

# New England Solar – ABORIGINAL HERITAGE MANAGEMENT PLAN



Stage 1b – 400MWac – Operations  
Stage 2a – 320MWac - Construction  
Stage 3a – 200MW/2hr - Construction

24 November 2023

## Document Control

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# 1 Background

## 1.1 Approved Project

New England Solar Project (NES) was granted Development Consent from the Department of Planning, Infrastructure and Environment (DPIE) (now the Department of Planning and Environment [DPE]) on 9 March 2020 (SSD 9255). The Development Consent was most recently modified on 26 May 2023 (Modification 2), after receiving approval for Modification 1 on 9 Feb 2021.

### 1.1.1 General project description

ACEN Australia Pty Ltd (ACEN Australia) (formerly named UPC Renewables Australia Pty Ltd) has approval to develop the New England Solar and Battery Project; a significant grid-connected solar and battery energy storage system (BESS) project along with associated infrastructure (the Project), approximately 6 kilometres (km) east of the township of Uralla, which lies approximately 19 km south of Armidale, in the Uralla Shire local government area (LGA) (hereafter referred to as NES). NES is within the New England Renewable Energy Zone (REZ). NES was approved, subject to conditions, by the New South Wales (NSW) Independent Planning Commission (IPC) on 9 March 2020 (SSD 9255).

NES will be constructed in the following stages:

- Stage 1a: Construction of a 400 megawatt (MW) solar farm within the Northern Array, which commenced on 7 February 2022 and is expected to be completed by Q4 2023
- Stage 1b: Operations of 400MW solar
- Stage 2a: Construction of a 320 megawatt (MW) solar farm within the Central Array, which is expected to commence by Q1 2024
- Stage 2b: Operations of 320MW solar
- Stage 3a: Construction of 200MW/2hr BESS within the approved Substation/BESS area, which is expected to commence by Q1 2024
- Stage 3b: Operations of 200MW/2hr BESS
- Stage 4a: Construction of 1200MW/2hr BESS within the approved Substation/BESS area
- Stage 4b: Operations of 1200MW/2hr BESS
- Stage 5: Decommissioning

Key components of NES development are summarised in Table 1.1



Table 1.1 Key components of NES

Aspect	Description
NES project summary	<p>The NES project includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A generating capacity of approximately 720 (MWac), including about 400 MWac generated by the northern arrays (Stage 1) and 320 MWac from the central arrays (Stage 2).</li> <li>• Approximately 1.4 million single-axis tracking solar panels (up to 4.3 metres (m) high) and 150 power conversion units (PCU) (up to 2.7 m high).</li> <li>• A grid substation in the northern array area and connection to TransGrid's 330 kilovolt (kV) transmission line.</li> <li>• A lithium-ion battery storage facility (1,400 MW/2,800 MWh) located adjacent to the substation and within a number of small enclosures (up to 2.9 m high) or larger battery buildings (up to 5.5 m high) (Stage 3 &amp; 4).</li> <li>• Internal access tracks, staff amenities, maintenance buildings (up to 8 m high), offices, laydown areas, car parking and security fencing.</li> <li>• Subdivision of land within the site for the TransGrid switchyard.</li> </ul>
Project area	<p>Site: 3,655 hectares (ha).</p> <p>Total NES footprint: 2,159 ha</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stage 1b footprint: 1,159 ha</li> <li>• Stage 2a footprint: 985 ha</li> <li>• Stage 3a footprint: 15 ha</li> </ul>
Access route	<p>All vehicles will access the site via the New England Highway, Barleyfields Road (North) and Big Ridge Road).</p>
Site entry and road upgrades	<p>Two new site entry points are constructed on Big Ridge Road with a rural property access type.</p> <p>Upgrades to the intersection of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The New England Highway and Barleyfields Road (North), including a Channelised Right Turn (CHR) treatment.</li> <li>• Barleyfields Road (North) and Big Ridge Road, including a Basic Left Turn (BAL) treatment.</li> </ul> <p>Upgrades have been made to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Barleyfields Road (North) between the New England Highway and Big Ridge Road, including sealing to a width of 7.2 m and 1 m gravel shoulders.</li> </ul>

Aspect	Description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Big Ridge Road including sealing sections to a width of 7.2 m and 1 m gravel shoulders, and upgrading a section with a gravel surface to a width of 8.7 m.</li> </ul>
Rail transport	<p>Construction materials may be transported to the site via a combination of road and rail (average of 2 trains per week).</p> <p>A train unloading area and materials storage area may be constructed adjacent to the Main Northern Railway. Materials will be stored in shipping containers (up to 2.9 m high) until required on-site.</p>
Construction	<p>Construction materials may be transported to the site via a combination of road and rail (average of 2 trains per week).</p> <p>Construction hours limited to Monday to Friday 7 am to 6 pm, and Saturday 8 am to 1 pm.</p>
Operation	The expected operational life of NES is approximately 30 years. However, this may involve infrastructure upgrades that could extend the operational life.
Decommissioning and rehabilitation	The NES project also includes decommissioning at the end of the NES project life, which will involve removing all infrastructure.
Hours of operation	Daily operations and maintenance will be undertaken Monday to Friday 7 am to 6 pm, and Saturday 8 am to 1 pm. NES will be operational 24/7.
Subdivision	Subdivision of the lots on which the approved TransGrid Switchyard is located has been completed.
Employment	Approximately 700 construction jobs and up to 15 full-time operational jobs.
Capital investment value	\$1.268 billion.

## 1.2 Working Hours

### 1.2.1 Construction

Unless approval has been obtained from the Secretary, construction, upgrading and decommissioning activities on site can only be undertaken between the following hours:

- 7 am to 6 pm Monday to Friday;
- 8 am to 1 pm Saturdays; and

- at no time on Sundays and NSW public holidays.

### 1.2.2 Operations

Once commissioned, NES will operate 24 hours a day. The facility will be staffed during daylight hours, generally from:

- 7 am to 6 pm Monday to Friday (staff on-call during weekends and public holidays).

## 1.3 Purpose and scope of this plan

### 1.3.1 Overview

As part of the EIS, EMM Consulting Pty Limited (EMM) prepared an Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment report (ACHA) for the project, inclusive of an addendum report issued after the public exhibition phase in early 2019 (EMM 2018; 2019a; 2019b). The ACHA recommended that an Aboriginal heritage management plan (AHMP) be developed to manage post-approval conservation and mitigation of Aboriginal heritage within and adjacent to the development footprint. This AHMP has been prepared by EMM on behalf of ACEN Australia and in accordance with relevant Conditions of Approval (CoA) (

Table 1.2).

