

Our ref: DOC24/619700

Your ref: SSI-74175972

Tatsiana Bandaruk

Team Leader Environmental Assessments

Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

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Letter uploaded to the Major Projects Planning Portal

Input to SEARs – State Significant Infrastructure

Proposal: New England REZ Transmission Project

Major Project reference: SSI-74175972

Received: 31 July 2024

Dear Tatsiana

Thank you for your referral seeking input to the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements for the above State Significant Infrastructure proposal. Heritage NSW has reviewed the Scoping report and the 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 New England REZ transmission Project (SSI-74175972).

- Modify 'an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) prepared 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) identifying, describing and assessing any impacts to Aboriginal cultural heritage sites or values associated with the project (including impacts from any proposed earth works, construction works and road upgrades), including results of archaeological survey and test excavations (where required) undertaken in accordance with the relevant standards and requirements'
- to 'an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) prepared 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) identifying, describing and assessing any impacts to Aboriginal cultural heritage sites or values (cultural and archaeological) associated with the project (including impacts from any proposed earth works, construction works and road upgrades), including results of

archaeological survey and test excavations (where required) undertaken in accordance with the relevant standards and requirements

- Modify 'evidence of adequate consultation with Aboriginal parties in determining and assessing impacts, identifying and selecting options for avoidance of Aboriginal cultural heritage and identifying appropriate mitigation measures (including the final proposed measures), having regard to the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents (DECCW, 2010), including the consultation process outlined within'
to 'include evidence of adequate and continuous consultation with Aboriginal parties in determining and assessing impacts, identifying and selecting options for avoidance of Aboriginal cultural heritage and identifying appropriate mitigation measures (including the final proposed measures), in substantial compliance to the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents (DECCW, 2010), including the consultation process outlined within'
- Include the following requirement: *Include targeted test excavations in consultation with the Registered Aboriginal Parties with the written endorsement of Heritage NSW.*

If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact Alison Lamond, Senior Assessments Officer, at Heritage NSW on 9873 8500 or heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Nicole Davis

Nicole Davis
Manager Assessments
Heritage NSW
Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
As Delegate under *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*
5 August 2024