

Our ref: DOC24/355596

Your ref: SSD-70279722

Julia Green

Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

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Input to SEARs – State Significant Development

Proposal: Mount Piper to Wallerawang Transmission

Major Project reference: SSD-70279722

Received: 7 May 2024

Dear Julia

Thank you for your referral seeking input to the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) for the above State Significant Infrastructure proposal.

Heritage NSW has reviewed the draft SEARs included in your referral. We recommend that the two items relating to Aboriginal cultural heritage are replaced by the following:

- The EIS should be informed by an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report to identify and assess any impacts to Aboriginal cultural heritage sites or values associated with the project. The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report must be prepared in accordance with relevant guidelines and codes of practice including the *Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW* (OEH, 2011) and the *Code of Practice for the Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW* (DECCW, 2010) and must incorporate results of archaeological survey and test excavations (with the requirement to undertake test excavations to be informed by the outcomes of the survey and desktop assessment) completed in accordance with the relevant standards and requirements;
- Include evidence of adequate and continuous consultation with Aboriginal parties in relation to determining and assessing impacts, identifying options for avoidance of Aboriginal cultural heritage and appropriate mitigation measures (including the final proposed measures). Consultation must be completed with regard to the consultation process outlined in the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents* (DECCW, 2010).

Please note that the above comments relate only to Aboriginal cultural heritage regulation matters.
If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact me on 9228 6424 or
nicola.roche@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Nicola Roche

Nicola Roche
Principal Assessments Officer
Heritage NSW
Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
As Delegate under *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*

15 May 2024