnel, equipment and materials to and from the Project Area during construction (dependent on construction schedule), including all associated heavy and light vehicle traffic movements.
- Site establishment works including limited vegetation clearing within the Project Area, bulk earthworks and a temporary construction compound.
- Road works to formalise a new driveway crossing from Back Saleyards Road and internal site access road for construction purposes and ongoing access.
- Construction of hardstand/laydown areas, fencing, internal roads, control room, auxiliary transformer, battery enclosures, and inverter/transformer/switchgearstations referred to as Power Conversion Stations (PCS).
- Road works to formalise a new driveway crossing from Back Saleyards Road and internal site access road for construction purposes and ongoing access.
- Acoustic attenuation (to be determined as part of a detailed assessment).
- Construction of ancillary works including a parking area, water tank, Operations and Maintenance (O&M) building (including storage structures), stormwater management infrastructure, security lighting and fencing.
- Construction of hardstand/laydown areas, fencing, internal roads, control room, auxiliary transformer, battery enclosures, and inverter/transformer/switchgear stations (referred to as Power Conversion Stations (PCS)).
- Construction of approximately 900m of overhead 132 kV transmission line to facilitate connection to the existing Transgrid's Molong Substation and associated high voltage concrete or steel poles and wiring.
- Acoustic attenuation (to be determined as part of a detailed assessment).
- Construction of ancillary works including a parking area, water tank, Operations and Maintenance (O&M) building (including storage structures), stormwater management infrastructure, security lighting and fencing.
- Vegetative screening and landscaping.
- The installation of 264 BESS units (maximum) within individual, modular containers, on hardstand footings with a total capacity of 150 MW/730MWh
- The installation of 50 inverters on hardstand footings.
- Installation of subsurface wiring infrastructure throughout the Indicative BESS area.
- Commissioning and testing of all installed equipment on the Project Area.

The proposed site is within the Cabonne Local Government Area and the proposed activities may impact Aboriginal objects if present. Stor Energy wishes to invite Aboriginal people and Aboriginal groups who hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects and places within the project area to register in a process of community consultation regarding the proposed activity. Consultation will be undertaken in accordance with *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010) and the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) requirements. The purpose of community consultation with Aboriginal people is to assist the proposed applicant in the preparation of the ACHA and to assist the Minister of Planning and Public Spaces in their consideration and determination of the development application.

To register your interest, please contact:

Dr Alice Buhrich, Principal Heritage Advisor or Liliith Malcolm, Archaeologist
Virtus Heritage Pty Limited
PO Box 101
Pottsville NSW 2489
Phone/Fax: (02) 6676 4354
Email: consultation@virtusheritage.com.au

Registrations must be received by phone, writing, or email by 5:00pm on 6th March 2025.

Please be advised that, as per the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents (DECCW 2010)* the names of Aboriginal persons and groups who register an interest will be forwarded to NSW Environment and Heritage and Orange Local Aboriginal Land Council unless requested otherwise.

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Invitation to Register

540 - Invitation to Register for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment, Molong NSW

From Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>

Date Thu 20/02/2025 4:15 PM

To wingarrawilay@yahoo.com <wingarrawilay@yahoo.com>

Cc Alice Buhrich <a.buhrich@virtusheritage.com.au>

 1 attachment (276 KB)

540_Molong_Invitation to Register_v1c_Wingarrawilay.pdf;

Dear Raymond Moon,

Virtus Heritage Pty Limited (Virtus Heritage) has been engaged by SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd on behalf of StorEnergy 3 Pty Ltd to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA). The ACHA is needed to support a Scoping Report and request for Secretary Environmental Assessment requirements (SEARs) for establishing a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility at Lot 99 on DP1020247 and Lot 1 on DP542283 (the project area) and connecting to Transgrid's Molong Substation at 1 Deight Street and 19 Back Saleyards Road, Molong, NSW 2866 via a 132kV overhead transmission line (the Project Area). The Project Area and Potential Disturbance Area is within the Cabonne Local Government Area.

Please see attached letter for the formal notification and an invitation to register your organisation for consultation for this project, including contact details and more detailed information as part of this invitation.

If you'd like to register for consultation for this project, please provide their contact details to Virtus Heritage by **5:00pm on Thursday 6th March to consultation@virtusheritage.com.au**

If you would like to discuss this notification or have any questions about the proposed works, please contact Dr Alice Buhrich on (02) 6676 4354.

Thank you,



Virtus Heritage
CONSULTATION

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02) 6676 4354

VIRTUSHERITAGE.COM.AU

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Raymond Moon
Wingarra Wilay Aboriginal Corporation
e. wingarrawilay@yahoo.com

20th February 2025

Dear Raymond,

Subject: Notification and Invitation to participate in Aboriginal community consultation for the proposed BESS at Lot 99/DP1020247 and Lot 1/DP542283, Molong, NSW 2866

Virtus Heritage Pty Limited (hereafter, "Virtus Heritage") has been engaged by SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd on behalf of StorEnergy 3 Pty Ltd to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA). The ACHA is needed to support a Scoping Report and request for Secretary Environmental Assessment requirements (SEARs) for establishing a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility at Lot 99 on DP1020247 and Lot 1 on DP542283 (the project area) and connecting to Transgrid's Molong Substation at 1 Deight Street and 19 Back Saleyards Road, Molong, NSW 2866 via a 132kV overhead transmission line (the Project Area). The Project Area and Potential Disturbance Area is within the Cabonne Local Government Area (refer to **Figure 1**).

The proposed activities have the potential to impact Aboriginal objects. The proposed activities would involve:

- Transport of construction personnel, equipment and materials to and from the Project Area during construction (dependent on construction schedule), including all associated heavy and light vehicle traffic movements.
- Site establishment works including limited vegetation clearing within the Project Area, bulk earthworks and a temporary construction compound.
- Road works to formalise a new driveway crossing from Back Saleyards Road and internal site access road for construction purposes and ongoing access.
- Construction of hardstand/laydown areas, fencing, internal roads, control room, auxiliary transformer, battery enclosures, and inverter/transformer/switchgear stations (referred to as Power Conversion Stations (PCS)).
- Construction of approximately 900m of overhead 132 kV transmission line to facilitate connection to the existing Transgrid's Molong Substation and associated high voltage concrete or steel poles and wiring.
- Acoustic attenuation (to be determined as part of a detailed assessment).
- Construction of ancillary works including a parking area, water tank, Operations and Maintenance (O&M) building (including storage structures), stormwater management infrastructure, security lighting and fencing.
- Vegetative screening and landscaping.
- The installation of 264 BESS units (maximum) within individual, modular containers, on hardstand footings with a total capacity of 150 MW/730MWh.

- The installation of 50 inverters on hardstand footings.
- Installation of subsurface wiring infrastructure throughout the Indicative BESS area.
- Commissioning and testing of all installed equipment on the Project Area.

As a part of this assessment, Virtus Heritage is undertaking consultation with Aboriginal people according to NSW Environment and Heritage's *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents* (DECCW, 2010).

The purpose of Aboriginal community consultation is to:

- assist the proponent in understanding Aboriginal people's views and concerns (if any) about the project;
- afford an opportunity for Aboriginal people who hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal object(s) and/or place(s) on or near the proposed project area to be involved in consultation so that information about cultural significance is provided to Heritage NSW for decision making;
- provide Aboriginal people who hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal object(s) and/or place(s) on or near the proposed project area with the opportunity to participate in decision making about the management of their cultural heritage by providing the proponent information regarding cultural significance and feedback on management options;
- understand cultural values present in the area; and
- assist the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces in their consideration of the State Significant Development Application.

Virtus Heritage is seeking to identify Aboriginal persons who hold cultural knowledge relevant to this project area and who may wish to register an interest. Those who choose to register will have the opportunity to provide culturally appropriate information and to comment on the cultural heritage significance of Aboriginal objects and the area/s.

If you wish to register your interest to be consulted about this project, please provide your contact details by 5pm on 6th March 2025 to:

Dr Alice Buhrich, Principal Heritage Advisor or Lilith Malcolm, Archaeologist
Virtus Heritage
PO Box 101
Pottsville NSW 2489
Email: consultation@virtusheritage.com.au
Phone/Fax: (02) 6676 4354

Details for registration of your interest in consultation need to be sent in writing or via email/fax and should include:

- if you are a cultural knowledge holder or have historical connection to the proposed works areas (it is important you stipulate your connection to country to meet the NSW Environment and Heritage's consultation requirements and provide any relevant documentation with this statement i.e. native title registration claims or details on family connections to country or Traditional Owner's authorisation for you to speak for country or a statement by yourself as a Traditional Owner);

- the name of the key contact person for your organisation or individual for all correspondence;
- if there is a representative representing a broader organisation – written nomination and endorsement of that representative from all represented parties/organisations;
- postal address;
- telephone contact numbers (mobile and landline);
- fax number; and
- email address (where available).

If you would like to discuss this notification or have any questions about the proposed works, please contact myself or Lilith Malcolm on (02) 6676 4354.

Sincerely,



Dr Alice Buhrich
Principal Archaeologist

Attached: Figure 1. Molong BESS project area and location.

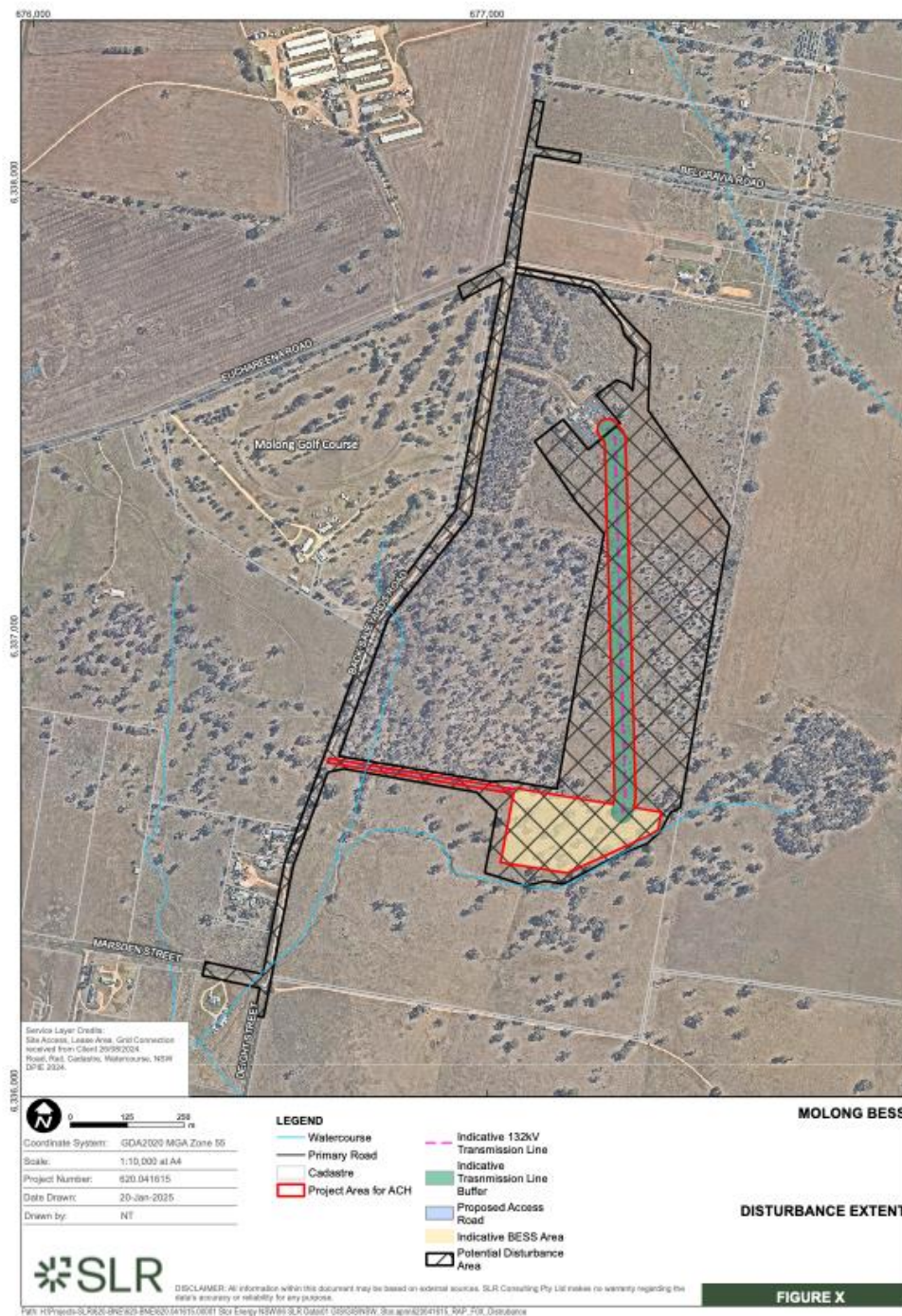


Figure 1. Molong BESS project area and location.

540 - Invitation to Register for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment, Molong NSW

From Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>

Date Thu 20/02/2025 4:14 PM

To gamila_roi@yahoo.com.au <gamila_roi@yahoo.com.au>

Cc Alice Buhrich <a.buhrich@virtusheritage.com.au>

 1 attachment (277 KB)

540_Molong_Invitation to Register_v1c_ThomasDahlstrom.pdf;

Dear Thomas Dahlstrom,

Virtus Heritage Pty Limited (Virtus Heritage) has been engaged by SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd on behalf of StorEnergy 3 Pty Ltd to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA). The ACHA is needed to support a Scoping Report and request for Secretary Environmental Assessment requirements (SEARs) for establishing a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility at Lot 99 on DP1020247 and Lot 1 on DP542283 (the project area) and connecting to Transgrid's Molong Substation at 1 Deight Street and 19 Back Saleyards Road, Molong, NSW 2866 via a 132kV overhead transmission line (the Project Area). The Project Area and Potential Disturbance Area is within the Cabonne Local Government Area.

Please see attached letter for the formal notification and an invitation to register your organisation for consultation for this project, including contact details and more detailed information as part of this invitation.

If you'd like to register for consultation for this project, please provide their contact details to Virtus Heritage by **5:00pm on Thursday 6th March to consultation@virtusheritage.com.au**

If you would like to discuss this notification or have any questions about the proposed works, please contact Dr Alice Buhrich on (02) 6676 4354.

Thank you,



Virtus Heritage
CONSULTATION

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02) 6676 4354

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Thomas Dahlstrom
1-122 Glebe Point Road
Glebe NSW 2307
e. gamila_roi@yahoo.com.au

20th February 2025

Dear Thomas,

Subject: Notification and Invitation to participate in Aboriginal community consultation for the proposed BESS at Lot 99/DP1020247 and Lot 1/DP542283, Molong, NSW 2866

Virtus Heritage Pty Limited (hereafter, "Virtus Heritage") has been engaged by SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd on behalf of StorEnergy 3 Pty Ltd to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA). The ACHA is needed to support a Scoping Report and request for Secretary Environmental Assessment requirements (SEARs) for establishing a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility at Lot 99 on DP1020247 and Lot 1 on DP542283 (the project area) and connecting to Transgrid's Molong Substation at 1 Deight Street and 19 Back Saleyards Road, Molong, NSW 2866 via a 132kV overhead transmission line (the Project Area). The Project Area and Potential Disturbance Area is within the Cabonne Local Government Area (refer to **Figure 1**).

The proposed activities have the potential to impact Aboriginal objects. The proposed activities would involve:

- Transport of construction personnel, equipment and materials to and from the Project Area during construction (dependent on construction schedule), including all associated heavy and light vehicle traffic movements.
- Site establishment works including limited vegetation clearing within the Project Area, bulk earthworks and a temporary construction compound.
- Road works to formalise a new driveway crossing from Back Saleyards Road and internal site access road for construction purposes and ongoing access.
- Construction of hardstand/laydown areas, fencing, internal roads, control room, auxiliary transformer, battery enclosures, and inverter/transformer/switchgear stations (referred to as Power Conversion Stations (PCS)).
- Construction of approximately 900m of overhead 132 kV transmission line to facilitate connection to the existing Transgrid's Molong Substation and associated high voltage concrete or steel poles and wiring.
- Acoustic attenuation (to be determined as part of a detailed assessment).
- Construction of ancillary works including a parking area, water tank, Operations and Maintenance (O&M) building (including storage structures), stormwater management infrastructure, security lighting and fencing.
- Vegetative screening and landscaping.

- The installation of 264 BESS units (maximum) within individual, modular containers, on hardstand footings with a total capacity of 150 MW/730MWh.
- The installation of 50 inverters on hardstand footings.
- Installation of subsurface wiring infrastructure throughout the Indicative BESS area.
- Commissioning and testing of all installed equipment on the Project Area.

As a part of this assessment, Virtus Heritage is undertaking consultation with Aboriginal people according to NSW Environment and Heritage's *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents* (DECCW, 2010).

The purpose of Aboriginal community consultation is to:

- assist the proponent in understanding Aboriginal people's views and concerns (if any) about the project;
- afford an opportunity for Aboriginal people who hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal object(s) and/or place(s) on or near the proposed project area to be involved in consultation so that information about cultural significance is provided to Heritage NSW for decision making;
- provide Aboriginal people who hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal object(s) and/or place(s) on or near the proposed project area with the opportunity to participate in decision making about the management of their cultural heritage by providing the proponent information regarding cultural significance and feedback on management options;
- understand cultural values present in the area; and
- assist the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces in their consideration of the State Significant Development Application.

Virtus Heritage is seeking to identify Aboriginal persons who hold cultural knowledge relevant to this project area and who may wish to register an interest. Those who choose to register will have the opportunity to provide culturally appropriate information and to comment on the cultural heritage significance of Aboriginal objects and the area/s.

If you wish to register your interest to be consulted about this project, please provide your contact details by 5pm on 6th March 2025 to:

Dr Alice Buhrich, Principal Heritage Advisor or Lilith Malcolm, Archaeologist
Virtus Heritage
PO Box 101
Pottsville NSW 2489
Email: consultation@virtusheritage.com.au
Phone/Fax: (02) 6676 4354

Details for registration of your interest in consultation need to be sent in writing or via email/fax and should include:

- if you are a cultural knowledge holder or have historical connection to the proposed works areas (it is important you stipulate your connection to country to meet the NSW Environment and Heritage's consultation requirements and provide any relevant documentation with this statement i.e. native

title registration claims or details on family connections to country or Traditional Owner's authorisation for you to speak for country or a statement by yourself as a Traditional Owner);

- the name of the key contact person for your organisation or individual for all correspondence;
- if there is a representative representing a broader organisation – written nomination and endorsement of that representative from all represented parties/organisations;
- postal address;
- telephone contact numbers (mobile and landline);
- fax number; and
- email address (where available).

If you would like to discuss this notification or have any questions about the proposed works, please contact myself or Lilith Malcolm on (02) 6676 4354.

Sincerely,



Dr Alice Buhrich
Principal Archaeologist

Attached: Figure 1. Molong BESS project area and location.

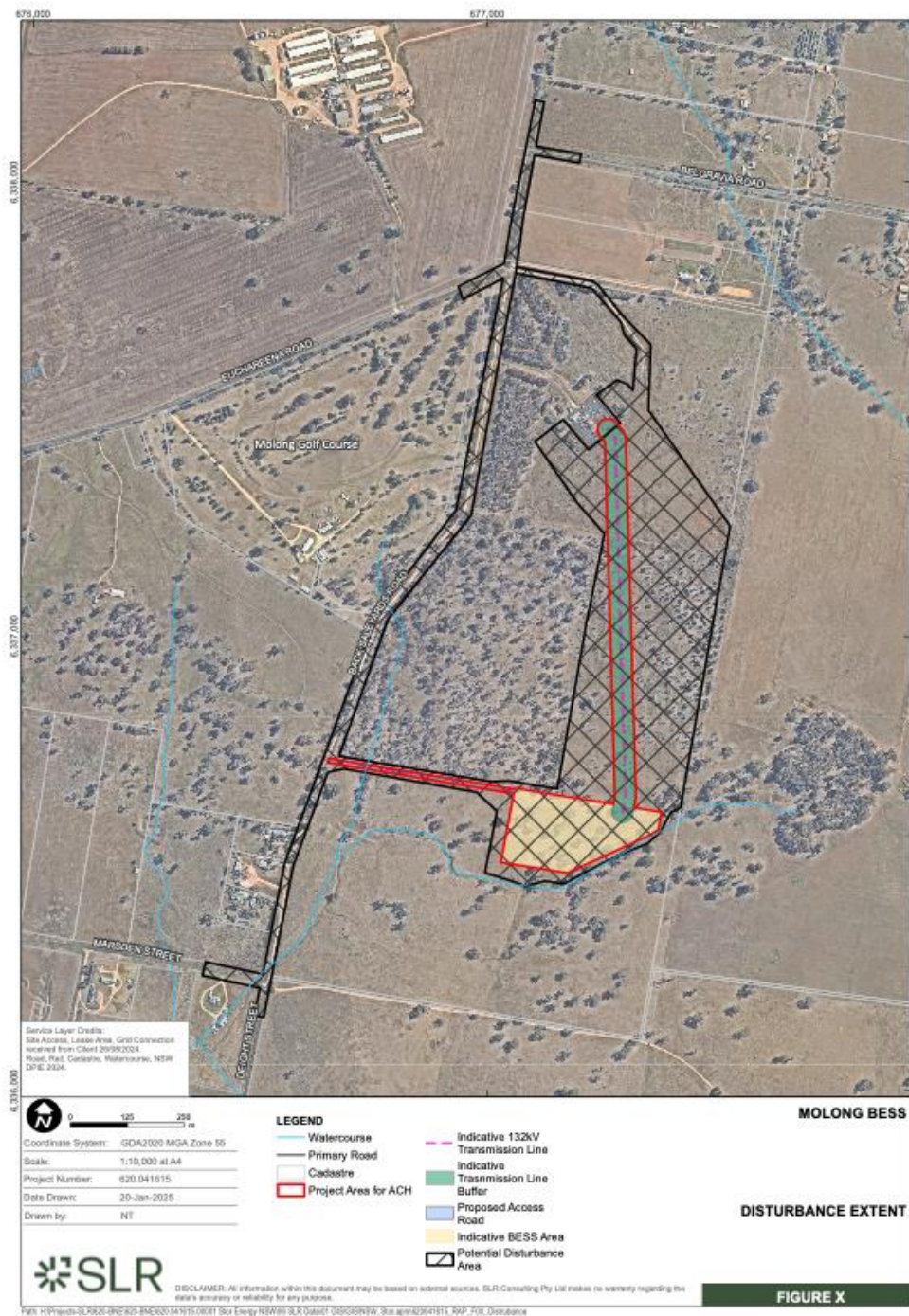


Figure 1. Molong BESS project area and location.

540 - Invitation to Register for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment, Molong NSW

From Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>

Date Thu 20/02/2025 4:17 PM

To reception@olalc.com.au <reception@olalc.com.au>

Cc Alice Buhrich <a.buhrich@virtusheritage.com.au>

 1 attachment (276 KB)

540_Molong_Invitation to Register_v1c_OrangeLALC.pdf;

Dear Orange LALC,

Virtus Heritage Pty Limited (Virtus Heritage) has been engaged by SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd on behalf of StorEnergy 3 Pty Ltd to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA). The ACHA is needed to support a Scoping Report and request for Secretary Environmental Assessment requirements (SEARs) for establishing a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility at Lot 99 on DP1020247 and Lot 1 on DP542283 (the project area) and connecting to Transgrid's Molong Substation at 1 Deight Street and 19 Back Saleyards Road, Molong, NSW 2866 via a 132kV overhead transmission line (the Project Area). The Project Area and Potential Disturbance Area is within the Cabonne Local Government Area.

Please see attached letter for the formal notification and an invitation to register your organisation for consultation for this project, including contact details and more detailed information as part of this invitation.

If Orange LALC would like register for consultation for this project, please provide their contact details to Virtus Heritage by **5:00pm on Thursday 6th March to consultation@virtusheritage.com.au**

If you would like to discuss this notification or have any questions about the proposed works, please contact Dr Alice Buhrich on (02) 6676 4354.

Thank you,



Virtus Heritage
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Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02) 6676 4354

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and emerging in maintaining the culture, country and their spiritual and historical connections to the lands and waters.

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Re: 540 - Invitation to Register for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment, Molong NSW

From Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>

Date Mon 3/03/2025 2:15 PM

To reception@olalc.com.au <reception@olalc.com.au>

Cc Alice Buhrich <a.buhrich@virtusheritage.com.au>

Good morning Orange LALC,

This is a reminder that if Orange LALC would like register for consultation for this project, please provide their contact details to Virtus Heritage by **5:00pm on Thursday 6th March to consultation@virtusheritage.com.au**

Thanks so much,



Virtus Heritage
CONSULTATION

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02) 6676 4354

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Virtus Heritage is committed to the spirit of reconciliation and acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians and the Traditional Custodians of the states and territories of Australia. We recognise the Traditional Owners of the lands we work within. We pay our respect to Elders past, present and emerging in maintaining the culture, country and their spiritual and historical connections to the lands and waters.

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From: Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>

Sent: 20 February 2025 4:17 PM

To: reception@olalc.com.au <reception@olalc.com.au>

Cc: Alice Buhrich <a.buhrich@virtusheritage.com.au>

Subject: 540 - Invitation to Register for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment, Molong NSW

Dear Orange LALC,

Virtus Heritage Pty Limited (Virtus Heritage) has been engaged by SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd on behalf of StorEnergy 3 Pty Ltd to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA). The ACHA is needed to support a Scoping Report and request for Secretary Environmental Assessment requirements (SEARs) for establishing a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility at Lot 99 on DP1020247 and Lot 1 on DP542283 (the project area) and connecting to Transgrid's Molong Substation at 1 Deight Street and 19 Back Saleyards Road, Molong, NSW 2866 via a 132kV overhead transmission line (the Project Area). The Project Area and Potential Disturbance Area is within the Cabonne Local Government Area.

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If Orange LALC would like register for consultation for this project, please provide their contact details to Virtus Heritage by **5:00pm on Thursday 6th March to consultation@virtusheritage.com.au**

If you would like to discuss this notification or have any questions about the proposed works, please contact Dr Alice Buhrich on (02) 6676 4354.

Thank you,



Virtus Heritage
CONSULTATION

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02) 6676 4354

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Virtus Heritage is committed to the spirit of reconciliation and acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians and the Traditional Custodians of the states and territories of Australia. We recognise the Traditional Owners of the lands we work within. We pay our respect to Elders past, present and emerging in maintaining the culture, country and their spiritual and historical connections to the lands and waters.

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540 - Invitation to Register for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment, Molong NSW

From Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>

Date Thu 20/02/2025 4:14 PM

To belljudy@yahoo.com.au <belljudy@yahoo.com.au>

Cc Alice Buhrich <a.buhrich@virtusheritage.com.au>

 1 attachment (276 KB)

540_Molong_Invitation to Register_v1c_JudyBell.pdf;

Dear Judy Bell,

Virtus Heritage Pty Limited (Virtus Heritage) has been engaged by SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd on behalf of StorEnergy 3 Pty Ltd to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA). The ACHA is needed to support a Scoping Report and request for Secretary Environmental Assessment requirements (SEARs) for establishing a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility at Lot 99 on DP1020247 and Lot 1 on DP542283 (the project area) and connecting to Transgrid's Molong Substation at 1 Deight Street and 19 Back Saleyards Road, Molong, NSW 2866 via a 132kV overhead transmission line (the Project Area). The Project Area and Potential Disturbance Area is within the Cabonne Local Government Area.

Please see attached letter for the formal notification and an invitation to register your organisation for consultation for this project, including contact details and more detailed information as part of this invitation.

If you'd like to register for consultation for this project, please provide their contact details to Virtus Heritage by **5:00pm on Thursday 6th March to consultation@virtusheritage.com.au**

If you would like to discuss this notification or have any questions about the proposed works, please contact Dr Alice Buhrich on (02) 6676 4354.

Thank you,



Virtus Heritage
CONSULTATION

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02) 6676 4354

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Re: 540 - Invitation to Register for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment, Molong NSW

From Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>

Date Mon 3/03/2025 2:15 PM

To belljudy@yahoo.com.au <belljudy@yahoo.com.au>

Cc Alice Buhrich <a.buhrich@virtusheritage.com.au>

Good afternoon Judy,

If you would like register for consultation for this project, please provide your contact details to Virtus Heritage by **5:00pm on Thursday 6th March to consultation@virtusheritage.com.au**

Thank you so much,



Virtus Heritage
CONSULTATION

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02) 6676 4354

VIRTUSHERITAGE.COM.AU

Virtus Heritage is committed to the spirit of reconciliation and acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians and the Traditional Custodians of the states and territories of Australia. We recognise the Traditional Owners of the lands we work within. We pay our respect to Elders past, present and emerging in maintaining the culture, country and their spiritual and historical connections to the lands and waters.

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From: Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>

Sent: 20 February 2025 4:14 PM

To: belljudy@yahoo.com.au <belljudy@yahoo.com.au>

Cc: Alice Buhrich <a.buhrich@virtusheritage.com.au>

Subject: 540 - Invitation to Register for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment, Molong NSW

Dear Judy Bell,

Virtus Heritage Pty Limited (Virtus Heritage) has been engaged by SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd on behalf of StorEnergy 3 Pty Ltd to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA). The ACHA

is needed to support a Scoping Report and request for Secretary Environmental Assessment requirements (SEARs) for establishing a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility at Lot 99 on DP1020247 and Lot 1 on DP542283 (the project area) and connecting to Transgrid's Molong Substation at 1 Deight Street and 19 Back Saleyards Road, Molong, NSW 2866 via a 132kV overhead transmission line (the Project Area). The Project Area and Potential Disturbance Area is within the Cabonne Local Government Area.

Please see attached letter for the formal notification and an invitation to register your organisation for consultation for this project, including contact details and more detailed information as part of this invitation.

If you'd like to register for consultation for this project, please provide their contact details to Virtus Heritage by **5:00pm on Thursday 6th March to consultation@virtusheritage.com.au**

If you would like to discuss this notification or have any questions about the proposed works, please contact Dr Alice Buhrich on (02) 6676 4354.

Thank you,



Virtus Heritage
CONSULTATION

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02) 6676 4354

VIRTUSHERITAGE.COM.AU

Virtus Heritage is committed to the spirit of reconciliation and acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians and the Traditional Custodians of the states and territories of Australia. We recognise the Traditional Owners of the lands we work within. We pay our respect to Elders past, present and emerging in maintaining the culture, country and their spiritual and historical connections to the lands and waters.

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540 - Invitation to Register for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment, Molong NSW

From Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>

Date Thu 20/02/2025 4:13 PM

To Girra Murun <girragirramurun@yahoo.com>

Cc Alice Buhrich <a.buhrich@virtusheritage.com.au>

 1 attachment (276 KB)

540_Molong_Invitation to Register_v1c_GirragirraMurun.pdf;

Dear Diana Astin,

Virtus Heritage Pty Limited (Virtus Heritage) has been engaged by SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd on behalf of StorEnergy 3 Pty Ltd to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA). The ACHA is needed to support a Scoping Report and request for Secretary Environmental Assessment requirements (SEARs) for establishing a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility at Lot 99 on DP1020247 and Lot 1 on DP542283 (the project area) and connecting to Transgrid's Molong Substation at 1 Deight Street and 19 Back Saleyards Road, Molong, NSW 2866 via a 132kV overhead transmission line (the Project Area). The Project Area and Potential Disturbance Area is within the Cabonne Local Government Area.

Please see attached letter for the formal notification and an invitation to register your organisation for consultation for this project, including contact details and more detailed information as part of this invitation.

If Girragirra Murun Aboriginal Corporation would like register for consultation for this project, please provide their contact details to Virtus Heritage by **5:00pm on Thursday 6th March to consultation@virtusheritage.com.au**

If you would like to discuss this notification or have any questions about the proposed works, please contact Dr Alice Buhrich on (02) 6676 4354.

Thank you,



Virtus Heritage
CONSULTATION

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02) 6676 4354

VIRTUSHERITAGE.COM.AU

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Diana Astin
PO Box 148
Wellington NSW 2820
e. girragirramurun@yahoo.com

20th February 2025

Dear Diana,

Subject: Notification and Invitation to participate in Aboriginal community consultation for the proposed BESS at Lot 99/DP1020247 and Lot 1/DP542283, Molong, NSW 2866

Virtus Heritage Pty Limited (hereafter, "Virtus Heritage") has been engaged by SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd on behalf of StorEnergy 3 Pty Ltd to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA). The ACHA is needed to support a Scoping Report and request for Secretary Environmental Assessment requirements (SEARs) for establishing a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility at Lot 99 on DP1020247 and Lot 1 on DP542283 (the project area) and connecting to Transgrid's Molong Substation at 1 Deight Street and 19 Back Saleyards Road, Molong, NSW 2866 via a 132kV overhead transmission line (the Project Area). The Project Area and Potential Disturbance Area is within the Cabonne Local Government Area (refer to **Figure 1**).

The proposed activities have the potential to impact Aboriginal objects. The proposed activities would involve:

- Transport of construction personnel, equipment and materials to and from the Project Area during construction (dependent on construction schedule), including all associated heavy and light vehicle traffic movements.
- Site establishment works including limited vegetation clearing within the Project Area, bulk earthworks and a temporary construction compound.
- Road works to formalise a new driveway crossing from Back Saleyards Road and internal site access road for construction purposes and ongoing access.
- Construction of hardstand/laydown areas, fencing, internal roads, control room, auxiliary transformer, battery enclosures, and inverter/transformer/switchgear stations (referred to as Power Conversion Stations (PCS)).
- Construction of approximately 900m of overhead 132 kV transmission line to facilitate connection to the existing Transgrid's Molong Substation and associated high voltage concrete or steel poles and wiring.
- Acoustic attenuation (to be determined as part of a detailed assessment).
- Construction of ancillary works including a parking area, water tank, Operations and Maintenance (O&M) building (including storage structures), stormwater management infrastructure, security lighting and fencing.
- Vegetative screening and landscaping.

- The installation of 264 BESS units (maximum) within individual, modular containers, on hardstand footings with a total capacity of 150 MW/730MWh.
- The installation of 50 inverters on hardstand footings.
- Installation of subsurface wiring infrastructure throughout the Indicative BESS area.
- Commissioning and testing of all installed equipment on the Project Area.

As a part of this assessment, Virtus Heritage is undertaking consultation with Aboriginal people according to NSW Environment and Heritage's *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents* (DECCW, 2010).

The purpose of Aboriginal community consultation is to:

- assist the proponent in understanding Aboriginal people's views and concerns (if any) about the project;
- afford an opportunity for Aboriginal people who hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal object(s) and/or place(s) on or near the proposed project area to be involved in consultation so that information about cultural significance is provided to Heritage NSW for decision making;
- provide Aboriginal people who hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal object(s) and/or place(s) on or near the proposed project area with the opportunity to participate in decision making about the management of their cultural heritage by providing the proponent information regarding cultural significance and feedback on management options;
- understand cultural values present in the area; and
- assist the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces in their consideration of the State Significant Development Application.

Virtus Heritage is seeking to identify Aboriginal persons who hold cultural knowledge relevant to this project area and who may wish to register an interest. Those who choose to register will have the opportunity to provide culturally appropriate information and to comment on the cultural heritage significance of Aboriginal objects and the area/s.

If you wish to register your interest to be consulted about this project, please provide your contact details by 5pm on 6th March 2025 to:

Dr Alice Buhrich, Principal Heritage Advisor or Lilith Malcolm, Archaeologist
Virtus Heritage
PO Box 101
Pottsville NSW 2489
Email: consultation@virtusheritage.com.au
Phone/Fax: (02) 6676 4354

Details for registration of your interest in consultation need to be sent in writing or via email/fax and should include:

- if you are a cultural knowledge holder or have historical connection to the proposed works areas (it is important you stipulate your connection to country to meet the NSW Environment and Heritage's consultation requirements and provide any relevant documentation with this statement i.e. native

title registration claims or details on family connections to country or Traditional Owner's authorisation for you to speak for country or a statement by yourself as a Traditional Owner);

- the name of the key contact person for your organisation or individual for all correspondence;
- if there is a representative representing a broader organisation – written nomination and endorsement of that representative from all represented parties/organisations;
- postal address;
- telephone contact numbers (mobile and landline);
- fax number; and
- email address (where available).

If you would like to discuss this notification or have any questions about the proposed works, please contact myself or Lilith Malcolm on (02) 6676 4354.

Sincerely,



Dr Alice Buhrich
Principal Archaeologist

Attached: Figure 1. Molong BESS project area and location.

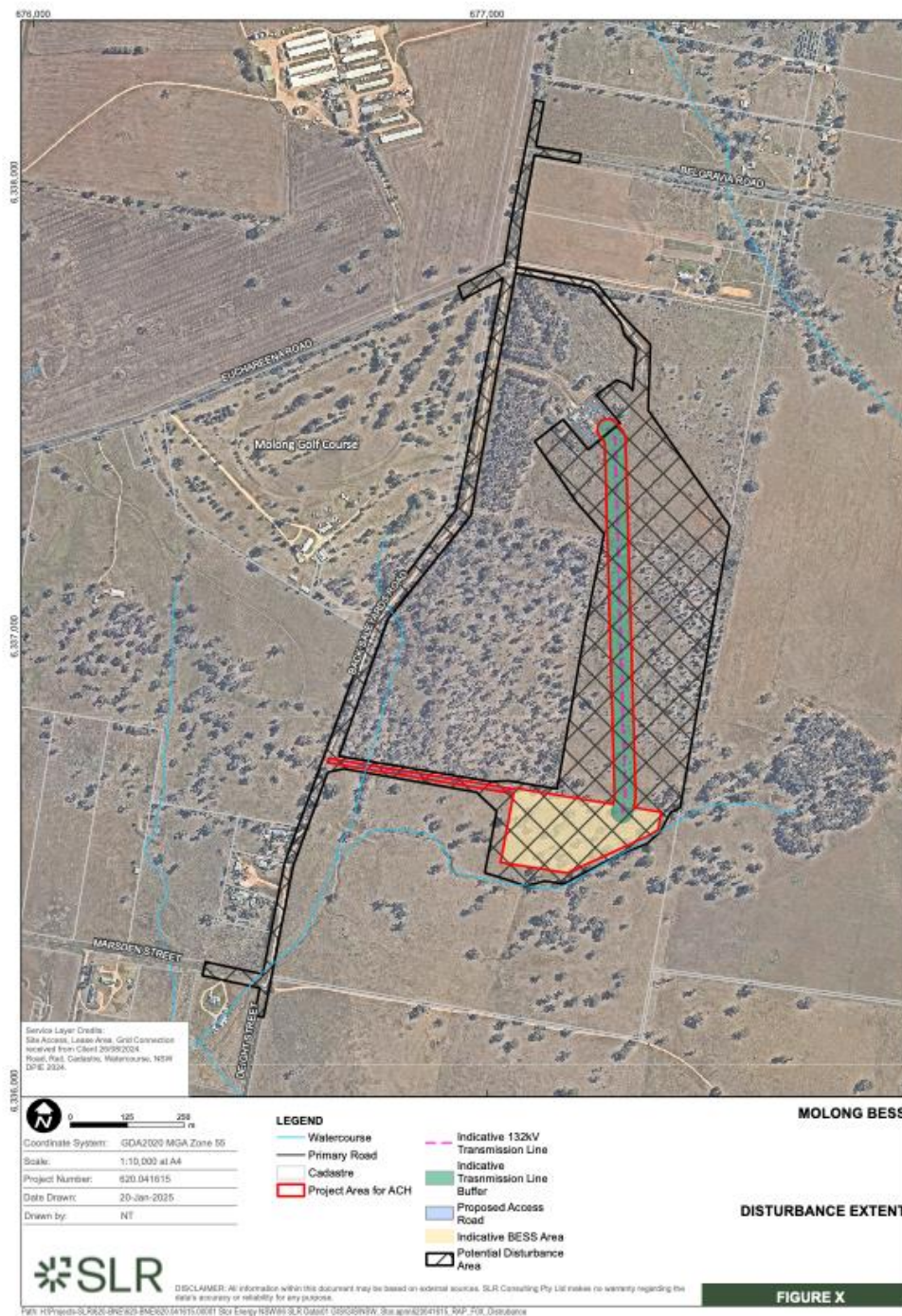


Figure 1. Molong BESS project area and location.

Responses - Invitation to Register

Re: 540 Molong BESS register in response to advertisement

From WVVAC Contact Officer <WVVAC@hotmail.com>
Date Thu 27/02/2025 9:15 AM
To Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>

Hi Alice,

Thank you and we are looking forward to being part of this project.

Regards

Bradley R Bliss J.P.
WVVAC CEO and Contact Officer
P.O. Box 1583
Orange NSW 2800
M: 0427321016

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From: Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 26 February 2025 15:18:38
To: WVVAC@hotmail.com <WVVAC@hotmail.com>
Subject: 540 Molong BESS register in response to advertisement

Dear Brad

Thank you for responding on behalf of the Wellington Valley Wiradjuri Aboriginal Corporation (WVVAC) to the public advertisement for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for the Molong Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project.

We have included WVVAC in the list of registered Aboriginal parties and you will receive further correspondence at this email address.

Best wishes
Alice Buhrich
Principal Archaeologist

Get [Outlook for Mac](#)

Re: 540 - Invitation to Register for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment, Molong NSW

From Girra Murun <girragirramurun@yahoo.com>

Date Wed 26/02/2025 9:04 AM

To Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>

Hi Anya,

Email is good. Mail can be sent to 28 Lang st Mudgee 2850.

Look forward to working with you.

Regards

Diana Astin

Girragirra Murun

[Yahoo Mail: Search, organise, conquer](#)

On Mon, 24 Feb 2025 at 8:22 am, Virtus Consultation
<consultation@virtusheritage.com.au> wrote:

Good morning Diana,

Thank you so much for registering Girragirra Murun, we are always honoured to work alongside you on projects - are you comfortable with receiving reports over email or would you like hard copies of reports mailed to you (and if so, what is the best address for us to reach you?)

Have a gorgeous Monday,

Anya Graubard



Virtus Heritage
CONSULTATION

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02) 6676 4354

VIRTUSHERITAGE.COM.AU

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From: Girra Murun <girragirramurun@yahoo.com>

Sent: 21 February 2025 8:29 PM

To: Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>

Subject: Re: 540 - Invitation to Register for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment, Molong NSW

Hi,

Would you please register Girragirra Murun as a RAP for this project.

Our families lived in Molong and surrounds for a very long time before moving to Wellington and Orange. Our Elders would sit around and yarn about the days of the water with great fish. They used to travel through and trade items with others who travelled down to the big lakes.

Look forward to working alongside you.

Regards

Diana Astin

Girragirra Murun

[Yahoo Mail: Search, organise, conquer](#)

On Thu, 20 Feb 2025 at 4:13 pm, Virtus Consultation
<consultation@virtusheritage.com.au> wrote:

Dear Diana Astin,

Virtus Heritage Pty Limited (Virtus Heritage) has been engaged by SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd on behalf of StorEnergy 3 Pty Ltd to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA). The ACHA is needed to support a Scoping Report and request for Secretary Environmental Assessment requirements (SEARs) for establishing a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility at Lot 99 on DP1020247 and Lot 1 on DP542283 (the project area) and connecting to Transgrid's Molong Substation at 1 Deight Street and 19 Back Saleyards Road, Molong, NSW 2866 via a 132kV overhead transmission line (the Project Area). The Project Area and Potential Disturbance Area is within the Cabonne Local Government Area.

Please see attached letter for the formal notification and an invitation to register your organisation for consultation for this project, including contact details and more detailed information as part of this invitation.

If Girragirra Murun Aboriginal Corporation would like register for consultation for this project, please provide their contact details to Virtus Heritage by **5:00pm on Thursday 6th March to consultation@virtusheritage.com.au**

If you would like to discuss this notification or have any questions about the proposed works, please contact Dr Alice Buhrich on (02) 6676 4354.

Thank you,



Virtus Heritage CONSULTATION

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02) 6676 4354

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Re: 540 - Invitation to Register for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment, Molong NSW

From Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>

Date Mon 10/03/2025 8:01 AM

To Judy Bell <belljudy@yahoo.com.au>

Cc Alice Buhrich <a.buhrich@virtusheritage.com.au>

Good morning Judy,

Thank you so much for registering - we have noted it and will be in touch with more project information in the next few weeks. Have a beautiful rest of your week!

Cheers,

Anya Graubard



Virtus Heritage
CONSULTATION

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02) 6676 4354

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From: Judy Bell <belljudy@yahoo.com.au>

Sent: 07 March 2025 6:01 PM

To: Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>

Cc: Alice Buhrich <a.buhrich@virtusheritage.com.au>

Subject: Re: 540 - Invitation to Register for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment, Molong NSW

Good afternoon.

Just confirming that you received the registration of interest for Judy Bell (Mirrabee)

Please advise when you can, and if you require any further information.

Thanks

Judy Bell

[Yahoo Mail: Search, organise, conquer](#)

On Mon, 3 Mar 2025 at 2:15 pm, Virtus Consultation
<consultation@virtusheritage.com.au> wrote:

Good afternoon Judy,

If you would like register for consultation for this project, please provide your contact details to Virtus Heritage by **5:00pm on Thursday 6th March** to **consultation@virtusheritage.com.au**

Thank you so much,



Virtus Heritage
CONSULTATION

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02) 6676 4354

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From: Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>

Sent: 20 February 2025 4:14 PM

To: belljudy@yahoo.com.au <belljudy@yahoo.com.au>

Cc: Alice Buhrich <a.buhrich@virtusheritage.com.au>

Subject: 540 - Invitation to Register for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment, Molong NSW

Dear Judy Bell,

Virtus Heritage Pty Limited (Virtus Heritage) has been engaged by SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd on behalf of StorEnergy 3 Pty Ltd to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA). The ACHA is needed to support a Scoping Report and request for Secretary Environmental Assessment

requirements (SEARs) for establishing a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility at Lot 99 on DP1020247 and Lot 1 on DP542283 (the project area) and connecting to Transgrid's Molong Substation at 1 Deight Street and 19 Back Saleyards Road, Molong, NSW 2866 via a 132kV overhead transmission line (the Project Area). The Project Area and Potential Disturbance Area is within the Cabonne Local Government Area.

Please see attached letter for the formal notification and an invitation to register your organisation for consultation for this project, including contact details and more detailed information as part of this invitation.

If you'd like to register for consultation for this project, please provide their contact details to Virtus Heritage by **5:00pm on Thursday 6th March to consultation@virtusheritage.com.au**

If you would like to discuss this notification or have any questions about the proposed works, please contact Dr Alice Buhrich on (02) 6676 4354.

Thank you,



Virtus Heritage
CONSULTATION

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02) 6676 4354

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Re: 540 - Invitation to Register for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment, Molong NSW

From Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>

Date Mon 3/03/2025 2:15 PM

To reception@olalc.com.au <reception@olalc.com.au>

Cc Alice Buhrich <a.buhrich@virtusheritage.com.au>

Good morning Orange LALC,

This is a reminder that if Orange LALC would like register for consultation for this project, please provide their contact details to Virtus Heritage by **5:00pm on Thursday 6th March to consultation@virtusheritage.com.au**

Thanks so much,



Virtus Heritage
CONSULTATION

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02) 6676 4354

V I R T U S H E R I T A G E . C O M . A U

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From: Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>

Sent: 20 February 2025 4:17 PM

To: reception@olalc.com.au <reception@olalc.com.au>

Cc: Alice Buhrich <a.buhrich@virtusheritage.com.au>

Subject: 540 - Invitation to Register for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment, Molong NSW

Dear Orange LALC,

Virtus Heritage Pty Limited (Virtus Heritage) has been engaged by SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd on behalf of StorEnergy 3 Pty Ltd to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA). The ACHA is needed to support a Scoping Report and request for Secretary Environmental Assessment requirements (SEARs) for establishing a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility at Lot 99 on DP1020247 and Lot 1 on DP542283 (the project area) and connecting to Transgrid's Molong Substation at 1 Deight Street and 19 Back Saleyards Road, Molong, NSW 2866 via a 132kV overhead transmission line (the Project Area). The Project Area and Potential Disturbance Area is within the Cabonne Local Government Area.

Please see attached letter for the formal notification and an invitation to register your organisation for consultation for this project, including contact details and more detailed information as part of this invitation.

If Orange LALC would like register for consultation for this project, please provide their contact details to Virtus Heritage by **5:00pm on Thursday 6th March to consultation@virtusheritage.com.au**

If you would like to discuss this notification or have any questions about the proposed works, please contact Dr Alice Buhrich on (02) 6676 4354.

Thank you,



Virtus Heritage
CONSULTATION

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02) 6676 4354

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Re: 540 - Invitation to Register for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment, Molong NSW

From Ray Moon <wingarrawilay@yahoo.com>

Date Fri 21/02/2025 8:20 PM

To Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>

Hi, Anna,

You can email it if you like.

Regards

Ray Moon

Wingarra wilay

[Yahoo Mail: Search, organise, conquer](#)

On Thu, 20 Feb 2025 at 4:30 pm, Virtus Consultation
<consultation@virtusheritage.com.au> wrote:

Good afternoon Ray,

Thanks so much for registering for this project, we are really grateful and look forward to working with you.

Are you comfortable with project information and reports sent over email or would you like hard copies mailed to you (and if so could you please let me know the best mailing address for you)?

Have a beautiful rest of your Thursday,

Anya Graubard

Senior Anthropologist



Virtus Heritage
CONSULTATION

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02) 6676 4354

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From: Ray Moon <wingarrawilay@yahoo.com>

Sent: 20 February 2025 4:26 PM

To: Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>

Subject: Re: 540 - Invitation to Register for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment, Molong NSW

Good afternoon,

Wingarra Wilay Aboriginal Corporation would like to register as a RAP for this project. My family has a long history within Molong - Wellington area and I and my family still live within here. Molong was a stop over place for our ancestors whilst they travelled down to Lake Lyell area for trade purposes.

Ray Moon
Wingarra Wilay
0433 537 791
wingarrawilay@yahoo.com
contact admin officer

Please let me know if you require anything further.

Regards
Ray Moon
Wingarra Wilay

[Yahoo Mail: Search, organise, conquer](#)

On Thu, 20 Feb 2025 at 4:15 pm, Virtus Consultation
<consultation@virtusheritage.com.au> wrote:

Dear Raymond Moon,

Virtus Heritage Pty Limited (Virtus Heritage) has been engaged by SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd on behalf of StorEnergy 3 Pty Ltd to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA). The ACHA is needed to support a Scoping Report and request for Secretary Environmental Assessment requirements (SEARs) for establishing a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility at Lot 99 on DP1020247 and Lot 1 on DP542283 (the project area) and connecting to Transgrid's Molong Substation at 1 Deight Street and 19 Back Saleyards Road, Molong, NSW 2866 via a 132kV overhead transmission line (the Project Area). The Project Area and Potential Disturbance Area is within the Cabonne Local Government Area.

Please see attached letter for the formal notification and an invitation to register your organisation for consultation for this project, including contact details and more detailed information as part of this invitation.

If you'd like to register for consultation for this project, please provide their contact details to Virtus Heritage by **5:00pm on Thursday 6th March to consultation@virtusheritage.com.au**

If you would like to discuss this notification or have any questions about the proposed works, please contact Dr Alice Buhrich on (02) 6676 4354.

Thank you,



Virtus Heritage
CONSULTATION

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02) 6676 4354

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HNSW and LALC notifications

540 - HNSW Notification - Registered Aboriginal Parties - ACHA in Molong, NSW

From Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>

Date Tue 11/03/2025 8:44 AM

To OEH HD Heritage Mailbox <heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au>

Cc Alice Buhrich <a.buhrich@virtusheritage.com.au>

 2 attachments (6 MB)

540_Agency Notification_OLALC.pdf; 015_CW_A_20022025.pdf;

Good morning,

Virtus Heritage has been engaged by SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd on behalf of StorEnergy 3 Pty Ltd to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA). The ACHA is needed to support a Scoping Report and request for Secretary Environmental Assessment requirements (SEARs) for establishing a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility at Lot 99 on DP1020247 and Lot 1 on DP542283 and connecting to Transgrid's Molong Substation at 1 Deight Street and 19 Back Saleyards Road, Molong, NSW 2866 (the project area) via a 132kV overhead transmission line

This email provides 540 - HNSW Notification - Registered Aboriginal Parties - ACHA in Molong, NSW formal notification to the Department and Orange Local Aboriginal Land Council as per the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water's Aboriginal consultation requirements for proponents (ACHRs), Section 4.1.6, that **5 parties** (including the OLALC) have registered to date for Aboriginal consultation for this project:

Organisation	Contact
Wingarra Wilay Aboriginal Corporation	Raymond Moon
Girragirra Murun Aboriginal Corporation	Diana Astin
Wellington Valley Wiradjury Aboriginal Corporation	Brad Bliss (CEO)
Orange LALC	Ben
Judy Bell (Mirrabee)	Judy Bell

We have also attached, as per ACHRs Section 4.1.3, a copy of the Invitation to Register (see example attached) sent to all RAPs and a copy of the public advertisement (see tearsheet attached) placed in the Central Western Daily (digital) on 27th 20th February 2025.

