

Daniel Gorgioski
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
By email: daniel.gorgioski@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Daniel Gorgioski

Notice of Exhibition of application for the M1 Pacific Motorway extension to Raymond Terrace (SSI-7319)

Thank you for your referral dated 30 July 2021 inviting comments from the Heritage Council of NSW on the above State Significant Infrastructure (SSI) proposal.

The proposed development involves the construction of a 15km four lane motorway. The works would include: four new interchanges (Black Hill; Tarro; Tomago; Raymond Terrace); a 2.6km viaduct over the Hunter River floodplain with new bridge crossings over the Hunter River, the Main North Rail Line and the New England Highway; bridge structures over local waterways at Tarro and Raymond Terrace, and an overpass for Masonite Road, Heatherbrae; connections and modifications to the adjoining local road network; traffic management facilities and features; roadside furniture (safety barriers, signage, fencing, crossings street lighting etc); adjustment of waterways, including Purgatory Creek at Tarro and a Viney Creek tributary; environmental management including surface water quality control measures; management of existing utilities; walking and cycling access; permanent and temporary property adjustments and property access refinements; and construction of temporary ancillary facilities and features.

The following Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) report was considered in our assessment:

- *M1 Pacific Motorway extension to Raymond Terrace: Environmental Impact Statement* (Transport for NSW, 2021).

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

- The EIS sufficiently addresses the SEARS concerning historical archaeology.
- The study area designated for heritage assessment encompasses the development footprint and a 1km buffer zone. It is noted that the proposal has aimed to avoid and minimise impacts to heritage items within the study area. This approach is supported by Heritage NSW.
- The assessment has concluded that there are nine heritage items of significance within the study area. Of the items:
 - seven are listed in the Newcastle Local Environmental Plan (NLEP) 2012 as of local significance: Tarro Historic Site (Original township of what was formerly known as Upper Hexham) (#A18); Newcastle Crematorium (#I34); Hannell Family Vault (#I179); Hexham Shipbuilding Yards (#I180); Tarro Substation (#I546); Our Lady of Lourdes Church (#I547); Residence, 29 Eastern Avenue, Tarro (#I548)
 - one item is listed as of local significance in the NLEP 2012, a S170 register and the closed Register of National Estate (RNE): Pumping Station (NLEP #I550, RNE #102132, Hunter Water Section 170 register)
 - one non-listed item, the Glenrowan Homestead farm complex, was identified as of local significance during field survey.

- The proposed development does not affect any State Heritage Register (SHR) items.
- Direct and indirect impacts on the nine heritage items as a result of the proposed development have been assessed as follows:
 - Major impact: Glenrowan Homestead
 - Minor impact: Hexham Shipbuilding Yards
 - Negligible impact: Tarro Historic Site; Newcastle Crematorium; Hannell Family Vault; Tarro Substation; Our Lady of Lourdes Church; Residence, 29 Eastern Avenue, Tarro; Pumping Station.
- To address the major impact to Glenrowan Homestead, suggested management measures include archaeological salvage excavation, archival recording, dilapidation surveys and vibration monitoring. Heritage NSW concurs with the suggested mitigation approaches.
- To address negligible to minor impacts, suggested management measures include dilapidation surveys, barrier fencing and an unexpected finds procedure. It is noted that another possible approach, listed with unexpected finds in the event of the identification of any potential archaeological heritage items, is "further sub-surface investigations" (EIS Appendix Q, page ii). Heritage NSW recommends that any such investigations are supervised by a suitably qualified archaeologist. The EIS states that the management measures would be discussed within a heritage management plan, included as part of the project Construction Environmental Management Plan. Overall, these measures are supported by Heritage NSW.
- If the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) approves the SSI, condition(s) for the management of historical archaeology may be included which require the following: the preparation of a site-specific Archaeological Research Design and Excavation Methodology (ARDEM), by a suitably qualified historical archaeologist, for archaeological investigation(s) to be undertaken; archaeological investigation(s) to be undertaken by a suitably qualified Excavation Director(s); and the preparation of a final report to publication standard for the archaeological investigation(s) within twelve (12) months of the completion of the archaeological activity(s), with an electronic copy to be submitted to Heritage NSW.
- If DPIE approves the SSI, an Unexpected Finds condition could also be included to manage historical archaeology, as 'relics' have statutory protection under section 146 of the *Heritage Act 1977* and their discovery requires the Heritage Council of NSW to be notified.

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

If you have any questions regarding the above advice, please contact Dr Hana Lewis, Senior Historical Archaeology Officer at Heritage NSW on (02) 9585 6323 or hana.lewis@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

S Lavelle

16 August 2021

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