

25 October 2013

Andrew Wilson
Epuron

Dear Andrew

Re Yass Valley Wind Farm - Preferred Project and Submissions Report

Please find my response to the issues raised by the NSW DoPI below.

Heritage Item 24

Cumulative Impact on cultural heritage values

The changes made to the wind farm layout do not result in an ever increasing cumulative impact on Aboriginal heritage. The transmission line route which was subject to field survey and assessment in the addendum report is not a new component of the proposal. The original 2008 report gave full consideration to the inclusion of a transmission line in the proposal. At the time of the 2008 assessment, the proposed transmission line was considerably longer than the one assessed in the addendum report, accordingly, the impacts to heritage relative to the construction of the transmission line are lessened.

The addition of turbines to the proposal in the northwest area does result in a net increase in turbine related impacts. However, as indicated previously and acknowledged by OEH in their initial response to the Preferred Project Report (letter to DoPI dated 4/3/13) ‘... on the basis of previous survey information it is predicted that the additional turbine ridge would be of low archaeological and heritage significance’.

Accordingly, the matter of cumulative impacts to Aboriginal heritage can be considered to be of very limited and insignificant concern.

Commitment to consider all available management measures including consideration to change the project layout so as to avoid any significant areas that may be subsequently recorded.

A SoC would be included in the Preferred Project Report Section 5.1.4 which addresses this issue. This would read as follows:

The proponent would ensure that the Cultural Heritage Management Plan would set out a commitment that consideration would be given to considering all available management measures, such as changing the project layout and avoiding any high significance heritage areas which may be located during any additional surveys or salvage excavations.

The Cultural Heritage Management Plan would set out management measures and procedures to be implemented for sites and archaeological deposits that are found during any additional surveys or salvage excavations.

Were recent archaeological reports considered during the preparation of the addendum?

There are no recent archaeological reports for the addendum report survey area.

Confirm that Aboriginal Site Recording Forms have been submitted for all new sites recorded since the original 2008 survey.

Site cards have been submitted to OEH and AHIMS numbers issued. The excerpt below from the email from Jackie Taylor OEH to Julie Dibden dated 24/2/13 confirms this.

I've entered your Yass Valley Wind Farm site cards into AHIMS today. I've also added the words "Yass Valley Wind Farm" at the end of each site name to give them a little more context - hope this is okay. Relevant numbers are:

- YVWFTL SU1/L1 (Yass Valley Wind Farm) – AHIMS # 51-4-0290 (please note: AHIMS maps this site on the Childowla 1:25,000 topo. I have changed the mapsheet accordingly, but let me know if this is incorrect. I can change the mapsheet back, but then there may be an issue with the grid references?)
- YVWFTL SU5/L1 (Yass Valley Wind Farm) – AHIMS # 51-4-0291
- YVWFTL SU6/L1 (Yass Valley Wind Farm) – AHIMS # 51-4-0292
- YVWFTL SU8/L1 (Yass Valley Wind Farm) – AHIMS # 51-4-0293
- YVWFTL SU10/L1 (Yass Valley Wind Farm) – AHIMS # 51-4-0294
- YVWFTL SU10/L2 (Yass Valley Wind Farm) – AHIMS # 51-4-0295
- YVWFTL SU13/L1 (Yass Valley Wind Farm) – AHIMS # 51-4-0296
- YVWFTL SU18/L1 (Yass Valley Wind Farm) – AHIMS # 51-4-0297
- YVWFTL SU20/L1 (Yass Valley Wind Farm) – AHIMS # 51-4-0298

Heritage Item 25

Confirmation is required that the Addendum report dated September 2012 was undertaken consistent with the Guidelines for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment and Community Consultation (Dec 2005) as required within the DGRs

It is noted in the addendum report that the consultation is consistent with the (NSW DEC 2004; DEC 2005) guidelines.

The addendum report is consistent with the DEC 2005 guidelines as required within the DGRs. The DEC 2004 guidelines for consultation are specified in the DEC 2005 guidelines as the document to be followed for the Aboriginal consultation component of the project. Please note that the NSW DoPI were consulted in regard to consultation matters in 2012 at which time we were advised to undertake new consultation procedures, which we did. Also, it is noted that the NSW OEH raised certain questions regarding consultation in their March 2013 review, which were addressed and documented in the addendum report.

Yours faithfully



Dr Julie Dibden,
Director
New South Wales Archaeology Pty Limited