Thank you,



Virtus Heritage

CONSULTATION

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02) 6676 4354

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540 - OLALC Notification - Registered Aboriginal Parties - ACHA in Molong, NSW

From Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>

Date Tue 11/03/2025 8:44 AM

To reception@olalc.com.au <reception@olalc.com.au>

Cc Alice Buhrich <a.buhrich@virtusheritage.com.au>

 2 attachments (6 MB)

540_Agency Notification_OLALC.pdf; 015_CW_A_20022025.pdf;

Good morning Orange LALC,

Virtus Heritage has been engaged by SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd on behalf of StorEnergy 3 Pty Ltd to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA). The ACHA is needed to support a Scoping Report and request for Secretary Environmental Assessment requirements (SEARs) for establishing a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility at Lot 99 on DP1020247 and Lot 1 on DP542283 and connecting to Transgrid's Molong Substation at 1 Deight Street and 19 Back Saleyards Road, Molong, NSW 2866 (the project area) via a 132kV overhead transmission line

This email provides formal notification to the Department and Orange Local Aboriginal Land Council as per the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water's Aboriginal consultation requirements for proponents (ACHRs), Section 4.1.6, that **5 parties** (including the OLALC) have registered to date for Aboriginal consultation for this project:

Organisation	Contact
Wingarra Wilay Aboriginal Corporation	Raymond Moon
Girragirra Murun Aboriginal Corporation	Diana Astin
Wellington Valley Wiradjury Aboriginal Corporation	Brad Bliss (CEO)
Orange LALC	Ben
Judy Bell (Mirrabee)	Judy Bell

We have also attached, as per ACHRs Section 4.1.3, a copy of the Invitation to Register (see example attached) sent to all RAPs and a copy of the public advertisement (see tearsheet attached) placed in the Central Western Daily (digital) on 27th 20th February 2025.

Thank you,



Virtus Heritage CONSULTATION

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
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WIRADJURI ABORIGINAL CORP
BRAD BLISS

For the attention of

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PO BOX 1583

Suburb or town

ORANGE

State

NSW

2

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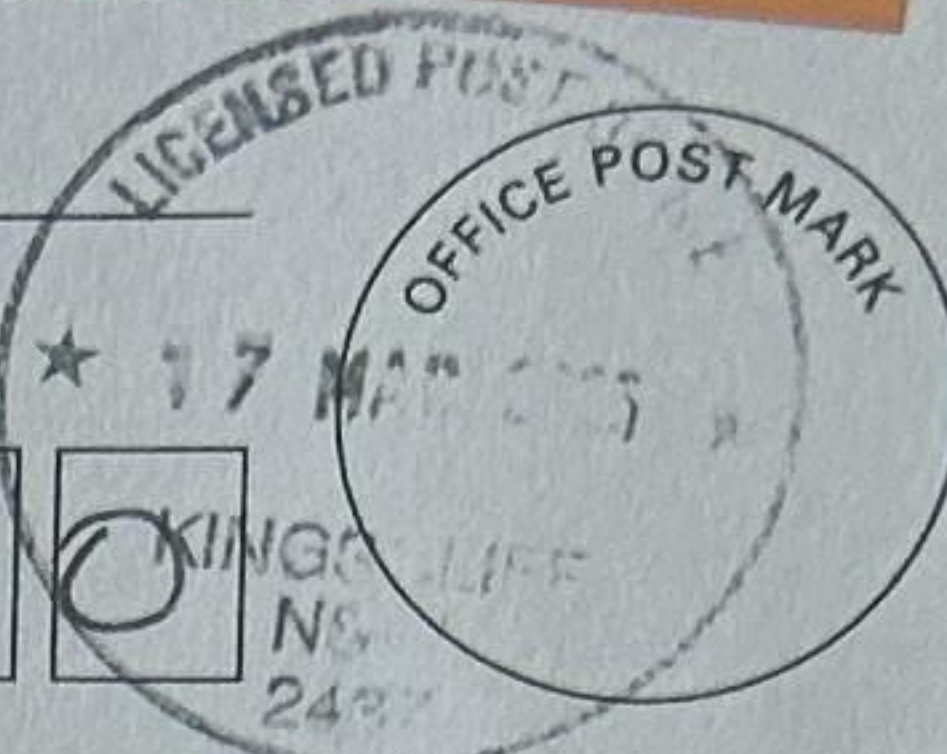
Sender's name

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Date

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RPP44 63900 05100 34023 16609



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ORANGE

State

NSW

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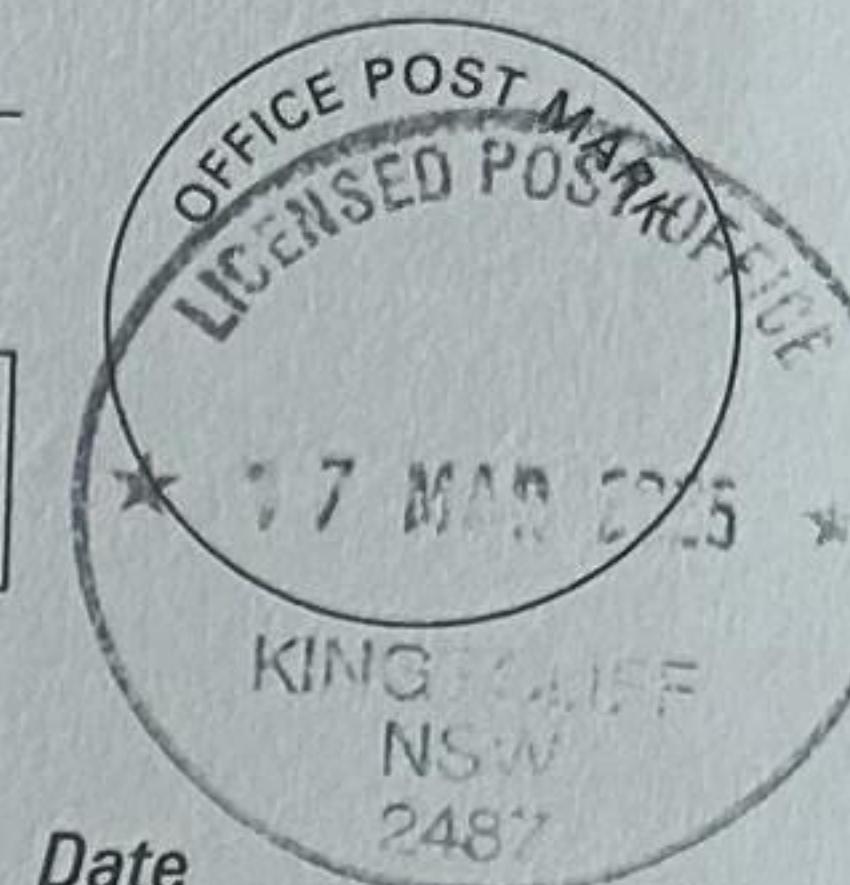
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Item addressed to:

Company name

GIRRA GIRRA MURUN
ABORIGINAL CORP

For the attention of

DIANA ASTIN

PO Box number or street address

28 LANG ST

Suburb or town

MUDGEE

State

NSW

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Registered Post – Lodgement Receipt

Item addressed to:

Company name

WINDARRA WILAY ABORIGINAL
CORPORATION

For the attention of

RAYMOND MOON

PO Box number or street address

PO Box 148

Suburb or town

WELLINGTON

State

NSW

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☐ Person to Person

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Registered Post – Lodgement Receipt

Item addressed to:

Company name

JUDY BELL

For the attention of

PO Box number or street address

SWILLAROO ST

Suburb or town

PEAK HILL

State

NSW

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540 - Presentation of Project Information and Draft Project Methodology - Molong BESS ACHA

From Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au>

Date Fri 3/14/2025 7:03 PM

To girragirramurun@yahoo.com <girragirramurun@yahoo.com>

Cc Anya Graubard <a.graubard@virtusheritage.com.au>; Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>; Lilith Malcolm <l.malcolm@virtusheritage.com.au>; Oliver Coleman <oliver.coleman@stor-energy.com>; Ursula McInnes <umcInnes@slrconsulting.com>

 2 attachments (4 MB)

540_GirraGirra_PPI.pdf; 540_GirraGirra_SS.pdf;

Dear Diana,

Thank you for registering for Aboriginal consultation for the preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) needed to support a Scoping Report and request for Secretary Environmental Assessment requirements (SEARs) for establishing a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility at Lot 99 on DP1020247 and Lot 1 on DP542283 (the project area) and connecting to Transgrid's Molong Substation at 1 Deight Street and 19 Back Saleyards Road, Molong, NSW 2866 via a 132kV overhead transmission line (the Project Area).

As previously communicated, Virtus Heritage has been engaged by SLR to undertake the ACHA, including an Archaeological Assessment (AA). In accordance with the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water's Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents (ACHCRs) (DECCW 2010), Section 4.2, Stage 2, this letter presents information on the proposed works to all registered Aboriginal parties.

Please see the attached draft Presentation Project Information Letter and the draft Project Methodology & Survey Strategy, and relevant figures for your review & comment.

Following Heritage NSW's ACHCRs, RAPs for this project have a minimum of 28 days to review the draft survey strategy and project methodology for the ACHA and provide comment and input. The closing date for comments by **5pm on 11th April 2025**.

Please provide your written or verbal comments to:

Lilith Malcolm
Virtus Heritage
PO Box 101
Pottsville NSW 2489
Phone/Fax: (02) 6676 4354
Email: consultation@virtusheritage.com.au

Thank you,



Virtus Heritage CONSULTATION

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02) 6676 4354

VIRTUSHERITAGE.COM.AU

Virtus Heritage is committed to the spirit of reconciliation and acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians and the Traditional Custodians of the states and territories of Australia. We recognise the Traditional Owners of the lands we work within. We pay our respect to Elders past, present and emerging in maintaining the culture, country and their spiritual and historical connections to the lands and waters.

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Girragirra Murun Aboriginal Corporation
Diana Astin
e. girragirramurun@yahoo.com

14th March 2025

Dear Diana,

Subject: Presentation of project information for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for a proposed BESS at Lot 99 DP 1020247 and Lot 1 DP 542283, Molong, NSW

Thank you for registering for Aboriginal consultation for the preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd (SLR) on behalf of Storenergy 3 Pty Ltd (Storenergy) for a proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility at Lot 99 DP 1020247 and Lot 1 DP 542283, Molong NSW (the project area, refer to Figure 1). The proposed works will be impacting two Aboriginal sites identified in a previous preliminary site inspection (described in (a) below). These sites have been lodged and are currently under review by AHIMS Quarantine Station.

As outlined in earlier correspondence, Virtus Heritage has been engaged by SLR to prepare the ACHA, including an archaeological assessment, to support an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a State Significant Development (SSD). As part of the requirements of the Heritage NSW's *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents* (DECCW, 2010), Section 4.2, Stage 2, this letter presents information on the proposed works to all registered Aboriginal parties.

The purpose of this letter is to provide information supplied by the proponent to:

- a) present the proposal, outline project details relevant to the nature, scope, methodology, and environmental and other impacts;
- b) outline the impact assessment process including the input points into the investigation and assessment activities;
- c) specify critical timelines and milestones for the completion of assessment activities and delivery of reports;
- d) specify proposed roles, functions and responsibilities for the project for discussion and comment by registered Aboriginal parties; and
- e) provide an opportunity for registered Aboriginal parties to identify, raise and discuss their cultural concerns, perspectives and assessment requirements (if any).

a) The Proposal, Project Details and Project Impacts

The proposal site is within the Cabonne Shire Local Government Area (refer to **Figure 1**) and includes the proposed activities:

- Transport of construction personnel, equipment and materials to and from the Project Area during construction (dependent on construction schedule), including all associated heavy and light vehicle traffic movements.

- Site establishment works including limited vegetation clearing within the Project Area, bulk earthworks and a temporary construction compound and soil testing, if necessitated
- Road works to formalise a new driveway crossing from Back Saleyards Road and internal site access road for construction purposes and ongoing access.
- Construction of hardstand/laydown areas, fencing, internal roads, control room, auxiliary transformer, battery enclosures, and inverter/transformer/switchgear stations (referred to as Power Conversion Stations (PCS)).
- Construction of approximately 900m of overhead 132 kV transmission line to facilitate connection to the existing Transgrid's Molong Substation and associated high voltage concrete or steel poles and wiring.
- Acoustic attenuation (to be determined as part of a detailed assessment).
- Construction of ancillary works including a parking area, water tank, Operations and Maintenance (O&M) building (including storage structures), stormwater management infrastructure, security lighting and fencing.
- Vegetative screening and landscaping.
- The installation of 264 BESS units (maximum) within individual, modular containers, on hardstand footings with a total capacity of 150 MW/730MWh.
- The installation of 50 inverters on hardstand footings.
- Installation of subsurface wiring infrastructure throughout the Indicative BESS area.
- Commissioning and testing of all installed equipment on the Project Area.

The proposed activity includes significant earthworks and is anticipated to take 18 months beginning in 2027.

An AHIMS search and searches of the Australian Heritage Database, NSW State Heritage Inventory and the Cabonne Shire Local Environment Plan have been completed. Of the 44 sites identified in the AHIMS search area, none are located within the project area, and one (AHIMS # 44-1-0056) is located approximately 110 metres east of the project area.

AHIMS # 44-1-0056 'IF1' was recorded by Navin Officer in 2002. This isolated find is a dark grey basalt/andesite anvil stone, described as:

A small anvil stone manufactured from a dark grey basalt pebble exposed on the surface of a cultivated paddock. The pebble was possible procured from an outcrop of andesite cobble and boulders which occur approximately 2.2 km to the southeast of the site.

The artefact is situated on a hill-crest approximately 17 m north of the existing 94T line (15 metres north of a survey peg bearing the number '466')...

An additional two sites were identified during the preliminary site inspection within the project area in December 2024. These sites include a grinding stone and a core. Both sites were identified within the proposed works footprint and will be impacted by this project.

The project area sits within a wider Aboriginal cultural heritage landscape that is rich in Aboriginal history and heritage. Including Yuranigh's Aboriginal Grave Historic Site, that holds significant state-wide cultural, historical, social, educational and archaeological value. Yuranigh's grave is located approximately 3.5 kilometres from the current project area and contains four carved trees that 'are extremely rare' (NSW NPWS 1999:4).

The activity therefore has the potential to impact Aboriginal cultural heritage values. Aboriginal objects and archaeological deposits where they survive. Further information regarding the project, its landscape, historical and archaeological context is provided in the survey methodology attachment.

b) Outline the impact assessment process including the input points into the investigation and assessment activities;

The impacts of this project on Aboriginal heritage are being determined through the preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment by Virtus Heritage. The broader environmental impact assessment process and overall project is being managed by SLR on behalf of Stor-Energy as the proponent.

Registered Aboriginal parties have several input points into the investigation and assessment activities for this project, including:

- Review and comment on presentation of project information supplied in this letter;
- Opportunity to discuss with Virtus Heritage or SLR this project information at any time during the duration of the project and record comments and input;
- Review, comment and provide cultural information regarding the project and input on cultural heritage management on a draft methodology for the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment within a minimum 28-day comment period;
- Opportunity to be involved in the Aboriginal heritage survey of the project area (date to be confirmed) and to provide cultural information and input into the assessment.
- If archaeological testing and / or salvage is required, an archaeological testing and/ or salvage excavation methodology would be prepared and provided to Registered Aboriginal Parties for review (noting that an AHIP would not be required for an SSD project).
- Review of a draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for comment;
- Receipt of all copies of a final Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment
- Review of the EIS during public exhibition on the Major Projects website

(c) Specify critical timelines and milestones for the completion of assessment activities and delivery of reports

Critical timelines for the completion of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment follows OEH's Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements (DECCW, 2010).

A minimum of 28 days will be provided for registered Aboriginal parties to review of the draft methodology for the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment and the draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment report. However, if comments on the methodology for the ACHA are provided within two weeks, the proposed survey for this project can be undertaken earlier. Please notify me as soon as possible if there are critical days that need to be taken into account in this timeframe (for example, commemorative days, sorry business etc).

(d) Specify proposed roles, functions and responsibilities for the project for discussion and comment by registered Aboriginal parties;

We recognise that registered Aboriginal parties have an integral role in the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment process and are the primary determinants of the significance of their heritage. Registered Aboriginal parties will be afforded the opportunity as part of the consultation process to provide cultural information on the project area, to be involved in the review and comment of all documentation for the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment, to be involved in fieldwork and to provide input and comment into potential management options for any identified cultural heritage values.

Virtus Heritage will carry out Aboriginal consultation for this project and undertake the preparation of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment and subsequent consent documentation, in consultation with registered Aboriginal parties.

Stor-Energy is responsible for the co-ordination of the broader project and has engaged Virtus Heritage to undertake Aboriginal consultation. Stor-Energy will be undertaking the proposed works for this project, once approved.

The contacts for this project are:

Lilith Malcolm (Archaeologist) and Dr Mary-Jean Sutton (Director)
Virtus Heritage
Postal Address: PO Box 101 Pottsville NSW 2489
Email: consultation@virtusheritage.com.au
Phone/Fax: (02) 6676 4354

The commercial engagement of registered Aboriginal parties for this project will be Stor-Energy. The Stor-Energy contact for commercial engagement is:

*Oliver Coleman
StorEnergy 3 Pty Ltd
1800 920 060
information@molong-battery.com.au*

Gender and other Culturally Sensitive Information

We understand that there may be times where registered Aboriginal parties may have information about a project which is culturally or gender sensitive. If registered Aboriginal parties wish to provide cultural information which they do not want to be made public or which is gender sensitive, provision can be made to record this information as confidential as part of the reporting process but without inclusion in the public versions of the report. Female and male archaeologists or representatives of Virtus Heritage and SLR can also be made available to record or discuss gender sensitive information during the life of the project, depending on the wishes of registered Aboriginal parties. Please contact me directly to discuss this issue further, if it is of concern.

Please let us know as soon as possible if there is gender sensitive information and a male archaeologist is required, so we can make appropriate arrangements.



(e) Provide an opportunity for registered Aboriginal parties to identify, raise and discuss their cultural concerns, perspectives and assessment requirements (if any).

Please contact Virtus Heritage directly to identify, raise and discuss cultural concerns, perspectives and assessment requirements (if any). We will also attempt to call you early next week to discuss any potential issues, perspectives and assessment requirements.

If you would like to discuss this letter or have any questions about the proposed works, please contact me or Lilith Malcolm (Archaeologist) on (02) 6676 4354.

Yours sincerely,

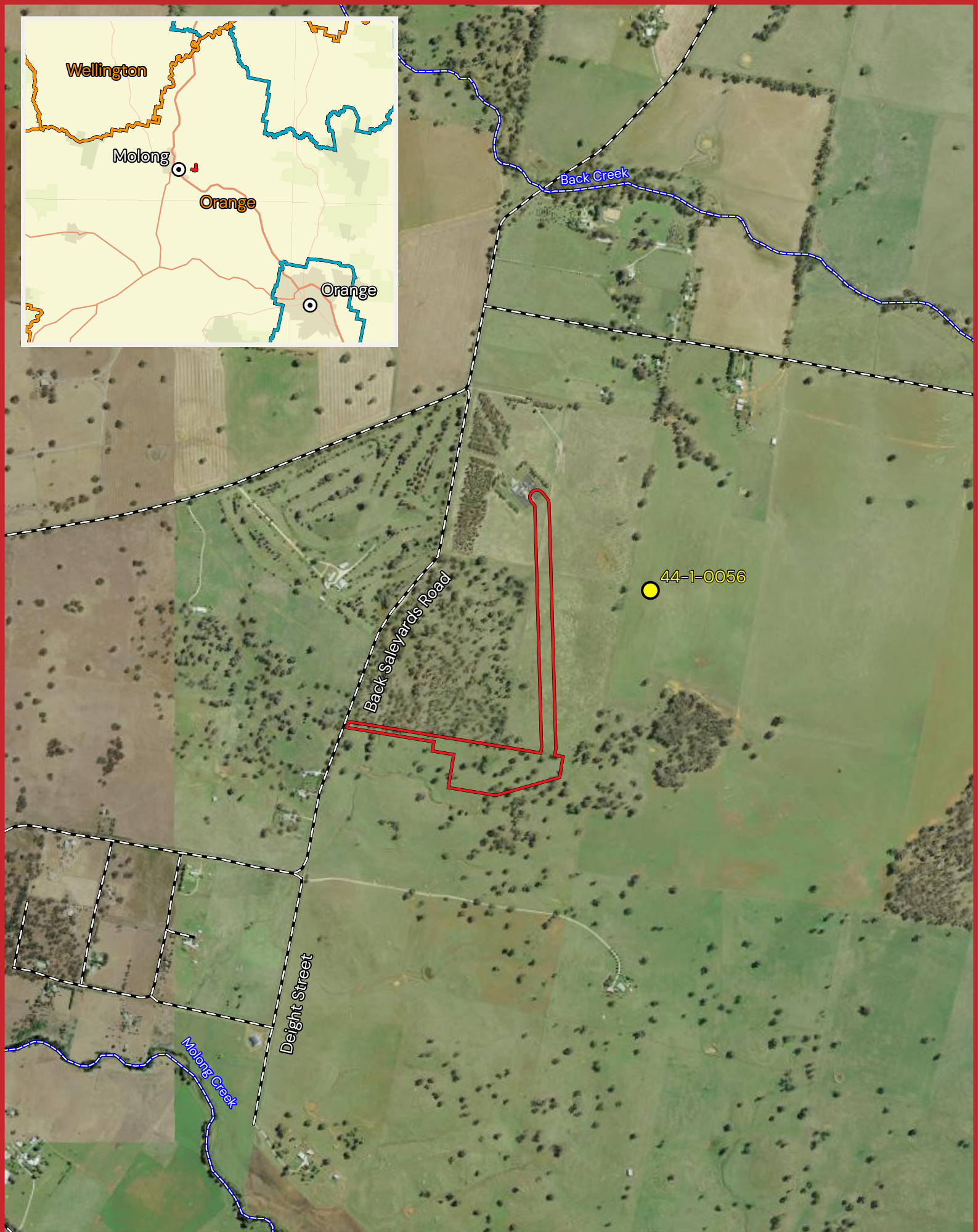
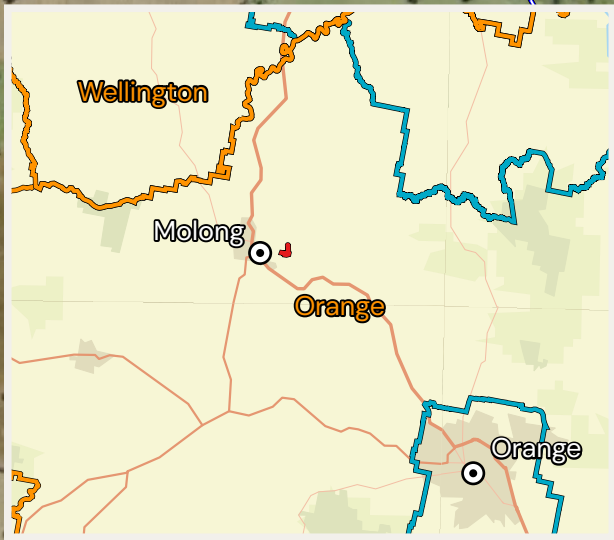
Mary-Jean Sutton

Dr Mary-Jean Sutton

Director

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW

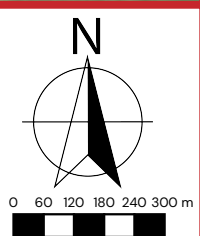
(02) 6676 4354



540 Stor Energy Molong
Molong, NSW
Figure 1. Project Area and Locality

Author: Shaun Sewell
 Date: 26/02/2025
 Scale: 1:15000 @ A4
 Datum: GDA2020 / MGA zone 55
 Source: Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, © Department of Customer Service - Spatial Services 2024
 Maps and figures contained within this document may be based on third party data, may not be to scale and are intended for use as a guide only. Virtus Heritage does not warrant the accuracy of such maps or figures.

- Legend**
- Project Area
 - Local Aboriginal Land Councils
 - Cabonne Shire Council
 - Roads
 - Named Watercourse
 - Cities and Towns
 - AHIMS Sites



Girragirra Murun Aboriginal Corporation
Diana Astin
e. girragirramurun@yahoo.com

14th March 2025

Dear Diana,

Subject: Draft Survey Strategy and Project Methodology for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for the proposed BESS at Lot 99 DP 1020247 and Lot 1 DP 542283, Molong, NSW

Thank you for registering for Aboriginal consultation for the preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) to support an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a State Significant Development (SSD) for a proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility at Lot 99 DP 1020247 and Lot 1 DP 542283, Molong NSW (the project area, refer to Figure 1).

As outlined in earlier correspondence, Virtus Heritage Pty Limited (hereafter Virtus Heritage) has been engaged by SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd (SLR) on behalf of Storenergy 3 Pty Ltd (Stor-Energy) to prepare the ACHA, including an archaeological assessment. Virtus Heritage is undertaking consultation with Aboriginal people in accordance with Heritage NSW's *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents* (DECCW, 2010). This presentation of the draft survey strategy and project methodology for your comment is being undertaken in accordance with Section 4.3, Stage 3 of these requirements.

BACKGROUND AND PROJECT IMPACTS

The proposal site is within the Cabonne Shire Local Government Area (refer to Figure 1) and includes the proposed activities:

- Transport of construction personnel, equipment and materials to and from the Project Area during construction (dependent on construction schedule), including all associated heavy and light vehicle traffic movements.
- Site establishment works including limited vegetation clearing within the Project Area, bulk earthworks and a temporary construction compound and soil testing.
- Road works to formalise a new driveway crossing from Back Saleyards Road and internal site access road for construction purposes and ongoing access.
- Construction of hardstand/laydown areas, fencing, internal roads, control room, auxiliary transformer, battery enclosures, and inverter/transformer/switchgear stations (referred to as Power Conversion Stations (PCS)).
- Construction of approximately 900m of overhead 132 kV transmission line to facilitate connection to the existing Transgrid's Molong Substation and associated high voltage concrete or steel poles and wiring.
- Acoustic attenuation (to be determined as part of a detailed assessment).

- Construction of ancillary works including a parking area, water tank, Operations and Maintenance (O&M) building (including storage structures), stormwater management infrastructure, security lighting and fencing.
- Vegetative screening and landscaping.
- The installation of 264 BESS units (maximum) within individual, modular containers, on hardstand footings with a total capacity of 150 MW/730MWh.
- The installation of 50 inverters on hardstand footings.
- Installation of subsurface wiring infrastructure throughout the Indicative BESS area.
- Commissioning and testing of all installed equipment on the Project Area.

The proposed activity includes earthworks and has the potential to impact Aboriginal objects and archaeological deposits.

LANDSCAPE HISTORY

Soil profiles

The soils of the project area are mapped within the eSpade v2.2 dataset as Molong soil landscape. The main soils within this are Euchrozems. Non-calcic brown soils and yellow podzolic soils are found mainly on lower slopes within this soil landscape.

Euchrozems is a great soil group of the Ferrosols order. Isbell (2002:41) describes Ferrosols as “soils with B2 horizons which are high to free iron oxide, and which lack strong texture contrast between A and B horizons”. These soils are very acidic and high aluminium toxicity potential (NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment n.d.).

The acidic soils associated with Ferrosol soils can impact the survival of organic Aboriginal heritage/objects (e.g. wooden implements) within a project area.

Geology

The project area is located within the Molong soil landscape and the Cargo Andesite geological unit. Andesite is an extrusive rock of intermediate composition. The project area is additionally located within the Fairbridge Volcanics. This unit is described as ‘regionally extensive unit dominated by pillow basalt and monomict breccia with large (up to 2mm) clinopyroxene phenocrysts and small plagioclase phenocrysts (<0.8mm) (Geological Survey n.d.). The lithology of this unit is dominated by basalt.

Andesite is known for its strength and durability. This geology supports the presence of stone artefacts. Additionally, previous archaeological studies in the region have identified many naturally occurring natural materials that are known to be utilised in stone tool manufacturing; basalt, hornblende, basaltic andesite, augite, porphyrite and volcanic horizons (ERM 2003).

Topography and Hydrology

The topography of the project area is comprised of undulating low hills. The project area is situated on a gentle slope that has undergone significant modifications to the topography due to generational agricultural use.

Despite the levels of disturbance that have altered the topography of the project area and its surroundings, Aboriginal objects can, and are known to survive.

First order ephemeral streams of Back Creek are located within or near the project area. Additionally, there are many major creeks, including Back Creek that is located approximately 1 kilometre north, and Molong Creek approximately 1.3 kilometres south of the project area. Tributaries of Back Creek and Molong Creek are located within the lands surrounding the project area.

Water sources are considered a sensitive landform under the Due Diligence Code of Practice. Under the Code, it is recognised that this area may have increased potential for Aboriginal objects 'as a result of Aboriginal people's use of those features in their everyday lives and for traditional cultural activities' (Due Diligence Code:12).

Climate, Flora and Fauna

The project area falls within the NSW South Western Slopes Bioregion, characterised by temperate climate with hot summers and no dry season (NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service 2003).

The native vegetation within the project area has been extensively cleared (refer to aerial imagery, Plates 1–4). The project area is occupied predominantly by a contemporary vegetation landscape of grass for cattle grazing. Original vegetation associated with this soil landscape include white box-apple box community with Blakely's red gum, yellow box and red ironbark as associated species.

The project area today is predominantly grassy woodland with evidence of disturbance from cattle grazing, with some remnant vegetation. There is potential for Culturally Modified Trees to be present where mature trees are extant as they have been recorded in the area previously.

The nearby permanent freshwater creeks (Back and Molong Creeks) would have provided suitable habitats for a vast range of amphibians, reptiles and mammals, including platypus, echidnas, water birds, fish species, turtles, frogs, edible bivalves and crustaceans.

The ecosystems outlined above would have provided Aboriginal people access to a range of flora and fauna for food, medicine and other economic uses.

Previous Land Use History

An analysis of historical aeriels was undertaken on images from 1964, 1973, 1983 and 1993 to examine past land use and the extent of disturbance within the project area. Understanding previous land use history is critical to understanding if the sensitivity of a landform, soils, geology and hydrology for material evidence of Aboriginal occupation may be compromised or still extant over the passage of time.

The project area is located in farming land along Back Saleyard Road, east of the Molong Disc Golf Course, Molong. As displayed within the historical aerial images (Plates 1–4), the project area and surrounding landscape have undergone extensive clearing and disturbances over decades of agricultural use. This disturbance has potential to break Aboriginal objects or remove the original soil profiles and disturb them to at least 45cm in depth from cropping accelerating erosion. There is the possibility that Culturally Modified Trees could have been removed in previous disturbance.



Plate 1. 1964 Historical Aerial.



Plate 2. 1973 Historical Aerial.



Plate 3. 1983 Historical Aerial.



Plate 4. 1993 Historical Aerial.

Summary

Prior to European colonisation, the region provided a complex mosaic of habitat types area. The floristic diversity, terrestrial animals, freshwater fish and edible bivalves would have provided rich resources for occupation. The temperate climate of the project area would have made it suitable for habitation all year round. The project area is located on landforms which have been modified and impacted by land clearing, agriculture and erosion. The modification of these landforms has disturbed, mixed and in some areas stripped the original topography and potentially disturbed potential archaeological deposits. Despite this disturbance, the project area still has some potential for evidence of Aboriginal occupation.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

The Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System is a database of registered Aboriginal sites within NSW, administered by the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC). Searches were conducted of the AHIMS register on 6 November 2024 for Aboriginal heritage sites recorded within and in proximity to the project area. The search area covered the following coordinates:

- Latitude, Longitude from: -33.1676, 148.7894
- Latitude, Longitude to: -33.0238, 149.0366

The results of the search are summarised below in **Table 1**.

Table 1. Summary of AHIMS Features.

Site Type	Frequency	Percentage
Artefact	26	59%
Artefact, Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD)	1	2.3%
Modified Trees	6	13.6%
Potential Archaeological Deposits (PADs)	7	15.9%
Stone Quarry, Artefact	1	2.3%
Restricted	2	4.5%
Modified Tree, Burial, Artefact	1	2.3%
Total	44	100%

The sites registered on AHIMS are mapped in **Figure 1**.

Of the 44 sites identified in the search area, one (AHIMS # 44-1-0056) is located approximately 110 metres east of the project area.

AHIMS # 44-1-0056 'IF1' was recorded by Navin Officer in 2002. This isolated find is a dark grey basalt/andesite anvil stone, described as:

A small anvil stone manufactured from a dark grey basalt pebble exposed on the surface of a cultivated paddock. The pebble was possible procured from an outcrop of andesite cobble and boulders which occur approximately 2.2 km to the southeast of the site.

The artefact is situated on a hill-crest approximately 17 m north of the existing 94T line (15 metres north of a survey peg bearing the number '466')...

Navin Officer 2002

An additional two sites were identified during the Due Diligence Assessment site inspection within the project area in December 2024. These sites include a grinding stone and a core. Both sites were identified within the proposed works footprint and will be impacted by this project.

Other Searches of Heritage Databases

Table 2 provides a summary searches of other heritage databases.

Table 2. Other Statutory Searches of Heritage Databases for the Project Area.

Heritage Database	About the Database	Search Area (LGA) and Search Date	Search Results
Australian Heritage Database	The Australian Heritage Database (AHD) is a Commonwealth administered heritage database that includes entries from the former Register for the National Estate and the current Commonwealth and National Heritage Lists.	This database was searched on the 6 November 2024 for all Indigenous heritage items within the Cabonne Shire LGA.	The search found 39 places located within the Cabonne Shire LGA. Eight places were located in Molong, most associated with the township of Molong. None of which are within or in immediate proximity of the project area. Yuranigh's Aboriginal Grave Historic Site is approximately 3 kilometres southwest of the project area.
State Heritage Inventory and State	The State Heritage Inventory (SHI) is a heritage database administered by the Heritage NSW (Department of Planning and Environment). This	A search of the SHI was conducted on 6 November 2024	The results were as follows:



Heritage Database	About the Database	Search Area (LGA) and Search Date	Search Results
Heritage Register	database includes heritage listings from local and regional planning instruments and heritage studies and State significant heritage items. Information and items listed in the State Heritage Inventory come from a number of sources. This means that there may be several entries for the same heritage item in the database. Search results are divided into three sections. Section 1 – Aboriginal Places – declared by the Minister for the Environment under the National Parks and Wildlife Act. This information is provided by Heritage NSW. Section 2 – State Heritage Register items – listed by the Heritage Council of NSW under the Heritage Act and includes items listed in Interim Heritage Orders. This information is provided by Heritage NSW. Section 3 – Heritage items listed by local councils on Local Environmental Plans under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, and State government agencies under s.170 of the Heritage Act. This information is provided by local councils and State government agencies.	for all heritage items within Molong, Cabonne Shire LGA.	Section 1 – No Aboriginal Places were listed within the suburb of Molong. Section 2 – 2 items listed under the Heritage Act are located within the suburb of Molong including Yuranigh's grave. Section 3 – 58 items were listed within the suburb of Molong. No places were located in or in immediate proximity to the project area.

Heritage Database	About the Database	Search Area (LGA) and Search Date	Search Results
Cabonne Shire LEP 2012 (2013 EPI 2)	Cabonne Shire Council utilises this Local Environmental Plan to regulate land use and development within the Cabonne Shire LGA. The Local Environmental Plans are planning instruments which contain provisions and listings of items of environmental heritage including heritage, conservation areas and archaeological sites within Schedule 5.	The LEP for Cabonne Shire 2012 (2013 EPA 2) was searched on 6 November 2024.	The Cabonne Shire LEP 2012 (2013 EPI 2) lists 58 Heritage items and one Heritage conservation area within suburb of Molong. No places were located in or in immediate proximity to the project area.

REGIONAL OCCUPATION

Previous archaeological research, register searches, and environmental can help understand the regional archaeological context for Aboriginal occupation, and predict the types of sites that may be found in the project area.

The existing archaeological record is constrained to tangible materials that are able to withstand deterioration over time. Consequently, the most common Aboriginal occupation site types are stone artefacts. Analysis of these artefacts, including the raw materials used and the manufacturing techniques, can indicate changes in social behaviour and organisation over time.

Multiple reports were identified on the AHIMS database associated with the AHIMS search area and the locality of Molong NSW. No Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plans were found associated with the project area.

OzArk Cultural Heritage Pty Ltd (2004) has undertaken an Archaeological Test Excavation of PAD # 44-1-0077 at Molong Creek for the proposed realignment of the Mitchell Highway. This study area displays a similar landscape and history of disturbance, including clearing, ploughing and grazing. This study utilised the work of Pearson's 1981 unpublished PhD to determine that sites were more frequently identified on low ridge topics, creek banks, gently undulating hills and river flats and usually in open woodland vegetation.

The test programme identified one possible artefact on the south side of Molong Creek, approximately 20 possible quartz flakes on the north side of Molong Creek and concluded that:

The test excavation programme revealed little supporting evidence in the area tested to justify the reclassification of this PAD as an Aboriginal camp site... Molong PAD # 44-1-0077 is not an Aboriginal

site and the presence of a few limited artefacts evidence can be attributed to downslope, colluvial movement.

OzArk 2004:28

Navin Officer (2003)'s *Molong to Manildra 132kV Transmission Line Stage 2: Cultural Heritage Assessment* identified seven artefact scatters and six isolated finds. Their assessment identified many landforms and features with potential for archaeological sites that exist in proximity to the current project area including riparian zones, namely the Molong Creek corridor which is describes as '... represent[ing] the only significant riparian zone' (Navin Officer 2003:8). Additionally, surface rock outcrops have been identified as having potential for archaeological sites.

Rock types known to have been exploited in the local and wider region include chert, chalcedony, andesitic greywacke, fine-grained sandstone, quartz, silcrete, various forms of river cobbles and fine-grained intrusive volcanics such as basalt... An Aboriginal chert quarry has been recorded at Yuranigh's grave...

Navin Officer 2003:9

Navin Officer conducted a previous Cultural Heritage Assessment of the Molong to Manildra 132kV transmission line in 2002. This assessment also identified the riparian zones and surface rock outcrops as having potential for archaeological sites. This study area was identified as being primarily clear paddocks vegetated with pasture grasses, like the currently project area.

NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service conducted a Plan of Management for Yuranigh's Aboriginal Grave Historic Site in 1999. The site has state-wide cultural, historical, social, education and archaeological significance and is located approximately 3.5km from the current project area. The site contains four carved trees, three living and one dead. Living carved trees 'are extremely rare' (NSW NPWS 1999:4). All four recorded carved trees are still present today.

Within the wider region, Pearson's 1981 unpublished PhD (as referenced in Navin Officer 2003:6) is noted as one of the 'only major and regionally based research investigation' relevant to the Molong area and the current project area. Pearson's thesis 'was an investigation of Aboriginal and early European settlement patterns within the Upper Macquarie River region of NSW' (Navin Officer 2003:6). Navin Officer (2003:6-7) summarised Pearson's results as the following:

- *There is a strong relationship between site location and distance from water sources.*
- *Distance to water varied from 10 to 500 m, but in general the average distance from water decreased as site size increased;*
- *Sites were found on hilly or undulating places rather than on river flats or the banks of waterways. However it was found that the regional incidence of landform variation biased this sample;*
- *Good drainage and views over watercourses and river flats were also considered to be important site location criteria;*
- *Most sites were located in contexts which would originally have supported open woodlands, with small numbers in original grassland or forest contexts. However, this result is skewed by the predominance of the first vegetation type;*



- *Burial sites and grinding grooves were situated as close to habitation areas as geological constraints would allow;*
- *Ceremonial sites such as earth rings ('bora' or 'bubung grounds') were located away from campsites;*
- *Stone arrangements were also located away from campsites in isolated places and tended to be associated with small hills or knolls or were on flat land;*
- *Quarry sites were located where stone outcrops with desirable working qualities were recognised and were reasonably accessible;*
- *Based on ethnohistoric information, Pearson suggests that Aboriginal campsites were seldom used for longer than three nights and that large sites probably represented accumulation of short visits.*

The previous archaeological assessments described above have been undertaken in areas comparable to the project area. They found that archaeological sites are often located near the numerous watercourses that traverse the landscape. However, these assessments note that despite the rich resources for Aboriginal occupation, past land use history has impacted the survival and integrity of Aboriginal material culture in the region.

PREDICTIVE MODEL

Based on the known archaeological, environmental and landscape context of the locality, a predictive model for evidence of Aboriginal occupation for the proposal site is presented below:

Scarred trees and carved trees contain evidence of scars and carved patterns which can be attributed to Aboriginal cultural use. Scarred trees include the removal of bark from the trunk of the tree (usually with a stone axe) to make shields, canoes, implements and other types of items which leave a wound on the tree trunk. Carved trees contain carved patterns on the tree trunk and in NSW are often found in association with ceremonial grounds, burials or cultural sites. Culturally modified trees make up 15.9% of the sites within the AHIMS search area for this project. Carved trees are a rare site type, four are recorded at Yuranigh's Grave located approximately 3.5 kilometres from the project area. There is a low potential for carved and scarred trees to be identified within the project area based on a review of historic aerial imagery, and agricultural land use history including land clearing. There is potential for carved and scarred trees to be present where mature trees exist.

Middens are the accumulation of debris from fish, crustaceans and other shell fish (shells, fish bones) consumed as part of Aboriginal people's diet. Middens also often contain charcoal, stone artefacts, bone and other types of material used by Aboriginal people. Middens often occur within close proximity to freshwater and saltwater sources which have potential to contain mussels, oysters and other types of edible bivalves. Middens are identified within sand dunes, beaches, terraces above water courses and inland near lagoons and water holes. Midden material may be identified within the project area due to the proximity to ephemeral water sources. However, due to the absence of sites containing shell within the AHIMS search area and acidity of the soils, the likelihood of this site being identified within the project area is considered low.

Isolated artefacts and open camp sites (artefact scatters) are the locations of discarded stone artefacts, often material that has been discarded as part of making stone tools or discarded over frequent episodes of occupation/visitation in an area. These sites are most likely to be found within 100 metres of a water course in well drained alluvial flats, alluvial terraces, lower slopes and confluences where the landscape

has not been heavily modified. Isolated artefacts and small open camp sites (artefact scatters) are also likely to be found on ridges, crests, saddles or floodplains which are not heavily impacted by previous land use, as they provide excellent outlook over the surrounding area. Considering the project area's proximity to ephemeral water sources, the density of AHIMS registered artefact sites within the search area (65.9%), and the two additional sites recorded within the project area in December 2024, strongly indicate that there is high potential for isolated artefacts and artefact scatters to be identified within the project area. The entire project area has potential for isolated artefacts and artefact scatters if they have not been substantially impacted by previous land use history.

Potential Archaeological Deposits (PADs) refers to soil profiles within landforms which are predicted to contain buried evidence of Aboriginal occupation. This buried evidence is most often stone artefact scatters which survive most frequently in the archaeological record. In NSW, buried archaeological deposits are nearly always found within the A unit soils (topsoil) or in alluvial deposits. Occasionally artefacts are found in the B horizon in cracking clays where artefacts have moved down from the topsoil or alluvium. PAD can be defined in a number of different ways; however, the primary archaeological importance of subsurface deposits is the possibility that they will provide information that can be used to interpret changes in the archaeological record through time and space. Consequently, for the purposes of this assessment, a landform or area will only be designated a PAD if it meets one or more of the following criteria.

- The PAD should not have been significantly disturbed by post-depositional factors such as animal burrowing, vegetation clearance, erosion, vehicle activity and track construction. Areas with limited post-depositional disturbance may retain high archaeological integrity and therefore artefacts within these areas are more likely to accurately record the human behaviours leading to their deposition; and/or
- It should be likely that the PAD will contain enough artefacts to allow for statistically viable detailed analysis and comparison of the artefact assemblage both within and between sites. The probability that sufficient quantities of artefacts will be present within a PAD should be assessed in light of the environmental context (including topography, resource availability, geomorphic patterns and the depth of the topsoil horizon) and the local archaeological context (in relation to the patterning of site location within the local area); and/or
- The PAD should be predicted to contain materials that can be dated, either in relative or absolute terms. The provision of dateable materials allows for the examination of chronological change within and between assemblages. This is an integral component of any discussion of changes in how people used the landscape and resources through time. Areas of archaeological potential are possible within less disturbed areas of the proposal where A unit soils remain intact.

There is potential for archaeological deposits within the project area and this needs to be ascertained further as part of the ACHA process.

Rock art (Petroglyphs, also referred to as Rock Engravings, and paintings) are art sites where marks have been made in stone by Aboriginal people (for example, spirit figures, animals, implements and footprints) and rock shelter sites with art (rock overhangs used for shelter by Aboriginal people and where smooth sandstone surfaces on the walls of the shelter are painted with ochres and pigments). Rock shelter sites with art will not be present in the project area based on the absence of suitable geology, previous land use history, previous archaeological research and consultation to date.

Aboriginal axe grinding grooves are grooves most often found in sandstone where Aboriginal people have sharpened or manufactured stone axes and other implements and, in some cases, ground seed and grains in the sandstone forming 'bowls'. This site type can occur where suitable geology is present. Grinding groove sites have a low potential to be identified within the project area based on the relative absence of suitable geology, however there is still potential due to its location in proximity to water sources, including ephemeral streams.

Aboriginal burial sites, bora grounds, story places or stone arrangements within the proposal based on preliminary previous archaeological and historical research undertaken to date. Cultural sites are usually determined through Aboriginal consultation and may need revision after review of the ACHA by registered Aboriginal parties. There are no known burial sites within the project area based on Aboriginal consultation to date and previous land use history. However, known burial sites are located within the surrounding landscape, including Yuranigh's Historic Grave. This site type is unlikely to be encountered within the project area. There are no known bora grounds or stone arrangements within the project area based on Aboriginal consultation to date, AHIMS database search and previous land use history. Stone arrangements and bora grounds are unlikely to survive within the project area due to the previous land use history and flooding events.

CULTURAL INFORMATION

As part of the review of this methodology for the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment report, we request and also seek cultural information from registered Aboriginal parties to identify:

- whether there are any Aboriginal objects of cultural value to Aboriginal people in the vicinity of the proposal site; and
- whether there are any places of cultural value to Aboriginal people in the area of the proposal site (whether they are Aboriginal places declared under s.84 of the NPW Act or not). This will include places of social, spiritual and cultural value, historic places with cultural significance, and potential places/areas of historic, social, spiritual and/or cultural significance.

DRAFT SURVEY METHODOLOGY

A Virtus Heritage archaeologist and at least one Registered Aboriginal Party representative engaged by Stor-Energy will inspect the development footprint, including proposed vehicle tracks and laydown areas, within the project area over one field day (~8 hours). The team will walk side by side approximately 1 metre apart in transects, where space permits, to cover the whole area of available exposure and visibility or visit areas that are partially obscured to take photographs, discuss cultural knowledge and record the archaeological potential for what lies beneath.

The survey will also target exposures and record changes in landform elements. Aboriginal resources will be recorded within the survey area and any comments by Aboriginal representatives regarding significance, information about the landscape, and cultural heritage management options will be recorded.

The proposed survey will include:

- coverage of all environmental contexts within the proposal site;
- focusing, where possible, on ground surfaces with higher archaeological visibility;

- inspection of bedrock (if any) for evidence of grinding grooves; and
- inspection of any places specifically requested by the Aboriginal parties within the proposal site.
- attempt to re-identify all previously known Aboriginal objects recorded within the project area; and
- inspection of any places specifically requested by the Aboriginal parties within the project area.

The survey strategy will involve the following components:

- division of the entire proposal site into archaeological survey areas most likely to be based on landforms and previous land use history, following classifications and definitions outlined in the requirements of the Archaeological Code of Practice (DECCW 2010);
- within each archaeological survey area, recording the different types of surface exposures (e.g. vehicle track, erosion scour), previous land use history and disturbance, natural features (e.g. presence of sandstone), soils, erosion, ground surface visibility, and geomorphic activity following the requirements of the Archaeological Code of Practice (DECCW 2010) and information or comments provided by Aboriginal parties involved in the survey;
- completion of an Aboriginal heritage site recording form for each Aboriginal site or Potential Archaeological Deposit identified, which will include all information required to fill in an OEH AHIMS site card;
- recording any cultural information, information about Aboriginal resources or comments made by Aboriginal parties involved in the field survey on the management or cultural values of the proposal site; and
- mapping and recording all archaeological survey areas and all identified Aboriginal sites and/or PADs within the proposal site using a hand-held GPS and a digital camera.

CULTURALLY SENSITIVE / GENDER SENSITIVE INFORMATION

We understand that there may be times where registered Aboriginal parties may have information about a project which is culturally or gender sensitive. If registered Aboriginal parties wish to provide cultural information which they do not want to be made public or which is gender sensitive, provision can be made to record this information as confidential as part of the reporting process but without inclusion in the public versions of the report. Female and male archaeologists or female and male representatives of Stor-Energy can also be made available to record or discuss gender sensitive information during the life of the project, depending on the wishes of registered Aboriginal parties.

COMMERCIAL ENGAGEMENT

All registered Aboriginal parties are invited to participate in the initial survey on a voluntary basis. Stor-Energy will however consider the reimbursement of any reasonable demonstrated out of pocket expenses directly incurred in order to participate in the survey.

The contact to discuss voluntary fieldwork involvement for this project is:

Oliver Coleman
Storenergy 3 Pty Ltd
Email: information@molong-battery.com.au
Phone/Fax: 1800 920 060

Only one to two representatives will be selected for fieldwork from registered Aboriginal parties relevant to their area of interest. However, all registered Aboriginal parties are invited to participate in the initial survey on a voluntary basis. The initial survey is tentatively set for early April 2025.

CLOSING DATE FOR COMMENTS ON SURVEY STRATEGY

Following Heritage NSW's ACHCRs, registered Aboriginal parties for this project have a minimum of 28 days to review the draft survey strategy and project methodology for the ACHA and provide comment and input. The closing date for comments is by **5:00pm on 11 April 2025** {However, due to the urgency of this project we will need comments from you as soon as possible}. Please provide your written or verbal comments to:

Lilith Malcolm (Archaeologist) and Dr Mary-Jean Sutton (Director)
Virtus Heritage
PO Box 101
Pottsville NSW 2489
Phone/Fax: (02) 6676 4354
Email: consultation@virtusheritage.com.au

If you would like to discuss this draft survey strategy or have any questions about the proposed works, please contact me on (02) 6676 4354.

