



Our ref: DOC20/879399-5  
Your ref: SSD-9550

Mr Rob Beckett  
Environmental Assessment Officer  
Resources Assessment 1B  
Department of Planning, Industry & Environment  
email: [rob.beckett@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:rob.beckett@planning.nsw.gov.au)

Advice provided via the Major Project Portal

Dear Mr Beckett

### **Advice on Glenellen Solar Farm (SSD-9550) - Environmental Impact Statement**

Thank you for your referral dated 26 October 2020 inviting comments from Heritage NSW on the above State Significant Development (SSD) proposal.

#### **Aboriginal cultural heritage regulation is now part of Heritage NSW**

On 1 July 2020 the Aboriginal cultural heritage regulation functions under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* were transferred from the Biodiversity Conservation Division in Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) to Heritage NSW in the Department of Premier and Cabinet. All references to DPIE administering Aboriginal objects and Aboriginal places needs to be updated to Heritage NSW.

The following reports were considered in our assessment:

- *Glenellen Solar Farm Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)*, Eco Logical Australia, October 2020. Including:
  - *Appendix A: Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements and Agency Responses*
  - *Appendix B: Detailed Site Map and Diagrams*
  - *Appendix D: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report* (NSW Archaeology, November 2018) and *Addendum Letter, consultation log, updated AHIMS search results and community collection methodology* (Eco Logical Australia, August 2020).

#### **Heritage NSW has reviewed the reports received**

We note:

- field assessment identified three stone artefact sites within the project area. These sites have been registered on the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) as sites 55-6-0111, 55-6-0112 and 55-6-0113.
- Eco Logical Australia recommenced community consultation in 2020 and completed stages 1 and 4 in accordance with recommendations and correspondence from the Biodiversity Conservation Division on 2 June 2020.
- mitigation proposed in the addendum letter comprises community collection of the three stone artefact sites, followed by burial of the stone artefacts in a location that will not be impacted by works.
- the EIS proposes preparation of a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) to be prepared in consultation with DPIE and the Aboriginal stakeholders.

**Heritage NSW provide the following comments:**

- We advise the timing of the community collection needs to occur after project approval and preparation of the CHMP. Community collection must be completed before any on ground construction works in the area of the artefact sites is commenced. This is to ensure the artefact sites are not harmed by construction works.
- In the EIS, Table 8-20 Mitigation measures for Aboriginal cultural heritage recommends additional archaeological assessment be conducted for any areas which are proposed for impacts that have not been surveyed during the current assessment, and that this assessment may be conducted by predictive modeling if appropriate. A modification assessment may necessitate the issue of revised SEARs which would state the assessment requirements for cultural heritage. A predictive modelling assessment approach may not meet the SEARs issued.
- In Appendix D the 'Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment, Appendix C – Community Collection Methodology, Glenellen Solar Farm' step 5 refers to Requirement 16b in the [Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation in NSW](#) (DECCW 2010). Requirement 16b is to be used for test excavation, not community collection. For burying Aboriginal objects on site, refer to Requirement 26 in the Code.

Heritage NSW would welcome an opportunity to comment on the draft CHMP prior to finalisation and implementation. Preparation of the CHMP should also include comment from the Registered Aboriginal Parties.

If you have any questions regarding the above advice, please contact Lyndon Patterson, Archaeologist, Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Regulation - South at Heritage NSW on 0436 676 791 or email [lyndon.patterson@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:lyndon.patterson@environment.nsw.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



**Jackie Taylor**  
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**Heritage NSW**  
24 November 2020