



Mr Iwan Davies
A/ Team Leader
Resources & Energy Assessments
Department of Planning & Environment
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Dear Mr Davies

RE: Response to exhibition of the Historical Heritage Assessment and Statement of Heritage Impact for proposed New England Solar Farm, Uralla Shire LGA (SSD 9255)

I refer to your e-mail dated 19 February 2019 requesting input from the Heritage Council of NSW (the Heritage Council) during the exhibition stage of the above proposal. The proposal consists, in part, of the following:

- up to three internal solar array substations and a single grid substation associated BESS(s)
- operations and maintenance (O&M) infrastructure including:
 - O&M buildings (namely meeting facilities, a temperature-controlled spare parts storage facility, supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) facilities, a workshop and
 - associated infrastructure); and car parking facilities.
- connection infrastructure between the three array areas (including ETLs and underground or overhead cabling); and
- a new internal road network to enable access from surrounding local roads to the three array areas during construction and operations.

The following document was reviewed in preparation of these comments:

- Report, 'New England Solar Farm, Historical Heritage Assessment and Statement of Heritage Impact', prepared by EMM for UPC Renewables Australia Pty Ltd, dated 16 November 2018.

This assessment considers the significance of archaeological and historical resources within the project area and the proposed impact as a result of this project. The Assessment has also provided advice to the management of this site, including consideration of options to avoid impact on known and unknown archaeological resources.

The assessment indicates the following ground disturbances proposed have potential to disturb historical sites within the development footprint:

- installation of the PV modules (i.e. driving or screwing piles into the ground, possibly including predrilling but only if required);



- trenching for underground cabling;
- clearing for internal access tracks and PCU placement;
- the construction of up to three solar array substations and BESSs, the locations of which will be confirmed during the detailed design stage of the project;
- the construction of a grid substation and BESS, the location of which will be confirmed during the
- detailed design stage of the project;
- installation of supporting infrastructure (e.g. O&M buildings, parking areas and landscaping);
- the construction of a temporary construction accommodation village (if required);
- installation of overhead transmission lines (anticipated to be supported by single concrete, wood or steel pole structures) along the proposed ETL options; and
- installation of new internal roads to enable access to the three array areas from the surrounding road network.

Additional impacts will include heavier earth moving likely be required for project infrastructure (e.g. substations and BESSs). Grading around lower order streams and drainage channels within the three array areas may also be required to manage erosion during construction.

The assessment identified two sites retaining archaeological significance within the project footprint and one site with potential for relics:

- Shepherd's Hut, Old Gostwyck (central array),
- House Site, old Saumarez (northern array)
- Former Stockyard (southern array).

The assessment identified and assessed existing local and State significant archaeological sites. Impacts on the known sites, Shepherd's Hut (HNE17) and House Site (HNE19) have been mitigated through revisions of the development footprint for the central and northern array areas, thereby enabling their continued conservation. A survey of the third known site, the Stockyard (former) (HNE26), dating to approximately c1867, reveals no physical evidence at the site. Should archaeological remains be uncovered during the project work the assessment indicates they would likely consist of post holes, nails and timber fragments. The assessment of impact to this site is considered to be moderate, with no test excavation proposed as the significance of the site does not warrant this type of investigation. It is noted however, that if evidence of the Stockyard is located during Aboriginal test excavation, any archaeological remains will be archivally recorded. It is further noted that this investigation would be completed either through the public exhibition of the EIS or in preparation of the RtS report.

Management measure include the provision of an unanticipated finds protocol in the HHMP in the event that objects including bonded bricks, timer or stones in formation indicating a wall or floor are found, or if soil with artefact concentrations are excavated. Should the materiality threshold as defined in the HHMP be met, work will cease and an archaeologist will be contacted to assess the nature of the find. Should the find be determined to be a relic the Heritage Council be will notified through a s146 application.



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If you have any questions regarding the above advice, please feel free to contact Anna Foroozani, Archaeologist, Heritage Division, Office of Environment and Heritage, at e-mail: Anna.Foroozani@environment.nsw.gov.au or via telephone: (02) 9895 6479.

Yours sincerely

14 March 2019

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As Delegate of the NSW Heritage Council