The primary purpose of this plan is to define management of Aboriginal heritage values within the development footprint. The term 'management' includes both Aboriginal heritage protection as well as mitigation of impacts on Aboriginal heritage. This AHMP includes:

- a list of all Aboriginal sites identified in the project boundary;
- management procedures for Aboriginal cultural heritage values within and adjacent to the project boundary;
- provisions for updates of Aboriginal site status and the status of management measures towards their completion;
- measures to ensure ongoing consultation with the project's registered Aboriginal parties (RAPs) Heritage NSW regional archaeologist;
- protocols for RAP access arrangements for a selection of significant sites for educational purposes;
- protocols for educating staff and contractors of their obligations relating to Aboriginal cultural heritage values through a site induction process;
- protocols for newly identified sites;
- protocols for suspected human skeletal materials;
- protocols for the ongoing care of salvaged Aboriginal objects within a keeping place;
- reporting requirements and site database update requirements;



- provisions for continuous improvement to the plan through auditing and plan modification; and
- provisions for review and updates of the AHMP.

### 1.3.2 Area to which this plan applies

This AHMP applies to the project boundary as shown on Figure 1.2 and represents an envelope covering the development footprint of the two solar arrays and associated infrastructure. The AHMP also provides management measures for Aboriginal sites that occur on the border of the project boundary or extend beyond the project boundary. This AHMP also accounts for Aboriginal sites that were identified as part of archaeological investigations for Mod 2 but have been excluded from the development footprint/ project boundary – in these instances ACEN Australia has the obligation to advise relevant landholders about their responsibilities not to harm registered Aboriginal sites on their property.

The AHMP includes provisions for management measures that will take place outside the project boundary, including the establishment and maintenance of an Aboriginal keeping place and other post site salvage measures including the cataloguing, analysis, treatment and storage of Aboriginal objects.

### 1.3.3 Relevant conditions of consent

Conditions 17–19 of SSD-9255 address Aboriginal heritage requirements. The conditions listed in Table 1.2 refer to the relevant sections of this plan which address them.

Table 1.2 Conditions of SSD-9255 relevant to this AHMP

Condition	Where addressed in this document
<b>HERITAGE</b>  17. Prior to the commencing the development, the Applicant must undertake consultation with Aboriginal stakeholders, in accordance with the <i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010</i> (DECCW 2010a), or its latest version.	Section 2.3
<b>Protection of Heritage items</b>  18. The Applicant must ensure the development does not cause any direct or indirect impacts on the Aboriginal heritage items identified in Table 1 of Appendix 5 or the historic heritage items identified in Table 1 of Appendix 6, or any Aboriginal or historic heritage items located outside the approved development footprint.  Prior to carrying out any development that could directly or indirectly impact the heritage items identified in Table 2 of Appendix 5, the Applicant must salvage and relocate the item/s that would be impacted to a suitable alternative location, in accordance with the <i>Code of</i>	Section 4.2 (protective measures and establishment of keeping place)  Section 4.3 (salvage measures)  Note that this plan does not address historic heritage items – this is addressed separately in a historic heritage management plan (HHMP)

Condition	Where addressed in this document
<p><i>Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW</i> (DECCW 2010b), or its latest version.</p> <p><i>Note: The location of the Aboriginal heritage and historic heritage items referred to in this condition are shown in the figures in Appendix 5 and Appendix 6, respectively.</i></p>	
<p><b>Heritage Management Plan</b></p> <p>19. Prior to commencing the development, the Applicant must prepare a Heritage Management Plan for the development to the satisfaction of the Secretary. This plan must:</p>	Whole document
<p>a) be prepared by suitably qualified and experienced persons whose appointment has been endorsed by the Secretary;</p>	Section 1.4 and Appendix C1 for endorsement letter
<p>b) be prepared in consultation with BCD, Aboriginal Stakeholders and Council;</p>	<p>Section 1.3.4 (Heritage NSW (formerly BCD) and Council)</p> <p>Section 2.3 (Aboriginal stakeholders (ie RAPS))</p>
<p>c) include a description of the measures that would be implemented for:</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>protecting the Aboriginal heritage items identified in Table 1 of Appendix 5 or items located outside the approved development footprint, including fencing off Aboriginal heritage items prior to commencing construction and providing ongoing access and management opportunities for Aboriginal people to NE09 and NE68;</li> </ul>	<p>Section 4.2 (protective measures)</p> <p>Section 2.4.2 (access to sites and objects)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>salvaging and relocating the Aboriginal heritage items located within the approved development footprint, as identified in Table 2 of Appendix 5;</li> </ul>	<p>Section 4.3 (salvage measures)</p> <p>Section 4.2.4 (keeping place for salvaged objects)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>protecting the historic heritage items identified in Table 1 of Appendix 6 or items located outside the approved development footprint;</li> </ul>	Note that this plan does not address historic heritage items – this is addressed separately in a HHMP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>managing the impact of the development on the historic heritage items identified in Table 2 of Appendix 6, including</li> </ul>	Note that this plan does not address historic heritage items –

Condition	Where addressed in this document
photographic archival records prepared in accordance with Heritage Council of NSW Guidelines for archival recordings;	this is addressed separately in a HHMP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a contingency plan and reporting procedure if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>previously unidentified heritage items are found; or</li> <li>Aboriginal skeletal material is discovered;</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Section 5.1 to Section 5.3.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ensuring workers on site receive suitable heritage inductions prior to carrying out any development on site, and that records are kept of these inductions; and</li> </ul>	Chapter 66
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ongoing consultation with Aboriginal stakeholders during the implementation of the plan;</li> </ul>	Section 2.4 (ongoing consultation) Section 7.2.3 (Aboriginal consultation for AHMP review process)
d) include a program to monitor and report on the effectiveness of these measures and any heritage impacts of the project.	Section 6.4
Following the Secretary's approval, the Applicant must implement the Heritage Management Plan	Appendix A and this Plan

### 1.3.4 Regulatory consultation

In accordance with CoA 19(b), EMM on behalf of ACEN Australia consulted with Heritage NSW regional archaeologist Roger Mehr and Uralla Shire Council (Council) on the AHMP. Consultation with the Aboriginal community is addressed in Section 2.

EMM initially contacted Heritage NSW on 27 March 2020 during the preparation of the AHMP via telephone. Key content items were discussed including the desired approach of Heritage NSW's review of the AHMP. Heritage NSW advised of their preference to review the AHMP after the RAP review period and its submission to DPE.

Heritage NSW provided their comments via letter on 28 October 2020 which was included in a package of documents that also included DPE's comments on the AHMP. Responses to these regulatory comments are provided in Appendix C2 which refers to sections of the AHMP that were updated to address the comments. ACEN Australia issued Council a draft of the AHMP on 19 August 2020 after the draft had been updated from the RAP review period. Council responded on 26 August 2020 stating that Council did not wish to provide comment on the AHMP (refer Appendix C3).