Sincerely,

Mary-Jean Sutton

Dr Mary-Jean Sutton

DIRECTOR
Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02) 6676 4354

REFERENCES

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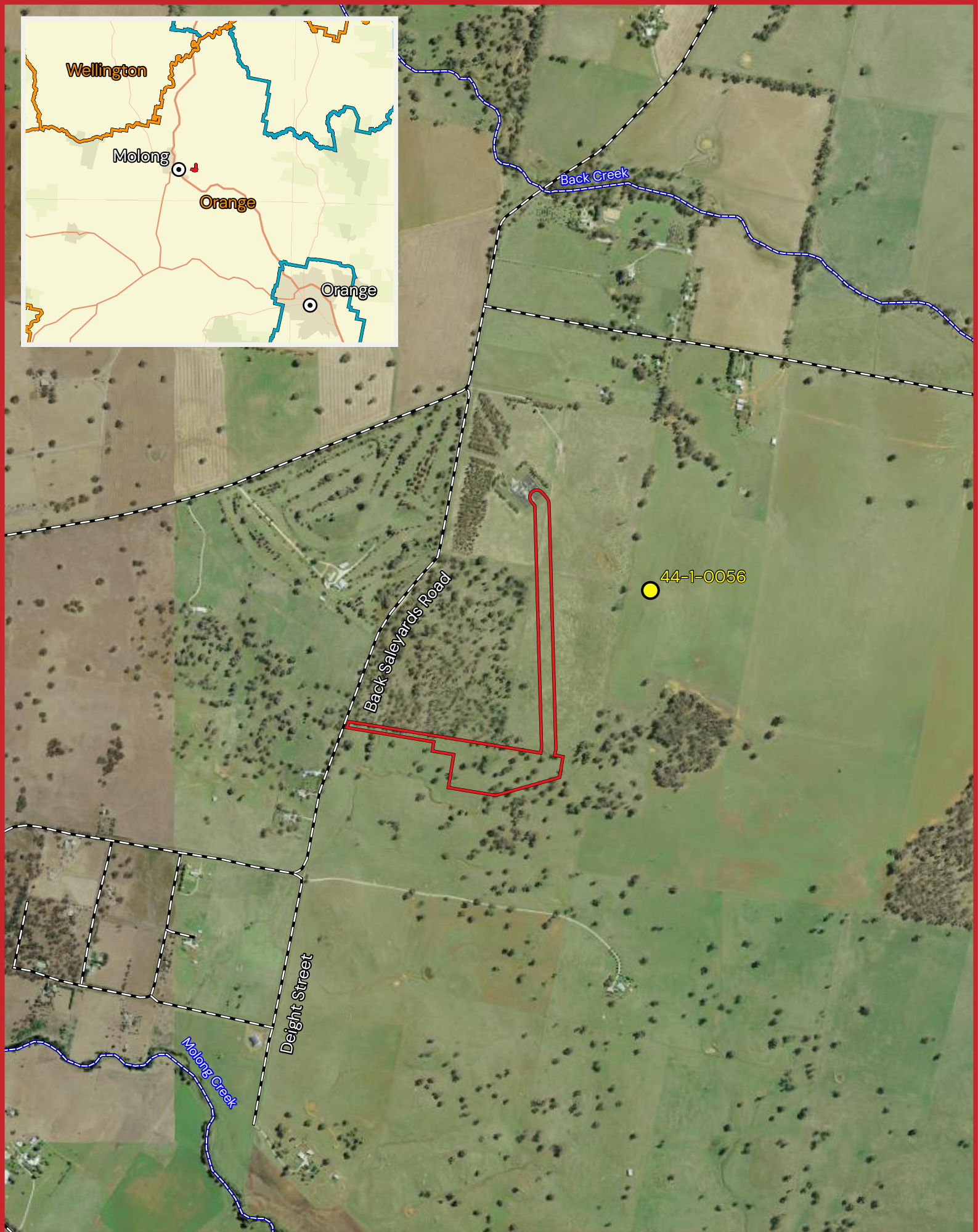
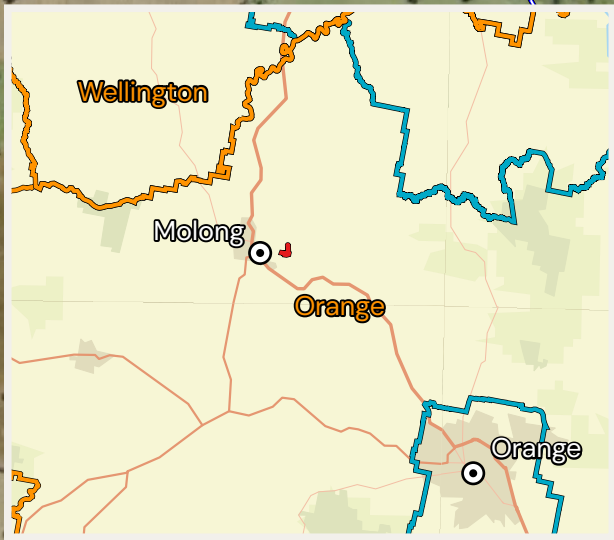
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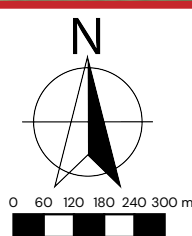
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**540 Stor Energy Molong
Molong, NSW
Figure 1. Project Area and Locality**

Author: Shaun Sewell
Date: 26/02/2025
Scale: 1:15000 @ A4
Datum: GDA2020 / MGA zone 55
Source: Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, © Department of Customer Service - Spatial Services 2024
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- Legend**
- Project Area
 - Local Aboriginal Land Councils
 - Cabonne Shire Council
 - Roads
 - Named Watercourse
 - Cities and Towns
 - AHIMS Sites



540 - Presentation of Project Information and Draft Project Methodology - Molong BESS ACHA

From Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au>

Date Fri 3/14/2025 6:56 PM

To belljudy@yahoo.com.au <belljudy@yahoo.com.au>

Cc Anya Graubard <a.graubard@virtusheritage.com.au>; Lilith Malcolm <l.malcolm@virtusheritage.com.au>; Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>; Ursula McInnes <umcInnes@slrconsulting.com>; Oliver Coleman <oliver.coleman@stor-energy.com>

 2 attachments (4 MB)

540_JudyBell_PPI.pdf; 540_JudyBell_SS.pdf;

"Judy Bell" <belljudy@yahoo.com.au>

Dear Judy Bell,

Thank you for registering for Aboriginal consultation for the preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) needed to support a Scoping Report and request for Secretary Environmental Assessment requirements (SEARs) for establishing a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility at Lot 99 on DP1020247 and Lot 1 on DP542283 (the project area) and connecting to Transgrid's Molong Substation at 1 Deight Street and 19 Back Saleyards Road, Molong, NSW 2866 via a 132kV overhead transmission line (the Project Area).

As previously communicated, Virtus Heritage has been engaged by SLR to undertake the ACHA, including an Archaeological Assessment (AA). In accordance with the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water's Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents (ACHCRs) (DECCW 2010), Section 4.2, Stage 2, this letter presents information on the proposed works to all registered Aboriginal parties.

Please see the attached draft Presentation Project Information Letter and the draft Project Methodology & Survey Strategy, and relevant figures for your review & comment.

Following Heritage NSW's ACHCRs, RAPs for this project have a minimum of 28 days to review the draft survey strategy and project methodology for the ACHA and provide comment and input. The closing date for comments by **5pm on 11th April 2025**.

Please provide your written or verbal comments to:

Lilith Malcolm
Virtus Heritage
PO Box 101
Pottsville NSW 2489
Phone/Fax: (02) 6676 4354
Email: consultation@virtusheritage.com.au

Thank you,



Virtus Heritage CONSULTATION

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02) 6676 4354

VIRTUSHERITAGE.COM.AU

Virtus Heritage is committed to the spirit of reconciliation and acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians and the Traditional Custodians of the states and territories of Australia. We recognise the Traditional Owners of the lands we work within. We pay our respect to Elders past, present and emerging in maintaining the culture, country and their spiritual and historical connections to the lands and waters.

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Judy Bell
e. belljudy@yahoo.com.au
Peak Hill NSW 2869

14th March 2025

Dear Judy,

Subject: Presentation of project information for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for a proposed BESS at Lot 99 DP 1020247 and Lot 1 DP 542283, Molong, NSW

Thank you for registering for Aboriginal consultation for the preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd (SLR) on behalf of Storenergy 3 Pty Ltd (Storenergy) for a proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility at Lot 99 DP 1020247 and Lot 1 DP 542283, Molong NSW (the project area, refer to Figure 1). The proposed works will be impacting two Aboriginal sites identified in a previous preliminary site inspection (described in (a) below). These sites have been lodged and are currently under review by AHIMS Quarantine Station.

As outlined in earlier correspondence, Virtus Heritage has been engaged by SLR to prepare the ACHA, including an archaeological assessment, to support an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a State Significant Development (SSD). As part of the requirements of the Heritage NSW's *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents* (DECCW, 2010), Section 4.2, Stage 2, this letter presents information on the proposed works to all registered Aboriginal parties.

The purpose of this letter is to provide information supplied by the proponent to:

- a) present the proposal, outline project details relevant to the nature, scope, methodology, and environmental and other impacts;
- b) outline the impact assessment process including the input points into the investigation and assessment activities;
- c) specify critical timelines and milestones for the completion of assessment activities and delivery of reports;
- d) specify proposed roles, functions and responsibilities for the project for discussion and comment by registered Aboriginal parties; and
- e) provide an opportunity for registered Aboriginal parties to identify, raise and discuss their cultural concerns, perspectives and assessment requirements (if any).

a) The Proposal, Project Details and Project Impacts

The proposal site is within the Cabonne Shire Local Government Area (refer to **Figure 1**) and includes the proposed activities:

- Transport of construction personnel, equipment and materials to and from the Project Area during construction (dependent on construction schedule), including all associated heavy and light vehicle traffic movements.

- Site establishment works including limited vegetation clearing within the Project Area, bulk earthworks and a temporary construction compound and soil testing, if necessitated
- Road works to formalise a new driveway crossing from Back Saleyards Road and internal site access road for construction purposes and ongoing access.
- Construction of hardstand/laydown areas, fencing, internal roads, control room, auxiliary transformer, battery enclosures, and inverter/transformer/switchgear stations (referred to as Power Conversion Stations (PCS)).
- Construction of approximately 900m of overhead 132 kV transmission line to facilitate connection to the existing Transgrid's Molong Substation and associated high voltage concrete or steel poles and wiring.
- Acoustic attenuation (to be determined as part of a detailed assessment).
- Construction of ancillary works including a parking area, water tank, Operations and Maintenance (O&M) building (including storage structures), stormwater management infrastructure, security lighting and fencing.
- Vegetative screening and landscaping.
- The installation of 264 BESS units (maximum) within individual, modular containers, on hardstand footings with a total capacity of 150 MW/730MWh.
- The installation of 50 inverters on hardstand footings.
- Installation of subsurface wiring infrastructure throughout the Indicative BESS area.
- Commissioning and testing of all installed equipment on the Project Area.

The proposed activity includes significant earthworks and is anticipated to take 18 months beginning in 2027.

An AHIMS search and searches of the Australian Heritage Database, NSW State Heritage Inventory and the Cabonne Shire Local Environment Plan have been completed. Of the 44 sites identified in the AHIMS search area, none are located within the project area, and one (AHIMS # 44-1-0056) is located approximately 110 metres east of the project area.

AHIMS # 44-1-0056 'IF1' was recorded by Navin Officer in 2002. This isolated find is a dark grey basalt/andesite anvil stone, described as:

A small anvil stone manufactured from a dark grey basalt pebble exposed on the surface of a cultivated paddock. The pebble was possible procured from an outcrop of andesite cobble and boulders which occur approximately 2.2 km to the southeast of the site.

The artefact is situated on a hill-crest approximately 17 m north of the existing 94T line (15 metres north of a survey peg bearing the number '466')...

An additional two sites were identified during the preliminary site inspection within the project area in December 2024. These sites include a grinding stone and a core. Both sites were identified within the proposed works footprint and will be impacted by this project.

The project area sits within a wider Aboriginal cultural heritage landscape that is rich in Aboriginal history and heritage. Including Yuranigh's Aboriginal Grave Historic Site, that holds significant state-wide cultural, historical, social, educational and archaeological value. Yuranigh's grave is located approximately 3.5 kilometres from the current project area and contains four carved trees that 'are extremely rare' (NSW NPWS 1999:4).

The activity therefore has the potential to impact Aboriginal cultural heritage values. Aboriginal objects and archaeological deposits where they survive. Further information regarding the project, its landscape, historical and archaeological context is provided in the survey methodology attachment.

b) Outline the impact assessment process including the input points into the investigation and assessment activities;

The impacts of this project on Aboriginal heritage are being determined through the preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment by Virtus Heritage. The broader environmental impact assessment process and overall project is being managed by SLR on behalf of Stor-Energy as the proponent.

Registered Aboriginal parties have several input points into the investigation and assessment activities for this project, including:

- Review and comment on presentation of project information supplied in this letter;
- Opportunity to discuss with Virtus Heritage or SLR this project information at any time during the duration of the project and record comments and input;
- Review, comment and provide cultural information regarding the project and input on cultural heritage management on a draft methodology for the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment within a minimum 28-day comment period;
- Opportunity to be involved in the Aboriginal heritage survey of the project area (date to be confirmed) and to provide cultural information and input into the assessment.
- If archaeological testing and / or salvage is required, an archaeological testing and/ or salvage excavation methodology would be prepared and provided to Registered Aboriginal Parties for review (noting that an AHIP would not be required for an SSD project).
- Review of a draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for comment;
- Receipt of all copies of a final Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment
- Review of the EIS during public exhibition on the Major Projects website

(c) Specify critical timelines and milestones for the completion of assessment activities and delivery of reports

Critical timelines for the completion of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment follows OEH's Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements (DECCW, 2010).

A minimum of 28 days will be provided for registered Aboriginal parties to review of the draft methodology for the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment and the draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment report. However, if comments on the methodology for the ACHA are provided within two weeks, the proposed survey for this project can be undertaken earlier. Please notify me as soon as possible if there are critical days that need to be taken into account in this timeframe (for example, commemorative days, sorry business etc).

(d) Specify proposed roles, functions and responsibilities for the project for discussion and comment by registered Aboriginal parties;

We recognise that registered Aboriginal parties have an integral role in the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment process and are the primary determinants of the significance of their heritage. Registered Aboriginal parties will be afforded the opportunity as part of the consultation process to provide cultural information on the project area, to be involved in the review and comment of all documentation for the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment, to be involved in fieldwork and to provide input and comment into potential management options for any identified cultural heritage values.

Virtus Heritage will carry out Aboriginal consultation for this project and undertake the preparation of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment and subsequent consent documentation, in consultation with registered Aboriginal parties.

Stor-Energy is responsible for the co-ordination of the broader project and has engaged Virtus Heritage to undertake Aboriginal consultation. Stor-Energy will be undertaking the proposed works for this project, once approved.

The contacts for this project are:

Lilith Malcolm (Archaeologist) and Dr Mary-Jean Sutton (Director)
Virtus Heritage
Postal Address: PO Box 101 Pottsville NSW 2489
Email: consultation@virtusheritage.com.au
Phone/Fax: (02) 6676 4354

The commercial engagement of registered Aboriginal parties for this project will be Stor-Energy. The Stor-Energy contact for commercial engagement is:

*Oliver Coleman
StorEnergy 3 Pty Ltd
1800 920 060
information@molong-battery.com.au*

Gender and other Culturally Sensitive Information

We understand that there may be times where registered Aboriginal parties may have information about a project which is culturally or gender sensitive. If registered Aboriginal parties wish to provide cultural information which they do not want to be made public or which is gender sensitive, provision can be made to record this information as confidential as part of the reporting process but without inclusion in the public versions of the report. Female and male archaeologists or representatives of Virtus Heritage and SLR can also be made available to record or discuss gender sensitive information during the life of the project, depending on the wishes of registered Aboriginal parties. Please contact me directly to discuss this issue further, if it is of concern.

Please let us know as soon as possible if there is gender sensitive information and a male archaeologist is required, so we can make appropriate arrangements.



(e) Provide an opportunity for registered Aboriginal parties to identify, raise and discuss their cultural concerns, perspectives and assessment requirements (if any).

Please contact Virtus Heritage directly to identify, raise and discuss cultural concerns, perspectives and assessment requirements (if any). We will also attempt to call you early next week to discuss any potential issues, perspectives and assessment requirements.

If you would like to discuss this letter or have any questions about the proposed works, please contact me or Lilith Malcolm (Archaeologist) on (02) 6676 4354.

Yours sincerely,

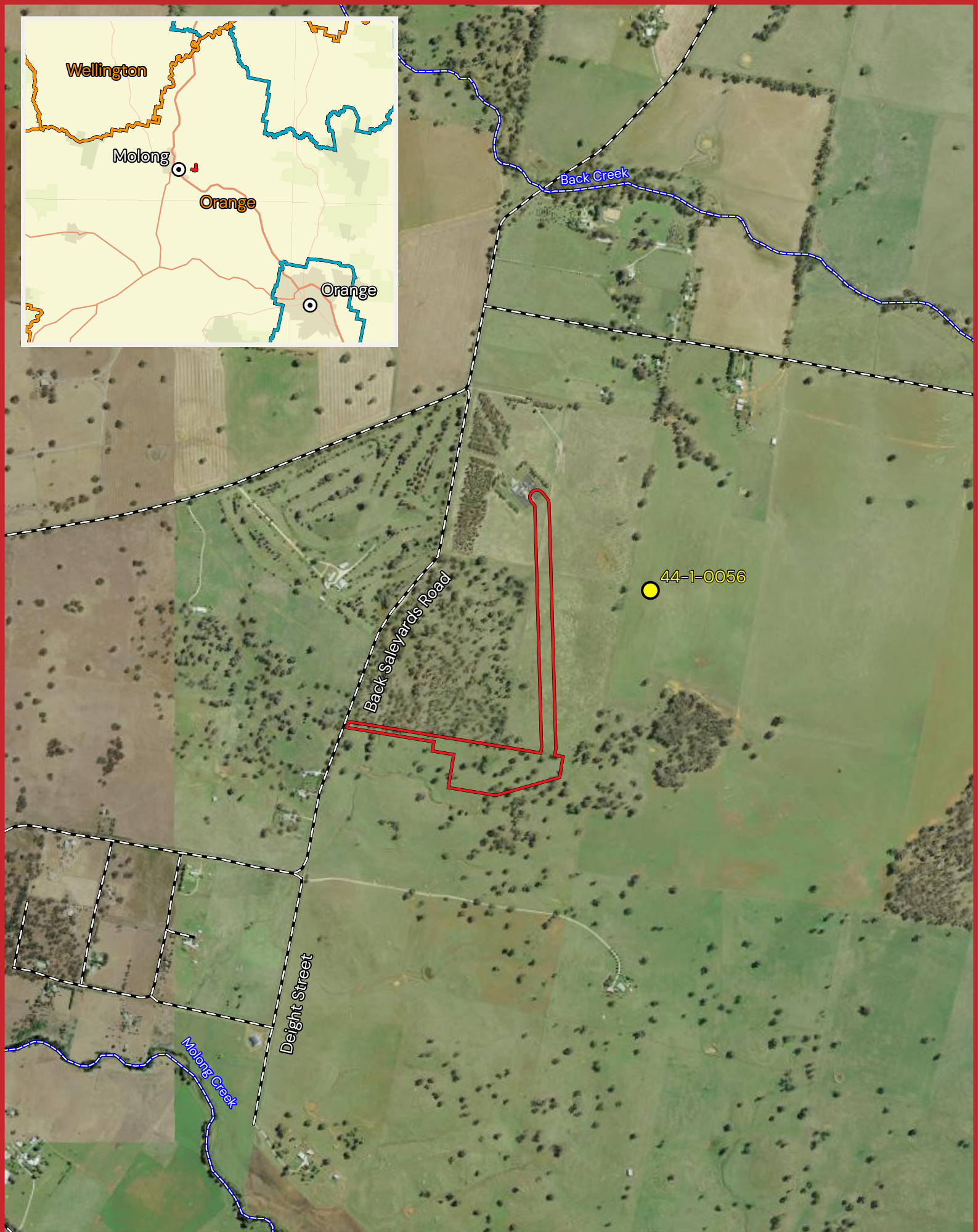
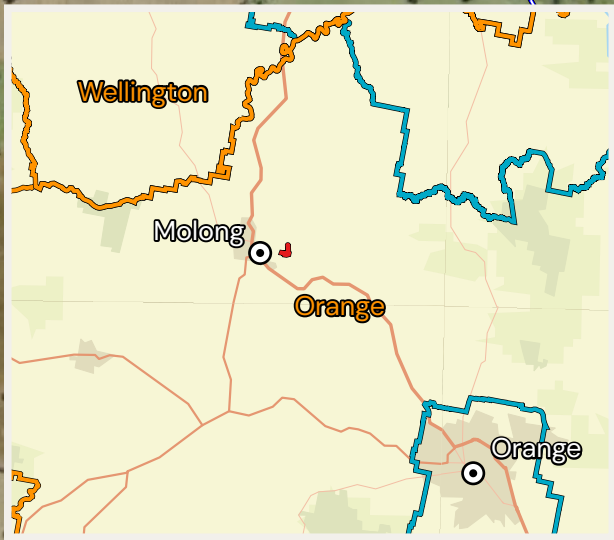
Mary-Jean Sutton

Dr Mary-Jean Sutton

Director

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW

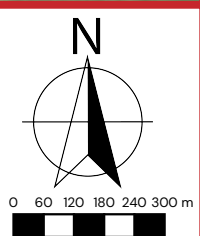
(02) 6676 4354



540 Stor Energy Molong
Molong, NSW
Figure 1. Project Area and Locality

Author: Shaun Sewell
 Date: 26/02/2025
 Scale: 1:15000 @ A4
 Datum: GDA2020 / MGA zone 55
 Source: Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, © Department of Customer Service - Spatial Services 2024
 Maps and figures contained within this document may be based on third party data, may not be to scale and are intended for use as a guide only. Virtus Heritage does not warrant the accuracy of such maps or figures.

- Legend**
- Project Area
 - Local Aboriginal Land Councils
 - Cabonne Shire Council
 - Roads
 - Named Watercourse
 - Cities and Towns
 - AHIMS Sites



Judy Bell
e. belljudy@yahoo.com.au

14th March 2025

Dear Judy,

Subject: Draft Survey Strategy and Project Methodology for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for the proposed BESS at Lot 99 DP 1020247 and Lot 1 DP 542283, Molong, NSW

Thank you for registering for Aboriginal consultation for the preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) to support an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a State Significant Development (SSD) for a proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility at Lot 99 DP 1020247 and Lot 1 DP 542283, Molong NSW (the project area, refer to Figure 1).

As outlined in earlier correspondence, Virtus Heritage Pty Limited (hereafter Virtus Heritage) has been engaged by SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd (SLR) on behalf of Storenergy 3 Pty Ltd (Stor-Energy) to prepare the ACHA, including an archaeological assessment. Virtus Heritage is undertaking consultation with Aboriginal people in accordance with Heritage NSW's *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents* (DECCW, 2010). This presentation of the draft survey strategy and project methodology for your comment is being undertaken in accordance with Section 4.3, Stage 3 of these requirements.

BACKGROUND AND PROJECT IMPACTS

The proposal site is within the Cabonne Shire Local Government Area (refer to Figure 1) and includes the proposed activities:

- Transport of construction personnel, equipment and materials to and from the Project Area during construction (dependent on construction schedule), including all associated heavy and light vehicle traffic movements.
- Site establishment works including limited vegetation clearing within the Project Area, bulk earthworks and a temporary construction compound and soil testing.
- Road works to formalise a new driveway crossing from Back Saleyards Road and internal site access road for construction purposes and ongoing access.
- Construction of hardstand/laydown areas, fencing, internal roads, control room, auxiliary transformer, battery enclosures, and inverter/transformer/switchgear stations (referred to as Power Conversion Stations (PCS)).
- Construction of approximately 900m of overhead 132 kV transmission line to facilitate connection to the existing Transgrid's Molong Substation and associated high voltage concrete or steel poles and wiring.
- Acoustic attenuation (to be determined as part of a detailed assessment).

- Construction of ancillary works including a parking area, water tank, Operations and Maintenance (O&M) building (including storage structures), stormwater management infrastructure, security lighting and fencing.
- Vegetative screening and landscaping.
- The installation of 264 BESS units (maximum) within individual, modular containers, on hardstand footings with a total capacity of 150 MW/730MWh.
- The installation of 50 inverters on hardstand footings.
- Installation of subsurface wiring infrastructure throughout the Indicative BESS area.
- Commissioning and testing of all installed equipment on the Project Area.

The proposed activity includes earthworks and has the potential to impact Aboriginal objects and archaeological deposits.

LANDSCAPE HISTORY

Soil profiles

The soils of the project area are mapped within the eSpade v2.2 dataset as Molong soil landscape. The main soils within this are Euchrozems. Non-calcic brown soils and yellow podzolic soils are found mainly on lower slopes within this soil landscape.

Euchrozems is a great soil group of the Ferrosols order. Isbell (2002:41) describes Ferrosols as “soils with B2 horizons which are high to free iron oxide, and which lack strong texture contrast between A and B horizons”. These soils are very acidic and high aluminium toxicity potential (NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment n.d.).

The acidic soils associated with Ferrosol soils can impact the survival of organic Aboriginal heritage/objects (e.g. wooden implements) within a project area.

Geology

The project area is located within the Molong soil landscape and the Cargo Andesite geological unit. Andesite is an extrusive rock of intermediate composition. The project area is additionally located within the Fairbridge Volcanics. This unit is described as ‘regionally extensive unit dominated by pillow basalt and monomict breccia with large (up to 2mm) clinopyroxene phenocrysts and small plagioclase phenocrysts (<0.8mm) (Geological Survey n.d.). The lithology of this unit is dominated by basalt.

Andesite is known for its strength and durability. This geology supports the presence of stone artefacts. Additionally, previous archaeological studies in the region have identified many naturally occurring natural materials that are known to be utilised in stone tool manufacturing; basalt, hornblende, basaltic andesite, augite, porphyrite and volcanic horizons (ERM 2003).

Topography and Hydrology

The topography of the project area is comprised of undulating low hills. The project area is situated on a gentle slope that has undergone significant modifications to the topography due to generational agricultural use.

Despite the levels of disturbance that have altered the topography of the project area and its surroundings, Aboriginal objects can, and are known to survive.

First order ephemeral streams of Back Creek are located within or near the project area. Additionally, there are many major creeks, including Back Creek that is located approximately 1 kilometre north, and Molong Creek approximately 1.3 kilometres south of the project area. Tributaries of Back Creek and Molong Creek are located within the lands surrounding the project area.

Water sources are considered a sensitive landform under the Due Diligence Code of Practice. Under the Code, it is recognised that this area may have increased potential for Aboriginal objects 'as a result of Aboriginal people's use of those features in their everyday lives and for traditional cultural activities' (Due Diligence Code:12).

Climate, Flora and Fauna

The project area falls within the NSW South Western Slopes Bioregion, characterised by temperate climate with hot summers and no dry season (NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service 2003).

The native vegetation within the project area has been extensively cleared (refer to aerial imagery, Plates 1–4). The project area is occupied predominantly by a contemporary vegetation landscape of grass for cattle grazing. Original vegetation associated with this soil landscape include white box-apple box community with Blakely's red gum, yellow box and red ironbark as associated species.

The project area today is predominantly grassy woodland with evidence of disturbance from cattle grazing, with some remnant vegetation. There is potential for Culturally Modified Trees to be present where mature trees are extant as they have been recorded in the area previously.

The nearby permanent freshwater creeks (Back and Molong Creeks) would have provided suitable habitats for a vast range of amphibians, reptiles and mammals, including platypus, echidnas, water birds, fish species, turtles, frogs, edible bivalves and crustaceans.

The ecosystems outlined above would have provided Aboriginal people access to a range of flora and fauna for food, medicine and other economic uses.

Previous Land Use History

An analysis of historical aerials was undertaken on images from 1964, 1973, 1983 and 1993 to examine past land use and the extent of disturbance within the project area. Understanding previous land use history is critical to understanding if the sensitivity of a landform, soils, geology and hydrology for material evidence of Aboriginal occupation may be compromised or still extant over the passage of time.

The project area is located in farming land along Back Saleyard Road, east of the Molong Disc Golf Course, Molong. As displayed within the historical aerial images (Plates 1–4), the project area and surrounding landscape have undergone extensive clearing and disturbances over decades of agricultural use. This disturbance has potential to break Aboriginal objects or remove the original soil profiles and disturb them to at least 45cm in depth from cropping accelerating erosion. There is the possibility that Culturally Modified Trees could have been removed in previous disturbance.



Plate 1. 1964 Historical Aerial.



Plate 2. 1973 Historical Aerial.



Plate 3. 1983 Historical Aerial.



Plate 4. 1993 Historical Aerial.

Summary

Prior to European colonisation, the region provided a complex mosaic of habitat types area. The floristic diversity, terrestrial animals, freshwater fish and edible bivalves would have provided rich resources for occupation. The temperate climate of the project area would have made it suitable for habitation all year round. The project area is located on landforms which have been modified and impacted by land clearing, agriculture and erosion. The modification of these landforms has disturbed, mixed and in some areas stripped the original topography and potentially disturbed potential archaeological deposits. Despite this disturbance, the project area still has some potential for evidence of Aboriginal occupation.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

The Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System is a database of registered Aboriginal sites within NSW, administered by the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC). Searches were conducted of the AHIMS register on 6 November 2024 for Aboriginal heritage sites recorded within and in proximity to the project area. The search area covered the following coordinates:

- Latitude, Longitude from: -33.1676, 148.7894
- Latitude, Longitude to: -33.0238, 149.0366

The results of the search are summarised below in **Table 1**.

Table 1. Summary of AHIMS Features.

Site Type	Frequency	Percentage
Artefact	26	59%
Artefact, Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD)	1	2.3%
Modified Trees	6	13.6%
Potential Archaeological Deposits (PADs)	7	15.9%
Stone Quarry, Artefact	1	2.3%
Restricted	2	4.5%
Modified Tree, Burial, Artefact	1	2.3%
Total	44	100%

The sites registered on AHIMS are mapped in **Figure 1**.

Of the 44 sites identified in the search area, one (AHIMS # 44-1-0056) is located approximately 110 metres east of the project area.

AHIMS # 44-1-0056 'IF1' was recorded by Navin Officer in 2002. This isolated find is a dark grey basalt/andesite anvil stone, described as:

A small anvil stone manufactured from a dark grey basalt pebble exposed on the surface of a cultivated paddock. The pebble was possible procured from an outcrop of andesite cobble and boulders which occur approximately 2.2 km to the southeast of the site.

The artefact is situated on a hill-crest approximately 17 m north of the existing 94T line (15 metres north of a survey peg bearing the number '466')...

Navin Officer 2002

An additional two sites were identified during the Due Diligence Assessment site inspection within the project area in December 2024. These sites include a grinding stone and a core. Both sites were identified within the proposed works footprint and will be impacted by this project.

Other Searches of Heritage Databases

Table 2 provides a summary searches of other heritage databases.

Table 2. Other Statutory Searches of Heritage Databases for the Project Area.

Heritage Database	About the Database	Search Area (LGA) and Search Date	Search Results
Australian Heritage Database	The Australian Heritage Database (AHD) is a Commonwealth administered heritage database that includes entries from the former Register for the National Estate and the current Commonwealth and National Heritage Lists.	This database was searched on the 6 November 2024 for all Indigenous heritage items within the Cabonne Shire LGA.	The search found 39 places located within the Cabonne Shire LGA. Eight places were located in Molong, most associated with the township of Molong. None of which are within or in immediate proximity of the project area. Yuranigh's Aboriginal Grave Historic Site is approximately 3 kilometres southwest of the project area.
State Heritage Inventory and State	The State Heritage Inventory (SHI) is a heritage database administered by the Heritage NSW (Department of Planning and Environment). This	A search of the SHI was conducted on 6 November 2024	The results were as follows:



Heritage Database	About the Database	Search Area (LGA) and Search Date	Search Results
Heritage Register	database includes heritage listings from local and regional planning instruments and heritage studies and State significant heritage items. Information and items listed in the State Heritage Inventory come from a number of sources. This means that there may be several entries for the same heritage item in the database. Search results are divided into three sections. Section 1 – Aboriginal Places – declared by the Minister for the Environment under the National Parks and Wildlife Act. This information is provided by Heritage NSW. Section 2 – State Heritage Register items – listed by the Heritage Council of NSW under the Heritage Act and includes items listed in Interim Heritage Orders. This information is provided by Heritage NSW. Section 3 – Heritage items listed by local councils on Local Environmental Plans under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, and State government agencies under s.170 of the Heritage Act. This information is provided by local councils and State government agencies.	for all heritage items within Molong, Cabonne Shire LGA.	Section 1 – No Aboriginal Places were listed within the suburb of Molong. Section 2 – 2 items listed under the Heritage Act are located within the suburb of Molong including Yuranigh's grave. Section 3 – 58 items were listed within the suburb of Molong. No places were located in or in immediate proximity to the project area.

Heritage Database	About the Database	Search Area (LGA) and Search Date	Search Results
Cabonne Shire LEP 2012 (2013 EPI 2)	Cabonne Shire Council utilises this Local Environmental Plan to regulate land use and development within the Cabonne Shire LGA. The Local Environmental Plans are planning instruments which contain provisions and listings of items of environmental heritage including heritage, conservation areas and archaeological sites within Schedule 5.	The LEP for Cabonne Shire 2012 (2013 EPA 2) was searched on 6 November 2024.	The Cabonne Shire LEP 2012 (2013 EPI 2) lists 58 Heritage items and one Heritage conservation area within suburb of Molong. No places were located in or in immediate proximity to the project area.

REGIONAL OCCUPATION

Previous archaeological research, register searches, and environmental can help understand the regional archaeological context for Aboriginal occupation, and predict the types of sites that may be found in the project area.

The existing archaeological record is constrained to tangible materials that are able to withstand deterioration over time. Consequently, the most common Aboriginal occupation site types are stone artefacts. Analysis of these artefacts, including the raw materials used and the manufacturing techniques, can indicate changes in social behaviour and organisation over time.

Multiple reports were identified on the AHIMS database associated with the AHIMS search area and the locality of Molong NSW. No Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plans were found associated with the project area.

OzArk Cultural Heritage Pty Ltd (2004) has undertaken an Archaeological Test Excavation of PAD # 44-1-0077 at Molong Creek for the proposed realignment of the Mitchell Highway. This study area displays a similar landscape and history of disturbance, including clearing, ploughing and grazing. This study utilised the work of Pearson's 1981 unpublished PhD to determine that sites were more frequently identified on low ridge topics, creek banks, gently undulating hills and river flats and usually in open woodland vegetation.

The test programme identified one possible artefact on the south side of Molong Creek, approximately 20 possible quartz flakes on the north side of Molong Creek and concluded that:

The test excavation programme revealed little supporting evidence in the area tested to justify the reclassification of this PAD as an Aboriginal camp site... Molong PAD # 44-1-0077 is not an Aboriginal

site and the presence of a few limited artefacts evidence can be attributed to downslope, colluvial movement.

OzArk 2004:28

Navin Officer (2003)'s *Molong to Manildra 132kV Transmission Line Stage 2: Cultural Heritage Assessment* identified seven artefact scatters and six isolated finds. Their assessment identified many landforms and features with potential for archaeological sites that exist in proximity to the current project area including riparian zones, namely the Molong Creek corridor which is describes as '... represent[ing] the only significant riparian zone' (Navin Officer 2003:8). Additionally, surface rock outcrops have been identified as having potential for archaeological sites.

Rock types known to have been exploited in the local and wider region include chert, chalcedony, andesitic greywacke, fine-grained sandstone, quartz, silcrete, various forms of river cobbles and fine-grained intrusive volcanics such as basalt... An Aboriginal chert quarry has been recorded at Yuranigh's grave...

Navin Officer 2003:9

Navin Officer conducted a previous Cultural Heritage Assessment of the Molong to Manildra 132kV transmission line in 2002. This assessment also identified the riparian zones and surface rock outcrops as having potential for archaeological sites. This study area was identified as being primarily clear paddocks vegetated with pasture grasses, like the currently project area.

NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service conducted a Plan of Management for Yuranigh's Aboriginal Grave Historic Site in 1999. The site has state-wide cultural, historical, social, education and archaeological significance and is located approximately 3.5km from the current project area. The site contains four carved trees, three living and one dead. Living carved trees 'are extremely rare' (NSW NPWS 1999:4). All four recorded carved trees are still present today.

Within the wider region, Pearson's 1981 unpublished PhD (as referenced in Navin Officer 2003:6) is noted as one of the 'only major and regionally based research investigation' relevant to the Molong area and the current project area. Pearson's thesis 'was an investigation of Aboriginal and early European settlement patterns within the Upper Macquarie River region of NSW' (Navin Officer 2003:6). Navin Officer (2003:6-7) summarised Pearson's results as the following:

- *There is a strong relationship between site location and distance from water sources.*
- *Distance to water varied from 10 to 500 m, but in general the average distance from water decreased as site size increased;*
- *Sites were found on hilly or undulating places rather than on river flats or the banks of waterways. However it was found that the regional incidence of landform variation biased this sample;*
- *Good drainage and views over watercourses and river flats were also considered to be important site location criteria;*
- *Most sites were located in contexts which would originally have supported open woodlands, with small numbers in original grassland or forest contexts. However, this result is skewed by the predominance of the first vegetation type;*



- *Burial sites and grinding grooves were situated as close to habitation areas as geological constraints would allow;*
- *Ceremonial sites such as earth rings ('bora' or 'bubung grounds') were located away from campsites;*
- *Stone arrangements were also located away from campsites in isolated places and tended to be associated with small hills or knolls or were on flat land;*
- *Quarry sites were located where stone outcrops with desirable working qualities were recognised and were reasonably accessible;*
- *Based on ethnohistoric information, Pearson suggests that Aboriginal campsites were seldom used for longer than three nights and that large sites probably represented accumulation of short visits.*

The previous archaeological assessments described above have been undertaken in areas comparable to the project area. They found that archaeological sites are often located near the numerous watercourses that traverse the landscape. However, these assessments note that despite the rich resources for Aboriginal occupation, past land use history has impacted the survival and integrity of Aboriginal material culture in the region.

PREDICTIVE MODEL

Based on the known archaeological, environmental and landscape context of the locality, a predictive model for evidence of Aboriginal occupation for the proposal site is presented below:

Scarred trees and carved trees contain evidence of scars and carved patterns which can be attributed to Aboriginal cultural use. Scarred trees include the removal of bark from the trunk of the tree (usually with a stone axe) to make shields, canoes, implements and other types of items which leave a wound on the tree trunk. Carved trees contain carved patterns on the tree trunk and in NSW are often found in association with ceremonial grounds, burials or cultural sites. Culturally modified trees make up 15.9% of the sites within the AHIMS search area for this project. Carved trees are a rare site type, four are recorded at Yuranigh's Grave located approximately 3.5 kilometres from the project area. There is a low potential for carved and scarred trees to be identified within the project area based on a review of historic aerial imagery, and agricultural land use history including land clearing. There is potential for carved and scarred trees to be present where mature trees exist.

Middens are the accumulation of debris from fish, crustaceans and other shell fish (shells, fish bones) consumed as part of Aboriginal people's diet. Middens also often contain charcoal, stone artefacts, bone and other types of material used by Aboriginal people. Middens often occur within close proximity to freshwater and saltwater sources which have potential to contain mussels, oysters and other types of edible bivalves. Middens are identified within sand dunes, beaches, terraces above water courses and inland near lagoons and water holes. Midden material may be identified within the project area due to the proximity to ephemeral water sources. However, due to the absence of sites containing shell within the AHIMS search area and acidity of the soils, the likelihood of this site being identified within the project area is considered low.

Isolated artefacts and open camp sites (artefact scatters) are the locations of discarded stone artefacts, often material that has been discarded as part of making stone tools or discarded over frequent episodes of occupation/visitation in an area. These sites are most likely to be found within 100 metres of a water course in well drained alluvial flats, alluvial terraces, lower slopes and confluences where the landscape

has not been heavily modified. Isolated artefacts and small open camp sites (artefact scatters) are also likely to be found on ridges, crests, saddles or floodplains which are not heavily impacted by previous land use, as they provide excellent outlook over the surrounding area. Considering the project area's proximity to ephemeral water sources, the density of AHIMS registered artefact sites within the search area (65.9%), and the two additional sites recorded within the project area in December 2024, strongly indicate that there is high potential for isolated artefacts and artefact scatters to be identified within the project area. The entire project area has potential for isolated artefacts and artefact scatters if they have not been substantially impacted by previous land use history.

Potential Archaeological Deposits (PADs) refers to soil profiles within landforms which are predicted to contain buried evidence of Aboriginal occupation. This buried evidence is most often stone artefact scatters which survive most frequently in the archaeological record. In NSW, buried archaeological deposits are nearly always found within the A unit soils (topsoil) or in alluvial deposits. Occasionally artefacts are found in the B horizon in cracking clays where artefacts have moved down from the topsoil or alluvium. PAD can be defined in a number of different ways; however, the primary archaeological importance of subsurface deposits is the possibility that they will provide information that can be used to interpret changes in the archaeological record through time and space. Consequently, for the purposes of this assessment, a landform or area will only be designated a PAD if it meets one or more of the following criteria.

- The PAD should not have been significantly disturbed by post-depositional factors such as animal burrowing, vegetation clearance, erosion, vehicle activity and track construction. Areas with limited post-depositional disturbance may retain high archaeological integrity and therefore artefacts within these areas are more likely to accurately record the human behaviours leading to their deposition; and/or
- It should be likely that the PAD will contain enough artefacts to allow for statistically viable detailed analysis and comparison of the artefact assemblage both within and between sites. The probability that sufficient quantities of artefacts will be present within a PAD should be assessed in light of the environmental context (including topography, resource availability, geomorphic patterns and the depth of the topsoil horizon) and the local archaeological context (in relation to the patterning of site location within the local area); and/or
- The PAD should be predicted to contain materials that can be dated, either in relative or absolute terms. The provision of dateable materials allows for the examination of chronological change within and between assemblages. This is an integral component of any discussion of changes in how people used the landscape and resources through time. Areas of archaeological potential are possible within less disturbed areas of the proposal where A unit soils remain intact.

There is potential for archaeological deposits within the project area and this needs to be ascertained further as part of the ACHA process.

Rock art (Petroglyphs, also referred to as Rock Engravings, and paintings) are art sites where marks have been made in stone by Aboriginal people (for example, spirit figures, animals, implements and footprints) and rock shelter sites with art (rock overhangs used for shelter by Aboriginal people and where smooth sandstone surfaces on the walls of the shelter are painted with ochres and pigments). Rock shelter sites with art will not be present in the project area based on the absence of suitable geology, previous land use history, previous archaeological research and consultation to date.

Aboriginal axe grinding grooves are grooves most often found in sandstone where Aboriginal people have sharpened or manufactured stone axes and other implements and, in some cases, ground seed and grains in the sandstone forming 'bowls'. This site type can occur where suitable geology is present. Grinding groove sites have a low potential to be identified within the project area based on the relative absence of suitable geology, however there is still potential due to its location in proximity to water sources, including ephemeral streams.

Aboriginal burial sites, bora grounds, story places or stone arrangements within the proposal based on preliminary previous archaeological and historical research undertaken to date. Cultural sites are usually determined through Aboriginal consultation and may need revision after review of the ACHA by registered Aboriginal parties. There are no known burial sites within the project area based on Aboriginal consultation to date and previous land use history. However, known burial sites are located within the surrounding landscape, including Yuranigh's Historic Grave. This site type is unlikely to be encountered within the project area. There are no known bora grounds or stone arrangements within the project area based on Aboriginal consultation to date, AHIMS database search and previous land use history. Stone arrangements and bora grounds are unlikely to survive within the project area due to the previous land use history and flooding events.

CULTURAL INFORMATION

As part of the review of this methodology for the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment report, we request and also seek cultural information from registered Aboriginal parties to identify:

- whether there are any Aboriginal objects of cultural value to Aboriginal people in the vicinity of the proposal site; and
- whether there are any places of cultural value to Aboriginal people in the area of the proposal site (whether they are Aboriginal places declared under s.84 of the NPW Act or not). This will include places of social, spiritual and cultural value, historic places with cultural significance, and potential places/areas of historic, social, spiritual and/or cultural significance.

DRAFT SURVEY METHODOLOGY

A Virtus Heritage archaeologist and at least one Registered Aboriginal Party representative engaged by Stor-Energy will inspect the development footprint, including proposed vehicle tracks and laydown areas, within the project area over one field day (~8 hours). The team will walk side by side approximately 1 metre apart in transects, where space permits, to cover the whole area of available exposure and visibility or visit areas that are partially obscured to take photographs, discuss cultural knowledge and record the archaeological potential for what lies beneath.

The survey will also target exposures and record changes in landform elements. Aboriginal resources will be recorded within the survey area and any comments by Aboriginal representatives regarding significance, information about the landscape, and cultural heritage management options will be recorded.

The proposed survey will include:

- coverage of all environmental contexts within the proposal site;
- focusing, where possible, on ground surfaces with higher archaeological visibility;

- inspection of bedrock (if any) for evidence of grinding grooves; and
- inspection of any places specifically requested by the Aboriginal parties within the proposal site.
- attempt to re-identify all previously known Aboriginal objects recorded within the project area; and
- inspection of any places specifically requested by the Aboriginal parties within the project area.

The survey strategy will involve the following components:

- division of the entire proposal site into archaeological survey areas most likely to be based on landforms and previous land use history, following classifications and definitions outlined in the requirements of the Archaeological Code of Practice (DECCW 2010);
- within each archaeological survey area, recording the different types of surface exposures (e.g. vehicle track, erosion scour), previous land use history and disturbance, natural features (e.g. presence of sandstone), soils, erosion, ground surface visibility, and geomorphic activity following the requirements of the Archaeological Code of Practice (DECCW 2010) and information or comments provided by Aboriginal parties involved in the survey;
- completion of an Aboriginal heritage site recording form for each Aboriginal site or Potential Archaeological Deposit identified, which will include all information required to fill in an OEH AHIMS site card;
- recording any cultural information, information about Aboriginal resources or comments made by Aboriginal parties involved in the field survey on the management or cultural values of the proposal site; and
- mapping and recording all archaeological survey areas and all identified Aboriginal sites and/or PADs within the proposal site using a hand-held GPS and a digital camera.

CULTURALLY SENSITIVE / GENDER SENSITIVE INFORMATION

We understand that there may be times where registered Aboriginal parties may have information about a project which is culturally or gender sensitive. If registered Aboriginal parties wish to provide cultural information which they do not want to be made public or which is gender sensitive, provision can be made to record this information as confidential as part of the reporting process but without inclusion in the public versions of the report. Female and male archaeologists or female and male representatives of Stor-Energy can also be made available to record or discuss gender sensitive information during the life of the project, depending on the wishes of registered Aboriginal parties.

COMMERCIAL ENGAGEMENT

All registered Aboriginal parties are invited to participate in the initial survey on a voluntary basis. Stor-Energy will however consider the reimbursement of any reasonable demonstrated out of pocket expenses directly incurred in order to participate in the survey.

The contact to discuss voluntary fieldwork involvement for this project is:

Oliver Coleman
Storenergy 3 Pty Ltd
Email: information@molong-battery.com.au
Phone/Fax: 1800 920 060

Only one to two representatives will be selected for fieldwork from registered Aboriginal parties relevant to their area of interest. However, all registered Aboriginal parties are invited to participate in the initial survey on a voluntary basis. The initial survey is tentatively set for early April 2025.

CLOSING DATE FOR COMMENTS ON SURVEY STRATEGY

Following Heritage NSW's ACHCRs, registered Aboriginal parties for this project have a minimum of 28 days to review the draft survey strategy and project methodology for the ACHA and provide comment and input. The closing date for comments is by **5:00pm on 11 April 2025** {However, due to the urgency of this project we will need comments from you as soon as possible}. Please provide your written or verbal comments to:

Lilith Malcolm (Archaeologist) and Dr Mary-Jean Sutton (Director)
Virtus Heritage
PO Box 101
Pottsville NSW 2489
Phone/Fax: (02) 6676 4354
Email: consultation@virtusheritage.com.au

If you would like to discuss this draft survey strategy or have any questions about the proposed works, please contact me on (02) 6676 4354.

Sincerely,

Mary-Jean Sutton

Dr Mary-Jean Sutton

DIRECTOR

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02) 6676 4354

REFERENCES

Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW). 2010. *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW*, Hurstville, NSW.

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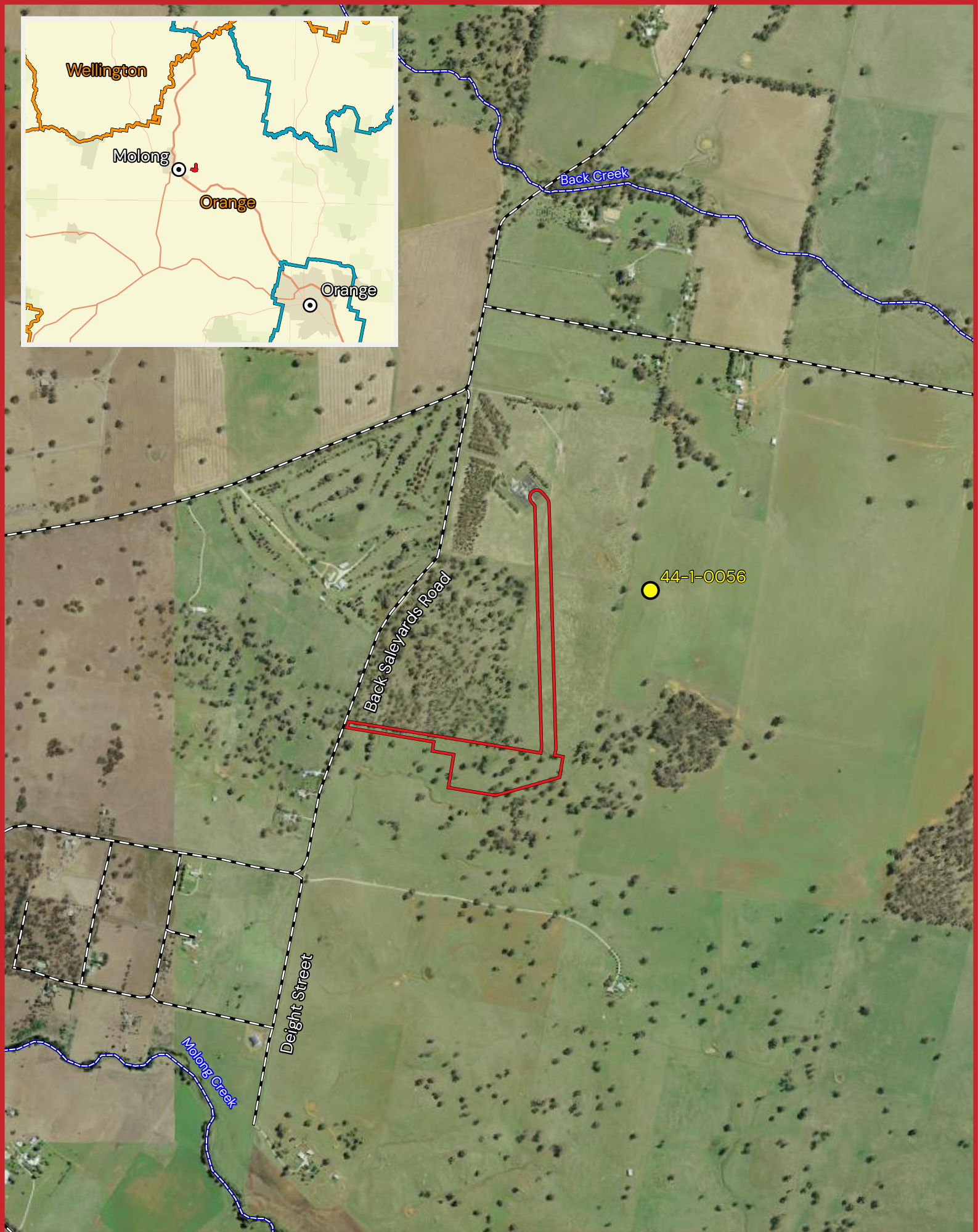
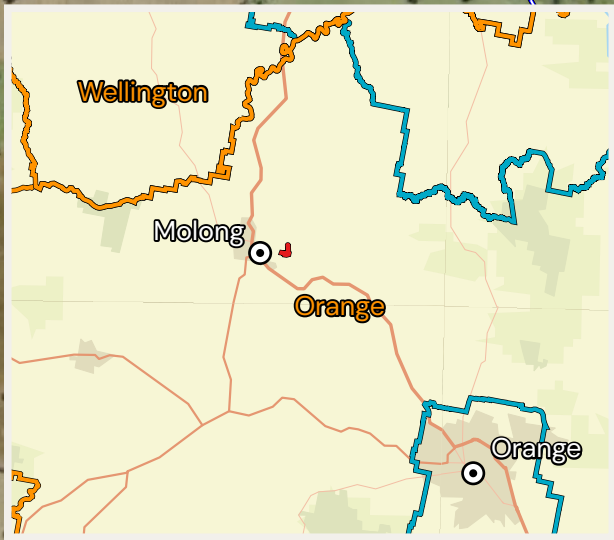
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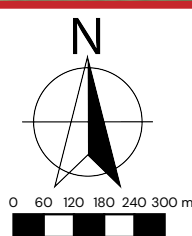
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540 Stor Energy Molong
Molong, NSW
Figure 1. Project Area and Locality

Author: Shaun Sewell
 Date: 26/02/2025
 Scale: 1:15000 @ A4
 Datum: GDA2020 / MGA zone 55
 Source: Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, © Department of Customer Service - Spatial Services 2024
 Maps and figures contained within this document may be based on third party data, may not be to scale and are intended for use as a guide only. Virtus Heritage does not warrant the accuracy of such maps or figures.

- Legend**
- Project Area
 - Local Aboriginal Land Councils
 - Cabonne Shire Council
 - Roads
 - Named Watercourse
 - Cities and Towns
 - AHIMS Sites



540 - Presentation of Project Information and Draft Project Methodology - Molong BESS ACHA

From Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au>

Date Fri 3/14/2025 6:58 PM

To reception@olalc.com.au <reception@olalc.com.au>

Cc Oliver Coleman <oliver.coleman@stor-energy.com>; Ursula McInnes <umcInnes@slrconsulting.com>; Anya Graubard <a.graubard@virtusheritage.com.au>; Lilith Malcolm <l.malcolm@virtusheritage.com.au>; Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>

 2 attachments (4 MB)

540_OLALC_PPI.pdf; 540_OrangeLALC_SS.pdf;

"reception@olalc.com.au" <>

Dear Orange LALC,

Thank you for registering for Aboriginal consultation for the preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) needed to support a Scoping Report and request for Secretary Environmental Assessment requirements (SEARs) for establishing a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility at Lot 99 on DP1020247 and Lot 1 on DP542283 (the project area) and connecting to Transgrid's Molong Substation at 1 Deight Street and 19 Back Saleyards Road, Molong, NSW 2866 via a 132kV overhead transmission line (the Project Area).

