

Heritage NSW Response to SSD-8530563 Response to SEARs Request to Input for SEARs

Notes:

We have reviewed the documentation provided to inform the SEARS and note the previous levels of disturbance at the site. We also note that an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) is currently being undertaken for this project. Heritage NSW recommends that any ACHA incorporate the following

1. The [EIS/EA] must identify and describe the Aboriginal cultural heritage values that exist across the whole area that will be affected by the [development/project] and document these in an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR). This may include the need for surface survey and test excavation. The identification of cultural heritage values must be conducted in accordance with the Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigations of Aboriginal Objects in NSW (OEH 2010), and be guided by the Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW (DECCW, 2011) and consultation with Heritage NSW regional branch officers.
2. Consultation with Aboriginal people must be undertaken and documented in accordance with the Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010 (DECCW). The significance of cultural heritage values for Aboriginal people who have a cultural association with the land must be documented in the ACHAR.
3. Impacts on Aboriginal cultural heritage values are to be assessed and documented in an ACHAR. The ACHAR must demonstrate attempts to avoid impact upon cultural heritage values and identify any conservation outcomes. Where impacts are unavoidable, the ACHAR must outline measures proposed to mitigate impacts. Any objects recorded as part of the assessment must be documented and notified to Heritage NSW.
4. The ACHAR must outline procedures to be followed if Aboriginal objects are found at any stage of the life of the [development/project] to formulate appropriate measures to manage unforeseen impacts.

For further information please contact Roger Mehr, Archaeologist, on 0459075354 or at Roger.Mehr@environment.nsw.gov.au