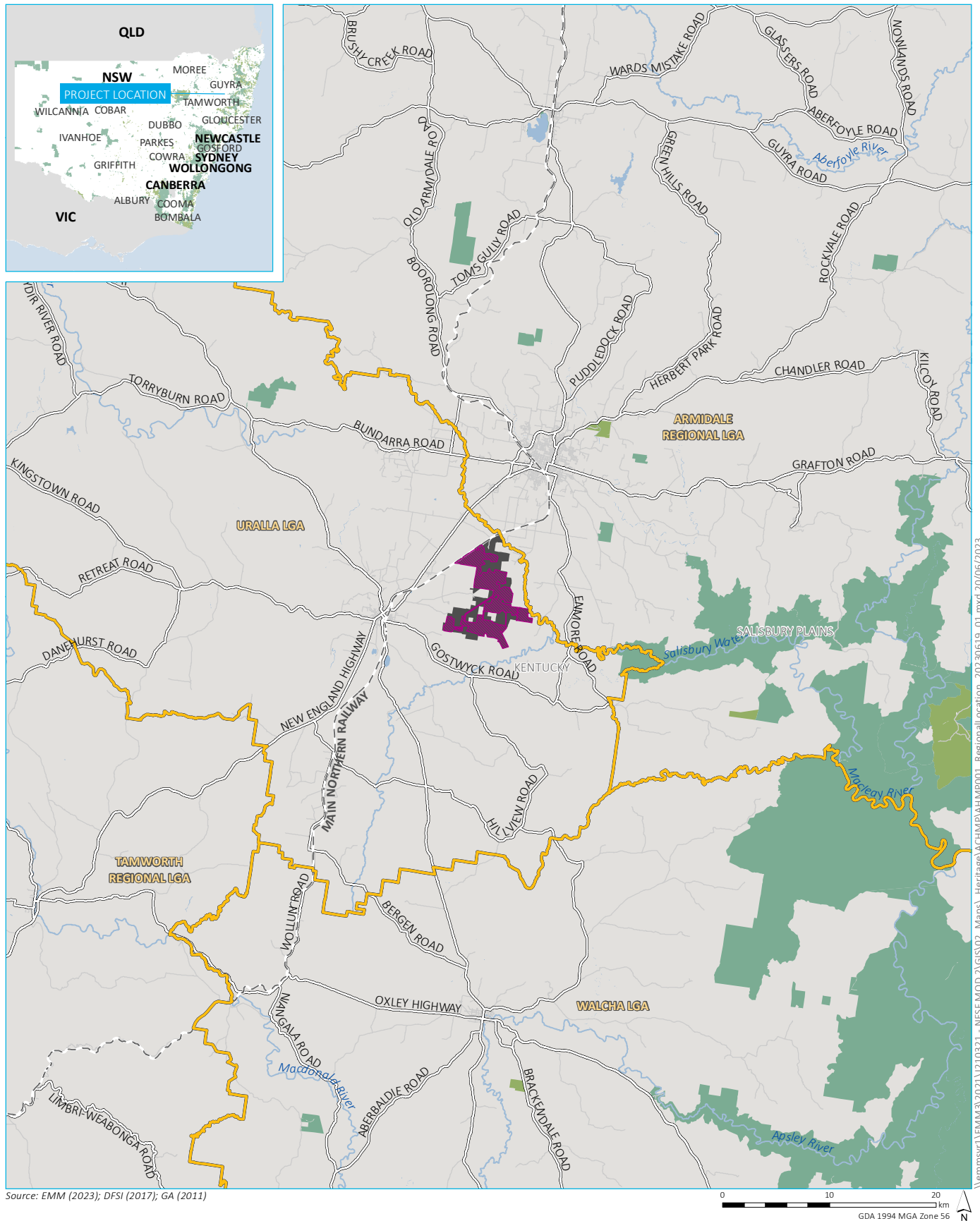
## 1.4 Authorship

This plan was prepared by Archaeologist Ryan Desic (BA (hons) Historical and Prehistoric Archaeology) and reviewed and approved by EMM Archaeologist Associate Director Dr Alan Williams FSA MAACA. In accordance with Schedule 3, CoA 19 (a), Ryan Desic was endorsed to prepare the AHMP by the former NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) (now the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) (refer to Appendix C)

Updates to this plan (V9 8 September) were prepared by Archaeologist Ryan Desic (BA (hons) Historical and Prehistoric Archaeology) and reviewed by EMM Associate Environmental Scientist David Richards.

## 1.5 Implementation of this plan

The individuals responsible for the implementation of this plan are provided in Table 6.1. The plan will be stored in ACEN's document control system; the latest version will be available on <https://newenglandsolar.com.au>. As the document owner, ACEN is the contact point for this plan and its requirements and will provide guidance and training to any person that requires additional training regarding this plan.



