



Our ref: DOC21/118075

Mr Jack Turner
Senior Environmental Assessment Officer
Energy Resource Assessments
The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

Email: <jack.turner@planning.nsw.gov.au>

Dear Mr Turner

Re: SSD-10419 New Cobar Complex Project (Cobar Shire) — Request for advice

I refer to your referral dated 19 February 2021 inviting comments from Heritage NSW on the above SSD proposal. The following comments relate to historic heritage matters.

The New Cobar Complex Project) is an amalgamation of existing approved underground mining of the Chesney and Jubilee deposits and development of new underground workings of the Great Cobar and Gladstone deposits to create the New Cobar Complex Project. Peak Gold Mines Pty Ltd (PGM), a subsidiary of Aurelia Metals Limited (Aurelia), currently owns and operates the Peak Gold Mines operation south-east of Cobar comprising the New Cobar Complex located 3 kilometres (km) to the south-east of Cobar town centre and the Peak Complex located 10 km south-east of the town centre.

The following reports were considered in our assessment:

- *New Cobar Complex Project State Significant Development (SSD10419) Environmental Impact Assessment*, EMM and Aurelia Metals Ltd, February 2021.
- Appendix L of the above EIA: *New Cobar Complex Project State Significant Development (SSD-10419) Statement of Heritage Impact* by EMM Pty Ltd, December 2020

The report by EMM found the likely impacts of the proposal to be as follows (p.ES1 & 53-59):

There are two listed heritage items within the project area. The closest listed heritage item is Towser's Huts (Cobar LEP I24) located 800 m from the power line corridor location, to the south of Nyngan Road, within ML 1483. The huts are fenced off and protected and will not be impacted by the installation of the power poles. Cobar Pastoral and Mining Technology Museum 1910 (Cobar LEP I8) is situated on the main street of Cobar, overlooking the Great Cobar open cut. It is approximately 950 m to the north-west of the power line corridor and will not be impacted by the installation of the power poles.

The power line corridor is located in an area previously known as Cornish Town (also Cornishtown). This was one of several residential areas to the south of Cobar that was removed in the 1960s. At this stage, the pole installation method and associated infrastructure have not been determined; therefore, impacts to Cornish Town have not been identified. Historical research has identified the potential for archaeological sensitivity within the survey area as it is possible that there may be evidence relating to Cornish Town. If archaeological resources related to this phase of the region's historical development exist, they are likely to reach the threshold of local significance at a minimum.

As no known historical heritage items are present within the power line corridor, the area in which excavation for the power poles is required is limited and minimal, and an unexpected finds

protocol will be implemented, it is expected that the proposed works are unlikely to result in a significant impact to historical heritage values.

Recommended management and mitigation measures include compilation of oral history and cultural mapping, upgrading of existing interpretative signage and ongoing monitoring (blast, vibration, visual) for the Museum building.

EMM also recommended an Unexpected Finds Procedure and a Heritage Induction should apply to the approved works and should be included in a Heritage Management Plan (HHMP). These recommendations have been included as mitigation measures as discussed in Chapter 23 and in particular Table 23.1 of the main EIA report (p306-307).

Heritage NSW generally concurs with the findings, assessment and recommendations provided by EMM. Our recommended conditions are:

Heritage (non-Aboriginal)

The Proponent must prepare and implement an Historic Heritage Management Plan to detail how construction impacts on non-Aboriginal heritage will be avoided, minimised, and managed, including

- i. details of management measures and strategies for protection, excavation, archival recording and/or conservation of heritage items that may be directly or indirectly impacted during construction or operations (including measures to protect unaffected items during works in the vicinity);
- ii. procedures for dealing with previously unidentified items or 'relics' of heritage significance, including cessation of works in the vicinity, assessment of the significance of the item(s) and determination of appropriate mitigation measures including when works can re-commence by a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist in consultation with the department and the Heritage Council of NSW and assessment of the consistency of any new non-Aboriginal heritage impacts against the approved impacts of the project and notification of the Heritage Council of NSW in accordance with s146 of the NSW Heritage Act, 1977, and the department; and
- iii. heritage induction processes (identification, protection) for construction personnel (including procedures for keeping records of inductions).

If you have any questions regarding the above advice, please contact me on 9873 8546 or via email: siobhan.lavelle@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



18 March 2021

Dr Siobhan Lavelle OAM
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Heritage NSW, Department of Premier and Cabinet
As Delegate of the Heritage Council of NSW