

Contact: Karina Williams  
Telephone: 02 9873 8527  
karina.williams@heritage.nsw.gov.au  
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Mr Ken Holmes  
Environment and Community Manager  
Northern Hume Alliance  
Roads and Traffic Authority  
PO Box 484  
WAGGA WAGGA NSW 2650

Dear Mr Holmes,

**MAJOR PROJECT REFERRAL – HUME HIGHWAY DUPLICATION PROJECT, STURT HIGHWAY TO HOLBROOK – CHANGE IN IMPACTS ON EUROPEAN HERITAGE**

Reference is made to your letter dated 11 September 2007 referring to the Hume Highway Duplication Project, Sturt Highway to Holbrook, and the supporting document, 'Hume Highway Duplication – Sturt Highway to Holbrook – Changes to Impacts on Non Aboriginal Heritage Sites'.

The Heritage Office, Department of Planning, understands the Northern Hume Alliance (NHA) has been appointed by the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) to deliver the Hume Highway Duplication Project, Sturt Highway to Holbrook, including the following sections:

- Sturt Highway to Tarcutta (N1)
- Kyeamba Hill (N2)
- Little Billabong (N3)
- Yarra Yarra to Holbrook (N4)

As discussed in your letter, it is understood that as part of the detailed design of the Hume Highway Duplication Project, the proposed NHA alignment comprises some variation to the RTA concept design, for which the Department of Planning has provided approval.

As you are aware, the Heritage Office has previously reviewed and provided comments on the non-Indigenous Heritage components of the Environmental Assessment (EA) reports for the sections of the project noted above. The submitted EA reports and the specialist technical papers provided advice and recommendations for the future management and mitigation on a site-by-site specific basis.

The Heritage Office notes that the NHA alignment results in a number of changes to the predicted impacts to Non-Indigenous heritage in the sections Sturt Highway to Tarcutta (N1), Kyeamba Hill (N2) and Yarra Yarra to Holbrook (N4).

The Heritage Office has reviewed the 'Hume Highway Duplication – Sturt Highway to Holbrook – Changes to Impacts on Non Aboriginal Heritage Sites' summary prepared by the NHA. The report lists those sites of Non-Indigenous Heritage where there is a change of impact caused by the NHA alignment and which mitigation measures, if required, should be undertaken in regard to each site.

It is noted that archival recording has already been undertaken for some sites, as a result of the previous commitments and mitigation measures associated with the RTA concept alignment, including those sites that will now have less or no impact as result of the alteration to the highway alignment. The Heritage Office also notes that some initial classifications of items have been amended with increased ground survey work, and that several items identified as roads from aerial photographs have not been located 'on the ground'.

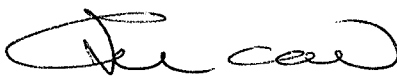
In the case of Non-Indigenous sites that will have increased impact as a result of the changed alignment, the Heritage Office supports the measures provided in the 'Additional mitigation proposed due to change in impact (or further historical research)' field in the 'Hume Highway Duplication – Sturt Highway to Holbrook – Changes to Impacts on Non Aboriginal Heritage Sites' report. It is considered appropriate to undertake archival recording of the identified local items, including a dam, and road and track remnants. It is also considered appropriate to undertake revegetation in those locations where there will be some impact to plantings (K301, K308).

The Heritage Office also notes that item K202 (chimney) has been significantly damaged. The chimney is a remnant of the school building that was originally the police station and gaol. It is thought to date from the 1860s and was assessed in the 'Sturt Highway to Tarcutta Hume Highway Duplication Environmental Assessment' report as of Local significance. As noted in the 'Hume Highway Duplication – Sturt Highway to Holbrook – Changes to Impacts on Non Aboriginal Heritage Sites' report, neither the proposed RTA alignment, nor the amended NHA alignment would have impacted the site. The Heritage Office considers a positive outcome from the damage to the chimney could involve the reinstatement of the stone chimney in its original location and/or the installation of interpretative information within the area addressing the history of the school, police station and gaol.

In regard to the information provided regarding the changes of impacts to European (or Non-Indigenous) heritage, on behalf of the Heritage Council of NSW, I advise you that there is no objection to the changes on heritage grounds.

For further contact in relation to this matter please contact Dr Siobhan Lavelle on 9873 8546.

Yours sincerely

 4/10/07

**Vincent Sicari**  
Manager  
Conservation Team  
Heritage Office  
Department of Planning