As previously communicated, Virtus Heritage has been engaged by SLR to undertake the ACHA, including an Archaeological Assessment (AA). In accordance with the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water's Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents (ACHCRs) (DECCW 2010), Section 4.2, Stage 2, this letter presents information on the proposed works to all registered Aboriginal parties.

Please see the attached draft Presentation Project Information Letter and the draft Project Methodology & Survey Strategy, and relevant figures for your review & comment.

Following Heritage NSW's ACHCRs, RAPs for this project have a minimum of 28 days to review the draft survey strategy and project methodology for the ACHA and provide comment and input. The closing date for comments by **5pm on 11th April 2025**.

Please provide your written or verbal comments to:

Lilith Malcolm
Virtus Heritage
PO Box 101
Pottsville NSW 2489
Phone/Fax: (02) 6676 4354
Email: consultation@virtusheritage.com.au

Thank you,



Virtus Heritage CONSULTATION

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02) 6676 4354

VIRTUSHERITAGE.COM.AU

Virtus Heritage is committed to the spirit of reconciliation and acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians and the Traditional Custodians of the states and territories of Australia. We recognise the Traditional Owners of the lands we work within. We pay our respect to Elders past, present and emerging in maintaining the culture, country and their spiritual and historical connections to the lands and waters.

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Orange LALC
Ben
e.reception@olalc.com.au

14th March 2025

Dear Ben,

Subject: Presentation of project information for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for a proposed BESS at Lot 99 DP 1020247 and Lot 1 DP 542283, Molong, NSW

Thank you for registering for Aboriginal consultation for the preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd (SLR) on behalf of Storenergy 3 Pty Ltd (Storenergy) for a proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility at Lot 99 DP 1020247 and Lot 1 DP 542283, Molong NSW (the project area, refer to Figure 1). The proposed works will be impacting two Aboriginal sites identified in a previous preliminary site inspection (described in (a) below). These sites have been lodged and are currently under review by AHIMS Quarantine Station.

As outlined in earlier correspondence, Virtus Heritage has been engaged by SLR to prepare the ACHA, including an archaeological assessment, to support an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a State Significant Development (SSD). As part of the requirements of the Heritage NSW's *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents* (DECCW, 2010), Section 4.2, Stage 2, this letter presents information on the proposed works to all registered Aboriginal parties.

The purpose of this letter is to provide information supplied by the proponent to:

- a) present the proposal, outline project details relevant to the nature, scope, methodology, and environmental and other impacts;
- b) outline the impact assessment process including the input points into the investigation and assessment activities;
- c) specify critical timelines and milestones for the completion of assessment activities and delivery of reports;
- d) specify proposed roles, functions and responsibilities for the project for discussion and comment by registered Aboriginal parties; and
- e) provide an opportunity for registered Aboriginal parties to identify, raise and discuss their cultural concerns, perspectives and assessment requirements (if any).

a) The Proposal, Project Details and Project Impacts

The proposal site is within the Cabonne Shire Local Government Area (refer to **Figure 1**) and includes the proposed activities:

- Transport of construction personnel, equipment and materials to and from the Project Area during construction (dependent on construction schedule), including all associated heavy and light vehicle traffic movements.

- Site establishment works including limited vegetation clearing within the Project Area, bulk earthworks and a temporary construction compound and soil testing, if necessitated
- Road works to formalise a new driveway crossing from Back Saleyards Road and internal site access road for construction purposes and ongoing access.
- Construction of hardstand/laydown areas, fencing, internal roads, control room, auxiliary transformer, battery enclosures, and inverter/transformer/switchgear stations (referred to as Power Conversion Stations (PCS)).
- Construction of approximately 900m of overhead 132 kV transmission line to facilitate connection to the existing Transgrid's Molong Substation and associated high voltage concrete or steel poles and wiring.
- Acoustic attenuation (to be determined as part of a detailed assessment).
- Construction of ancillary works including a parking area, water tank, Operations and Maintenance (O&M) building (including storage structures), stormwater management infrastructure, security lighting and fencing.
- Vegetative screening and landscaping.
- The installation of 264 BESS units (maximum) within individual, modular containers, on hardstand footings with a total capacity of 150 MW/730MWh.
- The installation of 50 inverters on hardstand footings.
- Installation of subsurface wiring infrastructure throughout the Indicative BESS area.
- Commissioning and testing of all installed equipment on the Project Area.

The proposed activity includes significant earthworks and is anticipated to take 18 months beginning in 2027.

An AHIMS search and searches of the Australian Heritage Database, NSW State Heritage Inventory and the Cabonne Shire Local Environment Plan have been completed. Of the 44 sites identified in the AHIMS search area, none are located within the project area, and one (AHIMS # 44-1-0056) is located approximately 110 metres east of the project area.

AHIMS # 44-1-0056 'IF1' was recorded by Navin Officer in 2002. This isolated find is a dark grey basalt/andesite anvil stone, described as:

A small anvil stone manufactured from a dark grey basalt pebble exposed on the surface of a cultivated paddock. The pebble was possible procured from an outcrop of andesite cobble and boulders which occur approximately 2.2 km to the southeast of the site.

The artefact is situated on a hill-crest approximately 17 m north of the existing 94T line (15 metres north of a survey peg bearing the number '466')...

An additional two sites were identified during the preliminary site inspection within the project area in December 2024. These sites include a grinding stone and a core. Both sites were identified within the proposed works footprint and will be impacted by this project.

The project area sits within a wider Aboriginal cultural heritage landscape that is rich in Aboriginal history and heritage. Including Yuranigh's Aboriginal Grave Historic Site, that holds significant state-wide cultural, historical, social, educational and archaeological value. Yuranigh's grave is located approximately 3.5 kilometres from the current project area and contains four carved trees that 'are extremely rare' (NSW NPWS 1999:4).

The activity therefore has the potential to impact Aboriginal cultural heritage values. Aboriginal objects and archaeological deposits where they survive. Further information regarding the project, its landscape, historical and archaeological context is provided in the survey methodology attachment.

b) Outline the impact assessment process including the input points into the investigation and assessment activities;

The impacts of this project on Aboriginal heritage are being determined through the preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment by Virtus Heritage. The broader environmental impact assessment process and overall project is being managed by SLR on behalf of Stor-Energy as the proponent.

Registered Aboriginal parties have several input points into the investigation and assessment activities for this project, including:

- Review and comment on presentation of project information supplied in this letter;
- Opportunity to discuss with Virtus Heritage or SLR this project information at any time during the duration of the project and record comments and input;
- Review, comment and provide cultural information regarding the project and input on cultural heritage management on a draft methodology for the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment within a minimum 28-day comment period;
- Opportunity to be involved in the Aboriginal heritage survey of the project area (date to be confirmed) and to provide cultural information and input into the assessment.
- If archaeological testing and / or salvage is required, an archaeological testing and/ or salvage excavation methodology would be prepared and provided to Registered Aboriginal Parties for review (noting that an AHIP would not be required for an SSD project).
- Review of a draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for comment;
- Receipt of all copies of a final Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment
- Review of the EIS during public exhibition on the Major Projects website

(c) Specify critical timelines and milestones for the completion of assessment activities and delivery of reports

Critical timelines for the completion of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment follows OEH's Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements (DECCW, 2010).

A minimum of 28 days will be provided for registered Aboriginal parties to review of the draft methodology for the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment and the draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment report. However, if comments on the methodology for the ACHA are provided within two weeks, the proposed survey for this project can be undertaken earlier. Please notify me as soon as possible if there are critical days that need to be taken into account in this timeframe (for example, commemorative days, sorry business etc).

(d) Specify proposed roles, functions and responsibilities for the project for discussion and comment by registered Aboriginal parties;

We recognise that registered Aboriginal parties have an integral role in the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment process and are the primary determinants of the significance of their heritage. Registered Aboriginal parties will be afforded the opportunity as part of the consultation process to provide cultural information on the project area, to be involved in the review and comment of all documentation for the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment, to be involved in fieldwork and to provide input and comment into potential management options for any identified cultural heritage values.

Virtus Heritage will carry out Aboriginal consultation for this project and undertake the preparation of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment and subsequent consent documentation, in consultation with registered Aboriginal parties.

Stor-Energy is responsible for the co-ordination of the broader project and has engaged Virtus Heritage to undertake Aboriginal consultation. Stor-Energy will be undertaking the proposed works for this project, once approved.

The contacts for this project are:

Lilith Malcolm (Archaeologist) and Dr Mary-Jean Sutton (Director)
Virtus Heritage
Postal Address: PO Box 101 Pottsville NSW 2489
Email: consultation@virtusheritage.com.au
Phone/Fax: (02) 6676 4354

The commercial engagement of registered Aboriginal parties for this project will be Stor-Energy. The Stor-Energy contact for commercial engagement is:

*Oliver Coleman
StorEnergy 3 Pty Ltd
1800 920 060
information@molong-battery.com.au*

Gender and other Culturally Sensitive Information

We understand that there may be times where registered Aboriginal parties may have information about a project which is culturally or gender sensitive. If registered Aboriginal parties wish to provide cultural information which they do not want to be made public or which is gender sensitive, provision can be made to record this information as confidential as part of the reporting process but without inclusion in the public versions of the report. Female and male archaeologists or representatives of Virtus Heritage and SLR can also be made available to record or discuss gender sensitive information during the life of the project, depending on the wishes of registered Aboriginal parties. Please contact me directly to discuss this issue further, if it is of concern.

Please let us know as soon as possible if there is gender sensitive information and a male archaeologist is required, so we can make appropriate arrangements.



(e) Provide an opportunity for registered Aboriginal parties to identify, raise and discuss their cultural concerns, perspectives and assessment requirements (if any).

Please contact Virtus Heritage directly to identify, raise and discuss cultural concerns, perspectives and assessment requirements (if any). We will also attempt to call you early next week to discuss any potential issues, perspectives and assessment requirements.

If you would like to discuss this letter or have any questions about the proposed works, please contact me or Lilith Malcolm (Archaeologist) on (02) 6676 4354.

Yours sincerely,

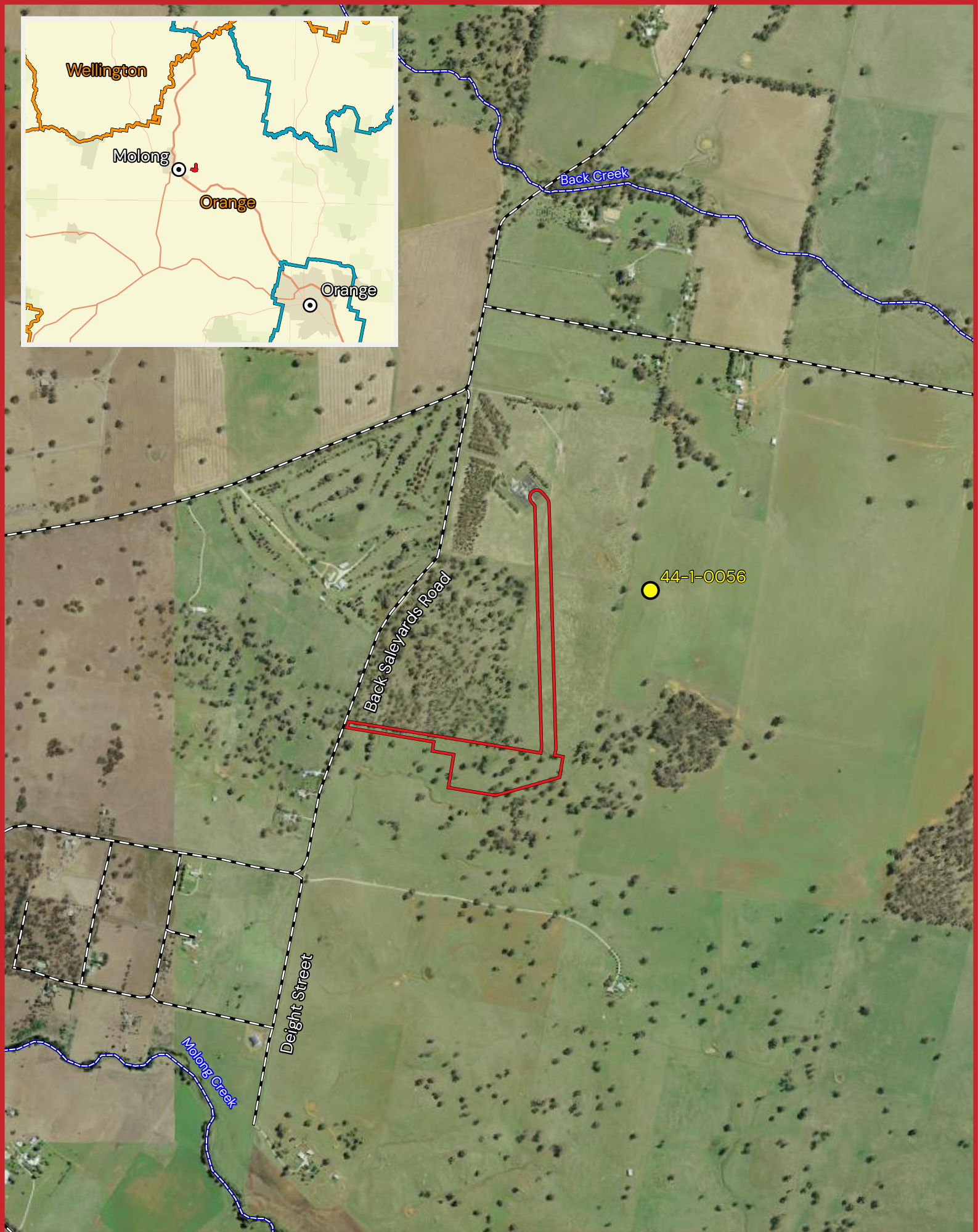
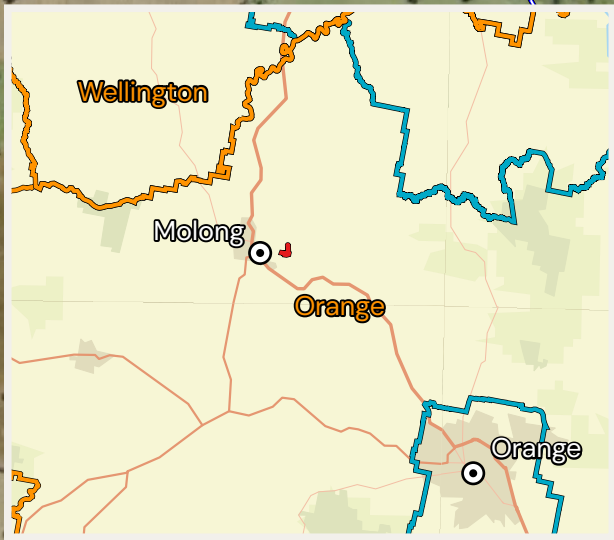
Mary-Jean Sutton

Dr Mary-Jean Sutton

Director

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW

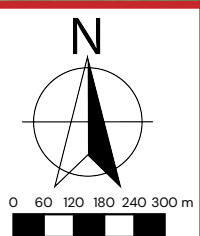
(02) 6676 4354



540 Stor Energy Molong
Molong, NSW
Figure 1. Project Area and Locality

Author: Shaun Sewell
 Date: 26/02/2025
 Scale: 1:15000 @ A4
 Datum: GDA2020 / MGA zone 55
 Source: Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, © Department of Customer Service - Spatial Services 2024
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- Legend**
- Project Area
 - Local Aboriginal Land Councils
 - Cabonne Shire Council
 - Roads
 - Named Watercourse
 - Cities and Towns
 - AHIMS Sites



Orange LALC
Ben
e. reception@olalc.com.au

14th March 2025

Dear Ben,

Subject: Draft Survey Strategy and Project Methodology for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for the proposed BESS at Lot 99 DP 1020247 and Lot 1 DP 542283, Molong, NSW

Thank you for registering for Aboriginal consultation for the preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) to support an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a State Significant Development (SSD) for a proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility at Lot 99 DP 1020247 and Lot 1 DP 542283, Molong NSW (the project area, refer to Figure 1).

As outlined in earlier correspondence, Virtus Heritage Pty Limited (hereafter Virtus Heritage) has been engaged by SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd (SLR) on behalf of Storenergy 3 Pty Ltd (Stor-Energy) to prepare the ACHA, including an archaeological assessment. Virtus Heritage is undertaking consultation with Aboriginal people in accordance with Heritage NSW's *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents* (DECCW, 2010). This presentation of the draft survey strategy and project methodology for your comment is being undertaken in accordance with Section 4.3, Stage 3 of these requirements.

BACKGROUND AND PROJECT IMPACTS

The proposal site is within the Cabonne Shire Local Government Area (refer to Figure 1) and includes the proposed activities:

- Transport of construction personnel, equipment and materials to and from the Project Area during construction (dependent on construction schedule), including all associated heavy and light vehicle traffic movements.
- Site establishment works including limited vegetation clearing within the Project Area, bulk earthworks and a temporary construction compound and soil testing.
- Road works to formalise a new driveway crossing from Back Saleyards Road and internal site access road for construction purposes and ongoing access.
- Construction of hardstand/laydown areas, fencing, internal roads, control room, auxiliary transformer, battery enclosures, and inverter/transformer/switchgear stations (referred to as Power Conversion Stations (PCS)).
- Construction of approximately 900m of overhead 132 kV transmission line to facilitate connection to the existing Transgrid's Molong Substation and associated high voltage concrete or steel poles and wiring.
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- Construction of ancillary works including a parking area, water tank, Operations and Maintenance (O&M) building (including storage structures), stormwater management infrastructure, security lighting and fencing.
- Vegetative screening and landscaping.
- The installation of 264 BESS units (maximum) within individual, modular containers, on hardstand footings with a total capacity of 150 MW/730MWh.
- The installation of 50 inverters on hardstand footings.
- Installation of subsurface wiring infrastructure throughout the Indicative BESS area.
- Commissioning and testing of all installed equipment on the Project Area.

The proposed activity includes earthworks and has the potential to impact Aboriginal objects and archaeological deposits.

LANDSCAPE HISTORY

Soil profiles

The soils of the project area are mapped within the eSpade v2.2 dataset as Molong soil landscape. The main soils within this are Euchrozems. Non-calcic brown soils and yellow podzolic soils are found mainly on lower slopes within this soil landscape.

Euchrozems is a great soil group of the Ferrosols order. Isbell (2002:41) describes Ferrosols as “soils with B2 horizons which are high to free iron oxide, and which lack strong texture contrast between A and B horizons”. These soils are very acidic and high aluminium toxicity potential (NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment n.d.).

The acidic soils associated with Ferrosol soils can impact the survival of organic Aboriginal heritage/objects (e.g. wooden implements) within a project area.

Geology

The project area is located within the Molong soil landscape and the Cargo Andesite geological unit. Andesite is an extrusive rock of intermediate composition. The project area is additionally located within the Fairbridge Volcanics. This unit is described as ‘regionally extensive unit dominated by pillow basalt and monomict breccia with large (up to 2mm) clinopyroxene phenocrysts and small plagioclase phenocrysts (<0.8mm) (Geological Survey n.d.). The lithology of this unit is dominated by basalt.

Andesite is known for its strength and durability. This geology supports the presence of stone artefacts. Additionally, previous archaeological studies in the region have identified many naturally occurring natural materials that are known to be utilised in stone tool manufacturing; basalt, hornblende, basaltic andesite, augite, porphyrite and volcanic horizons (ERM 2003).

Topography and Hydrology

The topography of the project area is comprised of undulating low hills. The project area is situated on a gentle slope that has undergone significant modifications to the topography due to generational agricultural use.

Despite the levels of disturbance that have altered the topography of the project area and its surroundings, Aboriginal objects can, and are known to survive.

First order ephemeral streams of Back Creek are located within or near the project area. Additionally, there are many major creeks, including Back Creek that is located approximately 1 kilometre north, and Molong Creek approximately 1.3 kilometres south of the project area. Tributaries of Back Creek and Molong Creek are located within the lands surrounding the project area.

Water sources are considered a sensitive landform under the Due Diligence Code of Practice. Under the Code, it is recognised that this area may have increased potential for Aboriginal objects 'as a result of Aboriginal people's use of those features in their everyday lives and for traditional cultural activities' (Due Diligence Code:12).

Climate, Flora and Fauna

The project area falls within the NSW South Western Slopes Bioregion, characterised by temperate climate with hot summers and no dry season (NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service 2003).

The native vegetation within the project area has been extensively cleared (refer to aerial imagery, Plates 1–4). The project area is occupied predominantly by a contemporary vegetation landscape of grass for cattle grazing. Original vegetation associated with this soil landscape include white box-apple box community with Blakely's red gum, yellow box and red ironbark as associated species.

The project area today is predominantly grassy woodland with evidence of disturbance from cattle grazing, with some remnant vegetation. There is potential for Culturally Modified Trees to be present where mature trees are extant as they have been recorded in the area previously.

The nearby permanent freshwater creeks (Back and Molong Creeks) would have provided suitable habitats for a vast range of amphibians, reptiles and mammals, including platypus, echidnas, water birds, fish species, turtles, frogs, edible bivalves and crustaceans.

The ecosystems outlined above would have provided Aboriginal people access to a range of flora and fauna for food, medicine and other economic uses.

Previous Land Use History

An analysis of historical aerials was undertaken on images from 1964, 1973, 1983 and 1993 to examine past land use and the extent of disturbance within the project area. Understanding previous land use history is critical to understanding if the sensitivity of a landform, soils, geology and hydrology for material evidence of Aboriginal occupation may be compromised or still extant over the passage of time.

The project area is located in farming land along Back Saleyard Road, east of the Molong Disc Golf Course, Molong. As displayed within the historical aerial images (Plates 1–4), the project area and surrounding landscape have undergone extensive clearing and disturbances over decades of agricultural use. This disturbance has potential to break Aboriginal objects or remove the original soil profiles and disturb them to at least 45cm in depth from cropping accelerating erosion. There is the possibility that Culturally Modified Trees could have been removed in previous disturbance.



Plate 1. 1964 Historical Aerial.



Plate 2. 1973 Historical Aerial.



Plate 3. 1983 Historical Aerial.



Plate 4. 1993 Historical Aerial.

Summary

Prior to European colonisation, the region provided a complex mosaic of habitat types area. The floristic diversity, terrestrial animals, freshwater fish and edible bivalves would have provided rich resources for occupation. The temperate climate of the project area would have made it suitable for habitation all year round. The project area is located on landforms which have been modified and impacted by land clearing, agriculture and erosion. The modification of these landforms has disturbed, mixed and in some areas stripped the original topography and potentially disturbed potential archaeological deposits. Despite this disturbance, the project area still has some potential for evidence of Aboriginal occupation.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

The Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System is a database of registered Aboriginal sites within NSW, administered by the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC). Searches were conducted of the AHIMS register on 6 November 2024 for Aboriginal heritage sites recorded within and in proximity to the project area. The search area covered the following coordinates:

- Latitude, Longitude from: -33.1676, 148.7894
- Latitude, Longitude to: -33.0238, 149.0366

The results of the search are summarised below in **Table 1**.

Table 1. Summary of AHIMS Features.

Site Type	Frequency	Percentage
Artefact	26	59%
Artefact, Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD)	1	2.3%
Modified Trees	6	13.6%
Potential Archaeological Deposits (PADs)	7	15.9%
Stone Quarry, Artefact	1	2.3%
Restricted	2	4.5%
Modified Tree, Burial, Artefact	1	2.3%
Total	44	100%

The sites registered on AHIMS are mapped in **Figure 1**.

Of the 44 sites identified in the search area, one (AHIMS # 44-1-0056) is located approximately 110 metres east of the project area.

AHIMS # 44-1-0056 'IF1' was recorded by Navin Officer in 2002. This isolated find is a dark grey basalt/andesite anvil stone, described as:

A small anvil stone manufactured from a dark grey basalt pebble exposed on the surface of a cultivated paddock. The pebble was possible procured from an outcrop of andesite cobble and boulders which occur approximately 2.2 km to the southeast of the site.

The artefact is situated on a hill-crest approximately 17 m north of the existing 94T line (15 metres north of a survey peg bearing the number '466')...

Navin Officer 2002

An additional two sites were identified during the Due Diligence Assessment site inspection within the project area in December 2024. These sites include a grinding stone and a core. Both sites were identified within the proposed works footprint and will be impacted by this project.

Other Searches of Heritage Databases

Table 2 provides a summary searches of other heritage databases.

Table 2. Other Statutory Searches of Heritage Databases for the Project Area.

Heritage Database	About the Database	Search Area (LGA) and Search Date	Search Results
Australian Heritage Database	The Australian Heritage Database (AHD) is a Commonwealth administered heritage database that includes entries from the former Register for the National Estate and the current Commonwealth and National Heritage Lists.	This database was searched on the 6 November 2024 for all Indigenous heritage items within the Cabonne Shire LGA.	The search found 39 places located within the Cabonne Shire LGA. Eight places were located in Molong, most associated with the township of Molong. None of which are within or in immediate proximity of the project area. Yuranigh's Aboriginal Grave Historic Site is approximately 3 kilometres southwest of the project area.
State Heritage Inventory and State	The State Heritage Inventory (SHI) is a heritage database administered by the Heritage NSW (Department of Planning and Environment). This	A search of the SHI was conducted on 6 November 2024	The results were as follows:



Heritage Database	About the Database	Search Area (LGA) and Search Date	Search Results
Heritage Register	database includes heritage listings from local and regional planning instruments and heritage studies and State significant heritage items. Information and items listed in the State Heritage Inventory come from a number of sources. This means that there may be several entries for the same heritage item in the database. Search results are divided into three sections. Section 1 – Aboriginal Places – declared by the Minister for the Environment under the National Parks and Wildlife Act. This information is provided by Heritage NSW. Section 2 – State Heritage Register items – listed by the Heritage Council of NSW under the Heritage Act and includes items listed in Interim Heritage Orders. This information is provided by Heritage NSW. Section 3 – Heritage items listed by local councils on Local Environmental Plans under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, and State government agencies under s.170 of the Heritage Act. This information is provided by local councils and State government agencies.	for all heritage items within Molong, Cabonne Shire LGA.	Section 1 – No Aboriginal Places were listed within the suburb of Molong. Section 2 – 2 items listed under the Heritage Act are located within the suburb of Molong including Yuranigh's grave. Section 3 – 58 items were listed within the suburb of Molong. No places were located in or in immediate proximity to the project area.

Heritage Database	About the Database	Search Area (LGA) and Search Date	Search Results
Cabonne Shire LEP 2012 (2013 EPI 2)	Cabonne Shire Council utilises this Local Environmental Plan to regulate land use and development within the Cabonne Shire LGA. The Local Environmental Plans are planning instruments which contain provisions and listings of items of environmental heritage including heritage, conservation areas and archaeological sites within Schedule 5.	The LEP for Cabonne Shire 2012 (2013 EPA 2) was searched on 6 November 2024.	The Cabonne Shire LEP 2012 (2013 EPI 2) lists 58 Heritage items and one Heritage conservation area within suburb of Molong. No places were located in or in immediate proximity to the project area.

REGIONAL OCCUPATION

Previous archaeological research, register searches, and environmental can help understand the regional archaeological context for Aboriginal occupation, and predict the types of sites that may be found in the project area.

The existing archaeological record is constrained to tangible materials that are able to withstand deterioration over time. Consequently, the most common Aboriginal occupation site types are stone artefacts. Analysis of these artefacts, including the raw materials used and the manufacturing techniques, can indicate changes in social behaviour and organisation over time.

Multiple reports were identified on the AHIMS database associated with the AHIMS search area and the locality of Molong NSW. No Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plans were found associated with the project area.

OzArk Cultural Heritage Pty Ltd (2004) has undertaken an Archaeological Test Excavation of PAD # 44-1-0077 at Molong Creek for the proposed realignment of the Mitchell Highway. This study area displays a similar landscape and history of disturbance, including clearing, ploughing and grazing. This study utilised the work of Pearson's 1981 unpublished PhD to determine that sites were more frequently identified on low ridge topics, creek banks, gently undulating hills and river flats and usually in open woodland vegetation.

The test programme identified one possible artefact on the south side of Molong Creek, approximately 20 possible quartz flakes on the north side of Molong Creek and concluded that:

The test excavation programme revealed little supporting evidence in the area tested to justify the reclassification of this PAD as an Aboriginal camp site... Molong PAD # 44-1-0077 is not an Aboriginal

site and the presence of a few limited artefacts evidence can be attributed to downslope, colluvial movement.

OzArk 2004:28

Navin Officer (2003)'s *Molong to Manildra 132kV Transmission Line Stage 2: Cultural Heritage Assessment* identified seven artefact scatters and six isolated finds. Their assessment identified many landforms and features with potential for archaeological sites that exist in proximity to the current project area including riparian zones, namely the Molong Creek corridor which is describes as '... represent[ing] the only significant riparian zone' (Navin Officer 2003:8). Additionally, surface rock outcrops have been identified as having potential for archaeological sites.

Rock types known to have been exploited in the local and wider region include chert, chalcedony, andesitic greywacke, fine-grained sandstone, quartz, silcrete, various forms of river cobbles and fine-grained intrusive volcanics such as basalt... An Aboriginal chert quarry has been recorded at Yuranigh's grave...

Navin Officer 2003:9

Navin Officer conducted a previous Cultural Heritage Assessment of the Molong to Manildra 132kV transmission line in 2002. This assessment also identified the riparian zones and surface rock outcrops as having potential for archaeological sites. This study area was identified as being primarily clear paddocks vegetated with pasture grasses, like the currently project area.

NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service conducted a Plan of Management for Yuranigh's Aboriginal Grave Historic Site in 1999. The site has state-wide cultural, historical, social, education and archaeological significance and is located approximately 3.5km from the current project area. The site contains four carved trees, three living and one dead. Living carved trees 'are extremely rare' (NSW NPWS 1999:4). All four recorded carved trees are still present today.

Within the wider region, Pearson's 1981 unpublished PhD (as referenced in Navin Officer 2003:6) is noted as one of the 'only major and regionally based research investigation' relevant to the Molong area and the current project area. Pearson's thesis 'was an investigation of Aboriginal and early European settlement patterns within the Upper Macquarie River region of NSW' (Navin Officer 2003:6). Navin Officer (2003:6-7) summarised Pearson's results as the following:

- *There is a strong relationship between site location and distance from water sources.*
- *Distance to water varied from 10 to 500 m, but in general the average distance from water decreased as site size increased;*
- *Sites were found on hilly or undulating places rather than on river flats or the banks of waterways. However it was found that the regional incidence of landform variation biased this sample;*
- *Good drainage and views over watercourses and river flats were also considered to be important site location criteria;*
- *Most sites were located in contexts which would originally have supported open woodlands, with small numbers in original grassland or forest contexts. However, this result is skewed by the predominance of the first vegetation type;*



- *Burial sites and grinding grooves were situated as close to habitation areas as geological constraints would allow;*
- *Ceremonial sites such as earth rings ('bora' or 'bubung grounds') were located away from campsites;*
- *Stone arrangements were also located away from campsites in isolated places and tended to be associated with small hills or knolls or were on flat land;*
- *Quarry sites were located where stone outcrops with desirable working qualities were recognised and were reasonably accessible;*
- *Based on ethnohistoric information, Pearson suggests that Aboriginal campsites were seldom used for longer than three nights and that large sites probably represented accumulation of short visits.*

The previous archaeological assessments described above have been undertaken in areas comparable to the project area. They found that archaeological sites are often located near the numerous watercourses that traverse the landscape. However, these assessments note that despite the rich resources for Aboriginal occupation, past land use history has impacted the survival and integrity of Aboriginal material culture in the region.

PREDICTIVE MODEL

Based on the known archaeological, environmental and landscape context of the locality, a predictive model for evidence of Aboriginal occupation for the proposal site is presented below:

Scarred trees and carved trees contain evidence of scars and carved patterns which can be attributed to Aboriginal cultural use. Scarred trees include the removal of bark from the trunk of the tree (usually with a stone axe) to make shields, canoes, implements and other types of items which leave a wound on the tree trunk. Carved trees contain carved patterns on the tree trunk and in NSW are often found in association with ceremonial grounds, burials or cultural sites. Culturally modified trees make up 15.9% of the sites within the AHIMS search area for this project. Carved trees are a rare site type, four are recorded at Yuranigh's Grave located approximately 3.5 kilometres from the project area. There is a low potential for carved and scarred trees to be identified within the project area based on a review of historic aerial imagery, and agricultural land use history including land clearing. There is potential for carved and scarred trees to be present where mature trees exist.

Middens are the accumulation of debris from fish, crustaceans and other shell fish (shells, fish bones) consumed as part of Aboriginal people's diet. Middens also often contain charcoal, stone artefacts, bone and other types of material used by Aboriginal people. Middens often occur within close proximity to freshwater and saltwater sources which have potential to contain mussels, oysters and other types of edible bivalves. Middens are identified within sand dunes, beaches, terraces above water courses and inland near lagoons and water holes. Midden material may be identified within the project area due to the proximity to ephemeral water sources. However, due to the absence of sites containing shell within the AHIMS search area and acidity of the soils, the likelihood of this site being identified within the project area is considered low.

Isolated artefacts and open camp sites (artefact scatters) are the locations of discarded stone artefacts, often material that has been discarded as part of making stone tools or discarded over frequent episodes of occupation/visitation in an area. These sites are most likely to be found within 100 metres of a water course in well drained alluvial flats, alluvial terraces, lower slopes and confluences where the landscape

has not been heavily modified. Isolated artefacts and small open camp sites (artefact scatters) are also likely to be found on ridges, crests, saddles or floodplains which are not heavily impacted by previous land use, as they provide excellent outlook over the surrounding area. Considering the project area's proximity to ephemeral water sources, the density of AHIMS registered artefact sites within the search area (65.9%), and the two additional sites recorded within the project area in December 2024, strongly indicate that there is high potential for isolated artefacts and artefact scatters to be identified within the project area. The entire project area has potential for isolated artefacts and artefact scatters if they have not been substantially impacted by previous land use history.

Potential Archaeological Deposits (PADs) refers to soil profiles within landforms which are predicted to contain buried evidence of Aboriginal occupation. This buried evidence is most often stone artefact scatters which survive most frequently in the archaeological record. In NSW, buried archaeological deposits are nearly always found within the A unit soils (topsoil) or in alluvial deposits. Occasionally artefacts are found in the B horizon in cracking clays where artefacts have moved down from the topsoil or alluvium. PAD can be defined in a number of different ways; however, the primary archaeological importance of subsurface deposits is the possibility that they will provide information that can be used to interpret changes in the archaeological record through time and space. Consequently, for the purposes of this assessment, a landform or area will only be designated a PAD if it meets one or more of the following criteria.

- The PAD should not have been significantly disturbed by post-depositional factors such as animal burrowing, vegetation clearance, erosion, vehicle activity and track construction. Areas with limited post-depositional disturbance may retain high archaeological integrity and therefore artefacts within these areas are more likely to accurately record the human behaviours leading to their deposition; and/or
- It should be likely that the PAD will contain enough artefacts to allow for statistically viable detailed analysis and comparison of the artefact assemblage both within and between sites. The probability that sufficient quantities of artefacts will be present within a PAD should be assessed in light of the environmental context (including topography, resource availability, geomorphic patterns and the depth of the topsoil horizon) and the local archaeological context (in relation to the patterning of site location within the local area); and/or
- The PAD should be predicted to contain materials that can be dated, either in relative or absolute terms. The provision of dateable materials allows for the examination of chronological change within and between assemblages. This is an integral component of any discussion of changes in how people used the landscape and resources through time. Areas of archaeological potential are possible within less disturbed areas of the proposal where A unit soils remain intact.

There is potential for archaeological deposits within the project area and this needs to be ascertained further as part of the ACHA process.

Rock art (Petroglyphs, also referred to as Rock Engravings, and paintings) are art sites where marks have been made in stone by Aboriginal people (for example, spirit figures, animals, implements and footprints) and rock shelter sites with art (rock overhangs used for shelter by Aboriginal people and where smooth sandstone surfaces on the walls of the shelter are painted with ochres and pigments). Rock shelter sites with art will not be present in the project area based on the absence of suitable geology, previous land use history, previous archaeological research and consultation to date.

Aboriginal axe grinding grooves are grooves most often found in sandstone where Aboriginal people have sharpened or manufactured stone axes and other implements and, in some cases, ground seed and grains in the sandstone forming 'bowls'. This site type can occur where suitable geology is present. Grinding groove sites have a low potential to be identified within the project area based on the relative absence of suitable geology, however there is still potential due to its location in proximity to water sources, including ephemeral streams.

Aboriginal burial sites, bora grounds, story places or stone arrangements within the proposal based on preliminary previous archaeological and historical research undertaken to date. Cultural sites are usually determined through Aboriginal consultation and may need revision after review of the ACHA by registered Aboriginal parties. There are no known burial sites within the project area based on Aboriginal consultation to date and previous land use history. However, known burial sites are located within the surrounding landscape, including Yuranigh's Historic Grave. This site type is unlikely to be encountered within the project area. There are no known bora grounds or stone arrangements within the project area based on Aboriginal consultation to date, AHIMS database search and previous land use history. Stone arrangements and bora grounds are unlikely to survive within the project area due to the previous land use history and flooding events.

CULTURAL INFORMATION

As part of the review of this methodology for the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment report, we request and also seek cultural information from registered Aboriginal parties to identify:

- whether there are any Aboriginal objects of cultural value to Aboriginal people in the vicinity of the proposal site; and
- whether there are any places of cultural value to Aboriginal people in the area of the proposal site (whether they are Aboriginal places declared under s.84 of the NPW Act or not). This will include places of social, spiritual and cultural value, historic places with cultural significance, and potential places/areas of historic, social, spiritual and/or cultural significance.

DRAFT SURVEY METHODOLOGY

A Virtus Heritage archaeologist and at least one Registered Aboriginal Party representative engaged by Stor-Energy will inspect the development footprint, including proposed vehicle tracks and laydown areas, within the project area over one field day (~8 hours). The team will walk side by side approximately 1 metre apart in transects, where space permits, to cover the whole area of available exposure and visibility or visit areas that are partially obscured to take photographs, discuss cultural knowledge and record the archaeological potential for what lies beneath.

The survey will also target exposures and record changes in landform elements. Aboriginal resources will be recorded within the survey area and any comments by Aboriginal representatives regarding significance, information about the landscape, and cultural heritage management options will be recorded.

The proposed survey will include:

- coverage of all environmental contexts within the proposal site;
- focusing, where possible, on ground surfaces with higher archaeological visibility;



- inspection of bedrock (if any) for evidence of grinding grooves; and
- inspection of any places specifically requested by the Aboriginal parties within the proposal site.
- attempt to re-identify all previously known Aboriginal objects recorded within the project area; and
- inspection of any places specifically requested by the Aboriginal parties within the project area.

The survey strategy will involve the following components:

- division of the entire proposal site into archaeological survey areas most likely to be based on landforms and previous land use history, following classifications and definitions outlined in the requirements of the Archaeological Code of Practice (DECCW 2010);
- within each archaeological survey area, recording the different types of surface exposures (e.g. vehicle track, erosion scour), previous land use history and disturbance, natural features (e.g. presence of sandstone), soils, erosion, ground surface visibility, and geomorphic activity following the requirements of the Archaeological Code of Practice (DECCW 2010) and information or comments provided by Aboriginal parties involved in the survey;
- completion of an Aboriginal heritage site recording form for each Aboriginal site or Potential Archaeological Deposit identified, which will include all information required to fill in an OEH AHIMS site card;
- recording any cultural information, information about Aboriginal resources or comments made by Aboriginal parties involved in the field survey on the management or cultural values of the proposal site; and
- mapping and recording all archaeological survey areas and all identified Aboriginal sites and/or PADs within the proposal site using a hand-held GPS and a digital camera.

CULTURALLY SENSITIVE / GENDER SENSITIVE INFORMATION

We understand that there may be times where registered Aboriginal parties may have information about a project which is culturally or gender sensitive. If registered Aboriginal parties wish to provide cultural information which they do not want to be made public or which is gender sensitive, provision can be made to record this information as confidential as part of the reporting process but without inclusion in the public versions of the report. Female and male archaeologists or female and male representatives of Stor-Energy can also be made available to record or discuss gender sensitive information during the life of the project, depending on the wishes of registered Aboriginal parties.

COMMERCIAL ENGAGEMENT

All registered Aboriginal parties are invited to participate in the initial survey on a voluntary basis. Stor-Energy will however consider the reimbursement of any reasonable demonstrated out of pocket expenses directly incurred in order to participate in the survey.

The contact to discuss voluntary fieldwork involvement for this project is:

Oliver Coleman
Storenergy 3 Pty Ltd
Email: information@molong-battery.com.au
Phone/Fax: 1800 920 060



Only one to two representatives will be selected for fieldwork from registered Aboriginal parties relevant to their area of interest. However, all registered Aboriginal parties are invited to participate in the initial survey on a voluntary basis. The initial survey is tentatively set for early April 2025.

CLOSING DATE FOR COMMENTS ON SURVEY STRATEGY

Following Heritage NSW's ACHCRs, registered Aboriginal parties for this project have a minimum of 28 days to review the draft survey strategy and project methodology for the ACHA and provide comment and input. The closing date for comments is by **5:00pm on 11 April 2025** {However, due to the urgency of this project we will need comments from you as soon as possible}. Please provide your written or verbal comments to:

Lilith Malcolm (Archaeologist) and Dr Mary-Jean Sutton (Director)
Virtus Heritage
PO Box 101
Pottsville NSW 2489
Phone/Fax: (02) 6676 4354
Email: consultation@virtusheritage.com.au

If you would like to discuss this draft survey strategy or have any questions about the proposed works, please contact me on (02) 6676 4354.

Sincerely,

Mary-Jean Sutton

Dr Mary-Jean Sutton

DIRECTOR
Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02) 6676 4354

REFERENCES

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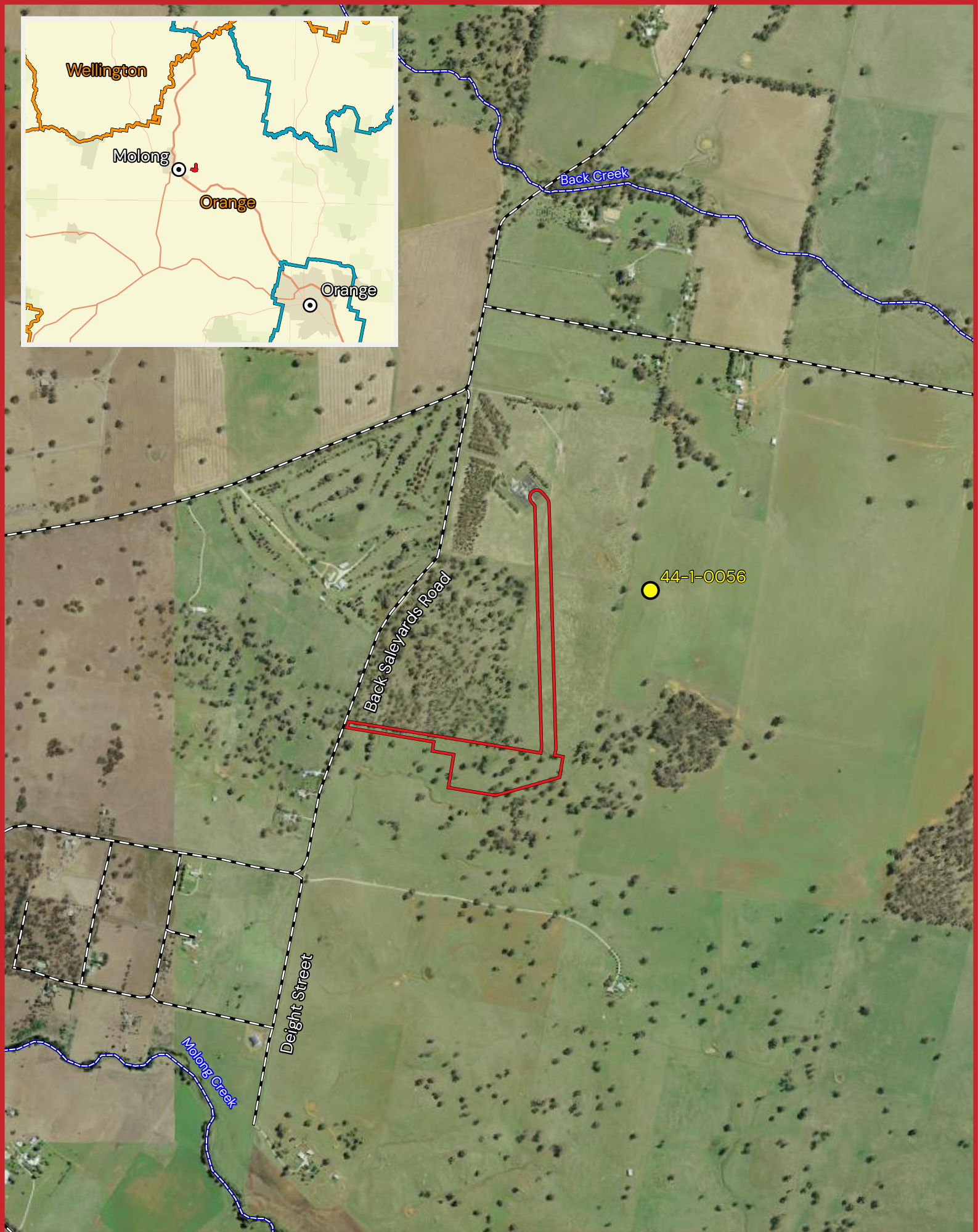
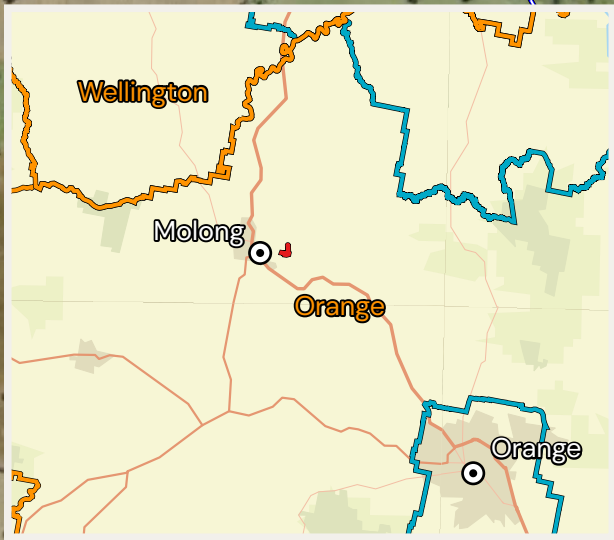
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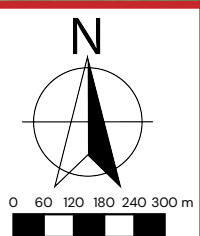
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**540 Stor Energy Molong
Molong, NSW
Figure 1. Project Area and Locality**

Author: Shaun Sewell
Date: 26/02/2025
Scale: 1:15000 @ A4
Datum: GDA2020 / MGA zone 55
Source: Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, © Department of Customer Service - Spatial Services 2024
Maps and figures contained within this document may be based on third party data, may not be to scale and are intended for use as a guide only. Virtus Heritage does not warrant the accuracy of such maps or figures.

- Legend**
- Project Area
 - Local Aboriginal Land Councils
 - Cabonne Shire Council
 - Roads
 - Named Watercourse
 - Cities and Towns
 - AHIMS Sites



Fw: 540 - Presentation of Project Information and Draft Project Methodology - Molong BESS ACHA

From Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au>

Date Fri 14/03/2025 6:54 PM

To wingarrawilay@yahoo.com <wingarrawilay@yahoo.com>

Cc Oliver Coleman <oliver.coleman@stor-energy.com>; Lilith Malcolm <l.malcolm@virtusheritage.com.au>; Anya Graubard <a.graubard@virtusheritage.com.au>; Ursula McInnes <umcInnes@slrconsulting.com>

 2 attachments (4 MB)

540_Wingarrawilay_SS.pdf; 540_Wingarrawilay_PPI.pdf;

"Ray Moon" <wingarrawilay@yahoo.com>

Dear Raymond,

Thank you for registering for Aboriginal consultation for the preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) needed to support a Scoping Report and request for Secretary Environmental Assessment requirements (SEARs) for establishing a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility at Lot 99 on DP1020247 and Lot 1 on DP542283 (the project area) and connecting to Transgrid's Molong Substation at 1 Deight Street and 19 Back Saleyards Road, Molong, NSW 2866 via a 132kV overhead transmission line (the Project Area).

As previously communicated, Virtus Heritage has been engaged by SLR to undertake the ACHA, including an Archaeological Assessment (AA). In accordance with the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water's Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents (ACHCRs) (DECCW 2010), Section 4.2, Stage 2, this letter presents information on the proposed works to all registered Aboriginal parties.

Please see the attached draft Presentation Project Information Letter and the draft Project Methodology & Survey Strategy, and relevant figures for your review & comment.

Following Heritage NSW's ACHCRs, RAPs for this project have a minimum of 28 days to review the draft survey strategy and project methodology for the ACHA and provide comment and input. The closing date for comments by **5pm on 11th April 2025**.

Please provide your written or verbal comments to:

Lilith Malcolm
Virtus Heritage
PO Box 101
Pottsville NSW 2489
Phone/Fax: (02) 6676 4354
Email: consultation@virtusheritage.com.au

Thank you,



Virtus Heritage

CONSULTATION

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02) 6676 4354

VIRTUSHERITAGE.COM.AU

Virtus Heritage is committed to the spirit of reconciliation and acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians and the Traditional Custodians of the states and territories of Australia. We recognise the Traditional Owners of the lands we work within. We pay our respect to Elders past, present and emerging in maintaining the culture, country and their spiritual and historical connections to the lands and waters.

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Wingarra Wilay Aboriginal Corporation
Raymond Moon
e. wingarrawilay@yahoo.com

14th March 2025

Dear Raymond,

Subject: Presentation of project information for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for a proposed BESS at Lot 99 DP 1020247 and Lot 1 DP 542283, Molong, NSW

Thank you for registering for Aboriginal consultation for the preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd (SLR) on behalf of Storenergy 3 Pty Ltd (Storenergy) for a proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility at Lot 99 DP 1020247 and Lot 1 DP 542283, Molong NSW (the project area, refer to Figure 1). The proposed works will be impacting two Aboriginal sites identified in a previous preliminary site inspection (described in (a) below). These sites have been lodged and are currently under review by AHIMS Quarantine Station.

As outlined in earlier correspondence, Virtus Heritage has been engaged by SLR to prepare the ACHA, including an archaeological assessment, to support an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a State Significant Development (SSD). As part of the requirements of the Heritage NSW's *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents* (DECCW, 2010), Section 4.2, Stage 2, this letter presents information on the proposed works to all registered Aboriginal parties.

The purpose of this letter is to provide information supplied by the proponent to:

- a) present the proposal, outline project details relevant to the nature, scope, methodology, and environmental and other impacts;
- b) outline the impact assessment process including the input points into the investigation and assessment activities;
- c) specify critical timelines and milestones for the completion of assessment activities and delivery of reports;
- d) specify proposed roles, functions and responsibilities for the project for discussion and comment by registered Aboriginal parties; and
- e) provide an opportunity for registered Aboriginal parties to identify, raise and discuss their cultural concerns, perspectives and assessment requirements (if any).

a) The Proposal, Project Details and Project Impacts

The proposal site is within the Cabonne Shire Local Government Area (refer to **Figure 1**) and includes the proposed activities:

- Transport of construction personnel, equipment and materials to and from the Project Area during construction (dependent on construction schedule), including all associated heavy and light vehicle traffic movements.

- Site establishment works including limited vegetation clearing within the Project Area, bulk earthworks and a temporary construction compound and soil testing, if necessitated
- Road works to formalise a new driveway crossing from Back Saleyards Road and internal site access road for construction purposes and ongoing access.
- Construction of hardstand/laydown areas, fencing, internal roads, control room, auxiliary transformer, battery enclosures, and inverter/transformer/switchgear stations (referred to as Power Conversion Stations (PCS)).
- Construction of approximately 900m of overhead 132 kV transmission line to facilitate connection to the existing Transgrid's Molong Substation and associated high voltage concrete or steel poles and wiring.
- Acoustic attenuation (to be determined as part of a detailed assessment).
- Construction of ancillary works including a parking area, water tank, Operations and Maintenance (O&M) building (including storage structures), stormwater management infrastructure, security lighting and fencing.
- Vegetative screening and landscaping.
- The installation of 264 BESS units (maximum) within individual, modular containers, on hardstand footings with a total capacity of 150 MW/730MWh.
- The installation of 50 inverters on hardstand footings.
- Installation of subsurface wiring infrastructure throughout the Indicative BESS area.
- Commissioning and testing of all installed equipment on the Project Area.