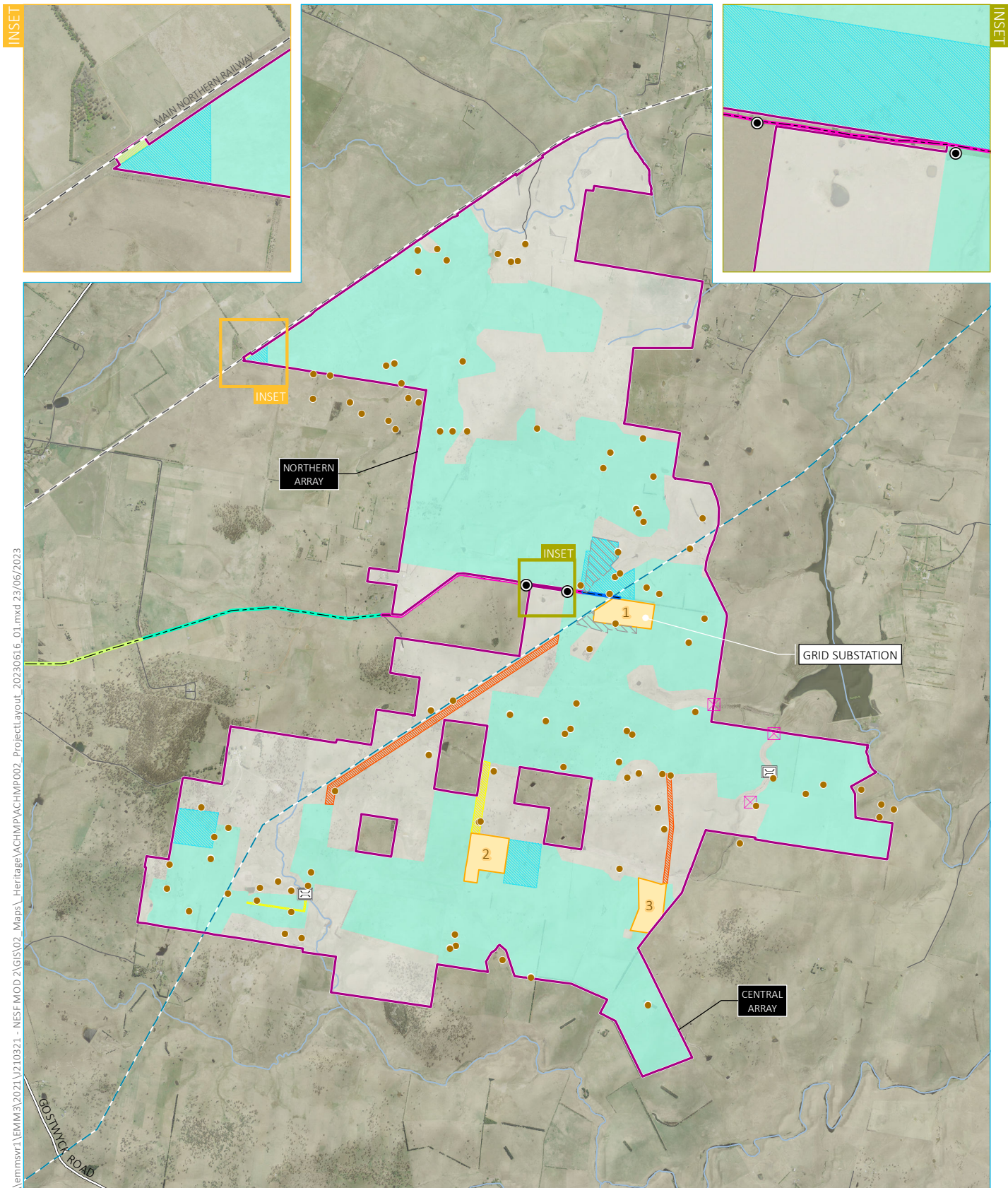
## KEY

- Development footprint
- Project boundary
- Existing environment
- Rail line
- Minor road
- Major road
- Named watercourse
- Local government area
- Waterbody
- NPWS reserve
- State forest

## Regional context

New England Solar and Battery Project  
Aboriginal heritage management plan  
Figure 1.1





Source: EMM (2023); DFSI (2017); UPC (2020)

\*The extent of Lot 1 of DP 227322 within the development footprint is 205.4 hectares, which represents approximately 8.4% of the total lot. Subsequently, the full extent of Lot 1 of DP 227322 has been excluded from the project boundary.  
 \*\* The grid substation (location 1) and only one of the potential substation location numbers 2 or 3 to be constructed

#### KEY

- 330 kV transmission line
- Rail line
- Major road
- Minor road
- Named watercourse
- Project boundary\*
- Identified Aboriginal site
- Additional substation/BESS footprint
- Development footprint
- Solar array
- Potential electrical cabling
- Potential site access and electrical cabling

- Potential laydown area/site compound
- Potential substation/BESS footprint (location number) \*\*
- Hardstand in rail corridor
- Potential creek crossing
- Proposed primary site access point
- Indicative location of security fencing across third order watercourse
- Primary vehicle access route
- Big Ridge Road - segment 2
- Big Ridge Road - segment 3
- Big Ridge Road - segment 4
- Big Ridge Road - segment 5

#### Project layout

New England Solar and Battery Project  
 Aboriginal heritage management plan  
 Figure 1.2

## 2 Aboriginal consultation protocols

### 2.1 Registered Aboriginal Parties

There are nine Aboriginal groups registered for the project (Table 2.1). The RAPs were identified, registered and consulted as part of the ACHA (EMM 2018, 2019a, 2019b). Previous consultation included discussion of the management measures which were outlined in the ACHA and detailed in this AHMP.

Table 2.1 List of registered Aboriginal parties

Organisation	Contact		Date of registration
Armidale Local Aboriginal Land Council	Tom	Briggs	24-Apr-18
Nunawanna Aboriginal Corporation	Colin	Ahoy	16-Apr-18
Armidale and New England Gumbaynggirr Descendants	Hazel	Green	26-Apr-18
Les Townsend	Les	Townsend	03-May-18
Steven Ahoy Consultants (now Iwatta Aboriginal Corporation)	Steven	Ahoy	06-May-18
Culturally Aware Aboriginal Heritage Consultancy	Cheryl	Kitchener	07-May-18
Nyakka Aboriginal Culture Heritage Corporation Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Consultants	Rhonda	Kitchener	07-May-18
Aaron Broad	Aaron	Broad	02-May-18
Nganyawana Cultural Consultants	Les	Ahoy	14-May-18

### 2.2 Consultation process for the EIS

The following summary of the Aboriginal consultation process followed for the EIS is based on the more extensive account given in the ACHA (EMM 2018, 2019a, 2019b).

The *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents* (DECCW 2010a) were used for the ACHA. RAPs were invited to provide cultural information about the study area, were provided with draft assessment and fieldwork methods for review and kept consulted about project updates and management via consultation meetings, letters and emails and provided with assessment documentation for review and comment. A summary of the main consultation components during the EIS phase is provided in Table 2.2.

Table 2.2 Summary of consultation for the EIS

Component	Key features
April – November 2018 (EMM 2018) Main ACHA consultation component.	This phase included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the identification, notification and registration of RAPs;</li> <li>• presentation of project information and assessment methodologies (including on-site meeting on 21 May 2018);</li> <li>• gathering cultural information;</li> <li>• archaeological survey with RAP involvement;</li> <li>• provision of draft ACHA for RAP review, including a consultation meeting at the Armidale Bowling Club on 19 October 2019; and</li> <li>• provision of final ACHA to RAPs as part of EIS lodgement.</li> </ul>
February – June 2019 (EMM 2019a) Additional assessment for ACHA Addendum to resolve outstanding commitments.	EMM undertook additional assessment and consultation during the RTS phase of the project subsequent to EIS lodgement. The additional assessment addressed outstanding commitments in the ACHA, comprising survey for additional scar trees, expert scar tree assessment and an archaeological test excavation. RAPs were notified of the additional assessment, participated in field investigations and were invited to comment on the ACHA Addendum report.
August – September 2019 (EMM 2019b) Additional assessment for project-related road upgrades and intersection improvements between the New England Highway and the development footprint.	RAPs were notified about the additional assessment in August 2019 and RAP representatives were invited to participate in archaeological survey on 8 August 2019. The assessment was issued to RAPs on 9 September 2019 for review and comment.

## 2.3 Consultation in developing this plan

### 2.3.1 Initial plan development

In accordance with CoA 17 and 19(b), EMM consulted RAPs in developing this plan. Documentation of the consultation process is included in APPENDIX B.

