

Our ref: DOC24/378831

Your ref: SSI-70610456

Lauren Clear

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Letter uploaded to the Major Projects Planning Portal

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**Input to SEARs – State Significant Infrastructure**

**Proposal: Hunter Transmission Project**

**Major Project reference: SSI-70610456**

**Received: 15 May 2024**

Dear Lauren,

Thank you for your referral seeking input to the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements for the above State Significant Infrastructure proposal. In preparing this advice Heritage NSW has reviewed the following documents:

- Scoping Report: Hunter Transmission Project - prepared by EnergyCo, dated 1 May 2024
- Appendix G: Preliminary Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment- prepared by EMM, dated 1 May 2024
- Draft Planning Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements

Heritage NSW recommends that the following modifications and additions to the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements with respect to Aboriginal cultural heritage in relation to the proposed Hunter Transmission Project (SSI-70610456).

- Modify 'an assessment of the impact to Aboriginal cultural heritage items (cultural and archaeological) in accordance with 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) including results of archaeological test excavations (if required)' to 'an assessment of the impact to Aboriginal cultural heritage sites and values (cultural and archaeological) associated with the project in accordance with 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) including results of archaeological survey and test excavations (where required)'
- Modify 'evidence of consultation with Aboriginal communities in determining and assessing impacts, developing options and selecting options and mitigation measures (including the final proposed measures), having regard to the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements

*for Proponents (DECCW, 2010)’ to ‘include evidence of adequate and continuous consultation with Aboriginal parties in determining and assessing impacts, developing and selecting options for avoidance of Aboriginal cultural heritage and identifying mitigation measures (including the final proposed measures), in substantial compliance to the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents (DECCW, 2010)’*

- *Modify ‘Include targeted test excavations with the approval of Heritage NSW’ to ‘Include targeted test excavations with the written endorsement Heritage NSW and in consultation with the Registered Aboriginal Parties’.*
- *Include the following requirement: Consideration of visual impacts to view lines between elevated ridgelines and culturally significant areas, including but not limited to Mount Yengo as identified by the Registered Aboriginal Parties.*

Please note that the above comments relate only to Aboriginal cultural heritage regulation matters. If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact Corey O'Driscoll, Senior Assessments Officer, at Heritage NSW on 6229 7079 or [corey.odriscoll@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:corey.odriscoll@environment.nsw.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

*Nicole Davis*

Nicole Davis  
Manager Assessments  
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As Delegate under *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*  
28 May 2024