

Jack Turner
Senior Environmental Assessment Officer
Energy Resource Assessment
Department of Planning Infrastructure and Environment
By email: jack.turner@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Jack

Notice of Exhibition of application for New Cobar Complex (SSD 10419)

Thank you for the opportunity for Heritage NSW (HNSW) to review and comment on the Aboriginal cultural heritage (ACH) assessment for the above State Significant Development (SSD) proposal.

Project description and land use disturbance

HNSW understand that the New Cobar Complex Project is an amalgamation of underground mining and associated surface infrastructure including a power line within a 300 x 200 m corridor. The proposed footprint and project area is described as expanding across an area that has been subjected to intense land use that includes pastoral activities, construction of a nineteenth century mining village and various mining infrastructure features associated with previous and current mining (EMM 2021:58).

ACH assessment and management strategies are adequate

The ACH assessment and Aboriginal consultation prepared by EMM Consulting (EMM 2021), is adequate and consistent with the expectations set down in the Secretary Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs). HNSW note that the overall proposed harm to Aboriginal objects is minimal due to the low number of known Aboriginal objects located within the project boundary. However, HNSW recognize that the location of the objects although subjected to land use disturbances do offer an example of Aboriginal site occupation among ephemeral water features in the semi-arid zone. HNSW therefore consider that the objects and associated locations retain research interest and, based on the documented consultation, are also of value to local Aboriginal people (EMM 2021:39-46, 48-52).

HNSW accept the proposed management strategies and recommendations designed to guide post-approval requirements (EMM 2021:59-60). Based on the ACH assessment findings including consultation and land use disturbance HNSW consider that the recommendations proposed to reduce harm to ACH are adequate and proportionate. HNSW single out the recommendation of research for the nineteenth century Cornish mining village due to the uniqueness such an endeavor potentially provides and because of the expressed contemporary value to local Aboriginal people.

Archival and Oral History Study – Shared Histories

EMM has raised a valid interest in exploring the shared histories of the interconnection between Aboriginal people and non-Aboriginal residents of the remains of the nineteenth

century Cornish mining village that exists within the current project boundary (EMM 2020: 22, 24, 52, 55, 59 and figure 9.1). HNSW support a management strategy that increases knowledge and awareness of post-colonial life ways of the Cobar region.

Recommendation 1

Undertake an archival and oral history study of the post contact shared histories associated with the nineteenth century Cornish mining village.

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



DR SAMANTHA HIGGS

Senior Team Leader
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Regulation - North
Heritage NSW Community Engagement
Department of Premier and Cabinet
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