

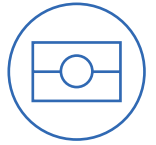
Liverpool Range Wind Farm

Fact Sheet

05

October
2021

Aboriginal Heritage Fact Sheet



Why was the assessment undertaken?

Aboriginal cultural heritage values can be impacted as a result of the siting of wind turbines, transmission lines and associated infrastructure.

An Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) has been prepared by Umwelt Pty Ltd to assess the proposed modifications to the wind farm and transmission line development footprint as well as the public road upgrades footprint.

The ACHA assesses the change in potential impacts on Aboriginal cultural heritage associated with the Approved Project and the Modified Project. The ACHA is currently in draft format, with all outcomes to be finalised following additional consultation with the Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs), which is currently underway.

A total of 22 RAPs expressed an interest in participating in the ACHA, all of whom will continue to be consulted through the preparation and finalisation of the ACHA.

What was the approach?

The ACHA is being prepared considering the relevant conditions of Development Consent SSD 6696 that was granted for the Approved Project in 2018 and in accordance with relevant legislation and guidelines including:

- *Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW* (OEH, 2011)
- *Code of Practice for the Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (OEH, 2010a)
- *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* (OEH, 2010b)
- National Parks and Wildlife Amendment (Aboriginal Objects and Places) Regulation 2010

The ACHA is also being prepared with reference to the intent of Dhawura Ngilan: A Vision for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage in Australia and the Best Practice Standards in Indigenous Cultural Heritage Management and Legislation (Heritage Chairs of Australia & New Zealand, 2020).

The ACHA for the Modified Project has been informed by extensive field surveys and reporting that was previously completed by NSW Archaeology Pty Ltd in 2014 and 2017 for the Approved Project, as well as more recent field surveys undertaken by Umwelt Pty Ltd in 2020 and 2021. The most recent surveys specifically assessed the changes to the approved wind farm layout proposed by the Modified Project.

The ACHA and associated field surveys are being undertaken in consultation with the RAPs. The field surveys during 2020 and 2021 related to the Modified Project were undertaken with a smaller group of RAPs after an extensive Expression of Interest process.



Photo above: Scar tree recorded at LRWF site.

Over page: Artefact (broken flake of grey silcrete) recorded at LRWF site.

The following seven RAPs participated in the field surveys related to the Modified Project in December 2020 & May 2021:

- Mudgee Local Aboriginal Land Council
- Aaron Talbot (AT Gomileroi Cultural Consultancy)
- Brian Draper
- Murong Gialinga ATSIC
- Gomeroi Native Title Claimants (as represented by Steven Talbott & Rose Nean)
- Michael Long (White Cockatoo)

No changes are proposed to the survey findings and recommendations identified by NSW Archaeology Pty Ltd in the original cultural heritage assessment prepared in 2014 and updated in 2017.



What did we find and how does it compare to the Approved Project?

New sites identified during the Modified Project surveys consisted of three artefact scatters, one isolated artefact and three scarred trees.

Seventeen areas of Low-moderate or Moderate archaeological potential (areas where it is considered likely that additional artefacts may be present below the ground surface) were identified (including some associated with surface artefacts). In addition, an area of cultural sensitivity was identified.

The results of the Modified Project surveys were broadly consistent with the nature and extent of archaeological values assessed as part of the Approved Project. Similarly, the potential impacts associated with the Modified Project are also generally consistent with the Approved Project, noting the ongoing focus on avoiding impacts wherever practicable.

The current approval conditions include provision for the avoidance of key site types and for targeted salvage works (excavation or surface collection) where impacts are unavoidable to artefact scatters/isolated artefacts and areas of Low to Moderate archaeological potential.

What are the proposed mitigation strategies?

The ACHA for the Modified Project will identify which of the additional Aboriginal heritage items should be avoided, impacts minimised or salvage/excavation works required. The ACHA will recommend that impacts are avoided to the area of cultural sensitivity that was recorded.

There may be requirements to undertake collection of surface artefacts, or inspections of areas of archaeological potential during certain ground disturbing construction works, or to undertake sub-surface test excavations prior to construction works occurring in certain areas. Representatives from the RAPs will be provided with the opportunity to participate in these works.

Prior to the commencement of construction, a Heritage Management Plan (HMP) will be prepared in accordance with the Development Consent and will outline suitable measures to manage the impacts of the development on both recorded and unexpected finds of Aboriginal cultural heritage. All reasonable efforts will be made to avoid impacts to cultural heritage.

Assessment against Development Consent

As part of the Modification Application it will be requested that the Development Consent is updated to include all relevant cultural heritage recorded during the most recent surveys in 2020 and 2021. No changes are proposed to the heritage values currently specified in the Development Consent.

All other heritage related conditions of the Development Consent can be complied with, in particular:

- Preparation of a Heritage Management Plan (HMP) prior to construction for approval by the Secretary of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) that sets out the detailed measures to avoid, minimise and manage impacts to recorded and unexpected finds of cultural heritage.

For more information, please visit the website below

or call us anytime to ask questions using: **1800 WE TILT (938 458)**

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