Aboriginal consultation for this AHMP was approached in a manner consistent with the requirements set out in the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010a). Consultation was undertaken with existing RAPs who have been involved in the consultation process since the preparation of the ACHA (refer Section 2.2).

RAPs were notified via letter about the intention for EMM to prepare the AHMP on 11 February 2020. The notification letter outlined the consultation process for the AHMP and identified key matters to be discussed for the AHMP.



A draft of this AHMP was provided to all of the RAPs on 15 May 2020 allowing for a 28 day review period. The draft report included highlighted text indicating sections where RAP input was sought in reference to particular management decisions, such as the keeping place location. RAPs were also issued with a cover letter explaining the review process and highlighting where key input was sought.

A consultation meeting between RAPs, EMM and ACEN Australia during the AHMP review period was originally planned to discuss the contents of the AHMP, focusing on the details of specific management measures. However, due to COVID-19, the meeting was cancelled for the health and safety of all stakeholders. Notwithstanding, feedback on the AHMP was still sought in writing and/or via telephone.

Responses were received by Nganywana Clan Group (Les Ahoy), Nunawanna Aboriginal Corporation (Colin Ahoy Snr. And Colin Ahoy Jr.) and Iwatta Aboriginal Corporation (Steven Ahoy). A summary of RAP submissions and outcomes relating to the AHMP are presented in Table 2.3.

Table 2.3 Outcomes of consultation with RAPs (RAP submissions attached in Appendix B)

Stakeholder	Issue or recommendation (EMM paraphrase from submission)	Response and where issue is addressed in AHMP if applicable
Les Ahoy (Nganyawana Cultural Consultants)	<p>The submission raised concern that the AHMP focuses too greatly on the scientific and tangible (archaeological) aspects of Aboriginal heritage rather than the non-tangible socio-cultural and historic aspects.</p> <p>The submission reiterated the input provided in the NES ACHA that the project area is likely to be part of Aboriginal meeting place Ooralla (Section 7.2 of EMM 2019a).</p> <p>Overall the submission requested that the AHMP “take into consideration the non-tangible aspects which even though cannot be measured from a scientific perspective, should be inclusive from a traditional oral Aboriginal historical perspective of teaching and passing on culture through the process of storytelling, dance and such gathering as with Ooralla site. It has just as much historical importance to me as an Aboriginal Cultural Knowledge Holder as do the artefacts found at this location.”</p>	<p>EMM acknowledge that the AHMP is structured in a way that sets out the management of primarily archaeological material associated with the project. We would like to emphasise that the AHMP is structured in a practical way to set out management requirements rather than being a cultural heritage assessment, which was previously completed in 2019 (EMM 2019a). Section 7.2 of the project ACHA (EMM 2019a) includes reference to Ooralla and Les Ahoy’s original submission about Ooralla is included in Appendix A of the ACHA.</p> <p>Notwithstanding, EMM acknowledges that the submission highlights that the focus of Aboriginal heritage management in the draft was on archaeological management and did not set out avenues for oral history recording and other measures that facilitates the teaching of cultural values to the Aboriginal community about Ooralla.</p> <p>EMM contacted Les Ahoy on 3 July 2020 to discuss his desired outcomes to accommodate more emphasis on intangible cultural aspects of the project area. The primary outcomes of the discussion were the request for appropriate acknowledgement of country through signage</p>



Stakeholder	Issue or recommendation (EMM paraphrase from submission)	Response and where issue is addressed in AHMP if applicable
		<p>and interpretation at the grinding groove site NE09 and the possibility of signage to the main entrance of the project area.</p> <p>Additionally, Les Ahoy requested that oral history regarding Ooralla was appropriately recorded. These discussions have been formulated into management commitments set out in Section 4.4.</p>
Colin Ahoy Jr. (Nunawanna Aboriginal Corporation)	The submission requested that ACEN Australia employ an Aboriginal cultural heritage officer during project construction and during operation. The requested included that an Aboriginal person from the local community should be present on site at all times given the high significance of the location of the solar farm.	<p>Aboriginal community members will be involved in a number of tasks under the AHMP. This will involve Aboriginal community employment in carrying out Aboriginal heritage management measures (Section 2.4.3) and induction and training aspects of fostering cultural awareness (6.2.2).</p> <p>Outside of the Aboriginal community involvement detailed in this AHMP, ACEN Australia wish to keep Aboriginal employment opportunities for ACEN Australia staff separate to AHMP requirements. Notwithstanding, ACEN Australia acknowledges the importance of cultural heritage support from the Aboriginal community and this will be considered when forming the construction project management team.</p>
Colin Ahoy Snr. (Nunawanna Aboriginal Corporation)	<p>The submission firstly supported Les Ahoy's submission relating to providing some avenue for oral history recording of the project, but left the matter to Les Ahoy to expand on specifics of what this would entail.</p> <p>Furthermore, the submission stated for the preference to have all salvaged materials kept at the Armidale and Region Aboriginal Cultural Centre and Keeping Place.</p>	<p>A response to Les Ahoy's submission is provided in the response to Nganywana Clan Group in the table above.</p> <p>In relation to the keeping place, the AHMP has been updated to confirm that salvaged materials will be kept at the Armidale and Region Aboriginal Cultural Centre and Keeping Place (refer Section 4.2.4).</p>

Stakeholder	Issue or recommendation (EMM paraphrase from submission)	Response and where issue is addressed in AHMP if applicable
Steven Ahoy (Iwatta Aboriginal Corporation)	<p>The submission stated that the Armidale and Region Aboriginal Cultural Centre and Keeping Place was the only suitable place for storage and the alternatives presented (McCrossin's Mill Museum and Uralla Visitor Centre in Uralla) are not suitable.</p> <p>The submission also responded to the item requiring resolution about whether any salvaged objects not placed on display at the keeping place should be reburied on Country in a safe location. This request was originally proposed by Cheryl and Rhoda Kitchener during the ACHA review period (EMM 2019a).</p> <p>Iwatta requested that more significant salvaged artefacts should be placed on display with the remaining to be reburied on Country in line with Cheryl and Rhonda Kitchener's request.</p>	<p>These requests and input have been incorporated into Section 4.2.4 of this document. The request to have the salvaged material deposited at the Armidale and Region Aboriginal Cultural Centre and Keeping Place is in keeping with the other RAP submissions received to date.</p>
	<p>The submission requested that there should be a nominated spokesperson that represents the interests of the RAPs and would assist in coordinating future works and give clear progress updates to RAPs regularly.</p>	<p>ACEN Australia acknowledges this request and will continue to keep all RAPs informed as per the requirements of this AHMP.</p> <p>Notwithstanding, ACEN Australia welcomes the use of a central contact or spokesperson to speak on behalf of project RAPs. However, ACEN Australia request that this should be a RAP directed task: whereby if a central contact is to be nominated by RAPs, ACEN Australia would require confirmation from all willing RAP participants that they are comfortable with the nominated contact.</p>

## 2.3.2 AHMP revisions

### 2.3.2.1 AHMP revision 1

In March 2021, EMM/ ACEN Australia initiated consultation with RAPs regarding proposed changes to the approved AHMP in accordance with the consultation protocols set out in Section 2.4.1 of this plan. The revised AHMP was in relation to proposed changes to project heritage management measures and involved updates to the following sections: *Section 4.2.2 (ii) Barriers*, *Section 4.3.1 (ii) Additional requirements for unsuccessful site collection attempts*, and *Section 4.3.1 (iii) Additional collection for Aboriginal stone hatchets*. Details of RAP consultation for this revision is presented in Appendix B3.