The proposed activity includes significant earthworks and is anticipated to take 18 months beginning in 2027.

An AHIMS search and searches of the Australian Heritage Database, NSW State Heritage Inventory and the Cabonne Shire Local Environment Plan have been completed. Of the 44 sites identified in the AHIMS search area, none are located within the project area, and one (AHIMS # 44-1-0056) is located approximately 110 metres east of the project area.

AHIMS # 44-1-0056 'IF1' was recorded by Navin Officer in 2002. This isolated find is a dark grey basalt/andesite anvil stone, described as:

A small anvil stone manufactured from a dark grey basalt pebble exposed on the surface of a cultivated paddock. The pebble was possible procured from an outcrop of andesite cobble and boulders which occur approximately 2.2 km to the southeast of the site.

The artefact is situated on a hill-crest approximately 17 m north of the existing 94T line (15 metres north of a survey peg bearing the number '466')...

An additional two sites were identified during the preliminary site inspection within the project area in December 2024. These sites include a grinding stone and a core. Both sites were identified within the proposed works footprint and will be impacted by this project.

The project area sits within a wider Aboriginal cultural heritage landscape that is rich in Aboriginal history and heritage. Including Yuranigh's Aboriginal Grave Historic Site, that holds significant state-wide cultural, historical, social, educational and archaeological value. Yuranigh's grave is located approximately 3.5 kilometres from the current project area and contains four carved trees that 'are extremely rare' (NSW NPWS 1999:4).

The activity therefore has the potential to impact Aboriginal cultural heritage values. Aboriginal objects and archaeological deposits where they survive. Further information regarding the project, its landscape, historical and archaeological context is provided in the survey methodology attachment.

b) Outline the impact assessment process including the input points into the investigation and assessment activities;

The impacts of this project on Aboriginal heritage are being determined through the preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment by Virtus Heritage. The broader environmental impact assessment process and overall project is being managed by SLR on behalf of Stor-Energy as the proponent.

Registered Aboriginal parties have several input points into the investigation and assessment activities for this project, including:

- Review and comment on presentation of project information supplied in this letter;
- Opportunity to discuss with Virtus Heritage or SLR this project information at any time during the duration of the project and record comments and input;
- Review, comment and provide cultural information regarding the project and input on cultural heritage management on a draft methodology for the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment within a minimum 28-day comment period;
- Opportunity to be involved in the Aboriginal heritage survey of the project area (date to be confirmed) and to provide cultural information and input into the assessment.
- If archaeological testing and / or salvage is required, an archaeological testing and/ or salvage excavation methodology would be prepared and provided to Registered Aboriginal Parties for review (noting that an AHIP would not be required for an SSD project).
- Review of a draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for comment;
- Receipt of all copies of a final Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment
- Review of the EIS during public exhibition on the Major Projects website

(c) Specify critical timelines and milestones for the completion of assessment activities and delivery of reports

Critical timelines for the completion of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment follows OEH's Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements (DECCW, 2010).

A minimum of 28 days will be provided for registered Aboriginal parties to review of the draft methodology for the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment and the draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment report. However, if comments on the methodology for the ACHA are provided within two weeks, the proposed survey for this project can be undertaken earlier. Please notify me as soon as possible if there are critical days that need to be taken into account in this timeframe (for example, commemorative days, sorry business etc).

(d) Specify proposed roles, functions and responsibilities for the project for discussion and comment by registered Aboriginal parties;

We recognise that registered Aboriginal parties have an integral role in the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment process and are the primary determinants of the significance of their heritage. Registered Aboriginal parties will be afforded the opportunity as part of the consultation process to provide cultural information on the project area, to be involved in the review and comment of all documentation for the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment, to be involved in fieldwork and to provide input and comment into potential management options for any identified cultural heritage values.

Virtus Heritage will carry out Aboriginal consultation for this project and undertake the preparation of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment and subsequent consent documentation, in consultation with registered Aboriginal parties.

Stor-Energy is responsible for the co-ordination of the broader project and has engaged Virtus Heritage to undertake Aboriginal consultation. Stor-Energy will be undertaking the proposed works for this project, once approved.

The contacts for this project are:

Lilith Malcolm (Archaeologist) and Dr Mary-Jean Sutton (Director)
Virtus Heritage
Postal Address: PO Box 101 Pottsville NSW 2489
Email: consultation@virtusheritage.com.au
Phone/Fax: (02) 6676 4354

The commercial engagement of registered Aboriginal parties for this project will be Stor-Energy. The Stor-Energy contact for commercial engagement is:

*Oliver Coleman
StorEnergy 3 Pty Ltd
1800 920 060
information@molong-battery.com.au*

Gender and other Culturally Sensitive Information

We understand that there may be times where registered Aboriginal parties may have information about a project which is culturally or gender sensitive. If registered Aboriginal parties wish to provide cultural information which they do not want to be made public or which is gender sensitive, provision can be made to record this information as confidential as part of the reporting process but without inclusion in the public versions of the report. Female and male archaeologists or representatives of Virtus Heritage and SLR can also be made available to record or discuss gender sensitive information during the life of the project, depending on the wishes of registered Aboriginal parties. Please contact me directly to discuss this issue further, if it is of concern.

Please let us know as soon as possible if there is gender sensitive information and a male archaeologist is required, so we can make appropriate arrangements.



(e) Provide an opportunity for registered Aboriginal parties to identify, raise and discuss their cultural concerns, perspectives and assessment requirements (if any).

Please contact Virtus Heritage directly to identify, raise and discuss cultural concerns, perspectives and assessment requirements (if any). We will also attempt to call you early next week to discuss any potential issues, perspectives and assessment requirements.

If you would like to discuss this letter or have any questions about the proposed works, please contact me or Lilith Malcolm (Archaeologist) on (02) 6676 4354.

Yours sincerely,

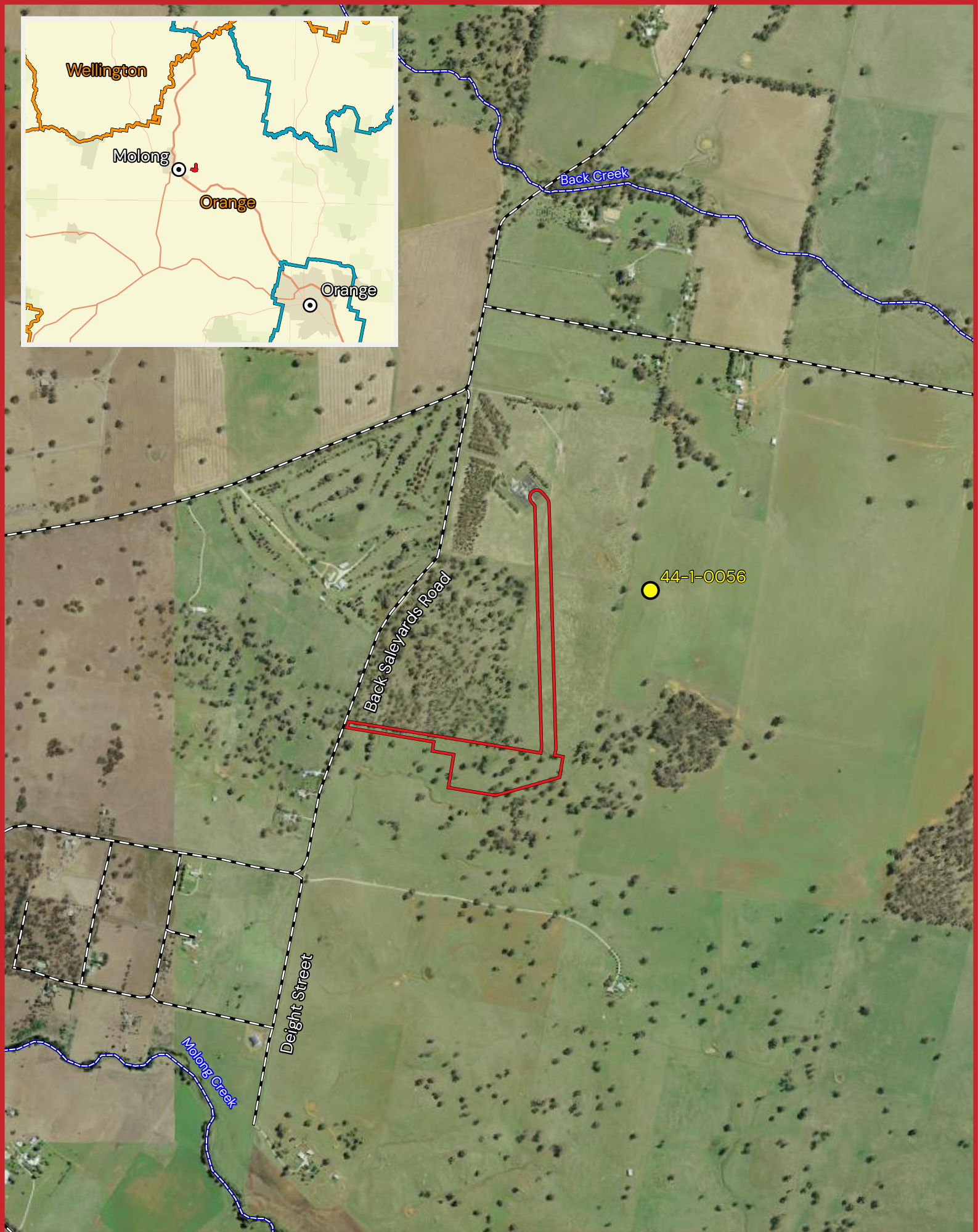
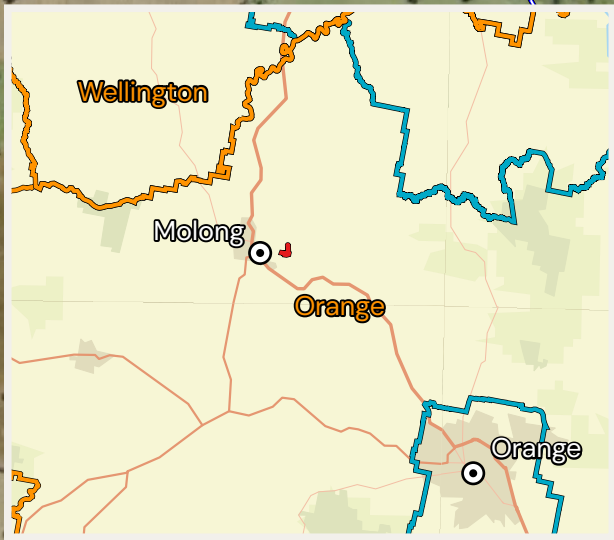
Mary-Jean Sutton

Dr Mary-Jean Sutton

Director

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW

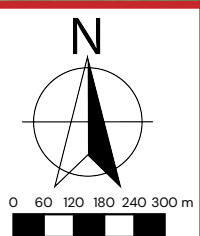
(02) 6676 4354



540 Stor Energy Molong
Molong, NSW
Figure 1. Project Area and Locality

Author: Shaun Sewell
 Date: 26/02/2025
 Scale: 1:15000 @ A4
 Datum: GDA2020 / MGA zone 55
 Source: Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, © Department of Customer Service - Spatial Services 2024
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- Legend**
- Project Area
 - Local Aboriginal Land Councils
 - Cabonne Shire Council
 - Roads
 - Named Watercourse
 - Cities and Towns
 - AHIMS Sites



Wingarra Wilay Aboriginal Corporation
Raymond Moon
e. wingarrawilay@yahoo.com

14th March 2025

Dear Raymond,

Subject: Draft Survey Strategy and Project Methodology for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for the proposed BESS at Lot 99 DP 1020247 and Lot 1 DP 542283, Molong, NSW

Thank you for registering for Aboriginal consultation for the preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) to support an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a State Significant Development (SSD) for a proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility at Lot 99 DP 1020247 and Lot 1 DP 542283, Molong NSW (the project area, refer to Figure 1).

As outlined in earlier correspondence, Virtus Heritage Pty Limited (hereafter Virtus Heritage) has been engaged by SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd (SLR) on behalf of Storenergy 3 Pty Ltd (Stor-Energy) to prepare the ACHA, including an archaeological assessment. Virtus Heritage is undertaking consultation with Aboriginal people in accordance with Heritage NSW's *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents* (DECCW, 2010). This presentation of the draft survey strategy and project methodology for your comment is being undertaken in accordance with Section 4.3, Stage 3 of these requirements.

BACKGROUND AND PROJECT IMPACTS

The proposal site is within the Cabonne Shire Local Government Area (refer to Figure 1) and includes the proposed activities:

- Transport of construction personnel, equipment and materials to and from the Project Area during construction (dependent on construction schedule), including all associated heavy and light vehicle traffic movements.
- Site establishment works including limited vegetation clearing within the Project Area, bulk earthworks and a temporary construction compound and soil testing.
- Road works to formalise a new driveway crossing from Back Saleyards Road and internal site access road for construction purposes and ongoing access.
- Construction of hardstand/laydown areas, fencing, internal roads, control room, auxiliary transformer, battery enclosures, and inverter/transformer/switchgear stations (referred to as Power Conversion Stations (PCS)).
- Construction of approximately 900m of overhead 132 kV transmission line to facilitate connection to the existing Transgrid's Molong Substation and associated high voltage concrete or steel poles and wiring.
- Acoustic attenuation (to be determined as part of a detailed assessment).

- Construction of ancillary works including a parking area, water tank, Operations and Maintenance (O&M) building (including storage structures), stormwater management infrastructure, security lighting and fencing.
- Vegetative screening and landscaping.
- The installation of 264 BESS units (maximum) within individual, modular containers, on hardstand footings with a total capacity of 150 MW/730MWh.
- The installation of 50 inverters on hardstand footings.
- Installation of subsurface wiring infrastructure throughout the Indicative BESS area.
- Commissioning and testing of all installed equipment on the Project Area.

The proposed activity includes earthworks and has the potential to impact Aboriginal objects and archaeological deposits.

LANDSCAPE HISTORY

Soil profiles

The soils of the project area are mapped within the eSpade v2.2 dataset as Molong soil landscape. The main soils within this are Euchrozems. Non-calcic brown soils and yellow podzolic soils are found mainly on lower slopes within this soil landscape.

Euchrozems is a great soil group of the Ferrosols order. Isbell (2002:41) describes Ferrosols as “soils with B2 horizons which are high to free iron oxide, and which lack strong texture contrast between A and B horizons”. These soils are very acidic and high aluminium toxicity potential (NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment n.d.).

The acidic soils associated with Ferrosol soils can impact the survival of organic Aboriginal heritage/objects (e.g. wooden implements) within a project area.

Geology

The project area is located within the Molong soil landscape and the Cargo Andesite geological unit. Andesite is an extrusive rock of intermediate composition. The project area is additionally located within the Fairbridge Volcanics. This unit is described as ‘regionally extensive unit dominated by pillow basalt and monomict breccia with large (up to 2mm) clinopyroxene phenocrysts and small plagioclase phenocrysts (<0.8mm) (Geological Survey n.d.). The lithology of this unit is dominated by basalt.

Andesite is known for its strength and durability. This geology supports the presence of stone artefacts. Additionally, previous archaeological studies in the region have identified many naturally occurring natural materials that are known to be utilised in stone tool manufacturing; basalt, hornblende, basaltic andesite, augite, porphyrite and volcanic horizons (ERM 2003).

Topography and Hydrology

The topography of the project area is comprised of undulating low hills. The project area is situated on a gentle slope that has undergone significant modifications to the topography due to generational agricultural use.

Despite the levels of disturbance that have altered the topography of the project area and its surroundings, Aboriginal objects can, and are known to survive.

First order ephemeral streams of Back Creek are located within or near the project area. Additionally, there are many major creeks, including Back Creek that is located approximately 1 kilometre north, and Molong Creek approximately 1.3 kilometres south of the project area. Tributaries of Back Creek and Molong Creek are located within the lands surrounding the project area.

Water sources are considered a sensitive landform under the Due Diligence Code of Practice. Under the Code, it is recognised that this area may have increased potential for Aboriginal objects 'as a result of Aboriginal people's use of those features in their everyday lives and for traditional cultural activities' (Due Diligence Code:12).

Climate, Flora and Fauna

The project area falls within the NSW South Western Slopes Bioregion, characterised by temperate climate with hot summers and no dry season (NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service 2003).

The native vegetation within the project area has been extensively cleared (refer to aerial imagery, Plates 1–4). The project area is occupied predominantly by a contemporary vegetation landscape of grass for cattle grazing. Original vegetation associated with this soil landscape include white box-apple box community with Blakely's red gum, yellow box and red ironbark as associated species.

The project area today is predominantly grassy woodland with evidence of disturbance from cattle grazing, with some remnant vegetation. There is potential for Culturally Modified Trees to be present where mature trees are extant as they have been recorded in the area previously.

The nearby permanent freshwater creeks (Back and Molong Creeks) would have provided suitable habitats for a vast range of amphibians, reptiles and mammals, including platypus, echidnas, water birds, fish species, turtles, frogs, edible bivalves and crustaceans.

The ecosystems outlined above would have provided Aboriginal people access to a range of flora and fauna for food, medicine and other economic uses.

Previous Land Use History

An analysis of historical aeriels was undertaken on images from 1964, 1973, 1983 and 1993 to examine past land use and the extent of disturbance within the project area. Understanding previous land use history is critical to understanding if the sensitivity of a landform, soils, geology and hydrology for material evidence of Aboriginal occupation may be compromised or still extant over the passage of time.

The project area is located in farming land along Back Saleyard Road, east of the Molong Disc Golf Course, Molong. As displayed within the historical aerial images (Plates 1–4), the project area and surrounding landscape have undergone extensive clearing and disturbances over decades of agricultural use. This disturbance has potential to break Aboriginal objects or remove the original soil profiles and disturb them to at least 45cm in depth from cropping accelerating erosion. There is the possibility that Culturally Modified Trees could have been removed in previous disturbance.



Plate 1. 1964 Historical Aerial.



Plate 2. 1973 Historical Aerial.



Plate 3. 1983 Historical Aerial.



Plate 4. 1993 Historical Aerial.

Summary

Prior to European colonisation, the region provided a complex mosaic of habitat types area. The floristic diversity, terrestrial animals, freshwater fish and edible bivalves would have provided rich resources for occupation. The temperate climate of the project area would have made it suitable for habitation all year round. The project area is located on landforms which have been modified and impacted by land clearing, agriculture and erosion. The modification of these landforms has disturbed, mixed and in some areas stripped the original topography and potentially disturbed potential archaeological deposits. Despite this disturbance, the project area still has some potential for evidence of Aboriginal occupation.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

The Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System is a database of registered Aboriginal sites within NSW, administered by the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC). Searches were conducted of the AHIMS register on 6 November 2024 for Aboriginal heritage sites recorded within and in proximity to the project area. The search area covered the following coordinates:

- Latitude, Longitude from: -33.1676, 148.7894
- Latitude, Longitude to: -33.0238, 149.0366

The results of the search are summarised below in **Table 1**.

Table 1. Summary of AHIMS Features.

Site Type	Frequency	Percentage
Artefact	26	59%
Artefact, Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD)	1	2.3%
Modified Trees	6	13.6%
Potential Archaeological Deposits (PADs)	7	15.9%
Stone Quarry, Artefact	1	2.3%
Restricted	2	4.5%
Modified Tree, Burial, Artefact	1	2.3%
Total	44	100%

The sites registered on AHIMS are mapped in **Figure 1**.

Of the 44 sites identified in the search area, one (AHIMS # 44-1-0056) is located approximately 110 metres east of the project area.

AHIMS # 44-1-0056 'IF1' was recorded by Navin Officer in 2002. This isolated find is a dark grey basalt/andesite anvil stone, described as:

A small anvil stone manufactured from a dark grey basalt pebble exposed on the surface of a cultivated paddock. The pebble was possible procured from an outcrop of andesite cobble and boulders which occur approximately 2.2 km to the southeast of the site.

The artefact is situated on a hill-crest approximately 17 m north of the existing 94T line (15 metres north of a survey peg bearing the number '466')...

Navin Officer 2002

An additional two sites were identified during the Due Diligence Assessment site inspection within the project area in December 2024. These sites include a grinding stone and a core. Both sites were identified within the proposed works footprint and will be impacted by this project.

Other Searches of Heritage Databases

Table 2 provides a summary searches of other heritage databases.

Table 2. Other Statutory Searches of Heritage Databases for the Project Area.

Heritage Database	About the Database	Search Area (LGA) and Search Date	Search Results
Australian Heritage Database	The Australian Heritage Database (AHD) is a Commonwealth administered heritage database that includes entries from the former Register for the National Estate and the current Commonwealth and National Heritage Lists.	This database was searched on the 6 November 2024 for all Indigenous heritage items within the Cabonne Shire LGA.	The search found 39 places located within the Cabonne Shire LGA. Eight places were located in Molong, most associated with the township of Molong. None of which are within or in immediate proximity of the project area. Yuranigh's Aboriginal Grave Historic Site is approximately 3 kilometres southwest of the project area.
State Heritage Inventory and State	The State Heritage Inventory (SHI) is a heritage database administered by the Heritage NSW (Department of Planning and Environment). This	A search of the SHI was conducted on 6 November 2024	The results were as follows:



Heritage Database	About the Database	Search Area (LGA) and Search Date	Search Results
Heritage Register	database includes heritage listings from local and regional planning instruments and heritage studies and State significant heritage items. Information and items listed in the State Heritage Inventory come from a number of sources. This means that there may be several entries for the same heritage item in the database. Search results are divided into three sections. Section 1 – Aboriginal Places – declared by the Minister for the Environment under the National Parks and Wildlife Act. This information is provided by Heritage NSW. Section 2 – State Heritage Register items – listed by the Heritage Council of NSW under the Heritage Act and includes items listed in Interim Heritage Orders. This information is provided by Heritage NSW. Section 3 – Heritage items listed by local councils on Local Environmental Plans under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, and State government agencies under s.170 of the Heritage Act. This information is provided by local councils and State government agencies.	for all heritage items within Molong, Cabonne Shire LGA.	Section 1 – No Aboriginal Places were listed within the suburb of Molong. Section 2 – 2 items listed under the Heritage Act are located within the suburb of Molong including Yuranigh's grave. Section 3 – 58 items were listed within the suburb of Molong. No places were located in or in immediate proximity to the project area.

Heritage Database	About the Database	Search Area (LGA) and Search Date	Search Results
Cabonne Shire LEP 2012 (2013 EPI 2)	Cabonne Shire Council utilises this Local Environmental Plan to regulate land use and development within the Cabonne Shire LGA. The Local Environmental Plans are planning instruments which contain provisions and listings of items of environmental heritage including heritage, conservation areas and archaeological sites within Schedule 5.	The LEP for Cabonne Shire 2012 (2013 EPA 2) was searched on 6 November 2024.	The Cabonne Shire LEP 2012 (2013 EPI 2) lists 58 Heritage items and one Heritage conservation area within suburb of Molong. No places were located in or in immediate proximity to the project area.

REGIONAL OCCUPATION

Previous archaeological research, register searches, and environmental can help understand the regional archaeological context for Aboriginal occupation, and predict the types of sites that may be found in the project area.

The existing archaeological record is constrained to tangible materials that are able to withstand deterioration over time. Consequently, the most common Aboriginal occupation site types are stone artefacts. Analysis of these artefacts, including the raw materials used and the manufacturing techniques, can indicate changes in social behaviour and organisation over time.

Multiple reports were identified on the AHIMS database associated with the AHIMS search area and the locality of Molong NSW. No Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plans were found associated with the project area.

OzArk Cultural Heritage Pty Ltd (2004) has undertaken an Archaeological Test Excavation of PAD # 44-1-0077 at Molong Creek for the proposed realignment of the Mitchell Highway. This study area displays a similar landscape and history of disturbance, including clearing, ploughing and grazing. This study utilised the work of Pearson's 1981 unpublished PhD to determine that sites were more frequently identified on low ridge topics, creek banks, gently undulating hills and river flats and usually in open woodland vegetation.

The test programme identified one possible artefact on the south side of Molong Creek, approximately 20 possible quartz flakes on the north side of Molong Creek and concluded that:

The test excavation programme revealed little supporting evidence in the area tested to justify the reclassification of this PAD as an Aboriginal camp site... Molong PAD # 44-1-0077 is not an Aboriginal

site and the presence of a few limited artefacts evidence can be attributed to downslope, colluvial movement.

OzArk 2004:28

Navin Officer (2003)'s *Molong to Manildra 132kV Transmission Line Stage 2: Cultural Heritage Assessment* identified seven artefact scatters and six isolated finds. Their assessment identified many landforms and features with potential for archaeological sites that exist in proximity to the current project area including riparian zones, namely the Molong Creek corridor which is describes as '... represent[ing] the only significant riparian zone' (Navin Officer 2003:8). Additionally, surface rock outcrops have been identified as having potential for archaeological sites.

Rock types known to have been exploited in the local and wider region include chert, chalcedony, andesitic greywacke, fine-grained sandstone, quartz, silcrete, various forms of river cobbles and fine-grained intrusive volcanics such as basalt... An Aboriginal chert quarry has been recorded at Yuranigh's grave...

Navin Officer 2003:9

Navin Officer conducted a previous Cultural Heritage Assessment of the Molong to Manildra 132kV transmission line in 2002. This assessment also identified the riparian zones and surface rock outcrops as having potential for archaeological sites. This study area was identified as being primarily clear paddocks vegetated with pasture grasses, like the currently project area.

NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service conducted a Plan of Management for Yuranigh's Aboriginal Grave Historic Site in 1999. The site has state-wide cultural, historical, social, education and archaeological significance and is located approximately 3.5km from the current project area. The site contains four carved trees, three living and one dead. Living carved trees 'are extremely rare' (NSW NPWS 1999:4). All four recorded carved trees are still present today.

Within the wider region, Pearson's 1981 unpublished PhD (as referenced in Navin Officer 2003:6) is noted as one of the 'only major and regionally based research investigation' relevant to the Molong area and the current project area. Pearson's thesis 'was an investigation of Aboriginal and early European settlement patterns within the Upper Macquarie River region of NSW' (Navin Officer 2003:6). Navin Officer (2003:6-7) summarised Pearson's results as the following:

- *There is a strong relationship between site location and distance from water sources.*
- *Distance to water varied from 10 to 500 m, but in general the average distance from water decreased as site size increased;*
- *Sites were found on hilly or undulating places rather than on river flats or the banks of waterways. However it was found that the regional incidence of landform variation biased this sample;*
- *Good drainage and views over watercourses and river flats were also considered to be important site location criteria;*
- *Most sites were located in contexts which would originally have supported open woodlands, with small numbers in original grassland or forest contexts. However, this result is skewed by the predominance of the first vegetation type;*



- *Burial sites and grinding grooves were situated as close to habitation areas as geological constraints would allow;*
- *Ceremonial sites such as earth rings ('bora' or 'bubung grounds') were located away from campsites;*
- *Stone arrangements were also located away from campsites in isolated places and tended to be associated with small hills or knolls or were on flat land;*
- *Quarry sites were located where stone outcrops with desirable working qualities were recognised and were reasonably accessible;*
- *Based on ethnohistoric information, Pearson suggests that Aboriginal campsites were seldom used for longer than three nights and that large sites probably represented accumulation of short visits.*

The previous archaeological assessments described above have been undertaken in areas comparable to the project area. They found that archaeological sites are often located near the numerous watercourses that traverse the landscape. However, these assessments note that despite the rich resources for Aboriginal occupation, past land use history has impacted the survival and integrity of Aboriginal material culture in the region.

PREDICTIVE MODEL

Based on the known archaeological, environmental and landscape context of the locality, a predictive model for evidence of Aboriginal occupation for the proposal site is presented below:

Scarred trees and carved trees contain evidence of scars and carved patterns which can be attributed to Aboriginal cultural use. Scarred trees include the removal of bark from the trunk of the tree (usually with a stone axe) to make shields, canoes, implements and other types of items which leave a wound on the tree trunk. Carved trees contain carved patterns on the tree trunk and in NSW are often found in association with ceremonial grounds, burials or cultural sites. Culturally modified trees make up 15.9% of the sites within the AHIMS search area for this project. Carved trees are a rare site type, four are recorded at Yuranigh's Grave located approximately 3.5 kilometres from the project area. There is a low potential for carved and scarred trees to be identified within the project area based on a review of historic aerial imagery, and agricultural land use history including land clearing. There is potential for carved and scarred trees to be present where mature trees exist.

Middens are the accumulation of debris from fish, crustaceans and other shell fish (shells, fish bones) consumed as part of Aboriginal people's diet. Middens also often contain charcoal, stone artefacts, bone and other types of material used by Aboriginal people. Middens often occur within close proximity to freshwater and saltwater sources which have potential to contain mussels, oysters and other types of edible bivalves. Middens are identified within sand dunes, beaches, terraces above water courses and inland near lagoons and water holes. Midden material may be identified within the project area due to the proximity to ephemeral water sources. However, due to the absence of sites containing shell within the AHIMS search area and acidity of the soils, the likelihood of this site being identified within the project area is considered low.

Isolated artefacts and open camp sites (artefact scatters) are the locations of discarded stone artefacts, often material that has been discarded as part of making stone tools or discarded over frequent episodes of occupation/visitation in an area. These sites are most likely to be found within 100 metres of a water course in well drained alluvial flats, alluvial terraces, lower slopes and confluences where the landscape

has not been heavily modified. Isolated artefacts and small open camp sites (artefact scatters) are also likely to be found on ridges, crests, saddles or floodplains which are not heavily impacted by previous land use, as they provide excellent outlook over the surrounding area. Considering the project area's proximity to ephemeral water sources, the density of AHIMS registered artefact sites within the search area (65.9%), and the two additional sites recorded within the project area in December 2024, strongly indicate that there is high potential for isolated artefacts and artefact scatters to be identified within the project area. The entire project area has potential for isolated artefacts and artefact scatters if they have not been substantially impacted by previous land use history.

Potential Archaeological Deposits (PADs) refers to soil profiles within landforms which are predicted to contain buried evidence of Aboriginal occupation. This buried evidence is most often stone artefact scatters which survive most frequently in the archaeological record. In NSW, buried archaeological deposits are nearly always found within the A unit soils (topsoil) or in alluvial deposits. Occasionally artefacts are found in the B horizon in cracking clays where artefacts have moved down from the topsoil or alluvium. PAD can be defined in a number of different ways; however, the primary archaeological importance of subsurface deposits is the possibility that they will provide information that can be used to interpret changes in the archaeological record through time and space. Consequently, for the purposes of this assessment, a landform or area will only be designated a PAD if it meets one or more of the following criteria.

- The PAD should not have been significantly disturbed by post-depositional factors such as animal burrowing, vegetation clearance, erosion, vehicle activity and track construction. Areas with limited post-depositional disturbance may retain high archaeological integrity and therefore artefacts within these areas are more likely to accurately record the human behaviours leading to their deposition; and/or
- It should be likely that the PAD will contain enough artefacts to allow for statistically viable detailed analysis and comparison of the artefact assemblage both within and between sites. The probability that sufficient quantities of artefacts will be present within a PAD should be assessed in light of the environmental context (including topography, resource availability, geomorphic patterns and the depth of the topsoil horizon) and the local archaeological context (in relation to the patterning of site location within the local area); and/or
- The PAD should be predicted to contain materials that can be dated, either in relative or absolute terms. The provision of dateable materials allows for the examination of chronological change within and between assemblages. This is an integral component of any discussion of changes in how people used the landscape and resources through time. Areas of archaeological potential are possible within less disturbed areas of the proposal where A unit soils remain intact.

There is potential for archaeological deposits within the project area and this needs to be ascertained further as part of the ACHA process.

Rock art (Petroglyphs, also referred to as Rock Engravings, and paintings) are art sites where marks have been made in stone by Aboriginal people (for example, spirit figures, animals, implements and footprints) and rock shelter sites with art (rock overhangs used for shelter by Aboriginal people and where smooth sandstone surfaces on the walls of the shelter are painted with ochres and pigments). Rock shelter sites with art will not be present in the project area based on the absence of suitable geology, previous land use history, previous archaeological research and consultation to date.

Aboriginal axe grinding grooves are grooves most often found in sandstone where Aboriginal people have sharpened or manufactured stone axes and other implements and, in some cases, ground seed and grains in the sandstone forming 'bowls'. This site type can occur where suitable geology is present. Grinding groove sites have a low potential to be identified within the project area based on the relative absence of suitable geology, however there is still potential due to its location in proximity to water sources, including ephemeral streams.

Aboriginal burial sites, bora grounds, story places or stone arrangements within the proposal based on preliminary previous archaeological and historical research undertaken to date. Cultural sites are usually determined through Aboriginal consultation and may need revision after review of the ACHA by registered Aboriginal parties. There are no known burial sites within the project area based on Aboriginal consultation to date and previous land use history. However, known burial sites are located within the surrounding landscape, including Yuranigh's Historic Grave. This site type is unlikely to be encountered within the project area. There are no known bora grounds or stone arrangements within the project area based on Aboriginal consultation to date, AHIMS database search and previous land use history. Stone arrangements and bora grounds are unlikely to survive within the project area due to the previous land use history and flooding events.

CULTURAL INFORMATION

As part of the review of this methodology for the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment report, we request and also seek cultural information from registered Aboriginal parties to identify:

- whether there are any Aboriginal objects of cultural value to Aboriginal people in the vicinity of the proposal site; and
- whether there are any places of cultural value to Aboriginal people in the area of the proposal site (whether they are Aboriginal places declared under s.84 of the NPW Act or not). This will include places of social, spiritual and cultural value, historic places with cultural significance, and potential places/areas of historic, social, spiritual and/or cultural significance.

DRAFT SURVEY METHODOLOGY

A Virtus Heritage archaeologist and at least one Registered Aboriginal Party representative engaged by Stor-Energy will inspect the development footprint, including proposed vehicle tracks and laydown areas, within the project area over one field day (~8 hours). The team will walk side by side approximately 1 metre apart in transects, where space permits, to cover the whole area of available exposure and visibility or visit areas that are partially obscured to take photographs, discuss cultural knowledge and record the archaeological potential for what lies beneath.

The survey will also target exposures and record changes in landform elements. Aboriginal resources will be recorded within the survey area and any comments by Aboriginal representatives regarding significance, information about the landscape, and cultural heritage management options will be recorded.

The proposed survey will include:

- coverage of all environmental contexts within the proposal site;
- focusing, where possible, on ground surfaces with higher archaeological visibility;



- inspection of bedrock (if any) for evidence of grinding grooves; and
- inspection of any places specifically requested by the Aboriginal parties within the proposal site.
- attempt to re-identify all previously known Aboriginal objects recorded within the project area; and
- inspection of any places specifically requested by the Aboriginal parties within the project area.

The survey strategy will involve the following components:

- division of the entire proposal site into archaeological survey areas most likely to be based on landforms and previous land use history, following classifications and definitions outlined in the requirements of the Archaeological Code of Practice (DECCW 2010);
- within each archaeological survey area, recording the different types of surface exposures (e.g. vehicle track, erosion scour), previous land use history and disturbance, natural features (e.g. presence of sandstone), soils, erosion, ground surface visibility, and geomorphic activity following the requirements of the Archaeological Code of Practice (DECCW 2010) and information or comments provided by Aboriginal parties involved in the survey;
- completion of an Aboriginal heritage site recording form for each Aboriginal site or Potential Archaeological Deposit identified, which will include all information required to fill in an OEH AHIMS site card;
- recording any cultural information, information about Aboriginal resources or comments made by Aboriginal parties involved in the field survey on the management or cultural values of the proposal site; and
- mapping and recording all archaeological survey areas and all identified Aboriginal sites and/or PADs within the proposal site using a hand-held GPS and a digital camera.

CULTURALLY SENSITIVE / GENDER SENSITIVE INFORMATION

We understand that there may be times where registered Aboriginal parties may have information about a project which is culturally or gender sensitive. If registered Aboriginal parties wish to provide cultural information which they do not want to be made public or which is gender sensitive, provision can be made to record this information as confidential as part of the reporting process but without inclusion in the public versions of the report. Female and male archaeologists or female and male representatives of Stor-Energy can also be made available to record or discuss gender sensitive information during the life of the project, depending on the wishes of registered Aboriginal parties.

COMMERCIAL ENGAGEMENT

All registered Aboriginal parties are invited to participate in the initial survey on a voluntary basis. Stor-Energy will however consider the reimbursement of any reasonable demonstrated out of pocket expenses directly incurred in order to participate in the survey.

The contact to discuss voluntary fieldwork involvement for this project is:

Oliver Coleman
Storenergy 3 Pty Ltd
Email: information@molong-battery.com.au
Phone/Fax: 1800 920 060

Only one to two representatives will be selected for fieldwork from registered Aboriginal parties relevant to their area of interest. However, all registered Aboriginal parties are invited to participate in the initial survey on a voluntary basis. The initial survey is tentatively set for early April 2025.

CLOSING DATE FOR COMMENTS ON SURVEY STRATEGY

Following Heritage NSW's ACHCRs, registered Aboriginal parties for this project have a minimum of 28 days to review the draft survey strategy and project methodology for the ACHA and provide comment and input. The closing date for comments is by **5:00pm on 11 April 2025** {However, due to the urgency of this project we will need comments from you as soon as possible}. Please provide your written or verbal comments to:

Lilith Malcolm (Archaeologist) and Dr Mary-Jean Sutton (Director)
Virtus Heritage
PO Box 101
Pottsville NSW 2489
Phone/Fax: (02) 6676 4354
Email: consultation@virtusheritage.com.au

If you would like to discuss this draft survey strategy or have any questions about the proposed works, please contact me on (02) 6676 4354.

Sincerely,

Mary-Jean Sutton

Dr Mary-Jean Sutton

DIRECTOR
Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02) 6676 4354

REFERENCES

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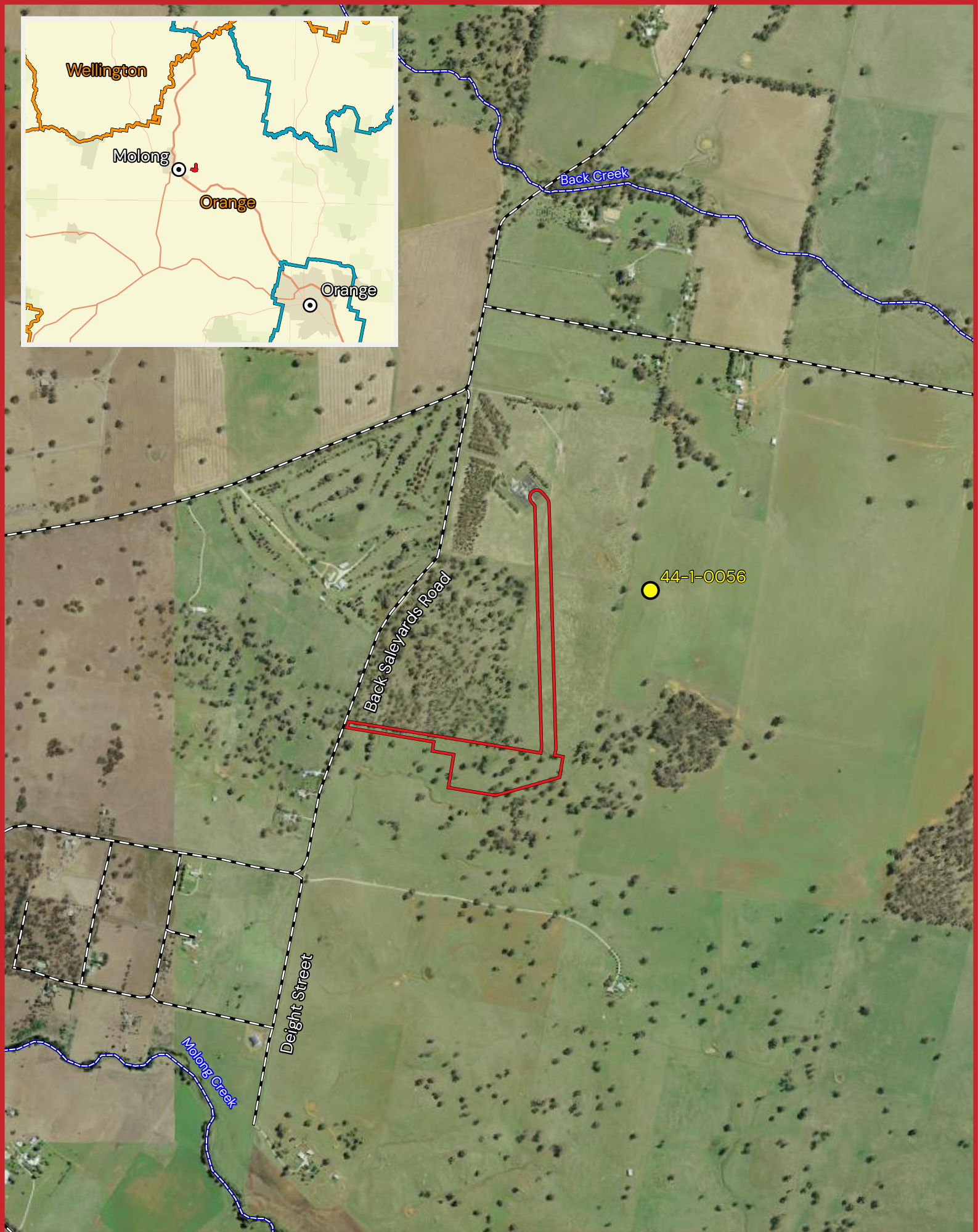
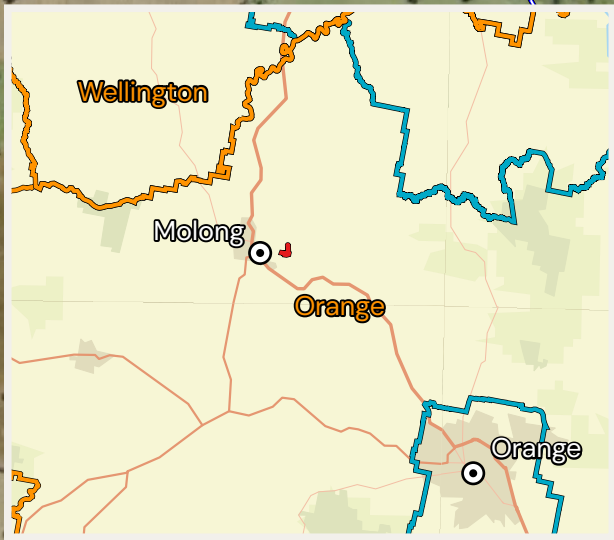
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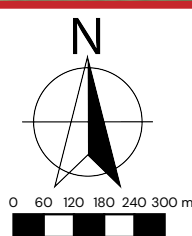
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540 Stor Energy Molong
Molong, NSW
Figure 1. Project Area and Locality

Author: Shaun Sewell
 Date: 26/02/2025
 Scale: 1:15000 @ A4
 Datum: GDA2020 / MGA zone 55
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- Legend**
- Project Area
 - Local Aboriginal Land Councils
 - Cabonne Shire Council
 - Roads
 - Back Creek Named Watercourse
 - Cities and Towns
 - AHIMS Sites



Fw: 540 - Presentation of Project Information and Draft Project Methodology - Molong BESS ACHA

From Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au>

Date Fri 3/14/2025 6:53 PM

To WVVAC@hotmail.com <WVVAC@hotmail.com>

Cc Oliver Coleman <oliver.coleman@stor-energy.com>; Ursula McInnes <umcInnes@slrconsulting.com>; Lilith Malcolm <l.malcolm@virtusheritage.com.au>; Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>; Anya Graubard <a.graubard@virtusheritage.com.au>

 2 attachments (4 MB)

540_WVAC_PPI.pdf; 540_WVAC_SS.pdf;

"WVVAC@hotmail.com" <WVVAC@hotmail.com>

Dear Wellington Valley Wiradjuri Aboriginal Corporation (Brad Bliss),

Thank you for registering for Aboriginal consultation for the preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) needed to support a Scoping Report and request for Secretary Environmental Assessment requirements (SEARs) for establishing a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility at Lot 99 on DP1020247 and Lot 1 on DP542283 (the project area) and connecting to Transgrid's Molong Substation at 1 Deight Street and 19 Back Saleyards Road, Molong, NSW 2866 via a 132kV overhead transmission line (the Project Area).

As previously communicated, Virtus Heritage has been engaged by SLR to undertake the ACHA, including an Archaeological Assessment (AA). In accordance with the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water's Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents (ACHCRs) (DECCW 2010), Section 4.2, Stage 2, this letter presents information on the proposed works to all registered Aboriginal parties.

Please see the attached draft Presentation Project Information Letter and the draft Project Methodology & Survey Strategy, and relevant figures for your review & comment.

Following Heritage NSW's ACHCRs, RAPs for this project have a minimum of 28 days to review the draft survey strategy and project methodology for the ACHA and provide comment and input. The closing date for comments by **5pm on 11th April 2025**.

Please provide your written or verbal comments to:

Lilith Malcolm
Virtus Heritage
PO Box 101
Pottsville NSW 2489
Phone/Fax: (02) 6676 4354
Email: consultation@virtusheritage.com.au

Thank you,



Virtus Heritage CONSULTATION

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02) 6676 4354

VIRTUSHERITAGE.COM.AU

Virtus Heritage is committed to the spirit of reconciliation and acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians and the Traditional Custodians of the states and territories of Australia. We recognise the Traditional Owners of the lands we work within. We pay our respect to Elders past, present and emerging in maintaining the culture, country and their spiritual and historical connections to the lands and waters.

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Wellington Valley Wiradjuri Aboriginal Corporation
Brad Bliss (CEO)
e. wwwac@hotmail.com

14th March 2025

Dear Brad,

Subject: Presentation of project information for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for a proposed BESS at Lot 99 DP 1020247 and Lot 1 DP 542283, Molong, NSW

Thank you for registering for Aboriginal consultation for the preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd (SLR) on behalf of Storenergy 3 Pty Ltd (Storenergy) for a proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility at Lot 99 DP 1020247 and Lot 1 DP 542283, Molong NSW (the project area, refer to Figure 1). The proposed works will be impacting two Aboriginal sites identified in a previous preliminary site inspection (described in (a) below). These sites have been lodged and are currently under review by AHIMS Quarantine Station.

As outlined in earlier correspondence, Virtus Heritage has been engaged by SLR to prepare the ACHA, including an archaeological assessment, to support an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a State Significant Development (SSD). As part of the requirements of the Heritage NSW's *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents* (DECCW, 2010), Section 4.2, Stage 2, this letter presents information on the proposed works to all registered Aboriginal parties.

The purpose of this letter is to provide information supplied by the proponent to:

- a) present the proposal, outline project details relevant to the nature, scope, methodology, and environmental and other impacts;
- b) outline the impact assessment process including the input points into the investigation and assessment activities;
- c) specify critical timelines and milestones for the completion of assessment activities and delivery of reports;
- d) specify proposed roles, functions and responsibilities for the project for discussion and comment by registered Aboriginal parties; and
- e) provide an opportunity for registered Aboriginal parties to identify, raise and discuss their cultural concerns, perspectives and assessment requirements (if any).

a) The Proposal, Project Details and Project Impacts

The proposal site is within the Cabonne Shire Local Government Area (refer to **Figure 1**) and includes the proposed activities:

- Transport of construction personnel, equipment and materials to and from the Project Area during construction (dependent on construction schedule), including all associated heavy and light vehicle traffic movements.

- Site establishment works including limited vegetation clearing within the Project Area, bulk earthworks and a temporary construction compound and soil testing, if necessitated
- Road works to formalise a new driveway crossing from Back Saleyards Road and internal site access road for construction purposes and ongoing access.
- Construction of hardstand/laydown areas, fencing, internal roads, control room, auxiliary transformer, battery enclosures, and inverter/transformer/switchgear stations (referred to as Power Conversion Stations (PCS)).
- Construction of approximately 900m of overhead 132 kV transmission line to facilitate connection to the existing Transgrid's Molong Substation and associated high voltage concrete or steel poles and wiring.
- Acoustic attenuation (to be determined as part of a detailed assessment).
- Construction of ancillary works including a parking area, water tank, Operations and Maintenance (O&M) building (including storage structures), stormwater management infrastructure, security lighting and fencing.
- Vegetative screening and landscaping.
- The installation of 264 BESS units (maximum) within individual, modular containers, on hardstand footings with a total capacity of 150 MW/730MWh.
- The installation of 50 inverters on hardstand footings.
- Installation of subsurface wiring infrastructure throughout the Indicative BESS area.
- Commissioning and testing of all installed equipment on the Project Area.

The proposed activity includes significant earthworks and is anticipated to take 18 months beginning in 2027.

An AHIMS search and searches of the Australian Heritage Database, NSW State Heritage Inventory and the Cabonne Shire Local Environment Plan have been completed. Of the 44 sites identified in the AHIMS search area, none are located within the project area, and one (AHIMS # 44-1-0056) is located approximately 110 metres east of the project area.

AHIMS # 44-1-0056 'IF1' was recorded by Navin Officer in 2002. This isolated find is a dark grey basalt/andesite anvil stone, described as:

A small anvil stone manufactured from a dark grey basalt pebble exposed on the surface of a cultivated paddock. The pebble was possible procured from an outcrop of andesite cobble and boulders which occur approximately 2.2 km to the southeast of the site.

The artefact is situated on a hill-crest approximately 17 m north of the existing 94T line (15 metres north of a survey peg bearing the number '466')...

An additional two sites were identified during the preliminary site inspection within the project area in December 2024. These sites include a grinding stone and a core. Both sites were identified within the proposed works footprint and will be impacted by this project.

The project area sits within a wider Aboriginal cultural heritage landscape that is rich in Aboriginal history and heritage. Including Yuranigh's Aboriginal Grave Historic Site, that holds significant state-wide cultural, historical, social, educational and archaeological value. Yuranigh's grave is located approximately 3.5 kilometres from the current project area and contains four carved trees that 'are extremely rare' (NSW NPWS 1999:4).

The activity therefore has the potential to impact Aboriginal cultural heritage values. Aboriginal objects and archaeological deposits where they survive. Further information regarding the project, its landscape, historical and archaeological context is provided in the survey methodology attachment.

b) Outline the impact assessment process including the input points into the investigation and assessment activities;

The impacts of this project on Aboriginal heritage are being determined through the preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment by Virtus Heritage. The broader environmental impact assessment process and overall project is being managed by SLR on behalf of Stor-Energy as the proponent.

Registered Aboriginal parties have several input points into the investigation and assessment activities for this project, including:

- Review and comment on presentation of project information supplied in this letter;
- Opportunity to discuss with Virtus Heritage or SLR this project information at any time during the duration of the project and record comments and input;
- Review, comment and provide cultural information regarding the project and input on cultural heritage management on a draft methodology for the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment within a minimum 28-day comment period;
- Opportunity to be involved in the Aboriginal heritage survey of the project area (date to be confirmed) and to provide cultural information and input into the assessment.
- If archaeological testing and / or salvage is required, an archaeological testing and/ or salvage excavation methodology would be prepared and provided to Registered Aboriginal Parties for review (noting that an AHIP would not be required for an SSD project).
- Review of a draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for comment;
- Receipt of all copies of a final Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment
- Review of the EIS during public exhibition on the Major Projects website

(c) Specify critical timelines and milestones for the completion of assessment activities and delivery of reports

Critical timelines for the completion of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment follows OEH's Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements (DECCW, 2010).

A minimum of 28 days will be provided for registered Aboriginal parties to review of the draft methodology for the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment and the draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment report. However, if comments on the methodology for the ACHA are provided within two weeks, the proposed survey for this project can be undertaken earlier. Please notify me as soon as possible if there are critical days that need to be taken into account in this timeframe (for example, commemorative days, sorry business etc).

(d) Specify proposed roles, functions and responsibilities for the project for discussion and comment by registered Aboriginal parties;

We recognise that registered Aboriginal parties have an integral role in the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment process and are the primary determinants of the significance of their heritage. Registered Aboriginal parties will be afforded the opportunity as part of the consultation process to provide cultural information on the project area, to be involved in the review and comment of all documentation for the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment, to be involved in fieldwork and to provide input and comment into potential management options for any identified cultural heritage values.

Virtus Heritage will carry out Aboriginal consultation for this project and undertake the preparation of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment and subsequent consent documentation, in consultation with registered Aboriginal parties.

Stor-Energy is responsible for the co-ordination of the broader project and has engaged Virtus Heritage to undertake Aboriginal consultation. Stor-Energy will be undertaking the proposed works for this project, once approved.

