

Anthony Ko
Team Leader
Energy Resource Assessment
By email: anthony.ko@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Anthony

Exhibition of the proposed Hills of Gold Wind Farm (SSD- 9679)

Thank you for the opportunity for Heritage NSW (HNSW) to comment on the Aboriginal cultural heritage (ACH) assessment for the State Significant Development (SSD) proposal for the Hills of Gold Wind Farm, Central NSW.

HNSW has reviewed the ACH assessment for the project prepared by Kelleher Nightingale Consulting Pty Ltd Archaeological and Heritage Management (KNC October 2020), Appendix M of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and offer the following comments.

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage matters have been adequately addressed

HNSW is satisfied that the ACH assessment of the project area has been adequately assessed as per the Secretary's Environment Assessment Requirements (SEARs). Overall, the assessment has provided information that adequately describes the ACH values across the project area relative to the proposed development footprint.

HNSW note and accept that the ACH assessment results align with known landscape site and landform distribution patterns.

Aboriginal consultation

HNSW accept the consultation undertaken with the Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs, 26 parties) as described in the ACH assessment report (KNC 2020:30-33). We note the responses from the RAPs regarding the Aboriginal cultural values of the project area. It is further noted that no significant issues have been raised by the RAPs in correspondence with the proponent and that there is general acceptance of the assessment report and proposed recommendations.

Proposed mitigation recommendation for salvage excavation

HNSW is satisfied that the proposed archaeological salvage excavations can be addressed during the development stage of the draft Heritage Management Plan, post project approval and in consultation with HNSW.

HNSW recommend that the proponent provide evidence-based reasons for undertaking salvage excavation of a Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD) at Peel River/Woodleys Ck and another PAD associated with recorded Aboriginal site Hills Gold AFT 3 (KNC 2020:45). The ACH assessment results confirm low density and frequency of stone artefacts impacted by an extensive land use disturbance history (KNC 2020:3-4, 17). These results do not indicate the need for further archaeological investigation.

HNSW recommends that alternative mitigation measures are also considered to ensure that the appropriate management action is selected for each site. Archaeological test excavation should be conducted where there is uncertainty about the need for salvage excavation.

The proponent is reminded that all recorded Aboriginal objects must be registered on the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) in order to comply with section 89A of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

If you have any questions regarding the above advice, please contact Phil Purcell, Archaeologist at Heritage NSW, on 68835341 or phil.purcell@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



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Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Regulation – North
Heritage NSW
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