Additionally, during this AHMP revision period, EMM/ ACEN Australia consulted RAPs regarding proposed methods for further preservation and display of salvaged Aboriginal scar tree NE49. These measures were conducted in accordance with the existing AHMP provisions in Section 4.3.2 of the AHMP. Details of this consultation are provided in Appendix B3.

### 2.3.3 AHMP revision 2

The second AHMP revision was in relation to required AHMP updates resulting from Mod 2 approval. It also provided ACEN Australia with the opportunity to update the Aboriginal site inventory and relevant sections to account for the salvage and management measures completed to date.

RAPs were provided with a draft of the updated AHMP on 13 September 2023 for review and feedback. Feedback was sought via email correspondence and during an Aboriginal focus group meeting held between ACEN and registered parties on 19 September 2023<sup>1</sup>.

The intent of the focus group meeting was to a) provide an overview of draft updates to the AHMP in response to Modification 2 approval granted by the NSW Government in May 2023 and b) seek feedback from registered parties on the AHMP updates. Feedback was received verbally during the meeting and subsequently via email during the 14 day AHMP review period.

During the focus group meeting, the project archaeologist provided an overview of key updates to the draft AHMP with visual aids of Aboriginal site management mapping. A summary of Modification 2 ACHA was provided along with an overview of the changes to AHMP that were needed to bring the AHMP up to date with the progress of management tasks that have been implemented since the last document revision.

The key topics discussed during this meeting, registered party comments and ACEN's responses are detailed in in Appendix B4. Appendix B4 provides further information about which sections have been updated as a result of the consultation process.

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<sup>1</sup> Meeting attendees were: RAPs – Steve Ahoy, Colin Ahoy Jr., Rhonda Kitchener, Bruce Cohen; ACEN – Tim Greenaway, Joey Chalk, Robyn Doyle; Umwelt: Ryan Desic.

## 2.4 Ongoing consultation

### 2.4.1 All RAPs to be kept informed

The RAPs will continue to be consulted on matters of Aboriginal heritage management for the project. Primary communication will be via letter which may be emailed or posted depending on RAP preferred means of communication. Issues raised in conversations, whether by telephone or in person, should be documented in a letter by the person raising the issue within a reasonable time of the conversation. Only suitably documented issues will be subject to further action by ACEN Australia with the RAPs.

Instances where consultation is required is set out throughout this report. In summary, consultation will be undertaken for (but may not be limited to) the following circumstances:

- when making changes to this plan, including the circumstances that trigger required changes to the plan (refer Section 7.2.3) (note this also requires notification to Heritage NSW as specified in Section 7.2.3);
- when additional Aboriginal heritage assessment, investigation, protection or mitigation is required for the project; and
- when new Aboriginal sites and/or potential ancestral remains are discovered and input on their management is required (refer Section 5). Note that Section 5 requires Heritage NSW to be notified where specified in relation to new sites and/or potential ancestral remains.

ACEN Australia will be responsible for consulting with the RAPs. Issues requiring the attention of RAPs will be communicated no later than one week of the issue arising. Feedback from RAPs is required no later than two weeks from the date correspondence is issued by ACEN Australia.

### 2.4.2 Access to Aboriginal sites and objects

In accordance with CoA19(c), special provisions are included in the AHMP for Aboriginal community access arrangements to Aboriginal grinding groove sites NE09 and NE68. The primary aims of Aboriginal community access of these sites will be to achieve intergenerational equity through maintaining a cultural connection to Country and using the sites as cultural education tools.

Local Aboriginal community site visitation access to NE09 and NE68 will be subject to the following provisions:

- visitation access will be provided during the operational phase of the project (after construction is fully completed), in line with all safety and security requirements;
- access must comply with the facility's operational work health and safety (WHS) requirements, including appropriate travel to the Aboriginal heritage sites and an ACEN Australia or Operations and Maintenance (O&M) contractor site escort, if applicable;
- all visitors must log their attendance on a register made available by ACEN Australia/the O&M contractor to all RAPs (held on site);

- RAPs must give at least two business days' notice to ACEN Australia or its delegate (O&M contractor or alternative) about their intent to access the site and which sites will be visited (NE09 and/or NE68);
- a RAP member may escort other members of the local Aboriginal community or other persons for research or educational reasons, on the condition that all proposed attendees give at least two business days' written notice;
- local Aboriginal community members seeking access to NE09 and/or NE68 without a RAP escort must receive prior written endorsement from one of the RAPs which identifies the name of the person, briefly describes their basis of interest and nominates the timeframe for access to the Aboriginal sites in order to provide confidence to ACEN Australia or their delegate and RAPs that the access request is authentic. One week's notice will need to be provided to ACEN Australia or its delegate.

At ACEN Australia/its contractor's discretion, local Aboriginal community access to Aboriginal sites other than NE09 and NE68 on land managed by ACEN Australia may be made available subject to reasonable WHS and security requirements being met; landowner permission (if applicable) being obtained; the sites being located within the facility's boundary; at least one weeks' prior notification; and availability of ACEN Australia or O&M contractor staff to provide supervision.

Access to stored Aboriginal objects will be provided subject to the procedures described for the keeping place detailed in Section 4.2.4 In summary, for security purposes the Aboriginal objects must not be removed from their storage location; however, should be available for those wanting to view the material, subject to keeping place space protocols. A keeping place visitor log book must be signed by persons accessing stored Aboriginal objects and the persons must have prior RAP endorsement – this log book will be kept and maintained by the keeping place manager (not ACEN Australia/O&M contractor).

### **2.4.3 Aboriginal involvement in Aboriginal heritage management measures**

ACEN Australia will give consideration to expressions of interest from suitably skilled, equipped and insured Aboriginal persons to provide services to protect and maintain Aboriginal sites in active protection areas (refer Section 4.2.2).