The contacts for this project are:

Lilith Malcolm (Archaeologist) and Dr Mary-Jean Sutton (Director)
Virtus Heritage
Postal Address: PO Box 101 Pottsville NSW 2489
Email: consultation@virtusheritage.com.au
Phone/Fax: (02) 6676 4354

The commercial engagement of registered Aboriginal parties for this project will be Stor-Energy. The Stor-Energy contact for commercial engagement is:

*Oliver Coleman
StorEnergy 3 Pty Ltd
1800 920 060
information@molong-battery.com.au*

Gender and other Culturally Sensitive Information

We understand that there may be times where registered Aboriginal parties may have information about a project which is culturally or gender sensitive. If registered Aboriginal parties wish to provide cultural information which they do not want to be made public or which is gender sensitive, provision can be made to record this information as confidential as part of the reporting process but without inclusion in the public versions of the report. Female and male archaeologists or representatives of Virtus Heritage and SLR can also be made available to record or discuss gender sensitive information during the life of the project, depending on the wishes of registered Aboriginal parties. Please contact me directly to discuss this issue further, if it is of concern.

Please let us know as soon as possible if there is gender sensitive information and a male archaeologist is required, so we can make appropriate arrangements.

(e) Provide an opportunity for registered Aboriginal parties to identify, raise and discuss their cultural concerns, perspectives and assessment requirements (if any).

Please contact Virtus Heritage directly to identify, raise and discuss cultural concerns, perspectives and assessment requirements (if any). We will also attempt to call you early next week to discuss any potential issues, perspectives and assessment requirements.

If you would like to discuss this letter or have any questions about the proposed works, please contact me or Lilith Malcolm (Archaeologist) on (02) 6676 4354.

Yours sincerely,

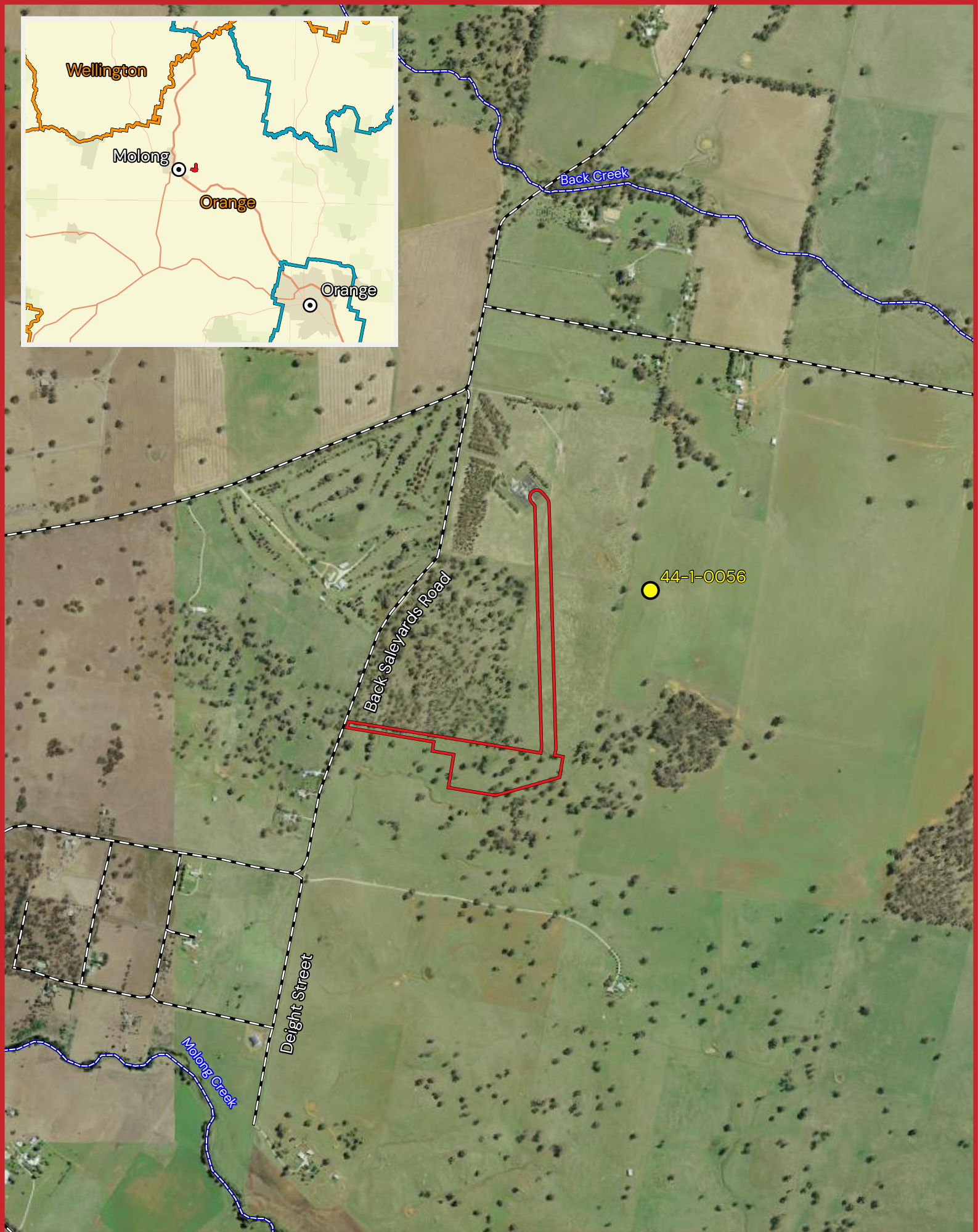
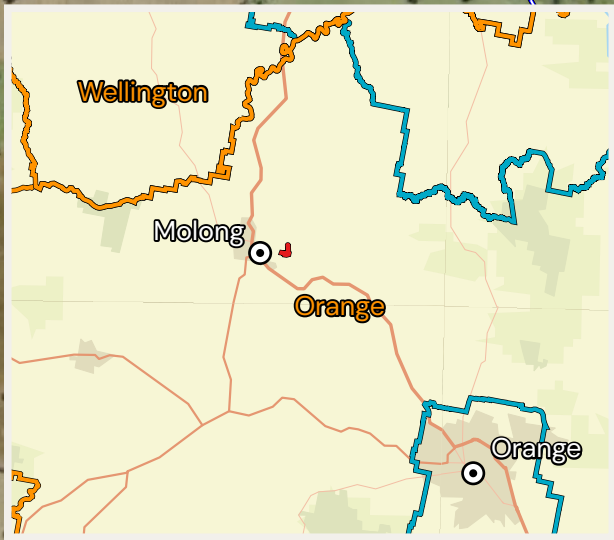
Mary-Jean Sutton

Dr Mary-Jean Sutton

Director

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW

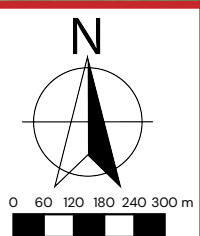
(02) 6676 4354



**540 Stor Energy Molong
Molong, NSW
Figure 1. Project Area and Locality**

Author: Shaun Sewell
Date: 26/02/2025
Scale: 1:15000 @ A4
Datum: GDA2020 / MGA zone 55
Source: Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, © Department of Customer Service - Spatial Services 2024
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 - Cities and Towns
 - AHIMS Sites



Wellington Valley Wiradjuri Aboriginal Corporation
Brad Bliss (CEO)
e. wwwac@hotmail.com

14th March 2025

Dear Brad,

Subject: Draft Survey Strategy and Project Methodology for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for the proposed BESS at Lot 99 DP 1020247 and Lot 1 DP 542283, Molong, NSW

Thank you for registering for Aboriginal consultation for the preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) to support an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a State Significant Development (SSD) for a proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility at Lot 99 DP 1020247 and Lot 1 DP 542283, Molong NSW (the project area, refer to Figure 1).

As outlined in earlier correspondence, Virtus Heritage Pty Limited (hereafter Virtus Heritage) has been engaged by SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd (SLR) on behalf of Storenergy 3 Pty Ltd (Stor-Energy) to prepare the ACHA, including an archaeological assessment. Virtus Heritage is undertaking consultation with Aboriginal people in accordance with Heritage NSW's *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents* (DECCW, 2010). This presentation of the draft survey strategy and project methodology for your comment is being undertaken in accordance with Section 4.3, Stage 3 of these requirements.

BACKGROUND AND PROJECT IMPACTS

The proposal site is within the Cabonne Shire Local Government Area (refer to Figure 1) and includes the proposed activities:

- Transport of construction personnel, equipment and materials to and from the Project Area during construction (dependent on construction schedule), including all associated heavy and light vehicle traffic movements.
- Site establishment works including limited vegetation clearing within the Project Area, bulk earthworks and a temporary construction compound and soil testing.
- Road works to formalise a new driveway crossing from Back Saleyards Road and internal site access road for construction purposes and ongoing access.
- Construction of hardstand/laydown areas, fencing, internal roads, control room, auxiliary transformer, battery enclosures, and inverter/transformer/switchgear stations (referred to as Power Conversion Stations (PCS)).
- Construction of approximately 900m of overhead 132 kV transmission line to facilitate connection to the existing Transgrid's Molong Substation and associated high voltage concrete or steel poles and wiring.
- Acoustic attenuation (to be determined as part of a detailed assessment).

- Construction of ancillary works including a parking area, water tank, Operations and Maintenance (O&M) building (including storage structures), stormwater management infrastructure, security lighting and fencing.
- Vegetative screening and landscaping.
- The installation of 264 BESS units (maximum) within individual, modular containers, on hardstand footings with a total capacity of 150 MW/730MWh.
- The installation of 50 inverters on hardstand footings.
- Installation of subsurface wiring infrastructure throughout the Indicative BESS area.
- Commissioning and testing of all installed equipment on the Project Area.

The proposed activity includes earthworks and has the potential to impact Aboriginal objects and archaeological deposits.

LANDSCAPE HISTORY

Soil profiles

The soils of the project area are mapped within the eSpade v2.2 dataset as Molong soil landscape. The main soils within this are Euchrozems. Non-calcic brown soils and yellow podzolic soils are found mainly on lower slopes within this soil landscape.

Euchrozems is a great soil group of the Ferrosols order. Isbell (2002:41) describes Ferrosols as “soils with B2 horizons which are high to free iron oxide, and which lack strong texture contrast between A and B horizons”. These soils are very acidic and high aluminium toxicity potential (NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment n.d.).

The acidic soils associated with Ferrosol soils can impact the survival of organic Aboriginal heritage/objects (e.g. wooden implements) within a project area.

Geology

The project area is located within the Molong soil landscape and the Cargo Andesite geological unit. Andesite is an extrusive rock of intermediate composition. The project area is additionally located within the Fairbridge Volcanics. This unit is described as ‘regionally extensive unit dominated by pillow basalt and monomict breccia with large (up to 2mm) clinopyroxene phenocrysts and small plagioclase phenocrysts (<0.8mm) (Geological Survey n.d.). The lithology of this unit is dominated by basalt.

Andesite is known for its strength and durability. This geology supports the presence of stone artefacts. Additionally, previous archaeological studies in the region have identified many naturally occurring natural materials that are known to be utilised in stone tool manufacturing; basalt, hornblende, basaltic andesite, augite, porphyrite and volcanic horizons (ERM 2003).

Topography and Hydrology

The topography of the project area is comprised of undulating low hills. The project area is situated on a gentle slope that has undergone significant modifications to the topography due to generational agricultural use.

Despite the levels of disturbance that have altered the topography of the project area and its surroundings, Aboriginal objects can, and are known to survive.

First order ephemeral streams of Back Creek are located within or near the project area. Additionally, there are many major creeks, including Back Creek that is located approximately 1 kilometre north, and Molong Creek approximately 1.3 kilometres south of the project area. Tributaries of Back Creek and Molong Creek are located within the lands surrounding the project area.

Water sources are considered a sensitive landform under the Due Diligence Code of Practice. Under the Code, it is recognised that this area may have increased potential for Aboriginal objects 'as a result of Aboriginal people's use of those features in their everyday lives and for traditional cultural activities' (Due Diligence Code:12).

Climate, Flora and Fauna

The project area falls within the NSW South Western Slopes Bioregion, characterised by temperate climate with hot summers and no dry season (NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service 2003).

The native vegetation within the project area has been extensively cleared (refer to aerial imagery, Plates 1–4). The project area is occupied predominantly by a contemporary vegetation landscape of grass for cattle grazing. Original vegetation associated with this soil landscape include white box-apple box community with Blakely's red gum, yellow box and red ironbark as associated species.

The project area today is predominantly grassy woodland with evidence of disturbance from cattle grazing, with some remnant vegetation. There is potential for Culturally Modified Trees to be present where mature trees are extant as they have been recorded in the area previously.

The nearby permanent freshwater creeks (Back and Molong Creeks) would have provided suitable habitats for a vast range of amphibians, reptiles and mammals, including platypus, echidnas, water birds, fish species, turtles, frogs, edible bivalves and crustaceans.

The ecosystems outlined above would have provided Aboriginal people access to a range of flora and fauna for food, medicine and other economic uses.

Previous Land Use History

An analysis of historical aeriels was undertaken on images from 1964, 1973, 1983 and 1993 to examine past land use and the extent of disturbance within the project area. Understanding previous land use history is critical to understanding if the sensitivity of a landform, soils, geology and hydrology for material evidence of Aboriginal occupation may be compromised or still extant over the passage of time.

The project area is located in farming land along Back Saleyard Road, east of the Molong Disc Golf Course, Molong. As displayed within the historical aerial images (Plates 1–4), the project area and surrounding landscape have undergone extensive clearing and disturbances over decades of agricultural use. This disturbance has potential to break Aboriginal objects or remove the original soil profiles and disturb them to at least 45cm in depth from cropping accelerating erosion. There is the possibility that Culturally Modified Trees could have been removed in previous disturbance.



Plate 1. 1964 Historical Aerial.



Plate 2. 1973 Historical Aerial.



Plate 3. 1983 Historical Aerial.



Plate 4. 1993 Historical Aerial.

Summary

Prior to European colonisation, the region provided a complex mosaic of habitat types area. The floristic diversity, terrestrial animals, freshwater fish and edible bivalves would have provided rich resources for occupation. The temperate climate of the project area would have made it suitable for habitation all year round. The project area is located on landforms which have been modified and impacted by land clearing, agriculture and erosion. The modification of these landforms has disturbed, mixed and in some areas stripped the original topography and potentially disturbed potential archaeological deposits. Despite this disturbance, the project area still has some potential for evidence of Aboriginal occupation.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

The Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System is a database of registered Aboriginal sites within NSW, administered by the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC). Searches were conducted of the AHIMS register on 6 November 2024 for Aboriginal heritage sites recorded within and in proximity to the project area. The search area covered the following coordinates:

- Latitude, Longitude from: -33.1676, 148.7894
- Latitude, Longitude to: -33.0238, 149.0366

The results of the search are summarised below in **Table 1**.

Table 1. Summary of AHIMS Features.

Site Type	Frequency	Percentage
Artefact	26	59%
Artefact, Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD)	1	2.3%
Modified Trees	6	13.6%
Potential Archaeological Deposits (PADs)	7	15.9%
Stone Quarry, Artefact	1	2.3%
Restricted	2	4.5%
Modified Tree, Burial, Artefact	1	2.3%
Total	44	100%

The sites registered on AHIMS are mapped in **Figure 1**.

Of the 44 sites identified in the search area, one (AHIMS # 44-1-0056) is located approximately 110 metres east of the project area.

AHIMS # 44-1-0056 'IF1' was recorded by Navin Officer in 2002. This isolated find is a dark grey basalt/andesite anvil stone, described as:

A small anvil stone manufactured from a dark grey basalt pebble exposed on the surface of a cultivated paddock. The pebble was possible procured from an outcrop of andesite cobble and boulders which occur approximately 2.2 km to the southeast of the site.

The artefact is situated on a hill-crest approximately 17 m north of the existing 94T line (15 metres north of a survey peg bearing the number '466')...

Navin Officer 2002

An additional two sites were identified during the Due Diligence Assessment site inspection within the project area in December 2024. These sites include a grinding stone and a core. Both sites were identified within the proposed works footprint and will be impacted by this project.

Other Searches of Heritage Databases

Table 2 provides a summary searches of other heritage databases.

Table 2. Other Statutory Searches of Heritage Databases for the Project Area.

Heritage Database	About the Database	Search Area (LGA) and Search Date	Search Results
Australian Heritage Database	The Australian Heritage Database (AHD) is a Commonwealth administered heritage database that includes entries from the former Register for the National Estate and the current Commonwealth and National Heritage Lists.	This database was searched on the 6 November 2024 for all Indigenous heritage items within the Cabonne Shire LGA.	The search found 39 places located within the Cabonne Shire LGA. Eight places were located in Molong, most associated with the township of Molong. None of which are within or in immediate proximity of the project area. Yuranigh's Aboriginal Grave Historic Site is approximately 3 kilometres southwest of the project area.
State Heritage Inventory and State	The State Heritage Inventory (SHI) is a heritage database administered by the Heritage NSW (Department of Planning and Environment). This	A search of the SHI was conducted on 6 November 2024	The results were as follows:



Heritage Database	About the Database	Search Area (LGA) and Search Date	Search Results
Heritage Register	database includes heritage listings from local and regional planning instruments and heritage studies and State significant heritage items. Information and items listed in the State Heritage Inventory come from a number of sources. This means that there may be several entries for the same heritage item in the database. Search results are divided into three sections. Section 1 – Aboriginal Places – declared by the Minister for the Environment under the National Parks and Wildlife Act. This information is provided by Heritage NSW. Section 2 – State Heritage Register items – listed by the Heritage Council of NSW under the Heritage Act and includes items listed in Interim Heritage Orders. This information is provided by Heritage NSW. Section 3 – Heritage items listed by local councils on Local Environmental Plans under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, and State government agencies under s.170 of the Heritage Act. This information is provided by local councils and State government agencies.	for all heritage items within Molong, Cabonne Shire LGA.	Section 1 – No Aboriginal Places were listed within the suburb of Molong. Section 2 – 2 items listed under the Heritage Act are located within the suburb of Molong including Yuranigh's grave. Section 3 – 58 items were listed within the suburb of Molong. No places were located in or in immediate proximity to the project area.

Heritage Database	About the Database	Search Area (LGA) and Search Date	Search Results
Cabonne Shire LEP 2012 (2013 EPI 2)	Cabonne Shire Council utilises this Local Environmental Plan to regulate land use and development within the Cabonne Shire LGA. The Local Environmental Plans are planning instruments which contain provisions and listings of items of environmental heritage including heritage, conservation areas and archaeological sites within Schedule 5.	The LEP for Cabonne Shire 2012 (2013 EPA 2) was searched on 6 November 2024.	The Cabonne Shire LEP 2012 (2013 EPI 2) lists 58 Heritage items and one Heritage conservation area within suburb of Molong. No places were located in or in immediate proximity to the project area.

REGIONAL OCCUPATION

Previous archaeological research, register searches, and environmental can help understand the regional archaeological context for Aboriginal occupation, and predict the types of sites that may be found in the project area.

The existing archaeological record is constrained to tangible materials that are able to withstand deterioration over time. Consequently, the most common Aboriginal occupation site types are stone artefacts. Analysis of these artefacts, including the raw materials used and the manufacturing techniques, can indicate changes in social behaviour and organisation over time.

Multiple reports were identified on the AHIMS database associated with the AHIMS search area and the locality of Molong NSW. No Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plans were found associated with the project area.

OzArk Cultural Heritage Pty Ltd (2004) has undertaken an Archaeological Test Excavation of PAD # 44-1-0077 at Molong Creek for the proposed realignment of the Mitchell Highway. This study area displays a similar landscape and history of disturbance, including clearing, ploughing and grazing. This study utilised the work of Pearson's 1981 unpublished PhD to determine that sites were more frequently identified on low ridge topics, creek banks, gently undulating hills and river flats and usually in open woodland vegetation.

The test programme identified one possible artefact on the south side of Molong Creek, approximately 20 possible quartz flakes on the north side of Molong Creek and concluded that:

The test excavation programme revealed little supporting evidence in the area tested to justify the reclassification of this PAD as an Aboriginal camp site... Molong PAD # 44-1-0077 is not an Aboriginal

site and the presence of a few limited artefacts evidence can be attributed to downslope, colluvial movement.

OzArk 2004:28

Navin Officer (2003)'s *Molong to Manildra 132kV Transmission Line Stage 2: Cultural Heritage Assessment* identified seven artefact scatters and six isolated finds. Their assessment identified many landforms and features with potential for archaeological sites that exist in proximity to the current project area including riparian zones, namely the Molong Creek corridor which is describes as '... represent[ing] the only significant riparian zone' (Navin Officer 2003:8). Additionally, surface rock outcrops have been identified as having potential for archaeological sites.

Rock types known to have been exploited in the local and wider region include chert, chalcedony, andesitic greywacke, fine-grained sandstone, quartz, silcrete, various forms of river cobbles and fine-grained intrusive volcanics such as basalt... An Aboriginal chert quarry has been recorded at Yuranigh's grave...

Navin Officer 2003:9

Navin Officer conducted a previous Cultural Heritage Assessment of the Molong to Manildra 132kV transmission line in 2002. This assessment also identified the riparian zones and surface rock outcrops as having potential for archaeological sites. This study area was identified as being primarily clear paddocks vegetated with pasture grasses, like the currently project area.

NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service conducted a Plan of Management for Yuranigh's Aboriginal Grave Historic Site in 1999. The site has state-wide cultural, historical, social, education and archaeological significance and is located approximately 3.5km from the current project area. The site contains four carved trees, three living and one dead. Living carved trees 'are extremely rare' (NSW NPWS 1999:4). All four recorded carved trees are still present today.

Within the wider region, Pearson's 1981 unpublished PhD (as referenced in Navin Officer 2003:6) is noted as one of the 'only major and regionally based research investigation' relevant to the Molong area and the current project area. Pearson's thesis 'was an investigation of Aboriginal and early European settlement patterns within the Upper Macquarie River region of NSW' (Navin Officer 2003:6). Navin Officer (2003:6-7) summarised Pearson's results as the following:

- *There is a strong relationship between site location and distance from water sources.*
- *Distance to water varied from 10 to 500 m, but in general the average distance from water decreased as site size increased;*
- *Sites were found on hilly or undulating places rather than on river flats or the banks of waterways. However it was found that the regional incidence of landform variation biased this sample;*
- *Good drainage and views over watercourses and river flats were also considered to be important site location criteria;*
- *Most sites were located in contexts which would originally have supported open woodlands, with small numbers in original grassland or forest contexts. However, this result is skewed by the predominance of the first vegetation type;*



- *Burial sites and grinding grooves were situated as close to habitation areas as geological constraints would allow;*
- *Ceremonial sites such as earth rings ('bora' or 'bubung grounds') were located away from campsites;*
- *Stone arrangements were also located away from campsites in isolated places and tended to be associated with small hills or knolls or were on flat land;*
- *Quarry sites were located where stone outcrops with desirable working qualities were recognised and were reasonably accessible;*
- *Based on ethnohistoric information, Pearson suggests that Aboriginal campsites were seldom used for longer than three nights and that large sites probably represented accumulation of short visits.*

The previous archaeological assessments described above have been undertaken in areas comparable to the project area. They found that archaeological sites are often located near the numerous watercourses that traverse the landscape. However, these assessments note that despite the rich resources for Aboriginal occupation, past land use history has impacted the survival and integrity of Aboriginal material culture in the region.

PREDICTIVE MODEL

Based on the known archaeological, environmental and landscape context of the locality, a predictive model for evidence of Aboriginal occupation for the proposal site is presented below:

Scarred trees and carved trees contain evidence of scars and carved patterns which can be attributed to Aboriginal cultural use. Scarred trees include the removal of bark from the trunk of the tree (usually with a stone axe) to make shields, canoes, implements and other types of items which leave a wound on the tree trunk. Carved trees contain carved patterns on the tree trunk and in NSW are often found in association with ceremonial grounds, burials or cultural sites. Culturally modified trees make up 15.9% of the sites within the AHIMS search area for this project. Carved trees are a rare site type, four are recorded at Yuranigh's Grave located approximately 3.5 kilometres from the project area. There is a low potential for carved and scarred trees to be identified within the project area based on a review of historic aerial imagery, and agricultural land use history including land clearing. There is potential for carved and scarred trees to be present where mature trees exist.

Middens are the accumulation of debris from fish, crustaceans and other shell fish (shells, fish bones) consumed as part of Aboriginal people's diet. Middens also often contain charcoal, stone artefacts, bone and other types of material used by Aboriginal people. Middens often occur within close proximity to freshwater and saltwater sources which have potential to contain mussels, oysters and other types of edible bivalves. Middens are identified within sand dunes, beaches, terraces above water courses and inland near lagoons and water holes. Midden material may be identified within the project area due to the proximity to ephemeral water sources. However, due to the absence of sites containing shell within the AHIMS search area and acidity of the soils, the likelihood of this site being identified within the project area is considered low.

Isolated artefacts and open camp sites (artefact scatters) are the locations of discarded stone artefacts, often material that has been discarded as part of making stone tools or discarded over frequent episodes of occupation/visitation in an area. These sites are most likely to be found within 100 metres of a water course in well drained alluvial flats, alluvial terraces, lower slopes and confluences where the landscape

has not been heavily modified. Isolated artefacts and small open camp sites (artefact scatters) are also likely to be found on ridges, crests, saddles or floodplains which are not heavily impacted by previous land use, as they provide excellent outlook over the surrounding area. Considering the project area's proximity to ephemeral water sources, the density of AHIMS registered artefact sites within the search area (65.9%), and the two additional sites recorded within the project area in December 2024, strongly indicate that there is high potential for isolated artefacts and artefact scatters to be identified within the project area. The entire project area has potential for isolated artefacts and artefact scatters if they have not been substantially impacted by previous land use history.

Potential Archaeological Deposits (PADs) refers to soil profiles within landforms which are predicted to contain buried evidence of Aboriginal occupation. This buried evidence is most often stone artefact scatters which survive most frequently in the archaeological record. In NSW, buried archaeological deposits are nearly always found within the A unit soils (topsoil) or in alluvial deposits. Occasionally artefacts are found in the B horizon in cracking clays where artefacts have moved down from the topsoil or alluvium. PAD can be defined in a number of different ways; however, the primary archaeological importance of subsurface deposits is the possibility that they will provide information that can be used to interpret changes in the archaeological record through time and space. Consequently, for the purposes of this assessment, a landform or area will only be designated a PAD if it meets one or more of the following criteria.

- The PAD should not have been significantly disturbed by post-depositional factors such as animal burrowing, vegetation clearance, erosion, vehicle activity and track construction. Areas with limited post-depositional disturbance may retain high archaeological integrity and therefore artefacts within these areas are more likely to accurately record the human behaviours leading to their deposition; and/or
- It should be likely that the PAD will contain enough artefacts to allow for statistically viable detailed analysis and comparison of the artefact assemblage both within and between sites. The probability that sufficient quantities of artefacts will be present within a PAD should be assessed in light of the environmental context (including topography, resource availability, geomorphic patterns and the depth of the topsoil horizon) and the local archaeological context (in relation to the patterning of site location within the local area); and/or
- The PAD should be predicted to contain materials that can be dated, either in relative or absolute terms. The provision of dateable materials allows for the examination of chronological change within and between assemblages. This is an integral component of any discussion of changes in how people used the landscape and resources through time. Areas of archaeological potential are possible within less disturbed areas of the proposal where A unit soils remain intact.

There is potential for archaeological deposits within the project area and this needs to be ascertained further as part of the ACHA process.

Rock art (Petroglyphs, also referred to as Rock Engravings, and paintings) are art sites where marks have been made in stone by Aboriginal people (for example, spirit figures, animals, implements and footprints) and rock shelter sites with art (rock overhangs used for shelter by Aboriginal people and where smooth sandstone surfaces on the walls of the shelter are painted with ochres and pigments). Rock shelter sites with art will not be present in the project area based on the absence of suitable geology, previous land use history, previous archaeological research and consultation to date.

Aboriginal axe grinding grooves are grooves most often found in sandstone where Aboriginal people have sharpened or manufactured stone axes and other implements and, in some cases, ground seed and grains in the sandstone forming 'bowls'. This site type can occur where suitable geology is present. Grinding groove sites have a low potential to be identified within the project area based on the relative absence of suitable geology, however there is still potential due to its location in proximity to water sources, including ephemeral streams.

Aboriginal burial sites, bora grounds, story places or stone arrangements within the proposal based on preliminary previous archaeological and historical research undertaken to date. Cultural sites are usually determined through Aboriginal consultation and may need revision after review of the ACHA by registered Aboriginal parties. There are no known burial sites within the project area based on Aboriginal consultation to date and previous land use history. However, known burial sites are located within the surrounding landscape, including Yuranigh's Historic Grave. This site type is unlikely to be encountered within the project area. There are no known bora grounds or stone arrangements within the project area based on Aboriginal consultation to date, AHIMS database search and previous land use history. Stone arrangements and bora grounds are unlikely to survive within the project area due to the previous land use history and flooding events.

CULTURAL INFORMATION

As part of the review of this methodology for the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment report, we request and also seek cultural information from registered Aboriginal parties to identify:

- whether there are any Aboriginal objects of cultural value to Aboriginal people in the vicinity of the proposal site; and
- whether there are any places of cultural value to Aboriginal people in the area of the proposal site (whether they are Aboriginal places declared under s.84 of the NPW Act or not). This will include places of social, spiritual and cultural value, historic places with cultural significance, and potential places/areas of historic, social, spiritual and/or cultural significance.

DRAFT SURVEY METHODOLOGY

A Virtus Heritage archaeologist and at least one Registered Aboriginal Party representative engaged by Stor-Energy will inspect the development footprint, including proposed vehicle tracks and laydown areas, within the project area over one field day (~8 hours). The team will walk side by side approximately 1 metre apart in transects, where space permits, to cover the whole area of available exposure and visibility or visit areas that are partially obscured to take photographs, discuss cultural knowledge and record the archaeological potential for what lies beneath.

The survey will also target exposures and record changes in landform elements. Aboriginal resources will be recorded within the survey area and any comments by Aboriginal representatives regarding significance, information about the landscape, and cultural heritage management options will be recorded.

The proposed survey will include:

- coverage of all environmental contexts within the proposal site;
- focusing, where possible, on ground surfaces with higher archaeological visibility;

- inspection of bedrock (if any) for evidence of grinding grooves; and
- inspection of any places specifically requested by the Aboriginal parties within the proposal site.
- attempt to re-identify all previously known Aboriginal objects recorded within the project area; and
- inspection of any places specifically requested by the Aboriginal parties within the project area.

The survey strategy will involve the following components:

- division of the entire proposal site into archaeological survey areas most likely to be based on landforms and previous land use history, following classifications and definitions outlined in the requirements of the Archaeological Code of Practice (DECCW 2010);
- within each archaeological survey area, recording the different types of surface exposures (e.g. vehicle track, erosion scour), previous land use history and disturbance, natural features (e.g. presence of sandstone), soils, erosion, ground surface visibility, and geomorphic activity following the requirements of the Archaeological Code of Practice (DECCW 2010) and information or comments provided by Aboriginal parties involved in the survey;
- completion of an Aboriginal heritage site recording form for each Aboriginal site or Potential Archaeological Deposit identified, which will include all information required to fill in an OEH AHIMS site card;
- recording any cultural information, information about Aboriginal resources or comments made by Aboriginal parties involved in the field survey on the management or cultural values of the proposal site; and
- mapping and recording all archaeological survey areas and all identified Aboriginal sites and/or PADs within the proposal site using a hand-held GPS and a digital camera.

CULTURALLY SENSITIVE / GENDER SENSITIVE INFORMATION

We understand that there may be times where registered Aboriginal parties may have information about a project which is culturally or gender sensitive. If registered Aboriginal parties wish to provide cultural information which they do not want to be made public or which is gender sensitive, provision can be made to record this information as confidential as part of the reporting process but without inclusion in the public versions of the report. Female and male archaeologists or female and male representatives of Stor-Energy can also be made available to record or discuss gender sensitive information during the life of the project, depending on the wishes of registered Aboriginal parties.

COMMERCIAL ENGAGEMENT

All registered Aboriginal parties are invited to participate in the initial survey on a voluntary basis. Stor-Energy will however consider the reimbursement of any reasonable demonstrated out of pocket expenses directly incurred in order to participate in the survey.

The contact to discuss voluntary fieldwork involvement for this project is:

Oliver Coleman
Storenergy 3 Pty Ltd
Email: information@molong-battery.com.au
Phone/Fax: 1800 920 060



Only one to two representatives will be selected for fieldwork from registered Aboriginal parties relevant to their area of interest. However, all registered Aboriginal parties are invited to participate in the initial survey on a voluntary basis. The initial survey is tentatively set for early April 2025.

CLOSING DATE FOR COMMENTS ON SURVEY STRATEGY

Following Heritage NSW's ACHCRs, registered Aboriginal parties for this project have a minimum of 28 days to review the draft survey strategy and project methodology for the ACHA and provide comment and input. The closing date for comments is by **5:00pm on 11 April 2025** {However, due to the urgency of this project we will need comments from you as soon as possible}. Please provide your written or verbal comments to:

Lilith Malcolm (Archaeologist) and Dr Mary-Jean Sutton (Director)
Virtus Heritage
PO Box 101
Pottsville NSW 2489
Phone/Fax: (02) 6676 4354
Email: consultation@virtusheritage.com.au

If you would like to discuss this draft survey strategy or have any questions about the proposed works, please contact me on (02) 6676 4354.

Sincerely,

Mary-Jean Sutton

Dr Mary-Jean Sutton

DIRECTOR
Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02) 6676 4354

REFERENCES

Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW). 2010. *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW*, Hurstville, NSW.

ERM 2003. Assessment of Aboriginal Heritage along the proposed alignment of the Mitchell Highway at Molong. A report prepared for RTA.

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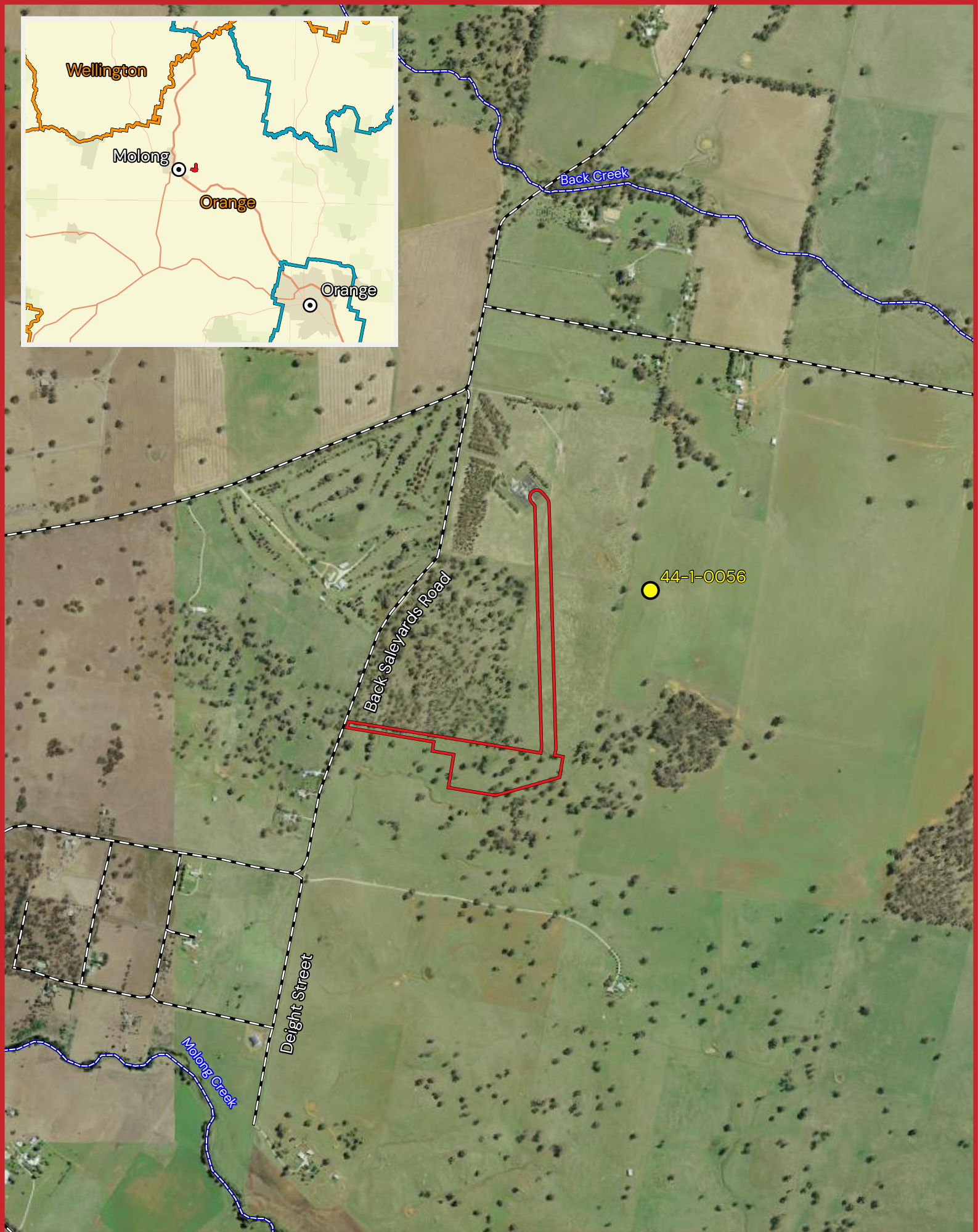
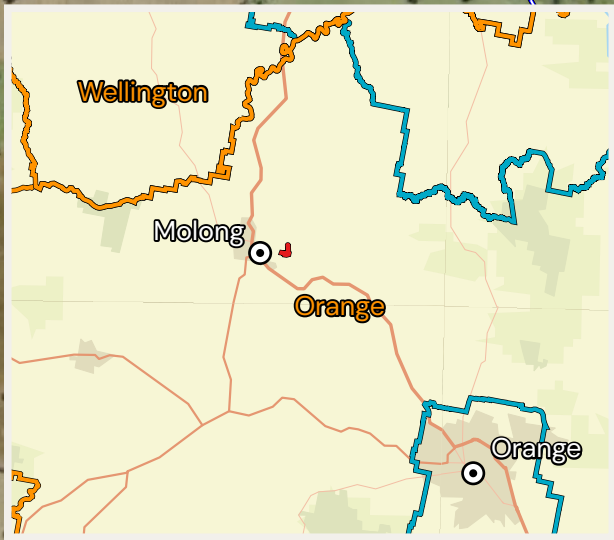
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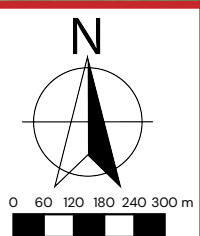
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540 Stor Energy Molong
Molong, NSW
Figure 1. Project Area and Locality

Author: Shaun Sewell
 Date: 26/02/2025
 Scale: 1:15000 @ A4
 Datum: GDA2020 / MGA zone 55
 Source: Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, © Department of Customer Service - Spatial Services 2024
 Maps and figures contained within this document may be based on third party data, may not be to scale and are intended for use as a guide only. Virtus Heritage does not warrant the accuracy of such maps or figures.

- Legend**
- Project Area
 - Local Aboriginal Land Councils
 - Cabonne Shire Council
 - Roads
 - Named Watercourse
 - Cities and Towns
 - AHIMS Sites



Reminders/Responses

540 - Reminder - Presentation of Project Information and Draft Project Methodology - Molong BESS ACHA

From Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>

Date Mon 7/04/2025 4:19 PM

Bcc reception@olalc.com.au <reception@olalc.com.au>; Judy Bell <belljudy@yahoo.com.au>; Girra Murun <girragirramurun@yahoo.com>; wingarrawilay@yahoo.com <wingarrawilay@yahoo.com>; WWWAC@hotmail.com <WWWAC@hotmail.com>

To Whom it May Concern,

As previously communicated Virtus Heritage has been engaged by SLR to undertake the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA), including an Archaeological Assessment (AA) needed to support a Scoping Report and request for Secretary Environmental Assessment requirements (SEARs) for establishing a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility at Lot 99 on DP1020247 and Lot 1 on DP542283 (the project area) and connecting to Transgrid's Molong Substation at 1 Deight Street and 19 Back Saleyards Road, Molong, NSW 2866 via a 132kV overhead transmission line.

This is a reminder that the closing date for your review of the draft Presentation of Project Information and draft Project Methodology and Survey Strategy letters is **5:00pm on 11th April 2025**. If you have any comments, please contact us prior to this time at:

Virtus Heritage
PO Box 101
Pottsville NSW 2489
Phone/Fax: (02) 6676 4354
Email: consultation@virtusheritage.com.au

The draft letters have been reattached below for your convenience:

 [540 Molong Presentation of Project Information v2.pdf](#)
 [540 Molong Project Methodology Survey Strategy v2.pdf](#)

Thank you,



Virtus Heritage
CONSULTATION

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02) 6676 4354

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and emerging in maintaining the culture, country and their spiritual and historical connections to the lands and waters.

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Fw: FINAL REMINDER 540 - Molong BESS Placeholder for fieldwork Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for a proposed BESS at Lot 99 DP 1020247 and Lot 1 DP 542283, Molong, NSW

From Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au>
Date Fri 4/11/2025 3:03 PM
To Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>



Dr Mary-Jean Sutton (*she/her*)

DIRECTOR

BA Hons. Archaeology, University of Sydney;

PhD Archaeology, University of Queensland

MAACAI, MEIANZ, FAAS, CEnvP-Heritage, SEAC - Heritage

mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au

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Please note: I value your time and will respond during my standard working hours: 9-5:30pm, Monday to Friday. We value flexible working hours, but we don't expect you to read, action or respond out of your own working hours.

From: Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au>

Sent: Friday, 11 April 2025 3:00 PM

To: wingarrawilay@yahoo.com <wingarrawilay@yahoo.com>; girragirramurun@yahoo.com <girragirramurun@yahoo.com>; belljudy@yahoo.com.au <belljudy@yahoo.com.au>

Cc: Mitchell Salmon <mitchell.salmon@slrconsulting.com>; Ursula McInnes <umcInnes@slrconsulting.com>; Anya Graubard <a.graubard@virtusheritage.com.au>; Liam Clerke <l.clerke@virtusheritage.com.au>; Lilith Malcolm <l.malcolm@virtusheritage.com.au>

Subject: Re: FINAL REMINDER 540 - Molong BESS Placeholder for fieldwork Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for a proposed BESS at Lot 99 DP 1020247 and Lot 1 DP 542283, Molong, NSW

Dear Registered Aboriginal Parties,

The closing date for comments on the draft survey strategy and project methodology for the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for a proposed BESS at Lot 99 DP 1020247 and Lot 1 DP 542283, Molong, NSW for StorEnergy closes on 11 April 2025.

As previously emailed and during calls today, we have a nominated field date for 16 April (next week) for a full day to undertake survey for this project (8:30 to 4:30 is nominated time, daylight permitting).

If RAPs (**we note already Orange LALC cannot attend on 16 April**) wish to attend and be commercially engaged, as discussed with some of you already on the telephone and as requested, please send through directly to **Oliver Coleman**
StorEnergy, 1800 920 060, email: information@molong-battery.com.au, the following details please for StorEnergy to consider as soon as possible **by Monday 14 April 10am please:**

- A) Who you nominate for fieldwork
- B) Your organisation's fees/hourly rates
- C) Your insurances as an organisation including Workers Compensation certificate of currency

I will be attending fieldwork with Liam Clerke (Senior Geomorphologist/Environmental Consultant) from Virtus Heritage, accompanied by a StorEnergy representative.
We will send through a meeting place, PPE and SWMS Monday once EOIs are confirmed.

We look forward to reading your comments on the survey strategy and project methodology and working together on Country.

Best wishes

Mary-Jean



Dr Mary-Jean Sutton (*she/her*)

DIRECTOR

BA Hons. Archaeology, University of Sydney;

PhD Archaeology, University of Queensland

MAACAI, MEIANZ, FAAS, CEnvP-Heritage, SEAC - Heritage

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Please note: I value your time and will respond during my standard working hours: 9-5:30pm, Monday to Friday. We value flexible working hours, but we don't expect you to read, action or respond out of your own working hours.

From: Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 9 April 2025 5:17 PM

To: wingarrawilay@yahoo.com <wingarrawilay@yahoo.com>; girragirramurun@yahoo.com <girragirramurun@yahoo.com>; reception@olalc.com.au <reception@olalc.com.au>; belljudy@yahoo.com.au <belljudy@yahoo.com.au>

Cc: Mitchell Salmon <mitchell.salmon@slrconsulting.com>; Ursula McInnes <umcInnes@slrconsulting.com>; Anya Graubard <a.graubard@virtusheritage.com.au>; Liam Clerke <l.clerke@virtusheritage.com.au>; Lilith Malcolm <l.malcolm@virtusheritage.com.au>

Subject: 540 - Molong BESS Placeholder for fieldwork Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for a proposed BESS at Lot 99 DP 1020247 and Lot 1 DP 542283, Molong, NSW

Dear Registered Aboriginal Parties and Orange LALC,

The closing date for comments on the draft survey strategy and project methodology for the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for a proposed BESS at Lot 99 DP 1020247 and Lot 1 DP 542283, Molong, NSW for StorEnergy closes on 11 April 2025.

In preparation, we have a nominated field date for 16 April (next week) for a full day to undertake survey for this project (8:30 to 4:30 is nominated time, daylight permitting).

If RAPs and LALC wish to attend and be commercially engaged, as discussed with some of you already on the telephone and as requested, please send through directly to Oliver Coleman StorEnergy, 1800 920 060, email: information@molong-battery.com.au, the following details please for StorEnergy to consider as soon as possible **by Monday 14 April 10am please:**

- A) Who you nominate for fieldwork
- B) Your organisation's fees/hourly rates
- C) Your insurances as an organisation including Workers Compensation certificate of currency

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We will send through a meeting place, PPE and SWMS etc closer to the time.

We look forward to reading your comments on the survey strategy and project methodology and working together on Country.

Best wishes
Mary-Jean



Dr Mary-Jean Sutton (*she/her*)

DIRECTOR

BA Hons. Archaeology, University of Sydney;

PbD Archaeology, University of Queensland

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Please note: I value your time and will respond during my standard working hours: 9-5:30pm, Monday to Friday. We value flexible working hours, but we don't expect you to read, action or respond out of your own working hours.

Re: FINAL REMINDER 540 - Molong BESS Placeholder for fieldwork Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for a proposed BESS at Lot 99 DP 1020247 and Lot 1 DP 542283, Molong, NSW

From Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au>

Date Sat 4/12/2025 6:47 PM

To Ray Moon <wingarrawilay@yahoo.com>

Cc Riikka Heikkinen <riikka.heikkinen@stor-energy.com>; Oliver Coleman <oliver.coleman@stor-energy.com>; Ursula McInnes <umcinnnes@slrconsulting.com>; Mitchell Salmon <mitchell.salmon@slrconsulting.com>; Liam Clerke <l.clerke@virtusheritage.com.au>; Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>; Lilith Malcolm <l.malcolm@virtusheritage.com.au>

Dear Raymond,

We have provided your information for Stor to review for fieldwork engagement.

We will be in touch Monday.

Thankyou



Dr Mary-Jean Sutton (*she/her*)

DIRECTOR

BA Hons. Archaeology, University of Sydney;

PhD Archaeology, University of Queensland

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From: Ray Moon <wingarrawilay@yahoo.com>

Sent: Saturday, 12 April 2025 9:25 AM

To: Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au>

Subject: Re: FINAL REMINDER 540 - Molong BESS Placeholder for fieldwork Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for a proposed BESS at Lot 99 DP 1020247 and Lot 1 DP 542283, Molong, NSW

Good morning Dr Mary Jean,

Wingarra Wilay RAP will be attending on 16/4/25. I'm in the field at the moment as soon as I can this afternoon I will send my insurances through to you.

RAP -Paul Bryon
\$1200 per day

Wingarra Wilay agrees with the methodology you have stated in your report. If any Artifacts are found a smoking ceremony will be required when they are returned to Country in a safe out of the project area.

Regards
Ray Moon
Wingarra Wilay

[Yahoo Mail: Search, organise, conquer](#)

On Fri, 11 Apr 2025 at 3:00 pm, Mary-Jean Sutton
<mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au> wrote:

Dear Registered Aboriginal Parties,

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3. Your insurances as an organisation including Workers Compensation certificate of currency

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We will send through a meeting place, PPE and SWMS Monday once EOIs are confirmed.

We look forward to reading your comments on the survey strategy and project methodology and working together on Country.
Best wishes

Mary-Jean



Dr Mary-Jean Sutton (*she/ her*)

DIRECTOR

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(02) 6676 4354



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Please note: I value your time and will respond during my standard working hours: 9-5:30pm, Monday to Friday. We value flexible working hours, but we don't expect you to read, action or respond out of your own working hours.

From: Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 9 April 2025 5:17 PM

To: wingarrawilay@yahoo.com <wingarrawilay@yahoo.com>; girragirramurun@yahoo.com <girragirramurun@yahoo.com>; reception@olalc.com.au <reception@olalc.com.au>; belljudy@yahoo.com.au <belljudy@yahoo.com.au>

Cc: Mitchell Salmon <mitchell.salmon@slrconsulting.com>; Ursula McInnes <umcInnes@slrconsulting.com>; Anya Graubard <a.graubard@virtusheritage.com.au>; Liam Clerke <l.clerke@virtusheritage.com.au>; Lilith Malcolm <l.malcolm@virtusheritage.com.au>

Subject: 540 - Molong BESS Placeholder for fieldwork Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for a proposed BESS at Lot 99 DP 1020247 and Lot 1 DP 542283, Molong, NSW

Dear Registered Aboriginal Parties and Orange LALC,

The closing date for comments on the draft survey strategy and project methodology for the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for a proposed BESS at Lot 99 DP 1020247 and Lot 1 DP 542283, Molong, NSW for StorEnergy closes on 11 April 2025.

In preparation, we have a nominated field date for 16 April (next week) for a full day to undertake survey for this project (8:30 to 4:30 is nominated time, daylight permitting).

If RAPs and LALC wish to attend and be commercially engaged, as discussed with some of you already on the telephone and as requested, please send through directly to Oliver Coleman StorEnergy, 1800 920 060, email: information@molong-battery.com.au, the following details please for StorEnergy to consider as soon as possible **by Monday 14 April 10am please**:

1. Who you nominate for fieldwork
2. Your organisation's fees/hourly rates
3. Your insurances as an organisation including Workers Compensation certificate of currency

I will be attending fieldwork with Liam Clerke (Senior Geomorphologist/Environmental Consultant) from Virtus Heritage, accompanied by a StorEnergy representative.

We will send through a meeting place, PPE and SWMS etc closer to the time.

We look forward to reading your comments on the survey strategy and project methodology and working together on Country.

Best wishes

Mary-Jean



Dr Mary-Jean Sutton (*she/her*)

DIRECTOR

BA Hons. Archaeology, University of Sydney;

PhD Archaeology, University of Queensland

MAACAI, MEIANZ, FAAS, CEnvP-Heritage, SEAC - Heritage

mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au

0439 703 886

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW

(02) 6676 4354



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Re: 540 - Presentation of Project Information and Draft Project Methodology - Molong BESS ACHA

From Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au>

Date Thu 3/20/2025 7:41 PM

To WVVAC Contact Officer <WVVAC@hotmail.com>; Lilith Malcolm <l.malcolm@virtusheritage.com.au>

Cc Ursula McInnes <umcInnes@slrconsulting.com>; Richard Simmons <rsimmons@slrconsulting.com>; Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>; Mitchell Salmon <mitchell.salmon@slrconsulting.com>; Oliver Coleman <oliver.coleman@stor-energy.com>

Thanks for the update Bradley.



Dr Mary-Jean Sutton (*she/her*)

DIRECTOR

BA Hons. Archaeology, University of Sydney;

PhD Archaeology, University of Queensland

MAACAI, MEIANZ, FAAS, CEnvP-Heritage, SEAC - Heritage

mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au

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From: WVVAC Contact Officer <WVVAC@hotmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, 20 March 2025 7:24 PM

To: Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au>; Lilith Malcolm <l.malcolm@virtusheritage.com.au>

Subject: Re: 540 - Presentation of Project Information and Draft Project Methodology - Molong BESS ACHA

Hi,

WVWAC are discussing this project and Methodology at our scheduled Meeting this weekend where Elders, Member and Knowledge Holders will have opportunity to give feedback as they have had the details for a week. I will forward a formal compiled response from all feedback received either Monday or Tuesday. I do not anticipate any objection to the proposed Methodology.

I have attached our Traditional Lands map for your reference.

