

Our ref: HMS ID 6352

Lauren Clear
Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
PO BOX 404
PARRAMATTA, 2124 NSW
By email: lauren.clear@dpie.nsw.gov.au

Request for Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARS) for the Hunter Transmission Project. (SSI-70610456)

Dear Ms Clear,

Thank you for your referral dated 15 May 2024 inviting comments from the Heritage Council of NSW on the above critical State Significant Infrastructure (CSSI) proposal.

The proposed CSSI area does not affect any known State Heritage Register (SHR) items.

It is recommended that the following additional SEARS are included:

Historical archaeology

1. A historical archaeological assessment should be prepared by a suitably qualified archaeologist in accordance with the guidelines *Archaeological Assessment* and *Assessing Significance for Historical Archaeological Sites and Relics*. This assessment should identify what relics, if any, are likely to be present, assess their significance and consider the impacts from the proposal on this potential archaeological resource. Where harm is likely to occur, it is recommended that the significance of the relics be considered in determining an appropriate mitigation strategy. If harm cannot be avoided in whole or part, an appropriate Research Design and Excavation Methodology should also be prepared to guide any proposed excavations or salvage programme.

As the site contains local heritage items, and other local items are in the vicinity, advice should be sought from the relevant local council.

If you have any questions about this correspondence, please contact Jodi Cameron, Senior Assessments Officer - Historical Archaeology at Heritage NSW on (02) 9873 8500 or heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely

Michael Ellis.

Michael Ellis
Manager Assessments
Heritage NSW
Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
As Delegate of the Heritage Council of NSW
27 May 2024