RAPs will be invited to provide a fieldwork representative to participate in the preliminary demarcation of active avoidance areas and salvage activities as described in 4 under contractual arrangement with ACEN Australia. Depending on the scope of specific management tasks, RAP fieldwork representatives may be required to work to a roster in an equal manner consistent with that employed during the ACHA. All fieldwork management tasks will include at least one project archaeologist and will work in accordance with this plan.

RAPs will also be invited to assist in relevant Aboriginal heritage related fieldwork related to additional assessments as outlined in Section 6.5, where required.

## 3 Aboriginal sites and objects

### 3.1 Overview

The Aboriginal cultural heritage values related to the project were identified during the preparation of the ACHA and modifications through archaeological investigation and Aboriginal community consultation with RAPs (EMM 2018, 2019a, 2019b, 2022). This section provides an overview of the Aboriginal sites and Aboriginal socio-cultural values relevant to the project as detailed in the ACHA and additional assessments to support project modifications.

### 3.2 Socio-cultural values

During ACHA preparation, the RAPs were consulted to determine whether any socio-cultural or historic heritage value relates specifically to the study area more broadly regardless of archaeological evidence. The general consensus was that, prior to the survey, RAPs did not know of the location of specific sites within the broader study area but were told by their Elders that such site types may exist within the landscape. RAPs acknowledged that this was partly due to the physical and cultural dislocation from the landscape faced by local Aboriginal people after colonial settlement.

Overall, the Aboriginal community has identified that heritage values in the study area are directly linked with the Aboriginal sites identified during the survey. No specific historical connection has been linked to the identified sites apart from a broader notion that the study area may have formed part of what was known as Oorala, a local Anaiwan word meaning “a camp”, “meeting place” or “a place where people come together” (EMM 2018, p.92).

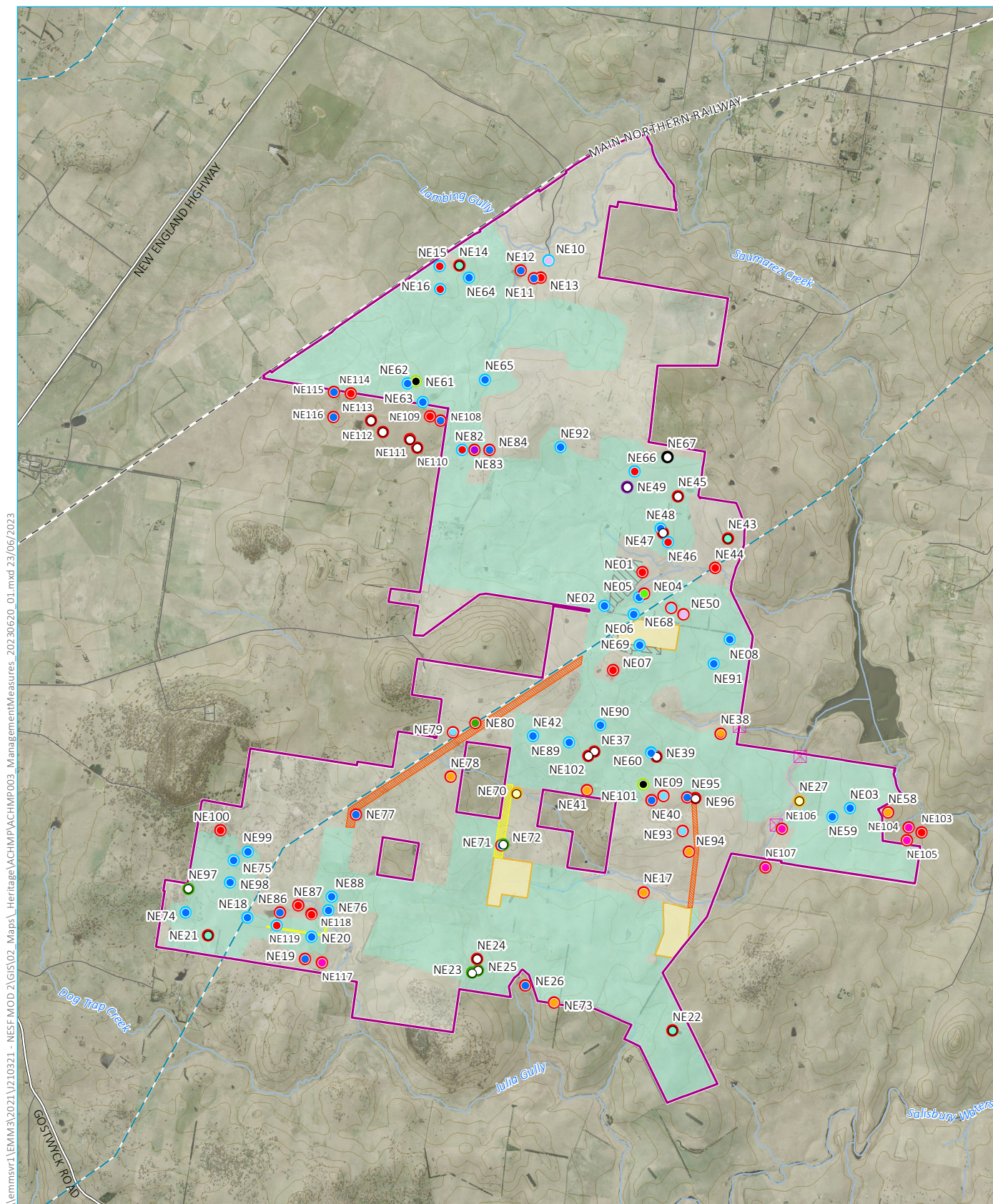
Aboriginal sites with archaeological evidence are all of value to the Aboriginal community through the tangible connection that they represent with pre-colonial Aboriginal land use. Although all Aboriginal sites have significance to the Aboriginal community, RAPs repeatedly emphasised the importance of grinding groove and open camp site NE09 primarily for its high aesthetic and educational values and also the prominent tangible link it provides the Aboriginal community with their ancestors.

### 3.3 Aboriginal sites

A total of 117 Aboriginal sites were identified during the course of archaeological investigations for the project, inclusive of the ACHA addendum investigations and assessments for Mod 1 and Mod 2 (EMM 2018, 2019a, 2019b, 2022). Aboriginal sites were identified and assessed through targeted archaeological survey, targeted test excavation and expert assessment of a selection of potential Aboriginal scar trees. Through project design revisions, resulting in the removal of the southern array area during the initial EIS and Mod 2 revisions that excluded surveyed areas from the project boundary there are 86 Aboriginal sites within the project boundary that require management under this plan. The Aboriginal sites and their required management is shown on Figure 3.1 and in further detail on Figure 3.1A to 3.1F. Details for the management of the 86 sites are presented in Chapter 4 and a summary of management measures are listed in Appendix A. Site details and their management status are kept digitally in the NES Aboriginal Heritage Database as detailed in Section 7.3.