Regards

Bradley R Bliss J.P.
WVWAC CEO and Contact Officer
P.O. Box 1583
Orange NSW 2800
M: 0427321016

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From: Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au>
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2025 6:53:37 pm
To: WVWAC@hotmail.com <WVWAC@hotmail.com>
Cc: Oliver Coleman <oliver.coleman@stor-energy.com>; Ursula McInnes <umcInnes@slrconsulting.com>; Lilith Malcolm <l.malcolm@virtusheritage.com.au>; Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>; Anya Graubard <a.graubard@virtusheritage.com.au>
Subject: Fw: 540 - Presentation of Project Information and Draft Project Methodology - Molong BESS ACHA

"WVWAC@hotmail.com" <WVWAC@hotmail.com>

Dear Wellington Valley Wiradjuri Aboriginal Corporation (Brad Bliss),

Thank you for registering for Aboriginal consultation for the preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) needed to support a Scoping Report and request for Secretary Environmental Assessment requirements (SEARs) for establishing a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility at Lot 99 on DP1020247 and Lot 1 on DP542283 (the project area) and connecting to Transgrid's Molong Substation at 1 Deight Street and 19 Back Saleyards Road, Molong, NSW 2866 via a 132kV overhead transmission line (the Project Area).

As previously communicated, Virtus Heritage has been engaged by SLR to undertake the ACHA, including an Archaeological Assessment (AA). In accordance with the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water's Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents (ACHCRs) (DECCW 2010), Section 4.2, Stage 2, this letter presents information on the proposed works to all registered Aboriginal parties.

Please see the attached draft Presentation Project Information Letter and the draft Project Methodology & Survey Strategy, and relevant figures for your review & comment.

Following Heritage NSW's ACHCRs, RAPs for this project have a minimum of 28 days to review the draft survey strategy and project methodology for the ACHA and provide comment and input. The

Re: 540 Molong - WVVAC - Comments on the Draft Project Methodology and Survey Strategy - response

From Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au>

Date Thu 10/04/2025 2:58 PM

To WVVAC Contact Officer <WVVAC@hotmail.com>

Cc Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>; Lilith Malcolm <l.malcolm@virtusheritage.com.au>; Liam Clerke <l.clerke@virtusheritage.com.au>

Hi Bradley

Sorry to hear that,

I called on our landline (02) 6676 4354 around 4:15 yesterday.

I will let Oliver know, thankyou and hope you have a restful weekend.

MJ



Dr Mary-Jean Sutton (*she/ her*)

DIRECTOR

BA Hons. Archaeology, University of Sydney;

PhD Archaeology, University of Queensland

MAACAI, MEIANZ, FAAS, CEnvP-Heritage, SEAC - Heritage

mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au

0439 703 886

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW

(02) 6676 4354



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Please note: I value your time and will respond during my standard working hours: 9-5:30pm, Monday to Friday. We value flexible working hours, but we don't expect you to read, action or respond out of your own working hours.

From: WVVAC Contact Officer <WVVAC@hotmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, 10 April 2025 2:23 PM

To: Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au>

Cc: Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>; Lilith Malcolm <l.malcolm@virtusheritage.com.au>; Liam Clerke <l.clerke@virtusheritage.com.au>

Subject: Re: 540 Molong - WVVAC - Comments on the Draft Project Methodology and Survey Strategy - response

Hi,

I did not receive a call nor a missed call alert. Wellington Valley Wiradjuri Aboriginal Corporation will have a Field Officer attend.

I will forward the required information to Oliver Coleman later today after I get back as currently away for Sorry Business.

Regards

Bradley R Bliss J.P.
WVVAC CEO and Contact Officer
P.O. Box 1583
Orange NSW 2800
M: 0427321016

From: Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au>

Sent: Wednesday, April 9, 2025 5:43:32 pm

To: WVVAC Contact Officer <WVVAC@hotmail.com>

Cc: Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>; Lilith Malcolm <l.malcolm@virtusheritage.com.au>; Liam Clerke <l.clerke@virtusheritage.com.au>

Subject: 540 Molong - WVVAC - Comments on the Draft Project Methodology and Survey Strategy - response

Dear Bradley,

Thank you again for sending the formal letter on behalf of Wellington Valley Wiradjuri Aboriginal Corporation (WVVAC). We appreciate the time and effort this took to provide, and all the concerns raised.

Please find our/the client's responses in blue below.

“WVVAC object to any other non-traditional Aboriginal organisations or people taking part in site surveys, consultation and assessments within our defined Traditional Lands.”

We understand your concerns regarding the participation of non-traditional Aboriginal individuals/organisations within this project.

Virtus Heritage and the client are bound by the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* and through following the NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change & Water's '*Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010*', we cannot deny consultation for any Registered Aboriginal Parties, unless

WVWAC has determined Native Title over the project area. From a search of the National Native Title Tribunal, we were unable to see an approved claim over the project area.

We know that this is not WVWAC's desired outcome but the proponent is required to meet the consultation requirements set by Heritage NSW for the project. We also encourage WVWAC to discuss any concerns regarding Heritage NSW's consultation requirements directly with Heritage NSW.

StorEnergy and Virtus have suggested that a site meeting with you for survey for WVWAC is nominated for 17 April for a half day, to address your concerns.

“WVWAC request to be notified with enough lead time if we are selected for Commercial Engagement to allow for our selection of Field Officer most appropriate for this project site or to inform Field Officers and Members if attending that it would be voluntary.”

Please note above 17 April is a nominated day for survey and site meeting for up to four hours for WVWAC, please confirm by Monday 14 April, if suitable?

Please send the details for commercial engagement (fees, names of representatives attending, insurances etc) directly to

Oliver Coleman

StorEnergy Pty Ltd

1800 920 060

information@molong-battery.com.au

WVWAC's knowledge of Yuranigh and King Sandy of the Lachlan Clans.

Thank you for confirming that Yuranigh's campsite is not within the project area. Additionally, we appreciate your trust with providing restricted information as to inform us of the wider Cultural landscape in which the project area is located in. We will not share this information outside of this project and will apply restrictions in the reports if and where requested by WVWAC Knowledge Holders.

If any additional comments have not been replied to, or you would like to discuss any of this over the phone. Please contact me via email or phone at (02) 6676 4354. Please note I have tried to call today before sending this email,

Kind regards



Dr Mary-Jean Sutton (*she/her*)

DIRECTOR

BA Hons. Archaeology, University of Sydney;

PhD Archaeology, University of Queensland

MAACAI, MEIANZ, FAAS, CEnvP-Heritage, SEAC - Heritage

mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au

0439 703 886

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW

(02) 6676 4354



Lilith Malcolm

From: Lilith Malcolm
Sent: Monday, 24 March 2025 12:47 PM
To: WVVAC Contact Officer; Mary-Jean Sutton
Cc: Virtus Consultation
Subject: RE: 540 - Presentation of Project Information and Draft Project Methodology - Molong BESS ACHA

Thank you, Bradley.

I will ensure this map is also forwarded to the client.

Thanks again,



Lilith Malcolm (*she/her*)

ARCHAEOLOGIST
B.Arts Archaeology, University of Sydney;
l.malcolm@virtusheritage.com.au
Work Days: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02) 6676 4354



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From: WVVAC Contact Officer <WVVAC@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, 24 March 2025 12:43 PM
To: Lilith Malcolm <l.malcolm@virtusheritage.com.au>; Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au>
Cc: Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>
Subject: Re: 540 - Presentation of Project Information and Draft Project Methodology - Molong BESS ACHA

Hi Lilith

Thanks. I previously sent our Traditional lands map for our Combined Traditional Clans showing Where we cover and outside the boundaries is where we do not get involved. All our members have Apical connection to within our boundaries.

If you need our Workers Compensation and Public liability insurance Certificates of Currency, let me know.

Regards

Bradley R Bliss J.P.
WWWAC CEO and Contact Officer
P.O. Box 1583
Orange NSW 2800
M: 0427321016

From: Lilith Malcolm <l.malcolm@virtusheritage.com.au>
Sent: Monday, March 24, 2025 12:16:48 PM
To: WVVAC Contact Officer <WVVAC@hotmail.com>; Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au>
Cc: Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>
Subject: RE: 540 - Presentation of Project Information and Draft Project Methodology - Molong BESS ACHA

Hi Bradley,

I hope you're having a nice start to your week.

Emailing to confirm receipt of your email and Wellington Valley Wiradjuri Aboriginal Corporation's formal response.

I will pass this onto the client for response.

Thank you,



Lilith Malcolm (*she/her*)
ARCHAEOLOGIST
B.Arts Archaeology, University of Sydney;
l.malcolm@virtusheritage.com.au
Work Days: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02) 6676 4354



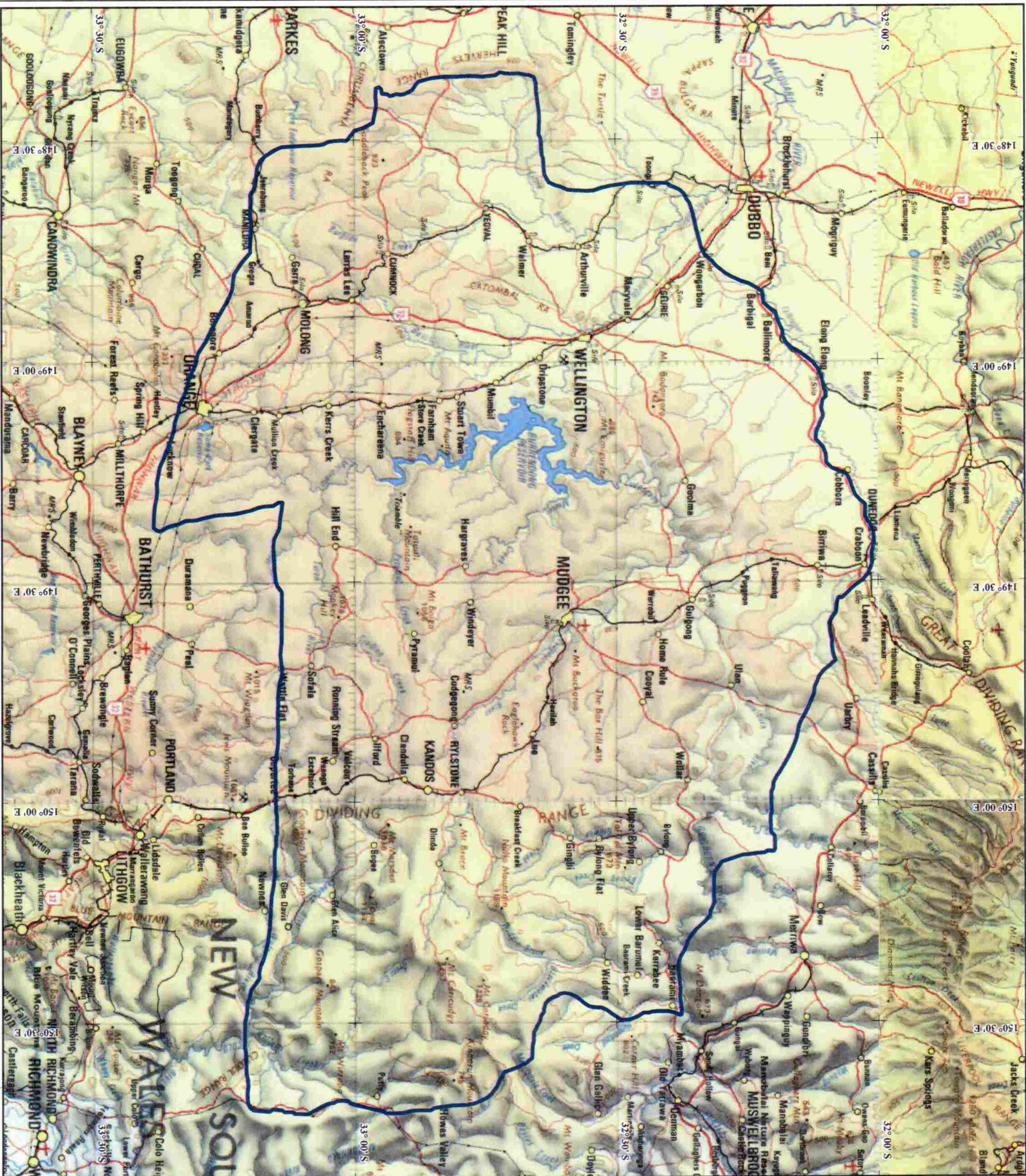
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From: WVVAC Contact Officer <WVVAC@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, 24 March 2025 11:03 AM



Proposed Wellington Valley Wiradjuri #2 Claim

Proposed Application Area

NOTE: To determine areas subject to claim within the external boundary, reference to the application description is necessary.

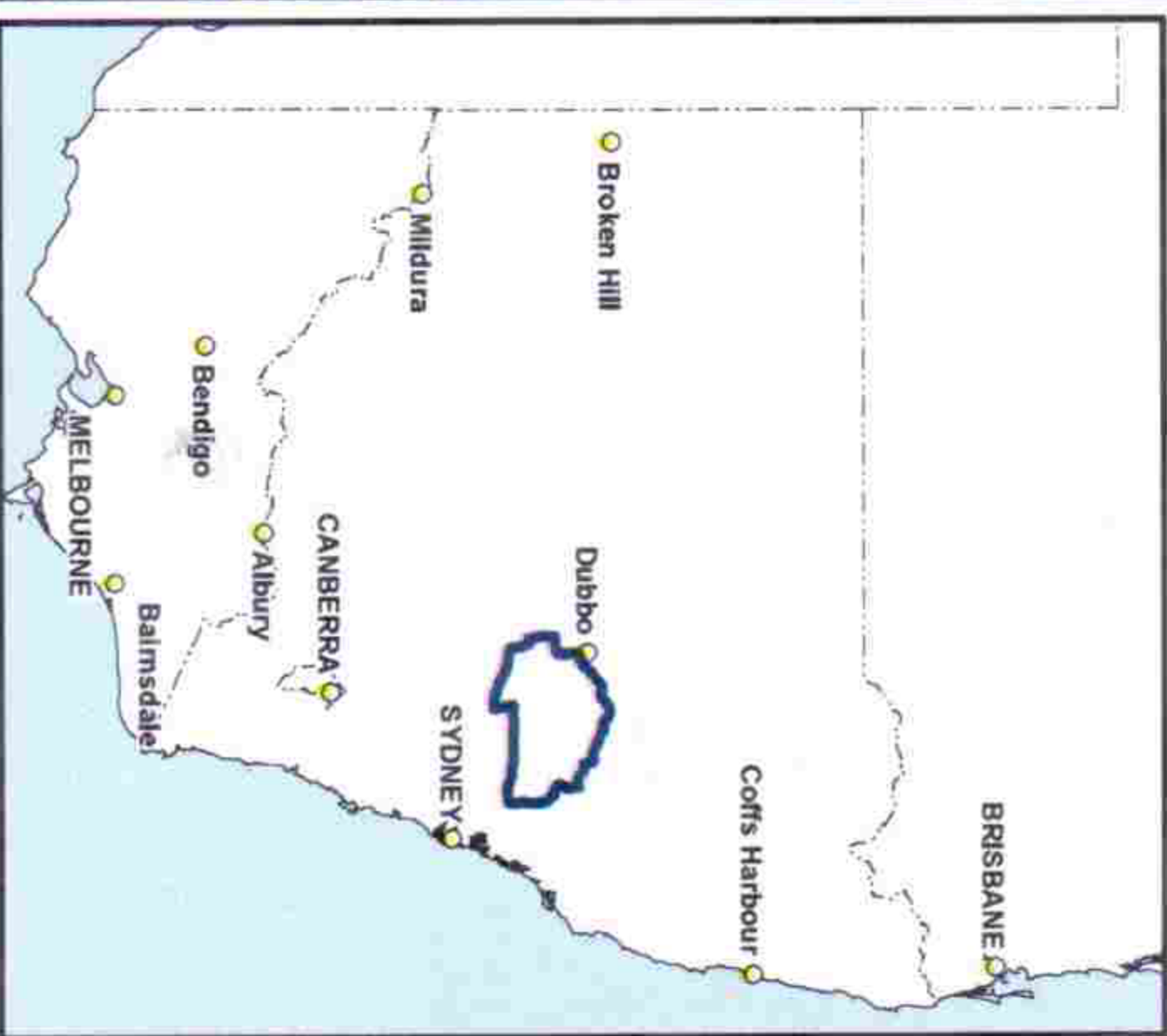
Map created by: Geospatial Services,
National Native Title Tribunal (05/09/2013)
Application boundary data compiled by the NNTT from data sourced from DOL (NSW).

Topographic image data is © Commonwealth of Australia and is used under licence from Geoscience Australia 2008
NOTE: Topographic images should be used as a guide only.

© Commonwealth of Australia 2013
The Registrar, the National Native Title Tribunal and its staff, members and agents and the Commonwealth collectively the Commonwealth accept no liability and give no undertakings, guarantees or warranties concerning the accuracy, completeness or fitness for purpose of the information provided. In return for you receiving this information you agree to release and indemnify the Commonwealth and third party data suppliers in respect of all claims, expenses, losses, damages and costs arising directly or indirectly from your use of the information and the use of the information you obtained by any third party.



Location Diagram





WELLINGTON VALLEY WIRADJURI
ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

P.O. Box 1583
Orange NSW 2800
ABN: 77 548 143 187
ICN: 7398

WWWAC@hotmail.com

24th March 2025

Lilith Malcolm
Archaeologist
Virtus Heritage
PO Box 101
Pottsville NSW 2489

Re: Proposed Draft Survey Strategy and Project Methodology for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for the proposed BESS at Lot 99 DP 1020247 and Lot 1 DP 542283, Molong, NSW

Dear Lilith,

Wellington Valley Wiradjuri Aboriginal Corporation (WWWAC) would like to thank you for your invitation to provide a response for This Aboriginal Cultural Heritage issue relevant to obligations to protect our Heritage within our Traditional Lands. Wellington Valley Wiradjuri represent traditional families with identified apical ancestry pre European occupation with our known Traditional Lands. We know our culture, country and continue with our association with our traditional lands (Ngurangbang).

WWWAC object to any other non-traditional aboriginal organizations or people taking part in site surveys, consultation and assessments within our defined Traditional Lands. These non-traditional people and groups are outsiders under Traditional Lore and have no right to advise on or to be present during consultation or site visits as they do not possess the specific traditional knowledge in relation to these lands or sites. These participants may be indigenous and may live locally within the region however, this still does not give them the right to disregard Traditional Lore and values.

Wellington Valley Wiradjuri Aboriginal Corporation (WWWAC) have through consultation with other Traditional Elders and Traditional Community with cultural knowledge have the following comments and or recommendations:

- WWWAC agree to the proposed methodology for the Pedestrian Field Survey.
- WWWAC request to be notified with enough lead time if we are selected for Commercial Engagement to allow for our selection of Field Officer most appropriate for this project site or to inform Field Officers and Members if attending that it would be voluntary.

WWWAC make further comment relating to Yuranigh and King Sandy of the Lachlan Clans

- WVVAC have discussed Yuranigh and matters relating to his burial site (not within the project area) and his campsite (not within the project area) which is known by one of our Wiradjuri Knowledge Holders. This Knowledge Holder has been to both sites and knows the property owner for "Gamboola". This knowledge holder has also recorded sites in the area related to King Sandy of the Lachlan Clans who regularly interacted with Yuranigh. This knowledge is not generally known and will only be shared on a restricted basis to give additional context to the Cultural landscape surrounding this project.

WVVAC look forward to further participating in the above project, sharing our knowledge of county and to ensure our Heritage is protected. We trust our response meets your requirements. Please contact WVVAC Directors should you require our assistance to address any Aboriginal issues to support your future plans.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'BRB', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Bradley R. Bliss J.P.
WVVAC CEO and Contact Officer
Senior Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Field Officer
Senior Aboriginal Cultural Mentor and Educator
Mobile: 0427321016

To: Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au>; Lilith Malcolm <l.malcolm@virtusheritage.com.au>
Subject: Re: 540 - Presentation of Project Information and Draft Project Methodology - Molong BESS ACHA

Dear Lilith,

Please find attached Wellington Valley Wiradjuri Aboriginal Corporations formal response to the Molong Bess Draft Survey Methodology. Please contact me if you require any further information

Regards,

Bradley R. Bliss J.P.
WVWAC CEO and Contact Officer
P.O. Box 1583
Orange NSW 2800
Email: WVWAC@hotmail.com
Mobile: 0427321016

From: Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au>
Sent: Friday, 14 March 2025 6:53 PM
To: WVWAC@hotmail.com <WVWAC@hotmail.com>
Cc: Oliver Coleman <oliver.coleman@stor-energy.com>; Ursula McInnes <umcInnes@slrconsulting.com>; Lilith Malcolm <l.malcolm@virtusheritage.com.au>; Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>; Anya Graubard <a.graubard@virtusheritage.com.au>
Subject: Fw: 540 - Presentation of Project Information and Draft Project Methodology - Molong BESS ACHA

"WVWAC@hotmail.com" <WVWAC@hotmail.com>

Dear Wellington Valley Wiradjuri Aboriginal Corporation (Brad Bliss),

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Please see the attached draft Presentation Project Information Letter and the draft Project Methodology & Survey Strategy, and relevant figures for your review & comment.

Following Heritage NSW's ACHCRs, RAPs for this project have a minimum of 28 days to review the draft survey strategy and project methodology for the ACHA and provide comment and input. The closing date for comments by **5pm on 11th April 2025**.

Please provide your written or verbal comments to:
Lilith Malcolm
Virtus Heritage

PO Box 101
Pottsville NSW 2489
Phone/Fax: (02) 6676 4354
Email: consultation@virtusheritage.com.au

Thank you,



Virtus Heritage

C O N S U L T A T I O N

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW

(02) 6676 4354

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closing date for comments by **5pm on 11th April 2025.**

Please provide your written or verbal comments to:

Lilith Malcolm
Virtus Heritage
PO Box 101
Pottsville NSW 2489
Phone/Fax: (02) 6676 4354
Email: consultation@virtusheritage.com.au

Thank you,



Virtus Heritage
CONSULTATION

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02) 6676 4354

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Re: 540 - Molong BESS Placeholder for fieldwork Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for a proposed BESS at Lot 99 DP 1020247 and Lot 1 DP 542283, Molong, NSW

From Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au>

Date Fri 11/04/2025 3:01 PM

To Ben Kemp <Ben.Kemp@olalc.com.au>

Cc Oliver Coleman <oliver.coleman@stor-energy.com>; Riikka.Heikkinen@stor-energy.com <riikka.heikkinen@stor-energy.com>; Mitchell Salmon <mitchell.salmon@slrconsulting.com>; Ursula McInnes <umcInnes@slrconsulting.com>; Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>; Patrick Quinlan <pquinlan@slrconsulting.com>

Hi Ben

As a reminder too, the closing date for comments on the draft survey strategy and project methodology for the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for a proposed BESS at Lot 99 DP 1020247 and Lot 1 DP 542283, Molong, NSW for StorEnergy closes on 11 April 2025, if LALC have any additional comments to make.

We look forward to reading your comments on the survey strategy and project methodology and working together on Country.

Best wishes

Mary-Jean



Dr Mary-Jean Sutton (*she/her*)

DIRECTOR

BA Hons. Archaeology, University of Sydney;

PhD Archaeology, University of Queensland

MAACAI, MEIANZ, FAAS, CEnvP-Heritage, SEAC - Heritage

mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au

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(02) 6676 4354



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Please note: I value your time and will respond during my standard working hours: 9-5:30pm, Monday to Friday. We value flexible working hours, but we don't expect you to read, action or respond out of your own working hours.

From: Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au>

Sent: Friday, 11 April 2025 2:51 PM

To: Ben Kemp <Ben.Kemp@olalc.com.au>

Cc: Oliver Coleman <oliver.coleman@stor-energy.com>; Riikka.Heikkinen@stor-energy.com <riikka.heikkinen@stor-energy.com>; Mitchell Salmon <mitchell.salmon@slrconsulting.com>; Ursula McInnes <umcInnes@slrconsulting.com>; Patrick Quinlan <pquinlan@slrconsulting.com>

Subject: Re: 540 - Molong BESS Placeholder for fieldwork Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for a proposed BESS at Lot 99 DP 1020247 and Lot 1 DP 542283, Molong, NSW

Thanks Ben, have a good weekend.



Dr Mary-Jean Sutton (*she/ her*)

DIRECTOR

BA Hons. Archaeology, University of Sydney;

PhD Archaeology, University of Queensland

MAACAI, MEIANZ, FAAS, CEnvP-Heritage, SEAC - Heritage

mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au

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From: Ben Kemp <Ben.Kemp@olalc.com.au>

Sent: Friday, 11 April 2025 2:50 PM

To: Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au>

Cc: Oliver Coleman <oliver.coleman@stor-energy.com>; Riikka.Heikkinen@stor-energy.com
<riikka.heikkinen@stor-energy.com>; Mitchell Salmon <mitchell.salmon@slrconsulting.com>; Ursula McInnes
<umcInnes@slrconsulting.com>; Patrick Quinlan <pquinlan@slrconsulting.com>

Subject: Re: 540 - Molong BESS Placeholder for fieldwork Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for a proposed
BESS at Lot 99 DP 1020247 and Lot 1 DP 542283, Molong, NSW

Hi Mary-Jean,

Sorry i missed your call earlier and thank you for the msg. Please see attached email from my CEO regarding this.

hopefully you can work out a solution on the 17th .

Have a great weekend.

Ben Kemp
Assets & Projects Manager



120 Byng St.
Orange NSW 2800
P: 02 6361 4742
Email: Ben.Kemp@olalc.com.au

I acknowledge and pay my respects to Elders both past and present and the Wiradjuri people who are the traditional custodians of this land.

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From: Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au>

Sent: Wednesday, April 9, 2025 5:26 PM

To: Ben Kemp <Ben.Kemp@olalc.com.au>

Cc: Oliver Coleman <oliver.coleman@stor-energy.com>; Riikka.Heikkinen@stor-energy.com
<riikka.heikkinen@stor-energy.com>; Mitchell Salmon <mitchell.salmon@slrconsulting.com>; Ursula McInnes
<umcInnes@slrconsulting.com>; Patrick Quinlan <pquinlan@slrconsulting.com>

Subject: Fw: 540 - Molong BESS Placeholder for fieldwork Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for a proposed
BESS at Lot 99 DP 1020247 and Lot 1 DP 542283, Molong, NSW

Dear Ben

FYI - email as requested, which I sent out after we had our chat.

The RAPs listed for the project include:

Wingarra Wilay Aboriginal Corporation	Raymond Moon
---------------------------------------	--------------

Girragirra Murun Aboriginal Corporation	Diana Astin
Wellington Valley Wiradjuri Aboriginal Corporation	Brad Bliss (CEO)

Orange LALC	Ben
Judy Bell (Mirrabee)	Judy Bell

A request for fieldwork has been sent out for 16 April to all RAPs, except Bradley Bliss who at this time, who may be coming out at a separate time, no other RAP has requested this, thus far.

Happy to discuss further, if needed,
Thankyou and have a good evening,
Mary-Jean



Dr Mary-Jean Sutton (*she/her*)

DIRECTOR

BA Hons. Archaeology, University of Sydney;

PhD Archaeology, University of Queensland

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Please note: I value your time and will respond during my standard working hours: 9-5:30pm, Monday to Friday. We value flexible working hours, but we don't expect you to read, action or respond out of your own working hours.

From: Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 9 April 2025 5:17 PM

To: wingarrawilay@yahoo.com <wingarrawilay@yahoo.com>; girragirramurun@yahoo.com <girragirramurun@yahoo.com>; reception@olalc.com.au <reception@olalc.com.au>; belljudy@yahoo.com.au <belljudy@yahoo.com.au>

Cc: Mitchell Salmon <mitchell.salmon@slrconsulting.com>; Ursula McInnes <umcInnes@slrconsulting.com>; Anya Graubard <a.graubard@virtusheritage.com.au>; Liam Clerke <l.clerke@virtusheritage.com.au>; Lilith Malcolm <l.malcolm@virtusheritage.com.au>

Subject: 540 - Molong BESS Placeholder for fieldwork Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for a proposed BESS at Lot 99 DP 1020247 and Lot 1 DP 542283, Molong, NSW

Dear Registered Aboriginal Parties and Orange LALC,

The closing date for comments on the draft survey strategy and project methodology for the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for a proposed BESS at Lot 99 DP 1020247 and Lot 1 DP 542283, Molong, NSW for StorEnergy closes on 11 April 2025.

540 - Reminder - Presentation of Project Information and Draft Project Methodology - Molong BESS ACHA

From Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>

Date Mon 7/04/2025 4:19 PM

Bcc reception@olalc.com.au <reception@olalc.com.au>; Judy Bell <belljudy@yahoo.com.au>; Girra Murun <girragirramurun@yahoo.com>; wingarrawilay@yahoo.com <wingarrawilay@yahoo.com>; WWWAC@hotmail.com <WWWAC@hotmail.com>

To Whom it May Concern,

As previously communicated Virtus Heritage has been engaged by SLR to undertake the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA), including an Archaeological Assessment (AA) needed to support a Scoping Report and request for Secretary Environmental Assessment requirements (SEARs) for establishing a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility at Lot 99 on DP1020247 and Lot 1 on DP542283 (the project area) and connecting to Transgrid's Molong Substation at 1 Deight Street and 19 Back Saleyards Road, Molong, NSW 2866 via a 132kV overhead transmission line.

This is a reminder that the closing date for your review of the draft Presentation of Project Information and draft Project Methodology and Survey Strategy letters is **5:00pm on 11th April 2025**. If you have any comments, please contact us prior to this time at:

Virtus Heritage
PO Box 101
Pottsville NSW 2489
Phone/Fax: (02) 6676 4354
Email: consultation@virtusheritage.com.au

The draft letters have been reattached below for your convenience:

 [540 Molong Presentation of Project Information v2.pdf](#)
 [540 Molong Project Methodology Survey Strategy v2.pdf](#)

Thank you,



Virtus Heritage
CONSULTATION

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02) 6676 4354

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In preparation, we have a nominated field date for 16 April (next week) for a full day to undertake survey for this project (8:30 to 4:30 is nominated time, daylight permitting).

If RAPs and LALC wish to attend and be commercially engaged, as discussed with some of you already on the telephone and as requested, please send through directly to Oliver Coleman StorEnergy, 1800 920 060, email: information@molong-battery.com.au, the following details please for StorEnergy to consider as soon as possible **by Monday 14 April 10am please**:

- A) Who you nominate for fieldwork
- B) Your organisation's fees/hourly rates
- C) Your insurances as an organisation including Workers Compensation certificate of currency

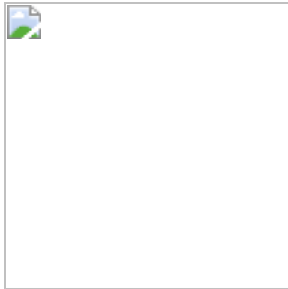
I will be attending fieldwork with Liam Clerke (Senior Geomorphologist/Environmental Consultant) from Virtus Heritage, accompanied by a StorEnergy representative.

We will send through a meeting place, PPE and SWMS etc closer to the time.

We look forward to reading your comments on the survey strategy and project methodology and working together on Country.

Best wishes

Mary-Jean



Dr Mary-Jean Sutton (*sbe/ her*)

DIRECTOR

BA Hons. Archaeology, University of Sydney;

PhD Archaeology, University of Queensland

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mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au

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540 - Presentation of Project Information and Draft Project Methodology - Molong BESS ACHA

From Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au>

Date Fri 14/03/2025 6:58 PM

To reception@olalc.com.au <reception@olalc.com.au>

Cc Oliver Coleman <oliver.coleman@stor-energy.com>; Ursula McInnes <umcInnes@slrconsulting.com>; Anya Graubard <a.graubard@virtusheritage.com.au>; Lilith Malcolm <l.malcolm@virtusheritage.com.au>; Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>

 2 attachments (4 MB)

540_OLALC_PPI.pdf; 540_OrangeLALC_SS.pdf;

"reception@olalc.com.au" <>

Dear Orange LALC,

Thank you for registering for Aboriginal consultation for the preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) needed to support a Scoping Report and request for Secretary Environmental Assessment requirements (SEARs) for establishing a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility at Lot 99 on DP1020247 and Lot 1 on DP542283 (the project area) and connecting to Transgrid's Molong Substation at 1 Deight Street and 19 Back Saleyards Road, Molong, NSW 2866 via a 132kV overhead transmission line (the Project Area).

As previously communicated, Virtus Heritage has been engaged by SLR to undertake the ACHA, including an Archaeological Assessment (AA). In accordance with the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water's Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents (ACHCRs) (DECCW 2010), Section 4.2, Stage 2, this letter presents information on the proposed works to all registered Aboriginal parties.

Please see the attached draft Presentation Project Information Letter and the draft Project Methodology & Survey Strategy, and relevant figures for your review & comment.

Following Heritage NSW's ACHCRs, RAPs for this project have a minimum of 28 days to review the draft survey strategy and project methodology for the ACHA and provide comment and input. The closing date for comments by **5pm on 11th April 2025**.

Please provide your written or verbal comments to:

Lilith Malcolm
Virtus Heritage
PO Box 101
Pottsville NSW 2489
Phone/Fax: (02) 6676 4354
Email: consultation@virtusheritage.com.au

Thank you,



Virtus Heritage CONSULTATION

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02) 6676 4354

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Re: 540 - Molong BESS Placeholder for fieldwork Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for a proposed BESS at Lot 99 DP 1020247 and Lot 1 DP 542283, Molong, NSW

From Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au>

Date Sat 4/12/2025 6:46 PM

To Judy Bell <belljudy@yahoo.com.au>

Cc Oliver Coleman <oliver.coleman@stor-energy.com>; Riikka Heikkinen <riikka.heikkinen@stor-energy.com>; Mitchell Salmon <mitchell.salmon@slrconsulting.com>; Ursula McInnes <umcinn@slrconsulting.com>; Kate Wheeler <kate.wheeler@slrconsulting.com>; Liam Clerke <l.clerke@virtusheritage.com.au>; Lilith Malcolm <l.malcolm@virtusheritage.com.au>; Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>

Thanks Judy.

We have provided your information for Stor to review for fieldwork engagement.

We will be in touch Monday.

Thankyou and have a great weekend.



Dr Mary-Jean Sutton (*she/her*)

DIRECTOR

BA Hons. Archaeology, University of Sydney;

PhD Archaeology, University of Queensland

MAACAI, MEIANZ, FAAS, CEnvP-Heritage, SEAC - Heritage

mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au

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From: Judy Bell <belljudy@yahoo.com.au>

Sent: Saturday, 12 April 2025 1:11 PM

To: Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au>

Subject: Re: 540 - Molong BESS Placeholder for fieldwork Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for a proposed BESS at Lot 99 DP 1020247 and Lot 1 DP 542283, Molong, NSW

Hi Mary,

Confirmation that my Uncle Terry Robinson will be attending representing Mirrabee (Judy Bell) for the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment work in Molong, next Wednesday 16th April.

His contact is 0457275805. Please also send any text messages to me, so I can be in the loop, in addition, can follow up with Uncle.

I have sent certificates and other requested information to Oliver.

Once confirmed meeting location, please send through via email and text.

Reach out if you have any queries.

Regards

Judy Bell
Mirrabee
Ph: 0410133651

On Wednesday 9 April 2025 at 05:17:16 pm AEST, Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au> wrote:

Dear Registered Aboriginal Parties and Orange LALC,

The closing date for comments on the draft survey strategy and project methodology for the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for a proposed BESS at Lot 99 DP 1020247 and Lot 1 DP 542283, Molong, NSW for StorEnergy closes on 11 April 2025.

In preparation, we have a nominated field date for 16 April (next week) for a full day to undertake survey for this project (8:30 to 4:30 is nominated time, daylight permitting).

If RAPs and LALC wish to attend and be commercially engaged, as discussed with some of you already on the telephone and as requested, please send through directly to Oliver Coleman StorEnergy, 1800 920 060, email: information@molong-battery.com.au, the following details please for StorEnergy to consider as soon as possible **by Monday 14 April 10am please**:

1. Who you nominate for fieldwork
2. Your organisation's fees/hourly rates
3. Your insurances as an organisation including Workers Compensation certificate of currency

I will be attending fieldwork with Liam Clerke (Senior Geomorphologist/Environmental Consultant) from Virtus Heritage, accompanied by a StorEnergy representative.

We will send through a meeting place, PPE and SWMS etc closer to the time.

We look forward to reading your comments on the survey strategy and project methodology and working together on Country.

Best wishes

Mary-Jean



Dr Mary-Jean Sutton (*she/her*)

DIRECTOR

BA Hons. Archaeology, University of Sydney;

PhD Archaeology, University of Queensland

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Fieldwork

Lilith Malcolm

From: Mary-Jean Sutton
Sent: Wednesday, 9 April 2025 5:17 PM
To: wingarrawilay@yahoo.com; girragirramurun@yahoo.com; reception@olalc.com.au; belljudy@yahoo.com.au
Cc: Mitchell Salmon; Ursula McInnes; Anya Graubard; Liam Clerke; Lilith Malcolm
Subject: 540 - Molong BESS Placeholder for fieldwork Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for a proposed BESS at Lot 99 DP 1020247 and Lot 1 DP 542283, Molong, NSW

Dear Registered Aboriginal Parties and Orange LALC,

The closing date for comments on the draft survey strategy and project methodology for the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for a proposed BESS at Lot 99 DP 1020247 and Lot 1 DP 542283, Molong, NSW for StorEnergy closes on 11 April 2025.

In preparation, we have a nominated field date for 16 April (next week) for a full day to undertake survey for this project (8:30 to 4:30 is nominated time, daylight permitting).

If RAPs and LALC wish to attend and be commercially engaged, as discussed with some of you already on the telephone and as requested, please send through directly to Oliver Coleman StorEnergy, 1800 920 060, email: information@molong-battery.com.au, the following details please for StorEnergy to consider as soon as possible **by Monday 14 April 10am please:**

1. Who you nominate for fieldwork
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3. Your insurances as an organisation including Workers Compensation certificate of currency

I will be attending fieldwork with Liam Clerke (Senior Geomorphologist/Environmental Consultant) from Virtus Heritage, accompanied by a StorEnergy representative.

We will send through a meeting place, PPE and SWMS etc closer to the time.

We look forward to reading your comments on the survey strategy and project methodology and working together on Country.

Best wishes

Mary-Jean



Dr Mary-Jean Sutton (*she/her*)

DIRECTOR

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540 Molong Battery Field Surveys

From Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au>

Date Mon 14/04/2025 12:59 PM

To girragirramurun@yahoo.com <girragirramurun@yahoo.com>

Cc Riikka Heikkinen <Riikka.Heikkinen@stor-energy.com>; Oliver Coleman <oliver.coleman@stor-energy.com>; Ursula McInnes <umcinnnes@slrconsulting.com>; Kate Wheeler <kate.wheeler@slrconsulting.com>; Lilith Malcolm <l.malcolm@virtusheritage.com.au>; Liam Clerke <l.clerke@virtusheritage.com.au>; Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>

 2 attachments (9 MB)

540_Stor Energy_Molong_SWMS_v1b 2025.docx; Figure X Predictive modelling V2 170325.pdf;

Dear Diana

We look forward to working with you on Country on Wednesday, 16 April this week.

The field day will be from 8:30am to 4:30pm meeting near the project area at Molong.

We will meet you near the junction of Marsden St, Dight St and Backyardsaleyard Road, Molong, where it is safe to park at 8:30am.

Please refer to the attached map for a snapshot of the proposed survey areas of focus.

Myself and Liam Clerke of Virtus and Riikka Heikkinen of StorEnergy will be working with you on Wednesday.

A Safety Work Method statement is attached. Please ensure you/your representative has appropriate PPE for the day including:

- A) Long trousers and shirt (gaiters if possible)
- B) Closed boots (hiking boots/steel caps)
- C) Sunhat and suncream
- D) Rain coat (in case weather turns)
- E) Packed lunch and morning tea
- F) Water

We will be undertaking mostly walking on foot all day and there will be transport in 4WDs across the site and it is important that the person attending is physically fit and able to walk/hike.

We look forward to working with you on Country.
Liam and Lilith



Dr Mary-Jean Sutton (*she/her*)

DIRECTOR

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PhD Archaeology, University of Queensland

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Please note: I value your time and will respond during my standard working hours: 9-5:30pm, Monday to Friday. We value flexible working hours, but we don't expect you to read, action or respond out of your own working hours.

From: Oliver Coleman <oliver.coleman@stor-energy.com>

Sent: Monday, 14 April 2025 11:08 AM

To: girragirramurun@yahoo.com <girragirramurun@yahoo.com>; Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au>

Cc: Riikka Heikkinen <Riikka.Heikkinen@stor-energy.com>

Subject: Molong Battery Field Surveys - Invoicing

Hi Diana,

Thanks for confirming your attendance this week for the field surveys at Molong Battery project.

Confirming that we have received and accept your commercial proposal.

Please make out invoices to the following entity and send through to me for processing.

Storenergy 3 Pty Ltd
ABN [21 667 756 630](#)

Level 7, 1 Macquarie Place, Sydney, NSW, 2000

Thanks in advance,

Oliver Coleman

Head of Development

STOR  energy

StorEnergy Pty Ltd

Gateway, Level 7, 1 Macquarie Place, Sydney NSW 2000

m: +61 434 260 802

e: oliver.coleman@stor-energy.com

w: <https://stor-energy.com/>

Re: FINAL REMINDER 540 - Molong BESS Placeholder for fieldwork Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for a proposed BESS at Lot 99 DP 1020247 and Lot 1 DP 542283, Molong, NSW

From Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au>

Date Sat 12/04/2025 6:45 PM

To Girra Murun <girragirramurun@yahoo.com>

Cc Oliver Coleman <oliver.coleman@stor-energy.com>; Riikka Heikkinen <riikka.heikkinen@stor-energy.com>; Lilith Malcolm <l.malcolm@virtusheritage.com.au>; Mitchell Salmon <mitchell.salmon@slrconsulting.com>; Ursula McInnes <umcinnnes@slrconsulting.com>; Kate Wheeler <kate.wheeler@slrconsulting.com>; Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>; Liam Clerke <l.clerke@virtusheritage.com.au>

Thankyou Diana.

We have provided your information for Stor to review for fieldwork engagement.

We will be in touch Monday.

Thankyou



Dr Mary-Jean Sutton (*she/her*)

DIRECTOR

BA Hons. Archaeology, University of Sydney;

PhD Archaeology, University of Queensland

MAACAI, MEIANZ, FAAS, CEnvP-Heritage, SEAC - Heritage

mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au

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Please note: I value your time and will respond during my standard working hours: 9-5:30pm, Monday to Friday. We value flexible working hours, but we don't expect you to read, action or respond out of your own working hours.

From: Girra Murun <girragirramurun@yahoo.com>

Sent: Saturday, 12 April 2025 9:32 AM

To: Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au>

Subject: Re: FINAL REMINDER 540 - Molong BESS Placeholder for fieldwork Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for a proposed BESS at Lot 99 DP 1020247 and Lot 1 DP 542283, Molong, NSW

Good morning,

My apologies for not sending this through earlier we have been away on fieldwork.

Girragirra murun would like to attend on 16th April 2025 at Molong.

Our rates are \$1200 for full day \$700 half day.

Your methodology has covered relevant information for the project at hand and Girragirra Murun agrees.

Please leave a message if I'm unable to Answer the phone.

RAP - Malcolm Briggs

\$1200

Kind Regards

Diana Astin

Girragirra Murun

[Yahoo Mail: Search, organise, conquer](#)

On Fri, 11 Apr 2025 at 3:00 pm, Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au> wrote:

Dear Registered Aboriginal Parties,

The closing date for comments on the draft survey strategy and project methodology for the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for a proposed BESS at Lot 99 DP 1020247 and Lot 1 DP 542283, Molong, NSW for StorEnergy closes on 11 April 2025.

As previously emailed and during calls today, we have a nominated field date for 16 April (next week) for a full day to undertake survey for this project (8:30 to 4:30 is nominated time, daylight permitting).

If RAPs (**we note already Orange LALC cannot attend on 16 April**) wish to attend and be commercially engaged, as discussed with some of you already on the telephone and as requested, please send through directly to **Oliver Coleman**
StorEnergy, 1800 920 060, email: information@molong-battery.com.au, the following details please for StorEnergy to consider as soon as possible by Monday 14 April 10am please:

1. Who you nominate for fieldwork
2. Your organisation's fees/hourly rates
3. Your insurances as an organisation including Workers Compensation certificate of currency

I will be attending fieldwork with Liam Clerke (Senior Geomorphologist/Environmental Consultant) from Virtus Heritage, accompanied by a StorEnergy representative.
We will send through a meeting place, PPE and SWMS Monday once EOIs are confirmed.

We look forward to reading your comments on the survey strategy and project methodology and working together on Country.

Best wishes

Mary-Jean



Dr Mary-Jean Sutton (*she/ her*)

DIRECTOR

BA Hons. Archaeology, University of Sydney;

PhD Archaeology, University of Queensland

MAACAI, MEIANZ, FAAS, CEnvP-Heritage, SEAC - Heritage

mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au

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Please note: I value your time and will respond during my standard working hours: 9-5:30pm, Monday to Friday. We value flexible working hours, but we don't expect you to read, action or respond out of your own working hours.

From: Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 9 April 2025 5:17 PM

To: wingarrawilay@yahoo.com <wingarrawilay@yahoo.com>; girragirramurun@yahoo.com <girragirramurun@yahoo.com>; reception@olalc.com.au <reception@olalc.com.au>; belljudy@yahoo.com.au <belljudy@yahoo.com.au>

Cc: Mitchell Salmon <mitchell.salmon@slrconsulting.com>; Ursula McInnes <umcInnes@slrconsulting.com>; Anya Graubard <a.graubard@virtusheritage.com.au>; Liam Clerke <l.clerke@virtusheritage.com.au>; Lilith Malcolm <l.malcolm@virtusheritage.com.au>

Subject: 540 - Molong BESS Placeholder for fieldwork Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for a proposed BESS at Lot 99 DP 1020247 and Lot 1 DP 542283, Molong, NSW

Dear Registered Aboriginal Parties and Orange LALC,

The closing date for comments on the draft survey strategy and project methodology for the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for a proposed BESS at Lot 99 DP 1020247 and Lot 1 DP 542283, Molong, NSW for StorEnergy closes on 11 April 2025.

In preparation, we have a nominated field date for 16 April (next week) for a full day to undertake survey for this project (8:30 to 4:30 is nominated time, daylight permitting).

If RAPs and LALC wish to attend and be commercially engaged, as discussed with some of you already on the telephone and as requested, please send through directly to Oliver Coleman StorEnergy, 1800 920 060, email: information@molong-battery.com.au, the following details please for StorEnergy to consider as soon as possible **by Monday 14 April 10am please:**

1. Who you nominate for fieldwork
2. Your organisation's fees/hourly rates
3. Your insurances as an organisation including Workers Compensation certificate of currency

I will be attending fieldwork with Liam Clerke (Senior Geomorphologist/Environmental Consultant) from Virtus Heritage, accompanied by a StorEnergy representative.
We will send through a meeting place, PPE and SWMS etc closer to the time.

We look forward to reading your comments on the survey strategy and project methodology and working together on Country.

Best wishes

Mary-Jean



Dr Mary-Jean Sutton (*sbe/ber*)

DIRECTOR

BA Hons. Archaeology, University of Sydney;

PhD Archaeology, University of Queensland

MAACAI, MEIANZ, FAAS, CEnvP-Heritage, SEAC - Heritage

mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au

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540 Molong Battery Field Survey - confirmation of details

From Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au>

Date Mon 14/04/2025 1:03 PM

To belljudy@yahoo.com.au <belljudy@yahoo.com.au>

Cc Riikka Heikkinen <Riikka.Heikkinen@stor-energy.com>; 'Oliver Coleman' <oliver.coleman@stor-energy.com>; Mitchell Salmon <mitchell.salmon@slrconsulting.com>; Ursula McInnes <umcinnnes@slrconsulting.com>; Kate Wheeler <kate.wheeler@slrconsulting.com>; Lilith Malcolm <l.malcolm@virtusheritage.com.au>; Liam Clerke <l.clerke@virtusheritage.com.au>; Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>

 2 attachments (9 MB)

Figure X Preditive modelling V2 170325.pdf; 540_Stor Energy_Molong_SWMS_v1b 2025 1.docx;

Dear Judy,

We look forward to working with you on Country on Wednesday, 16 April this week.

The field day will be from 8:30am to 4:30pm meeting near the project area at Molong.

We will meet you near the junction of Marsden St, Dight St and Backyardsaleyard Road, Molong, where it is safe to park at 8:30am.

Please refer to the attached map for a snapshot of the proposed survey areas of focus.

Myself and Liam Clerke of Virtus and Riikka Heikkinen of StorEnergy will be working with you on Wednesday.

A Safety Work Method statement is attached. Please ensure you/your representative has appropriate PPE for the day including:

- A) Long trousers and shirt (gaiters if possible)
- B) Closed boots (hiking boots/steel caps)
- C) Sunhat and suncream
- D) Rain coat (in case weather turns)
- E) Packed lunch and morning tea
- F) Water

We will be undertaking mostly walking on foot all day and there will be transport in 4WDs across the site and it is important that the person attending is physically fit and able to walk/hike.

We look forward to working with you on Country.

Kind regards



Dr Mary-Jean Sutton (*she/her*)

DIRECTOR

BA Hons. Archaeology, University of Sydney;

PhD Archaeology, University of Queensland

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Please note: I value your time and will respond during my standard working hours: 9-5:30pm, Monday to Friday. We value flexible working hours, but we don't expect you to read, action or respond out of your own working hours.

From: Oliver Coleman <oliver.coleman@stor-energy.com>

Sent: Monday, 14 April 2025 11:06 AM

To: belljudy@yahoo.com.au <belljudy@yahoo.com.au>; Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au>

Cc: Riikka Heikkinen <Riikka.Heikkinen@stor-energy.com>

Subject: Molong Battery Field Surveys - Invoicing

Hi Judy,

Thanks for confirming your attendance this week for the field surveys at Molong Battery project.

Confirming that we have received and accept your commercial proposal.

Please make out invoices to the following entity and send through to me for processing.

Storeenergy 3 Pty Ltd

ABN [21 667 756 630](https://abn.gov.au/21667756630)

Level 7, 1 Macquarie Place, Sydney, NSW, 2000

Thanks in advance,

Oliver Coleman
Head of Development
STOR  energy

StorEnergy Pty Ltd
Gateway, Level 7, 1 Macquarie Place, Sydney NSW 2000
m: +61 434 260 802
e: oliver.coleman@stor-energy.com
w: <https://stor-energy.com/>

Re: 540 - Molong BESS Placeholder for fieldwork Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for a proposed BESS at Lot 99 DP 1020247 and Lot 1 DP 542283, Molong, NSW

From Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au>

Date Sat 12/04/2025 6:46 PM

To Judy Bell <belljudy@yahoo.com.au>

Cc Oliver Coleman <oliver.coleman@stor-energy.com>; Riikka Heikkinen <riikka.heikkinen@stor-energy.com>; Mitchell Salmon <mitchell.salmon@slrconsulting.com>; Ursula McInnes <umcinnnes@slrconsulting.com>; Kate Wheeler <kate.wheeler@slrconsulting.com>; Liam Clerke <l.clerke@virtusheritage.com.au>; Lilith Malcolm <l.malcolm@virtusheritage.com.au>; Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>

Thanks Judy.

We have provided your information for Stor to review for fieldwork engagement.

We will be in touch Monday.

Thankyou and have a great weekend.



Dr Mary-Jean Sutton (*she/ her*)

DIRECTOR

BA Hons. Archaeology, University of Sydney;

PhD Archaeology, University of Queensland

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mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au

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From: Judy Bell <belljudy@yahoo.com.au>

Sent: Saturday, 12 April 2025 1:11 PM

To: Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au>

Subject: Re: 540 - Molong BESS Placeholder for fieldwork Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for a proposed BESS at Lot 99 DP 1020247 and Lot 1 DP 542283, Molong, NSW

Hi Mary,

Confirmation that my Uncle Terry Robinson will be attending representing Mirrabee (Judy Bell) for the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment work in Molong, next Wednesday 16th April. His contact is 0457275805. Please also send any text messages to me, so I can be in the loop, in addition, can follow up with Uncle.

I have sent certificates and other requested information to Oliver.

Once confirmed meeting location, please send through via email and text.

Reach out if you have any queries.

Regards

Judy Bell

Mirrabee

Ph: 0410133651

On Wednesday 9 April 2025 at 05:17:16 pm AEST, Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au> wrote:

Dear Registered Aboriginal Parties and Orange LALC,

The closing date for comments on the draft survey strategy and project methodology for the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for a proposed BESS at Lot 99 DP 1020247 and Lot 1 DP 542283, Molong, NSW for StorEnergy closes on 11 April 2025.

In preparation, we have a nominated field date for 16 April (next week) for a full day to undertake survey for this project (8:30 to 4:30 is nominated time, daylight permitting).

If RAPs and LALC wish to attend and be commercially engaged, as discussed with some of you already on the telephone and as requested, please send through directly to Oliver Coleman StorEnergy, 1800 920 060, email: information@molong-battery.com.au, the following details please for StorEnergy to consider as soon as possible **by Monday 14 April 10am please**:

1. Who you nominate for fieldwork
2. Your organisation's fees/hourly rates
3. Your insurances as an organisation including Workers Compensation certificate of currency

I will be attending fieldwork with Liam Clerke (Senior Geomorphologist/Environmental Consultant) from Virtus Heritage, accompanied by a StorEnergy representative.

