



Our ref: DOC21/110321

Anthony Ko  
Team Leader, Energy Resource Assessment  
The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

By email: [anthony.ko@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:anthony.ko@planning.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Mr Ko

### **Notice of Exhibition of application for (Snowy 2.0 Transmission Connection) (SSI-9717)**

Thank you for your referral dated 17 February 2021 inviting comments from the Heritage Council of NSW on the above State Significant Infrastructure (SSI) proposal.

The proposed development involves the construction and operation of an overhead transmission line connection and substation to connect Snowy 2.0 to the National Electricity Market and includes the following key elements:

- A new substation (the substation) located within Bago State Forest occupying a footprint of approximately 300 metres by wide 600 metre long inclusive of an approximate 25 metre to 45 metre wide cleared asset protection zone (APZ).
- Upgrade and widening of an existing access road off Elliott Way to the substation including the construction of new driveways.
- Two new 330 kV overhead double-circuit transmission lines from the Snowy 2.0 cable yard to the new substation approximately nine kilometres in length.
- Short overhead 330 kV transmission line connection (approximately 300 metres in length) comprising both steel lattice structures and pole structures as required between the substation and Line 64.
- Construction of up to 10 kilometres of new access tracks (Option A) or eight kilometres (Option B) to the transmission structures and upgrade to existing access tracks where required. Option A minimises disturbance within a mapped high risk naturally occurring asbestos (NOA) zone.
- Establishment of a helipad (approximately 30 metres wide by 30 metres long).
- Ancillary activities, including the establishment of tensioning and pulling sites for conductor and earth wire stringing, construction benches, site compounds, and equipment laydown areas.

The proposed SSI project area does not include/is not located within a State Heritage Register (SHR) item. It is located approximately 10 Kilometres east of *Matthews Cottage* (SHR No 00998) and *Kiandra Courthouse/Chalet* (SHR No 00994). The project is within the curtilage of two items on the National Heritage List (NHL) including the *Australian Alps National Parks and Reserves* and the *Snowy Mountains Scheme*. It is understood from the EIS that the project is a controlled action, therefore, it will be referred to the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment for a separate approval.

The following reports were considered in our assessment:

- Environmental Impact Statement prepared by Transgrid, dated February 2021, including Appendix G Non-Aboriginal Heritage Assessment and Appendix H Landscape character visual impact assessment.

As delegate of the Heritage Council of NSW, I provide the following comments:

- Five items with historical archaeological potential will be subject to major disturbance from the project. Of these five items none were considered to have archaeological significance. Two of these archaeological items have been previously recorded. For the remaining three archaeological items the report recommends text excavation followed by salvage excavation if required. It is unclear why the proponent proposes to excavate areas with no archaeological significance. It is recommended that the report is updated to provide:
  - A clear assessment of potential significance, including the contribution of the areas of archaeological potential to the wider Snowy Hydro scheme.
  - If the assessment of significance identifies that areas of archaeological significance will be impacted options to avoid these areas should be considered. If avoidance is not possible a research design and excavation method should be produced.

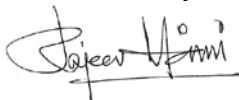
The following archaeological conditions are recommended for the project:

- a) The Applicant shall nominate a suitably qualified and experienced historical archaeologist to manage the historical archaeological program according to the following conditions. This person must fulfil the Heritage Council's Excavation Director Criteria 2019 for the excavation of locally significant archaeological sites.
- b) An Archaeological Research Design and Excavation Methodology shall be prepared to guide the archaeological program. It shall be prepared according to Heritage Council of NSW guidelines. This document shall be submitted for comments to the Heritage Council of NSW (or its delegate) and the approval by the Department of Planning Industry and Environment (DPIE) prior to the commencement of archaeological excavation.
- c) A final archaeological excavation report shall be prepared within 12 months of the completion of archaeological excavation. It should include details of any significant artefacts recovered, where they are located and details of their ongoing conservation and protection in perpetuity by the land owner. Copies of the final excavation report shall be provided to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE), the Heritage Council of NSW and to the local Council's local studies unit.

As the site contains local heritage items, and other local items are in the vicinity, advice should be sought from the relevant local council.

If you have any questions regarding the above advice, please contact Shikha Jhaldiyal, Senior Heritage Assessment Officer at Heritage NSW on 98738545 or Shikha.Jhaldiyal@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



**Rajeev Maini**

Senior Team Leader, Regional Heritage Assessments South  
Heritage NSW, Department of Premier and Cabinet

**As Delegate of the Heritage Council of NSW**

18 March 2021