



Matthew Riley  
Senior Planning Officer  
Resource Assessments  
Department of Planning and Environment  
GPO Box 39  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Mr Riley,

**Request for Heritage Council Comment on Wilpinjong Extension Project (SSD 6764) – Notice of Public Exhibition.**

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Thank you for the invitation to the Heritage Council of NSW to comment on and recommend conditions of approval for the Wilpinjong Extension Project (herein referred to as the 'Project Area'). I am responding as the Delegate of the Heritage Council of NSW. The Project Area is within the Mid-Western Regional Council Local Government Area (LGA).

A review of the documentation associated with the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has been undertaken, in particular the:

- 'Wilpinjong Extension Project Historical Heritage Assessment' prepared by Niche Environment and Heritage dated November 2015 (the Assessment).

Based upon this review, the following comments and recommended conditions are provided.

The Project Area does not contain items listed on the State Heritage Register, S170 Heritage and Conservation Registers or items that are locally listed on a Local Environment Plan. A total of 21 items of local historic heritage significance, some with associated archaeological relics were identified in or within a 2 km radius of the Project Area. The heritage items identified included cottages, houses, agricultural buildings, churches and fences which contribute to the understanding of the Wilpinjong and Wollar local areas.

Out of the 21 items identified, four are located in impact zones of the Project Area:

- The Shale Oil Mine (Item 7.1) is located in the development area of Open Cut Pit 8 and components will require removal, remaining components may also be subject to indirect impacts from blasting.
- The Road Embankment (Item 7.4) may be subject to visual impacts from the relocation of a 330kV transmission line and indirect impacts from blasting.
- Pine Park (Item 7.5) and William Carr's Hut (Item 7.11) may be subject to indirect impacts from blasting.

The recommended mitigation measures are outlined in Section 10 of the report and include archival recording where avoidance is not possible and propose test excavation of the Shale Oil Mining Complex, focused on the caretaker's cottage prior to removal for Project activities

(Section 10, p.120). It is also noted that Pine Park and the Road Embankment have previously been subject to archival recording.

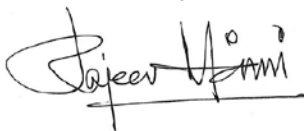
The recommended mitigation measures for archival recording are adequate. However, the recommendation for test excavation of the caretaker's cottage at the Shale Oil Mine is not supported due to the impacts proposed at this site. As noted in Section 19 (p.119), the identified heritage values of the Shale Oil Mine will be significantly impacted by Open Cut Pit 8, with only the mine adit and vent shaft retained. The test excavation method lacks sufficient detail including proposed excavation methods and research questions and is not considered appropriate to mitigate the impacts on the Shale Oil Mine. A salvage excavation with a testing component is considered a more appropriate mitigation measure considering the high level of impact to the item and the described potential for archaeological remains of local heritage significance (Section 7.1 p.39).

The Heritage Division advises the Department of Planning and Environment that archaeological heritage issues have not been adequately considered in the preparation of the EIS for this project. The following recommendations are made to ensure that heritage concerns are adequately addressed prior to project approval:

1. An appropriate archaeological assessment method including a research design for salvage excavation is developed in consultation with the Heritage Council of NSW or its Delegate to guide physical archaeological excavations at the Shale Oil Mine;
2. The nominated Excavation Director shall meet the criteria endorsed by the Heritage Council of NSW at the appropriate significance level;
3. Results of the archaeological works shall be presented in a final excavation report within one (1) year of completion of all archaeological works on the site and shall be submitted for the information of the Heritage Council of NSW; and
4. A suitable artefact repository for the ongoing retention for any relics of local heritage significance which are recovered during excavations for this activity must be identified in the report; and a copy of the excavation report shall be retained with the relics at all times.

Should you have any queries, please contact Rebecca Newell, Archaeologist, at the Heritage Division on (02) 9873 8500 or at [Rebecca.Newell@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Rebecca.Newell@environment.nsw.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



**Rajeev Maini**

Acting Manager, Conservation

Heritage Division

Office of Environment and Heritage

**AS DELEGATE OF THE NSW HERITAGE COUNCIL OF NSW**

8 February 2016