We will send through a meeting place, PPE and SWMS etc closer to the time.

We look forward to reading your comments on the survey strategy and project methodology and working together on Country.

Best wishes

Mary-Jean



Dr Mary-Jean Sutton (*she/ her*)

DIRECTOR

BA Hons. Archaeology, University of Sydney;

PbD Archaeology, University of Queensland

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mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au

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540 Molong Battery Field Survey - Confirmation of field details

From Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au>

Date Mon 14/04/2025 1:05 PM

To wingarrawilay@yahoo.com <wingarrawilay@yahoo.com>

Cc Riikka Heikkinen <Riikka.Heikkinen@stor-energy.com>; 'Oliver Coleman' <oliver.coleman@stor-energy.com>; Ursula McInnes <umcinnnes@slrconsulting.com>; Lilith Malcolm <l.malcolm@virtusheritage.com.au>; Liam Clerke <l.clerke@virtusheritage.com.au>; Mitchell Salmon <mitchell.salmon@slrconsulting.com>; Kate Wheeler <kate.wheeler@slrconsulting.com>; Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>

 2 attachments (9 MB)

540_Stor Energy_Molong_SWMS_v1b 2025 1.docx; Figure X Predictive modelling V2 170325.pdf;

Dear Ray,

We look forward to working with you on Country on Wednesday, 16 April this week.

The field day will be from 8:30am to 4:30pm meeting near the project area at Molong.

We will meet you near the junction of Marsden St, Dight St and Backyardsaleyard Road, Molong, where it is safe to park at 8:30am.

Please refer to the attached map for a snapshot of the proposed survey areas of focus.

Myself and Liam Clerke of Virtus and Riikka Heikkinen of StorEnergy will be working with you on Wednesday.

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- C) Sunhat and suncream
- D) Rain coat (in case weather turns)
- E) Packed lunch and morning tea
- F) Water

We will be undertaking mostly walking on foot all day and there will be transport in 4WDs across the site and it is important that the person attending is physically fit and able to walk/hike.

We look forward to working with you on Country.

Kind regards,



Dr Mary-Jean Sutton (*she/her*)

DIRECTOR

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From: Oliver Coleman <oliver.coleman@stor-energy.com>

Sent: Monday, 14 April 2025 11:04 AM

To: wingarrawilay@yahoo.com <wingarrawilay@yahoo.com>; Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au>

Cc: Riikka Heikkinen <Riikka.Heikkinen@stor-energy.com>

Subject: Molong Battery Field Survey - Invoicing

Hi Ray

Thanks for confirming your attendance this week for the field surveys at Molong Battery project.

Confirming that we have received and accept your commercial proposal.

Please make out invoices to the following entity and send through to me for processing.

Storenergy 3 Pty Ltd

ABN [21 667 756 630](#)

Level 7, 1 Macquarie Place, Sydney, NSW, 2000

Thanks in advance

Oliver Coleman
Head of Development
STOR  energy

StorEnergy Pty Ltd
Gateway, Level 7, 1 Macquarie Place, Sydney NSW 2000
m: +61 434 260 802
e: oliver.coleman@stor-energy.com
w: <https://stor-energy.com/>

Re: 540 - Molong BESS Placeholder for fieldwork Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for a proposed BESS at Lot 99 DP 1020247 and Lot 1 DP 542283, Molong, NSW

From Riikka Heikkinen <Riikka.Heikkinen@stor-energy.com>

Date Tue 22/04/2025 10:38 AM

To Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au>; Ben Kemp <Ben.Kemp@olalc.com.au>

Cc Oliver Coleman <oliver.coleman@stor-energy.com>; Mitchell Salmon <mitchell.salmon@slrconsulting.com>; Ursula McInnes <umcInnes@slrconsulting.com>; Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>; Lilith Malcolm <l.malcolm@virtusheritage.com.au>; Liam Clerke <l.clerke@virtusheritage.com.au>; Kate Wheeler <kate.wheeler@slrconsulting.com>

Excellent. I'll confirm with the landowners, but let's pencil it in.

Cheers,

Riikka

Riikka Heikkinen

Project Development Manager



StorEnergy Pty Ltd

Level 7, 1 Macquarie Place, Sydney, NSW 2000

m: +61 415286906

e: riikka.heikkinen@stor-energy.com

w: <https://stor-energy.com/>

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands of Australia on which we live and work. We pay our respect to them and their cultures and to Elders past, present and future.

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From: Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au>

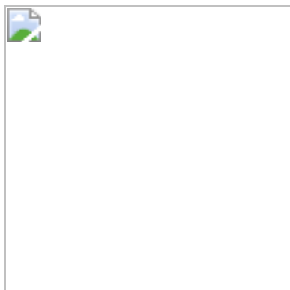
Sent: Tuesday, 22 April 2025 10:28 AM

To: Ben Kemp <Ben.Kemp@olalc.com.au>

Cc: Oliver Coleman <oliver.coleman@stor-energy.com>; Riikka Heikkinen <riikka.heikkinen@stor-energy.com>; Mitchell Salmon <mitchell.salmon@slrconsulting.com>; Ursula McInnes <umcInnes@slrconsulting.com>; Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>; Lilith Malcolm <l.malcolm@virtusheritage.com.au>; Liam Clerke <l.clerke@virtusheritage.com.au>; Kate Wheeler <kate.wheeler@slrconsulting.com>

Subject: Re: 540 - Molong BESS Placeholder for fieldwork Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for a proposed BESS at Lot 99 DP 1020247 and Lot 1 DP 542283, Molong, NSW

Fantastic.



Dr Mary-Jean Sutton (*she/her*)

DIRECTOR

BA Hons. Archaeology, University of Sydney;

PhD Archaeology, University of Queensland

MAACAI, MEIANZ, FAAS, CEnvP-Heritage, SEAC - Heritage

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From: Ben Kemp <Ben.Kemp@olalc.com.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 22 April 2025 10:19 AM

To: Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au>

Cc: Oliver Coleman <oliver.coleman@stor-energy.com>; Riikka.Heikkinen@stor-energy.com <riikka.heikkinen@stor-energy.com>; Mitchell Salmon <mitchell.salmon@slrconsulting.com>; Ursula McInnes <umcInnes@slrconsulting.com>; Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>; Lilith Malcolm <l.malcolm@virtusheritage.com.au>; Liam Clerke <l.clerke@virtusheritage.com.au>; Kate Wheeler <kate.wheeler@slrconsulting.com>

Subject: Re: 540 - Molong BESS Placeholder for fieldwork Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for a proposed BESS at Lot 99 DP 1020247 and Lot 1 DP 542283, Molong, NSW

Thats fine, lets booked it in.

Ben Kemp
Assets & Projects Manager



120 Byng St.
Orange NSW 2800
P: 02 6361 4742
Email: Ben.Kemp@olalc.com.au

I acknowledge and pay my respects to Elders both past and present and the Wiradjuri people who are the traditional custodians of this land.

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From: Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au>
Sent: Tuesday, April 22, 2025 9:54 AM
To: Ben Kemp <Ben.Kemp@olalc.com.au>
Cc: Oliver Coleman <oliver.coleman@stor-energy.com>; Riikka.Heikkinen@stor-energy.com <riikka.heikkinen@stor-energy.com>; Mitchell Salmon <mitchell.salmon@slrconsulting.com>; Ursula McInnes <umcInnes@slrconsulting.com>; Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>; Lilith Malcolm <l.malcolm@virtusheritage.com.au>; Liam Clerke <l.clerke@virtusheritage.com.au>; Kate Wheeler <kate.wheeler@slrconsulting.com>
Subject: Re: 540 - Molong BESS Placeholder for fieldwork Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for a proposed BESS at Lot 99 DP 1020247 and Lot 1 DP 542283, Molong, NSW

Hi Ben
Would Thursday 1 May work for you please? Liam Clerke from our team can revisit sites and key areas for discussion with OLALC. Looking at 9am to 1pm.

Thanks
MJ



Dr Mary-Jean Sutton (*she/her*)

DIRECTOR

BA Hons. Archaeology, University of Sydney;

PhD Archaeology, University of Queensland

MAACAI, MEIANZ, FAAS, CEnvP-Heritage, SEAC - Heritage

mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au

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(02) 6676 4354



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From: Ben Kemp <Ben.Kemp@olalc.com.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 22 April 2025 8:14 AM

To: Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au>

Cc: Oliver Coleman <oliver.coleman@stor-energy.com>; Riikka.Heikkinen@stor-energy.com <riikka.heikkinen@stor-energy.com>; Mitchell Salmon <mitchell.salmon@slrconsulting.com>; Ursula McInnes <umcInnes@slrconsulting.com>; Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>; Lilith Malcolm <l.malcolm@virtusheritage.com.au>; Liam Clerke <l.clerke@virtusheritage.com.au>; Kate Wheeler <kate.wheeler@slrconsulting.com>

Subject: Re: 540 - Molong BESS Placeholder for fieldwork Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for a proposed BESS at Lot 99 DP 1020247 and Lot 1 DP 542283, Molong, NSW

Hi Mary-Jean,

Doug has got back to me and is free for next week if you're available.

Ben Kemp
Assets & Projects Manager



120 Byng St.
Orange NSW 2800
P: 02 6361 4742
Email: Ben.Kemp@olalc.com.au

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From: Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au>

Sent: Monday, April 14, 2025 9:56 PM

To: Ben Kemp <Ben.Kemp@olalc.com.au>

Cc: Oliver Coleman <oliver.coleman@stor-energy.com>; Riikka.Heikkinen@stor-energy.com <riikka.heikkinen@stor-energy.com>; Mitchell Salmon <mitchell.salmon@slrconsulting.com>; Ursula McInnes <umcInnes@slrconsulting.com>; Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>; Lilith Malcolm <l.malcolm@virtusheritage.com.au>; Liam Clerke <l.clerke@virtusheritage.com.au>; Kate Wheeler <kate.wheeler@slrconsulting.com>

Subject: Re: 540 - Molong BESS Placeholder for fieldwork Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for a proposed BESS at Lot 99 DP 1020247 and Lot 1 DP 542283, Molong, NSW

Either option please at present ?

Thankyou

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Ben Kemp <Ben.Kemp@olalc.com.au>

Sent: Monday, April 14, 2025 2:45:22 PM

To: Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au>

Cc: Oliver Coleman <oliver.coleman@stor-energy.com>; Riikka.Heikkinen@stor-energy.com <riikka.heikkinen@stor-energy.com>; Mitchell Salmon <mitchell.salmon@slrconsulting.com>; Ursula McInnes <umcInnes@slrconsulting.com>; Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>; Lilith Malcolm <l.malcolm@virtusheritage.com.au>; Liam Clerke <l.clerke@virtusheritage.com.au>; Kate Wheeler <kate.wheeler@slrconsulting.com>

Subject: Re: 540 - Molong BESS Placeholder for fieldwork Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for a proposed BESS at Lot 99 DP 1020247 and Lot 1 DP 542283, Molong, NSW

Hey Mary-Jean,

Thanks for getting back to me, are you looking at those 3 days after Easter and before ANZAC Day? Or after ANZAC long weekend.

Ben Kemp

Assets & Projects Manager



120 Byng St.

Orange NSW 2800

P: 02 6361 4742

Email: Ben.Kemp@olalc.com.au

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have received this message in error, please notify the sender immediately by return email informing them of the mistake and delete all copies of the message from your computer system.

From: Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au>

Sent: Monday, April 14, 2025 2:35 PM

To: Ben Kemp <Ben.Kemp@olalc.com.au>

Cc: Oliver Coleman <oliver.coleman@stor-energy.com>; Riikka.Heikkinen@stor-energy.com <riikka.heikkinen@stor-energy.com>; Mitchell Salmon <mitchell.salmon@slrconsulting.com>; Ursula McInnes <umcInnes@slrconsulting.com>; Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>; Lilith Malcolm <l.malcolm@virtusheritage.com.au>; Liam Clerke <l.clerke@virtusheritage.com.au>; Kate Wheeler <kate.wheeler@slrconsulting.com>

Subject: Re: 540 - Molong BESS Placeholder for fieldwork Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for a proposed BESS at Lot 99 DP 1020247 and Lot 1 DP 542283, Molong, NSW

Hi Ben

Understand OLALC cannot make 16th April, I have discussed your CEO's email with SLR and StorEnergy and they will be in touch in the future with the additional field date.

What date after Easter break may suit OLALC for that additional field day to help facilitate some discussion?

Thanks

MJ



Dr Mary-Jean Sutton (*she/her*)

DIRECTOR

BA Hons. Archaeology, University of Sydney;

PhD Archaeology, University of Queensland

MAACAI, MEIANZ, FAAS, CEnvP-Heritage, SEAC - Heritage

mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au

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Please note: I value your time and will respond during my standard working hours: 9-5:30pm, Monday to Friday. We value flexible working hours, but we don't expect you to read, action or respond out of your own working hours.

From: Ben Kemp <Ben.Kemp@olalc.com.au>

Sent: Friday, 11 April 2025 2:50 PM

To: Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au>

Cc: Oliver Coleman <oliver.coleman@stor-energy.com>; Riikka.Heikkinen@stor-energy.com <riikka.heikkinen@stor-energy.com>; Mitchell Salmon <mitchell.salmon@slrconsulting.com>; Ursula McInnes <umcInnes@slrconsulting.com>; Patrick Quinlan <pquinlan@slrconsulting.com>

Subject: Re: 540 - Molong BESS Placeholder for fieldwork Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for a proposed BESS at Lot 99 DP 1020247 and Lot 1 DP 542283, Molong, NSW

Hi Mary-Jean,

Sorry i missed your call earlier and thank you for the msg. Please see attached email from my CEO regarding this.

hopefully you can work out a solution on the 17th .

Have a great weekend.

Ben Kemp
Assets & Projects Manager



120 Byng St.
Orange NSW 2800
P: 02 6361 4742
Email: Ben.Kemp@olalc.com.au

I acknowledge and pay my respects to Elders both past and present and the Wiradjuri people who are the traditional custodians of this land.

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From: Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au>

Sent: Wednesday, April 9, 2025 5:26 PM

To: Ben Kemp <Ben.Kemp@olalc.com.au>

Cc: Oliver Coleman <oliver.coleman@stor-energy.com>; Riikka.Heikkinen@stor-energy.com <riikka.heikkinen@stor-energy.com>; Mitchell Salmon <mitchell.salmon@slrconsulting.com>; Ursula McInnes <umcInnes@slrconsulting.com>; Patrick Quinlan <pquinlan@slrconsulting.com>

Subject: Fw: 540 - Molong BESS Placeholder for fieldwork Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for a proposed BESS at Lot 99 DP 1020247 and Lot 1 DP 542283, Molong, NSW

Dear Ben

FYI - email as requested, which I sent out after we had our chat.

The RAPs listed for the project include:

Wingarra Wilay Aboriginal Corporation	Raymond Moon
Girragirra Murun Aboriginal Corporation	Diana Astin
Wellington Valley Wiradjuri Aboriginal Corporation	Brad Bliss (CEO)

Orange LALC	Ben
Judy Bell (Mirrabee)	Judy Bell

A request for fieldwork has been sent out for 16 April to all RAPs, except Bradley Bliss who at this time, who may be coming out at a separate time, no other RAP has requested this, thus far.

Happy to discuss further, if needed,
Thankyou and have a good evening,
Mary-Jean



Dr Mary-Jean Sutton (*she/her*)

DIRECTOR

BA Hons. Archaeology, University of Sydney;

PhD Archaeology, University of Queensland

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From: Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 9 April 2025 5:17 PM

To: wingarrawilay@yahoo.com <wingarrawilay@yahoo.com>; girragirramurun@yahoo.com <girragirramurun@yahoo.com>; reception@olalc.com.au <reception@olalc.com.au>; belljudy@yahoo.com.au <belljudy@yahoo.com.au>

Cc: Mitchell Salmon <mitchell.salmon@slrconsulting.com>; Ursula McInnes <umcInnes@slrconsulting.com>; Anya Graubard <a.graubard@virtusheritage.com.au>; Liam Clerke <l.clerke@virtusheritage.com.au>; Lilith Malcolm <l.malcolm@virtusheritage.com.au>

Subject: 540 - Molong BESS Placeholder for fieldwork Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for a proposed BESS at Lot 99 DP 1020247 and Lot 1 DP 542283, Molong, NSW

Dear Registered Aboriginal Parties and Orange LALC,

The closing date for comments on the draft survey strategy and project methodology for the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for a proposed BESS at Lot 99 DP 1020247 and Lot 1 DP 542283, Molong, NSW for StorEnergy closes on 11 April 2025.

In preparation, we have a nominated field date for 16 April (next week) for a full day to undertake survey for this project (8:30 to 4:30 is nominated time, daylight permitting).

If RAPs and LALC wish to attend and be commercially engaged, as discussed with some of you already on the telephone and as requested, please send through directly to Oliver Coleman StorEnergy, 1800 920 060, email: information@molong-battery.com.au, the following details please for StorEnergy to consider as soon as possible **by Monday 14 April 10am please**:

- A) Who you nominate for fieldwork
- B) Your organisation's fees/hourly rates
- C) Your insurances as an organisation including Workers Compensation certificate of currency

I will be attending fieldwork with Liam Clerke (Senior Geomorphologist/Environmental Consultant) from Virtus Heritage, accompanied by a StorEnergy representative.
We will send through a meeting place, PPE and SWMS etc closer to the time.

We look forward to reading your comments on the survey strategy and project methodology and working together on Country.

Best wishes
Mary-Jean



Dr Mary-Jean Sutton (*sbe/ her*)

DIRECTOR

BA Hons. Archaeology, University of Sydney;

PhD Archaeology, University of Queensland

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mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au

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Re: FINAL REMINDER 540 - Molong BESS Placeholder for fieldwork Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for a proposed BESS at Lot 99 DP 1020247 and Lot 1 DP 542283, Molong, NSW

From Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au>

Date Sat 12/04/2025 6:47 PM

To Ray Moon <wingarrawilay@yahoo.com>

Cc Riikka Heikkinen <riikka.heikkinen@stor-energy.com>; Oliver Coleman <oliver.coleman@stor-energy.com>; Ursula McInnes <umcinnnes@slrconsulting.com>; Mitchell Salmon <mitchell.salmon@slrconsulting.com>; Liam Clerke <l.clerke@virtusheritage.com.au>; Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>; Lilith Malcolm <l.malcolm@virtusheritage.com.au>

Dear Raymond,
We have provided your information for Stor to review for fieldwork engagement.
We will be in touch Monday.
Thankyou



Dr Mary-Jean Sutton (*she/ her*)

DIRECTOR

BA Hons. Archaeology, University of Sydney;

PhD Archaeology, University of Queensland

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mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au

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From: Ray Moon <wingarrawilay@yahoo.com>

Sent: Saturday, 12 April 2025 9:25 AM

To: Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au>

Subject: Re: FINAL REMINDER 540 - Molong BESS Placeholder for fieldwork Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for a proposed BESS at Lot 99 DP 1020247 and Lot 1 DP 542283, Molong, NSW

Good morning Dr Mary Jean,

Wingarra Wilay RAP will be attending on 16/4/25. I'm in the field at the moment as soon as I can this afternoon I will send my insurances through to you.

RAP -Paul Bryon
\$1200 per day

Wingarra Wilay agrees with the methodology you have stated in your report. If any Artifacts are found a smoking ceremony will be required when they are returned to Country in a safe out of the project area.

Regards
Ray Moon
Wingarra Wilay

[Yahoo Mail: Search, organise, conquer](#)

On Fri, 11 Apr 2025 at 3:00 pm, Mary-Jean Sutton
<mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au> wrote:

Dear Registered Aboriginal Parties,

The closing date for comments on the draft survey strategy and project methodology for the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for a proposed BESS at Lot 99 DP 1020247 and Lot 1 DP 542283, Molong, NSW for StorEnergy closes on 11 April 2025.

As previously emailed and during calls today, we have a nominated field date for 16 April (next week) for a full day to undertake survey for this project (8:30 to 4:30 is nominated time, daylight permitting).

If RAPs (**we note already Orange LALC cannot attend on 16 April**) wish to attend and be commercially engaged, as discussed with some of you already on the telephone and as requested, please send through directly to **Oliver Coleman**
StorEnergy, 1800 920 060, email: information@molong-battery.com.au, the following details please for StorEnergy to consider as soon as possible **by Monday 14 April 10am please:**

1. Who you nominate for fieldwork
2. Your organisation's fees/hourly rates
3. Your insurances as an organisation including Workers Compensation certificate of currency

I will be attending fieldwork with Liam Clerke (Senior Geomorphologist/Environmental Consultant) from Virtus Heritage, accompanied by a StorEnergy representative.
We will send through a meeting place, PPE and SWMS Monday once EOIs are confirmed.

We look forward to reading your comments on the survey strategy and project methodology and working together on Country.

Best wishes

Mary-Jean



Dr Mary-Jean Sutton (*she/ her*)

DIRECTOR

BA Hons. Archaeology, University of Sydney;

PhD Archaeology, University of Queensland

MAACAI, MEIANZ, FAAS, CEnvP-Heritage, SEAC - Heritage

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From: Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 9 April 2025 5:17 PM

To: wingarrawilay@yahoo.com <wingarrawilay@yahoo.com>; girragirramurun@yahoo.com <girragirramurun@yahoo.com>; reception@olalc.com.au <reception@olalc.com.au>; belljudy@yahoo.com.au <belljudy@yahoo.com.au>

Cc: Mitchell Salmon <mitchell.salmon@slrconsulting.com>; Ursula McInnes <umcInnes@slrconsulting.com>; Anya Graubard <a.graubard@virtusheritage.com.au>; Liam Clerke <l.clerke@virtusheritage.com.au>; Lilith Malcolm <l.malcolm@virtusheritage.com.au>

Subject: 540 - Molong BESS Placeholder for fieldwork Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for a proposed BESS at Lot 99 DP 1020247 and Lot 1 DP 542283, Molong, NSW

Dear Registered Aboriginal Parties and Orange LALC,

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We will send through a meeting place, PPE and SWMS etc closer to the time.

We look forward to reading your comments on the survey strategy and project methodology and working together on Country.
Best wishes
Mary-Jean



Dr Mary-Jean Sutton (*she/her*)

DIRECTOR

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mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au

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Re: 540 Molong - WVVAC - Comments on the Draft Project Methodology and Survey Strategy - response

From WVVAC Contact Officer <WVVAC@hotmail.com>

Date Mon 14/04/2025 1:25 PM

To Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au>; information@molong-battery.com.au
<information@molong-battery.com.au>

Cc Riikka Heikkinen <Riikka.Heikkinen@stor-energy.com>; Oliver Coleman <oliver.coleman@stor-energy.com>; Ursula McInnes <umcinnnes@slrconsulting.com>; Mitchell Salmon <mitchell.salmon@slrconsulting.com>; Kate Wheeler <kate.wheeler@slrconsulting.com>; Lilith Malcolm <l.malcolm@virtusheritage.com.au>; Liam Clerke <l.clerke@virtusheritage.com.au>; Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>

Thank you.

Bradley R Bliss J.P.
WVVAC CEO and Contact Officer
P.O. Box 1583
Orange NSW 2800
M: 0427321016

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S20+ 5G, an AT&T 5G smartphone
Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au>

Sent: Monday, April 14, 2025 1:20:31 PM

To: WVVAC Contact Officer <WVVAC@hotmail.com>; information@molong-battery.com.au
<information@molong-battery.com.au>

Cc: Riikka Heikkinen <Riikka.Heikkinen@stor-energy.com>; Oliver Coleman <oliver.coleman@stor-energy.com>; Ursula McInnes <umcinnnes@slrconsulting.com>; Mitchell Salmon <mitchell.salmon@slrconsulting.com>; Kate Wheeler <kate.wheeler@slrconsulting.com>; Lilith Malcolm <l.malcolm@virtusheritage.com.au>; Liam Clerke <l.clerke@virtusheritage.com.au>; Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>

Subject: Re: 540 Molong - WVVAC - Comments on the Draft Project Methodology and Survey Strategy - response

Hi Bradley,

We look forward to working with you on Country on **Thursday, 17 April** this week.

The field day/meeting will be from 8:30am to 12:30pm meeting near the project area at Molong.

The aim of this day is to focus on any areas of particular interest to WVVAC and document any cultural values/input that your organisation will wish to provide or answer any questions regarding the project.

Recorded sites can be revisited if this is WVVAC's wish.

We will meet you near the junction of Marsden St, Dight St and Backyardsaleyard Road, Molong, where it is safe to park at 8:30am.

Liam Clerke of Virtus and Riikka Heikkinen of StorEnergy will be working with you on Thursday. Liam's mobile is 0432 619 959, if you need to call him on the day or beforehand to talk logistics.

A Safety Work Method statement is attached. Please ensure you/your representative has appropriate PPE for the day including:

- A) Long trousers and shirt (gaiters if possible)
- B) Closed boots (hiking boots/steel caps)
- C) Sunhat and sunscreen
- D) Rain coat (in case weather turns)
- E) Packed lunch and morning tea
- F) Water

There will be transport in a 4WD across the site but it is important that the person attending is **physically fit and able to walk/hike as there will be a fair component of walking.**

Liam and Riikka look forward to working with you on Country.

Kind regards



Dr Mary-Jean Sutton (*she/her*)

DIRECTOR

BA Hons. Archaeology, University of Sydney;

PhD Archaeology, University of Queensland

MAACAI, MEIANZ, FAAS, CEnvP-Heritage, SEAC - Heritage

mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au

0439 703 886

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW

(02) 6676 4354



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Please note: I value your time and will respond during my standard working hours: 9-5:30pm, Monday to Friday. We value flexible working hours, but we don't expect you to read, action or respond out of your own working hours.

From: WVVAC Contact Officer <WVVAC@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, 14 April 2025 1:08 PM
To: information@molong-battery.com.au <information@molong-battery.com.au>; Oliver Coleman <oliver.coleman@stor-energy.com>
Cc: Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au>; Riikka Heikkinen <Riikka.Heikkinen@stor-energy.com>
Subject: Re: 540 Molong - WVVAC - Comments on the Draft Project Methodology and Survey Strategy - response

Hi,

Please advise meeting point and time for our Field Officer.

Regards

Bradley R Bliss J.P.
WVVAC CEO and Contact Officer
P.O. Box 1583
Orange NSW 2800
M: 0427321016

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: information@molong-battery.com.au <information@molong-battery.com.au>
Sent: Monday, April 14, 2025 11:13:36 AM
To: 'WVVAC Contact Officer' <WVVAC@hotmail.com>; Oliver Coleman <oliver.coleman@stor-energy.com>
Cc: 'Mary-Jean Sutton' <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au>; Riikka Heikkinen <Riikka.Heikkinen@stor-energy.com>
Subject: RE: 540 Molong - WVVAC - Comments on the Draft Project Methodology and Survey Strategy - response

Hi Bradley,

Thanks for confirming your attendance this week for the field surveys at Molong Battery project.

Confirming that we have received and accept your commercial proposal.

Please make out invoices to the following entity and send through to me for processing.

Storeenergy 3 Pty Ltd
ABN [21 667 756 630](#)
Level 7, 1 Macquarie Place, Sydney, NSW, 2000

Thanks in advance,

Oliver,

From: WVVAC Contact Officer <WVVAC@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, 11 April 2025 8:27 AM
To: information@molong-battery.com.au

Cc: Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au>

Subject: Re: 540 Molong - WVVAC - Comments on the Draft Project Methodology and Survey Strategy - response

Hi Oliver,

Please find attached Wellington Valley Wiradjuri Aboriginal Corporation insurance certificates of currency.

Our Fieldwork Rates are:

\$1200 per full day and \$600 per half day inclusive of meals, accommodation.

Half day rate is payable if cancelled due to wet weather or any other reason within 24hrs of the field assessment.

Travel as per current ATO rates.

Wellington Valley Wiradjuri Aboriginal Corporation is an ACNC Registered Not for Profit Community Corporation

Wellington Valley Wiradjuri Aboriginal Corporation is not registered for GST

Dependant on Availability the Field Officer attending may be Murray Clynes or Brenda Waters due to recent Sorry Business for other Field Officers.

Regards

Bradley R Bliss J.P.
WVVAC CEO and Contact Officer
P.O. Box 1583
Orange NSW 2800
M: 0427321016

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From: Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au>

Sent: Thursday, April 10, 2025 2:58:28 pm

To: WVVAC Contact Officer <WVVAC@hotmail.com>

Cc: Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>; Lilith Malcolm <l.malcolm@virtusheritage.com.au>; Liam Clerke <l.clerke@virtusheritage.com.au>

Subject: Re: 540 Molong - WVVAC - Comments on the Draft Project Methodology and Survey Strategy - response

Hi Bradley

Sorry to hear that,

I called on our landline (02) 6676 4354 around 4:15 yesterday.

I will let Oliver know, thankyou and hope you have a restful weekend.

MJ



Dr Mary-Jean Sutton (*she/her*)

DIRECTOR

BA Hons. Archaeology, University of Sydney;

PhD Archaeology, University of Queensland

MAACAI, MEIANZ, FAAS, CEnvP-Heritage, SEAC - Heritage

mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au

0439 703 886

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW

(02) 6676 4354



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Please note: I value your time and will respond during my standard working hours: 9-5:30pm, Monday to Friday. We value flexible working hours, but we don't expect you to read, action or respond out of your own working hours.

From: WVVAC Contact Officer <WVVAC@hotmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, 10 April 2025 2:23 PM

To: Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au>

Cc: Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>; Lilith Malcolm <l.malcolm@virtusheritage.com.au>; Liam Clerke <l.clerke@virtusheritage.com.au>

Subject: Re: 540 Molong - WVVAC - Comments on the Draft Project Methodology and Survey Strategy - response

Hi,

I did not receive a call nor a missed call alert. Wellington Valley Wiradjuri Aboriginal Corporation will have a Field Officer attend.

I will forward the required information to Oliver Coleman later today after I get back as currently away for Sorry Business.

Regards

Bradley R Bliss J.P.
WVVAC CEO and Contact Officer
P.O. Box 1583
Orange NSW 2800

M: 0427321016

From: Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au>
Sent: Wednesday, April 9, 2025 5:43:32 pm
To: WVVAC Contact Officer <WVVAC@hotmail.com>
Cc: Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>; Lilith Malcolm <l.malcolm@virtusheritage.com.au>; Liam Clerke <l.clerke@virtusheritage.com.au>
Subject: 540 Molong - WVVAC - Comments on the Draft Project Methodology and Survey Strategy - response

Dear Bradley,

Thank you again for sending the formal letter on behalf of Wellington Valley Wiradjuri Aboriginal Corporation (WVVAC). We appreciate the time and effort this took to provide, and all the concerns raised.

Please find our/the client's responses in blue below.

“WVVAC object to any other non-traditional Aboriginal organisations or people taking part in site surveys, consultation and assessments within our defined Traditional Lands.”

We understand your concerns regarding the participation of non-traditional Aboriginal individuals/organisations within this project.

Virtus Heritage and the client are bound by the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* and through following the NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change & Water's '*Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010*', we cannot deny consultation for any Registered Aboriginal Parties, unless WVVAC has determined Native Title over the project area. From a search of the National Native Title Tribunal, we were unable to see an approved claim over the project area.

We know that this is not WVVAC's desired outcome but the proponent is required to meet the consultation requirements set by Heritage NSW for the project. We also encourage WVVAC to discuss any concerns regarding Heritage NSW's consultation requirements directly with Heritage NSW.

StorEnergy and Virtus have suggested that a site meeting with you for survey for WVVAC is nominated for 17 April for a half day, to address your concerns.

“WVVAC request to be notified with enough lead time if we are selected for Commercial Engagement to allow for our selection of Field Officer most appropriate for this project site or to inform Field Officers and Members if attending that it would be voluntary.”

Please note above 17 April is a nominated day for survey and site meeting for up to four hours for WVVAC, please confirm by Monday 14 April, if suitable?

Please send the details for commercial engagement (fees, names of representatives attending, insurances etc) directly to

Oliver Coleman

StorEnergy Pty Ltd

1800 920 060

information@molong-battery.com.au

WVVAC's knowledge of Yuranigh and King Sandy of the Lachlan Clans.

Thank you for confirming that Yuranigh's campsite is not within the project area. Additionally, we appreciate your trust with providing restricted information as to inform us of the wider Cultural landscape in which the

project area is located in. We will not share this information outside of this project and will apply restrictions in the reports if and where requested by WWAC Knowledge Holders.

If any additional comments have not been replied to, or you would like to discuss any of this over the phone. Please contact me via email or phone at (02) 6676 4354. Please note I have tried to call today before sending this email,
Kind regards



Dr Mary-Jean Sutton (*she/her*)

DIRECTOR

BA Hons. Archaeology, University of Sydney;

PhD Archaeology, University of Queensland

MAACAI, MEIANZ, FAAS, CEnvP-Heritage, SEAC - Heritage

mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au

0439 703 886

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW

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Please note: I value your time and will respond during my standard working hours: 9-5:30pm, Monday to Friday. We value flexible working hours, but we don't expect you to read, action or respond out of your own working hours.

Re: 540 Molong BESS - Restricted site cards

From Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au>

Date Wed 30/04/2025 8:55 AM

To WVVAC Contact Officer <WVVAC@hotmail.com>; Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>

Cc Lilith Malcolm <l.malcolm@virtusheritage.com.au>; Liam Clerke <l.clerke@virtusheritage.com.au>; Mitchell Salmon <mitchell.salmon@slrconsulting.com>; Ursula McInnes <umcinnnes@slrconsulting.com>; Kate Wheeler <kate.wheeler@slrconsulting.com>

Thankyou Bradley, appreciate the email.



Dr Mary-Jean Sutton (*she/her*)

DIRECTOR

BA Hons. Archaeology, University of Sydney;

PhD Archaeology, University of Queensland

MAACAI, MEIANZ, FAAS, CEnvP-Heritage, SEAC - Heritage

mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au

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Please note: I value your time and will respond during my standard working hours: 9-5:30pm, Monday to Friday. We value flexible working hours, but we don't expect you to read, action or respond out of your own working hours.

From: WVVAC Contact Officer <WVVAC@hotmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, 30 April 2025 6:46 AM

To: Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>

Cc: Lilith Malcolm <l.malcolm@virtusheritage.com.au>; Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au>;
Liam Clerke <l.clerke@virtusheritage.com.au>

Subject: Re: 540 Molong BESS - Restricted site cards

Hi,

Sorry have been in the field away from my records.

I can confirm that neither restricted AHIMS site is within the Molong BESS project boundary.

44-1-0026 - Burial Site

44-3-0088 - Culturally Modified Tree

Regards

Bradley R Bliss J.P.
WVWAC CEO and Contact Officer
P.O. Box 1583
Orange NSW 2800
M: 0427321016

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From: Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>

Sent: Monday, April 28, 2025 10:40:06 AM

To: WVWAC@hotmail.com <WVWAC@hotmail.com>

Cc: Lilith Malcolm <l.malcolm@virtusheritage.com.au>; Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au>;
Liam Clerke <l.clerke@virtusheritage.com.au>

Subject: 540 Molong BESS - Restricted site cards

Hi Bradley,

I hope you have been well.

A search of the AHIMS database was undertaken for the Molong BESS project. There are two restricted sites that have you listed as the recorder:

- 44-1-0026
- 44-3-0088

Are you able to let us know if these sites are within or in proximity to this project area as they were not identified in the project area with your representative during fieldwork to date?

If this information is restricted, can we please get a written confirmation that WVWAC have confirmed these sites are outside the project area and proposed disturbance footprint for the Molong BESS project?

Thank you, I appreciate your time and help.

Kind Regards,

Lilith



Virtus Heritage CONSULTATION

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02) 6676 4354

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Draft Reports

540 Stor-Energy Draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment and Archaeological Assessment - Molong BESS Project

From Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au>

Date Thu 19/06/2025 5:54 PM

Cc Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>; Liam Clerke <l.clerke@virtusheritage.com.au>; Kate Wheeler <kate.wheeler@slrconsulting.com>; Patrick Quinlan <pquinlan@slrconsulting.com>

 1 attachment (4 MB)

620041615_Stor NSW Molong_Proposed Sample Sites_v01_20250613.pdf;

Dear Registered Aboriginal Parties and Orange LALC,

Following the Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements, please find attached draft copy **Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment (including Appendix A - Archaeological Assessment)** for your RAP organisation's review and input.

 [540 SLR Stor Energy Molong AA draft v2b 2.pdf](#)

 [540 SLR Stor Energy Molong ACHA draft v2b 2.pdf](#)

Following these consultation requirements, the closing date for the comment period is 5pm on 18 July 2025.

The Archaeological Research Design and Methodology Appendix C of the Archaeological Assessment will be provided later this week as well for your review.

Please reach out to myself or Liam Clerke if you need to discuss anything further, we are able to take a verbal comment and assist you with your comments and questions.

If you are requesting a hard copy of these reports to assist with your review, please email our team this week and we can organise for its postage.

Soil Sampling - Stor Energy

Please also note that Stor-Energy are intending to undertake soil sampling proposed for the week commencing 21st July and have requested we send this notification as part of this correspondence. RAPs can reach out to Stor-Energy directly if they wish to attend at

Oliver Coleman

Storenergy 3 Pty Ltd

Email: information@molong-battery.com.au

Phone/Fax: 1800 920 060.

A plan showing test locations is attached to this email. Only four are required but Stor-Energy/SLR have provided 12 possibilities. If any of these locations are an issue they can avoid them on the day.

Kind regards
Mary-Jean and Liam



Dr Mary-Jean Sutton (*she/ her*)

DIRECTOR

BA Hons. Archaeology, University of Sydney;

PhD Archaeology, University of Queensland

MAACAI, MEIANZ, FAAS, CEnvP-Heritage, SEAC - Heritage

mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au

0439 703 886

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Please note: I value your time and will respond during my standard working hours: 9-5:30pm, Monday to Friday. We value flexible working hours, but we don't expect you to read, action or respond out of your own working hours.

Re: 540 Stor-Energy Draft Methodology - Molong BESS Project

From Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au>

Date Fri 20/06/2025 2:55 PM

Cc Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>; Liam Clerke <l.clerke@virtusheritage.com.au>; Katie Yang <kyang@slrconsulting.com>; Kate Wheeler <kate.wheeler@slrconsulting.com>; Patrick Quinlan <pquinlan@slrconsulting.com>

 1 attachment (2 MB)

540 - Molong_ARDM_Draft_v2b.pdf;

Dear Registered Aboriginal Parties and Orange LALC,

Following the Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements, please find attached draft copy of the **Methodology** (Appendix C to the **Archaeological Assessment**) for your RAP organisation's review and input.

Following these consultation requirements, the closing date for the comment period is **5pm on 18 July 2025**.

Please reach out to myself or Liam Clerke if you need to discuss anything further, we are able to take a verbal comment and assist you with your comments and questions.

If you are requesting a hard copy of this report to assist with your review, please email our team this week and we can organise for its postage.

Kind regards
Mary-Jean and Liam



Dr Mary-Jean Sutton (*she/her*)

DIRECTOR

BA Hons. Archaeology, University of Sydney;

PhD Archaeology, University of Queensland

MAACAI, MEIANZ, FAAS, CEnvP-Heritage, SEAC - Heritage

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Please note: I value your time and will respond during my standard working hours: 9-5:30pm, Monday to Friday. We value flexible working hours, but we don't expect you to read, action or respond out of your own working hours.

From: Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au>

Sent: Thursday, 19 June 2025 5:54 PM

Cc: Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>; Liam Clerke <l.clerke@virtusheritage.com.au>; Kate Wheeler <kate.wheeler@slrconsulting.com>; Patrick Quinlan <pquinlan@slrconsulting.com>

Subject: 540 Stor-Energy Draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment and Archaeological Assessment - Molong BESS Project

Dear Registered Aboriginal Parties and Orange LALC,

Following the Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements, please find attached draft copy **Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment (including Appendix A - Archaeological Assessment)** for your RAP organisation's review and input.

 [540 SLR Stor Energy Molong AA draft v2b 2.pdf](#)

 [540 SLR Stor Energy Molong ACHA draft v2b 2.pdf](#)

Following these consultation requirements, the closing date for the comment period is 5pm on 18 July 2025.

The Archaeological Research Design and Methodology Appendix C of the Archaeological Assessment will be provided later this week as well for your review.

Please reach out to myself or Liam Clerke if you need to discuss anything further, we are able to take a verbal comment and assist you with your comments and questions.

If you are requesting a hard copy of these reports to assist with your review, please email our team this week and we can organise for its postage.

Soil Sampling - Stor Energy

Please also note that Stor-Energy are intending to undertake soil sampling proposed for the week commencing 21st July and have requested we send this notification as part of this correspondence. RAPs can reach out to Stor-Energy directly if they wish to attend at

Oliver Coleman

Storenergy 3 Pty Ltd

Email: information@molong-battery.com.au

Phone/Fax: 1800 920 060.

A plan showing test locations is attached to this email. Only four are required but Stor-Energy/SLR have provided 12 possibilities. If any of these locations are an issue they can avoid them on the day.

Kind regards
Mary-Jean and Liam



Dr Mary-Jean Sutton (*she/her*)

DIRECTOR

BA Hons. Archaeology, University of Sydney;

PhD Archaeology, University of Queensland

MAACAI, MEIANZ, FAAS, CEnvP-Heritage, SEAC - Heritage

mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au

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REMINDER - 540 Stor-Energy Draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment and Archaeological Assessment - Molong BESS Project

From Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au>

Date Mon 07/07/2025 7:21 PM

To Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>

Cc Ben Kemp <ben.kemp@olalc.com.au>; Girra Murun <girragirramurun@yahoo.com>; Judy Bell <belljudy@yahoo.com.au>; Ray Moon <wingarrawilay@yahoo.com>; Riikka Heikkinen <riikka.heikkinen@stor-energy.com>; Oliver Coleman <oliver.coleman@stor-energy.com>; Patrick Quinlan <pquinlan@slrconsulting.com>; Kate Wheeler <kate.wheeler@slrconsulting.com>; Reception - Orange <reception@olalc.com.au>

 1 attachment (4 MB)

620041615_Stor NSW Molong_Proposed Sample Sites_v01_20250613.pdf;

Dear Registered Aboriginal Parties and Orange LALC,

Please note that the closing date for comments on draft copy **Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment (including Appendix A - Archaeological Assessment)** and the Archaeological Research Design and Methodology Appendix C. for your RAP organisation's review and input is coming up in 11 days on **5pm on 18 July 2025**

 [540 SLR Stor Energy Molong AA draft v2b 2.pdf](#)

 [540 SLR Stor Energy Molong ACHA draft v2b 2.pdf](#)

Please reach out to myself or Liam Clerke if you need to discuss anything further, we are able to take a verbal comment and assist you with your comments and questions.

Hope your NAIDOC week is going well,

Kind regards
Mary-Jean and Liam



Dr Mary-Jean Sutton (*she/ her*)

DIRECTOR

BA Hons. Archaeology, University of Sydney;

PbD Archaeology, University of Queensland

MAACAI, MEIANZ, FAAS, CEnvP-Heritage, SEAC - Heritage

mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au

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From: Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au>

Sent: Thursday, 19 June 2025 5:54 PM

Cc: Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>; Liam Clerke <l.clerke@virtusheritage.com.au>; Kate Wheeler <kate.wheeler@slrconsulting.com>; Patrick Quinlan <pquinlan@slrconsulting.com>

Subject: 540 Stor-Energy Draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment and Archaeological Assessment - Molong BESS Project

Dear Registered Aboriginal Parties and Orange LALC,

Following the Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements, please find attached draft copy **Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment (including Appendix A - Archaeological Assessment)** for your RAP organisation's review and input.

 [540 SLR Stor Energy Molong AA draft v2b 2.pdf](#)

 [540 SLR Stor Energy Molong ACHA draft v2b 2.pdf](#)

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RAPs can reach out to Stor-Energy directly if they wish to attend at

Oliver Coleman

Storeenergy 3 Pty Ltd

Email: information@molong-battery.com.au

Phone/Fax: 1800 920 060.

A plan showing test locations is attached to this email. Only four are required but Stor-Energy/SLR have provided 12 possibilities. If any of these locations are an issue they can avoid them on the day.

Kind regards
Mary-Jean and Liam



Dr Mary-Jean Sutton (*she/ her*)

DIRECTOR

BA Hons. Archaeology, University of Sydney;

PbD Archaeology, University of Queensland

MAACAI, MEIANZ, FAAS, CEnvP-Heritage, SEAC - Heritage

mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au

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(02) 6676 4354



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Re: 540 Stor-Energy Draft Methodology - Molong BESS Project

From Girra Murun <girragirramurun@yahoo.com>

Date Wed 2025-07-09 3:09 PM

To Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au>

Good morning, Mary-Jean Sutton,

Girragirra Murun agrees with the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report and its recommendations. We acknowledge that the area surrounding the scar trees holds immense cultural significance to our people. Recognizing and protecting Aboriginal cultural heritage in this landscape is critically important to us and must be safeguarded through an exclusion zone with fencing and appropriate flagging.

We welcome ongoing engagement and opportunities to be actively involved in cultural heritage management processes as the project progresses.

If you require anything further please don't hesitate to reach out.

Kind Regards
Diana Astin
Girragirra Murun

On Friday 20 June 2025 at 02:55:09 pm AEST, Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au> wrote:

Dear Registered Aboriginal Parties and Orange LALC,

Following the Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements, please find attached draft copy of the **Methodology** (Appendix C to the **Archaeological Assessment**) for your RAP organisation's review and input.

Following these consultation requirements, the closing date for the comment period is **5pm on 18 July 2025**.

Please reach out to myself or Liam Clerke if you need to discuss anything further, we are able to take a verbal comment and assist you with your comments and questions.

If you are requesting a hard copy of this report to assist with your review, please email our team this week and we can organise for its postage.

Kind regards
Mary-Jean and Liam

Dr Mary-Jean Sutton (*she/ her*)

D I R E C T O R

*BA Hons. Archaeology, University of Sydney;**PhD Archaeology, University of Queensland*

MAACAI, MEIANZ, FAAS, CEnvP-Heritage, SEAC - Heritage

mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au

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From: Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au>**Sent:** Thursday, 19 June 2025 5:54 PM**Cc:** Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>; Liam Clerke <l.clerke@virtusheritage.com.au>; Kate Wheeler <kate.wheeler@slrconsulting.com>; Patrick Quinlan <pquinlan@slrconsulting.com>**Subject:** 540 Stor-Energy Draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment and Archaeological Assessment - Molong BESS Project

Dear Registered Aboriginal Parties and Orange LALC,

Following the Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements, please find attached draft copy **Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment (including Appendix A - Archaeological Assessment)** for your RAP organisation's review and input.

☐ [540 SLR Stor Energy Molong AA draft v2b 2.pdf](#)☐ [540 SLR Stor Energy Molong ACHA draft v2b 2.pdf](#)

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Oliver Coleman
Storenergy 3 Pty Ltd
Email: information@molong-battery.com.au
Phone/Fax: 1800 920 060.

A plan showing test locations is attached to this email. Only four are required but Stor-Energy/SLR have provided 12 possibilities. If any of these locations are an issue they can avoid them on the day.

Kind regards
Mary-Jean and Liam

Dr Mary-Jean Sutton (*she / her*)

DIRECTOR

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Re: 540 - Molong BESS draft ACHA comments

From Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au>

Date Thu 17/07/2025 8:07 PM

To Ben Kemp <Ben.Kemp@olalc.com.au>

Cc Oliver Coleman <oliver.coleman@stor-energy.com>; Riikka.Heikkinen@stor-energy.com <riikka.heikkinen@stor-energy.com>; Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>; Liam Clerke <l.clerke@virtusheritage.com.au>; Kate Wheeler <kate.wheeler@slrconsulting.com>; Patrick Quinlan <pquinlan@slrconsulting.com>

Hi Ben

Thanks for the SMS tonight and glad to hear OLALC are happy with the ACHA and associated reports. We will finalise shortly to include OLALC's comments.

Best wishes and look forward to working together again

MJ



Dr Mary-Jean Sutton (*sbe/her*)

DIRECTOR

BA Hons. Archaeology, University of Sydney;

PhD Archaeology, University of Queensland

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Outlook

Fw: REMINDER - 540 Stor-Energy Draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment and Archaeological Assessment - Molong BESS Project

From Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au>**Date** Thu 17/07/2025 12:59 PM**To** Kate Wheeler <kate.wheeler@slrconsulting.com>; Liam Clerke <l.clerke@virtusheritage.com.au>**Cc** Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>

FYI

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From: Ray Moon <wingarrawilay@yahoo.com>**Sent:** Wednesday, July 9, 2025 1:22:18 PM**To:** Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au>**Subject:** Re: REMINDER - 540 Stor-Energy Draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment and Archaeological Assessment - Molong BESS Project

Good afternoon, Mary-Jean,

Wingarra Wilay supports the Draft ACHA report; however, we want to emphasize that the area where the scar trees were found holds immense cultural significance to our people. Recognizing and safeguarding Aboriginal cultural heritage in this landscape is of paramount importance to us.

We are eager to collaborate with you in promoting, protecting, and preserving Aboriginal cultural values. We welcome ongoing engagement and opportunities to actively participate in cultural heritage management processes as the project advances, and we look forward to continuing our partnership to protect and preserve our cultural heritage.

Regards
Ray Moon
Wingarra Wilay

On Monday 7 July 2025 at 07:21:49 pm AEST, Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au> wrote:

Dear Registered Aboriginal Parties and Orange LALC,

Please note that the closing date for comments on draft copy **Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment (including Appendix A - Archaeological Assessment)** and the Archaeological Research Design and Methodology Appendix C. for your RAP organisation's review and input is coming up in 11 days on **5pm on 18 July 2025**

 [540 SLR Stor Energy Molong AA draft v2b 2.pdf](#)

 [540 SLR Stor Energy Molong ACHA draft v2b 2.pdf](#)

Please reach out to myself or Liam Clerke if you need to discuss anything further, we are able to take a verbal comment and assist you with your comments and questions.

Hope your NAIDOC week is going well,

Kind regards
Mary-Jean and Liam



Dr Mary-Jean Sutton (*she / her*)

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PhD Archaeology, University of Queensland

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From: Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au>

Sent: Thursday, 19 June 2025 5:54 PM

Cc: Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>; Liam Clerke <l.clerke@virtusheritage.com.au>; Kate Wheeler <kate.wheeler@slrconsulting.com>; Patrick Quinlan <pquinlan@slrconsulting.com>

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Phone/Fax: 1800 920 060.

A plan showing test locations is attached to this email. Only four are required but Stor-Energy/SLR have provided 12 possibilities. If any of these locations are an issue they can avoid them on the day.

Kind regards
Mary-Jean and Liam



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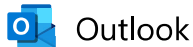


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Outlook

Re: 540 Stor-Energy Draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment and Archaeological Assessment - Molong BESS Project

From WVVAC Contact Officer <WVVAC@hotmail.com>

Date Thu 26/06/2025 11:47 PM

To Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au>

Cc Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>; Liam Clerke <l.clerke@virtusheritage.com.au>; Kate Wheeler <kate.wheeler@slrconsulting.com>; pquinlan@slrconsulting.com <pquinlan@slrconsulting.com>

Wellington Valley Wiradjuri Aboriginal Corporation Elders, Directors, Knowledge Holders and Field Officers discussed the supplied draft project Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for the Molong BESS.

Field Officer Brenda Waters raised concern about Potential Scar Tree 2 not being old enough for when it would have been scarred. There were comments also around Potential Scar Tree 1 being questionable as to if it was of Cultural Origin. It is recommended that an Arborist be engaged to assess the potential Culturally Modified Trees to better determine their age and if scars are man made and potentially of Aboriginal Origin.

WVVAC recommends The Arborist Network and Mr Mark Hartley. Contact details are as follows:

The Arborist Network
58 South Creek Road
Shane's Park NSW 2747
02 9835 1234
www.arboristnetwork.com.au

Wellington Valley Wiradjuri Aboriginal Corporation does not endorse the use of Mr Danny Draper. This is from very questionable assessments at Wilpinjong Coal and other project sites several years ago.

WVVAC agrees that any cultural material be collected with RAP's and after analysis and detailed imagery of the important pieces, they be returned at the end of the construction and reburied onsite in a mutually agreed area that will not be impacted by any future development or farming activity.

Wellington Valley Wiradjuri Aboriginal Corporation consulted members agree to all other recommendations and findings.

Regards,

Bradley R. Bliss J.P.
WVVAC CEO and Contact Officer
P.O. Box 1583
Orange NSW 2800
Email: WVVAC@hotmail.com
Mobile: 0427321016

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From: Mary-Jean Sutton <mj.sutton@virtusheritage.com.au>

Sent: Thursday, June 19, 2025 5:54:28 pm

Cc: Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>; Liam Clerke <l.clerke@virtusheritage.com.au>; Kate Wheeler <kate.wheeler@slrconsulting.com>; Patrick Quinlan <pquinlan@slrconsulting.com>

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Phone/Fax: 1800 920 060.

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Kind regards

Mary-Jean and Liam



Dr Mary-Jean Sutton (*she/her*)

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