



Our ref: DOC21/179864

May Patterson
Energy Resource Assessment
Department of Planning, Industry & Environment
12 Darcy Street
PARRAMATTA NSW 2150

By email: may.patterson@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Ms Patterson

Notice of Exhibition of application for Oxley Solar Farm (SSD 10346)

Thank you for your referral dated 10 March 2021 inviting comments from the Heritage Council of NSW on the above State Significant Development (SSD) proposal. Please note that this amended letter has been sent to correct an error under the project description in our previous correspondence on this matter dated 6 April 2021.

The proposed development involves:

- 300 MW solar farm with up to 50 MW of battery storage and associated infrastructure.

The proposed SSD is immediately adjacent to the State Heritage Register (SHR) item Gondwana Rainforests of Australia SHR no. 01002, and Gara River Hydro-Electric Scheme SHR no. 00986. It is noted that the SEARs issued on 2 August 2019 required:

'Specific Issues

Heritage – including an assessment of the likely Aboriginal and historic heritage (cultural and archaeological) impacts of the development, including consultation with the local Aboriginal community in accordance with the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents'

The following reports were considered in our assessment: *Environmental Impact Statement, Oxley Solar Farm*, prepared by NGH Consulting, dated March 2021.

As delegate of the Heritage Council of NSW, the following comments are provided:

Historic Heritage:

The assessment of historic heritage items and the potential impact on these from the Oxley Solar Farm project as outlined in the above report does not meet the requirements of the SEARs and does not follow the guidelines in the NSW Heritage Manual 2001.

Heritage NSW is not satisfied with the assessment of potential impacts on heritage items outlined in 8.5.3. *Potential Impacts of the Environmental Impact Statement, Oxley Solar Farm* as it does not mention the State Register Items Gondwana Rainforests of Australia SHR no. 01002 and the Gara River Hydro-Electric Scheme SHR no. 00986 in the assessment, despite these items being immediately adjacent to the project.

Historical Archaeology:

It is noted that the EIS does not contain an Historical archaeological assessment despite the requirement for it to be addressed in the SEARs. Accordingly, the above NGH report does not meet the requirements of the SEARs.

It is recommended the archaeological assessment is completed as soon as possible to ensure this potential archaeological resource is appropriately managed.

- The archaeological assessment should be in accordance with HNSW guidelines and be completed by a suitably qualified historical archaeologist. This assessment should identify whether relics of local or state significance may be harmed by this activity and whether appropriate mitigation measures or alteration of the design should occur based on the significance of the relics which may be present.

If you have any questions about this correspondence, please contact please contact Tim Olliver, Senior Heritage Assessment Officer, at Heritage NSW, on (02) 4927 3203 or Timothy.Olliver@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Katrina Stankowski
Senior Team Leader, Regional Heritage Assessments North
Heritage NSW, Department of Premier and Cabinet
As Delegate of the Heritage Council of NSW
7 April 2021