The location and extent of Aboriginal sites are represented by GIS data shown on Figure 3.1 and 3.1 A to 3.1F. Sites are either represented as 'point' data, or point data encompassed by polygons representing 'site areas'. Site points and site areas represent the spatial extent of the visible Aboriginal objects. Potential archaeological deposit (PAD) areas ('PAD areas') are also shown as GIS polygons and represent the predicted extent of concentrated subsurface Aboriginal objects in a particular area. PAD areas have been supported through extrapolations made from archaeological test excavation and are assigned to landforms that are distinguishable from the surrounding landscape as being likely to retain higher artefact densities than the assumed 'background scatter' of archaeological material in the broader landscape.





Source: EMM (2023); DFSI (2017); GA (2011); UPC (2019)

\*The extent of Lot 1 of DP 227322 within the development footprint is 205.4 hectares, which represents approximately 8.4% of the total lot. Subsequently, the full extent of Lot 1 of DP 227322 has been excluded from the project boundary.

## KEY

- Project boundary
- 330 kV transmission line
- Project boundary
- Project boundary
- Rail line
- Major road
- Minor road
- Contour (10 m)
- Development footprint
- Solar array
- Potential ETL easement
- Potential site access/ETL easement
- Potential substation/BESS footprint

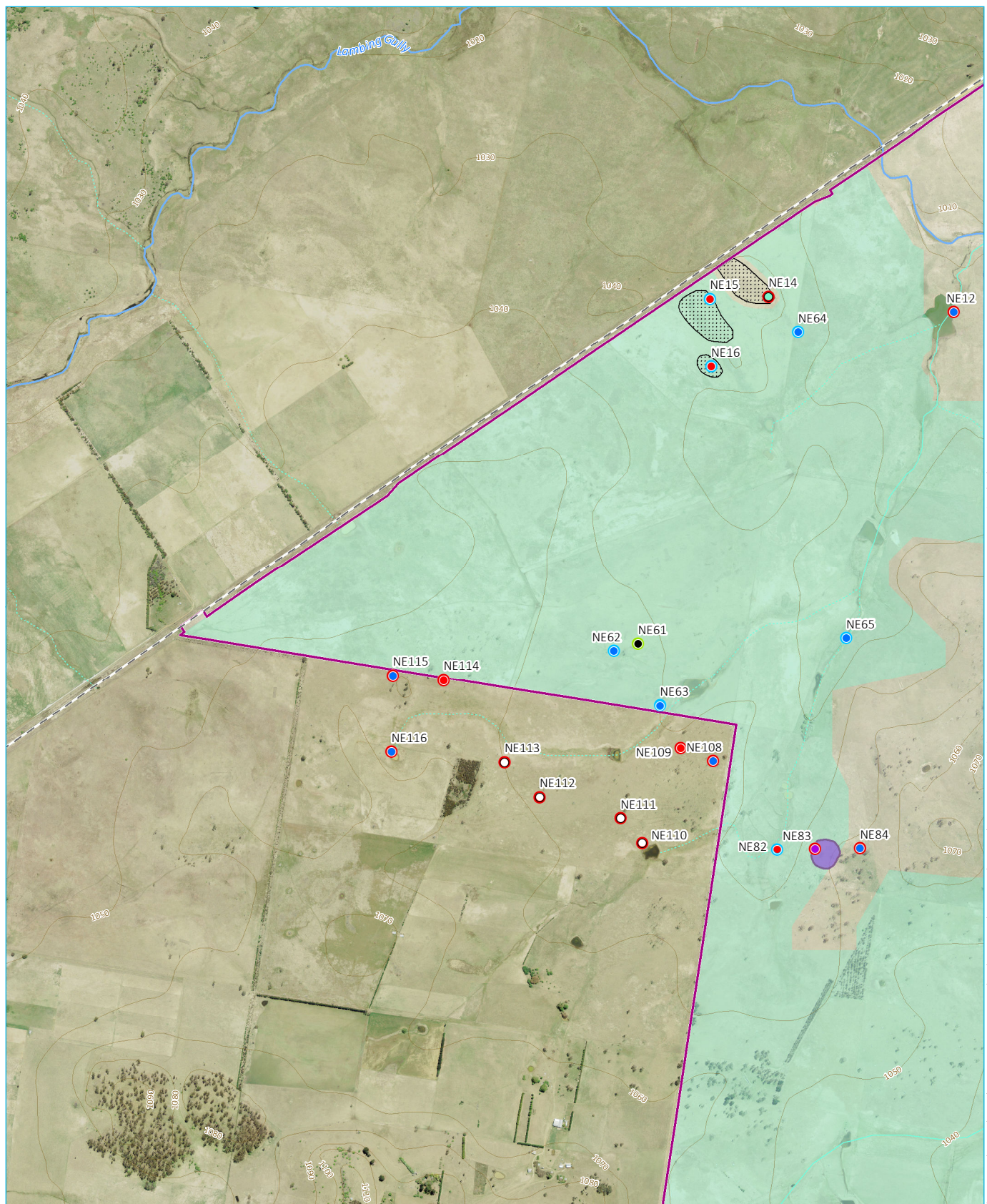
- Indicative location of security fencing across third order watercourses
- Additional substation/BESS footprint
- Management measure
- Avoidance
- Avoid significant area
- Surface collection
- Salvage: remove and relocate
- No management required
- No management required (fallen tree)
- Unmitigated impact (tree has collapsed)

- Site type
- Artefact scatter
- Artefact scatter, PAD
- Artefact scatter, confirmed deposit, PAD
- Grinding groove
- Grinding groove, PAD
- Grinding groove, artefact scatter, PAD
- Isolated find
- Isolated find, PAD
- Isolated find, confirmed deposit, PAD
- Quarry, artefact scatter, PAD
- Scarred tree
- Not an Aboriginal scar tree

Management measure for  
Aboriginal sites overview

New England Solar Farm  
Aboriginal heritage management plan  
Figure 3.1





Source: EMM (2023); DFSI (2017); UPC (2019)

0 0.5 1 km  
GDA 1994 MGA Zone 56

## KEY

Project boundary

Rail line

Major road

Contour (10 m)

Development footprint

Solar array

Site type

Artefact scatter

Isolated find

Isolated find, confirmed deposit, PAD

Quarry, artefact scatter, PAD

Not an Aboriginal scar tree

Management measure

Avoidance

Surface collection

No management required

PAD/minimum avoidance area

Site area

Strahler stream order

1st order

2nd order

3rd order

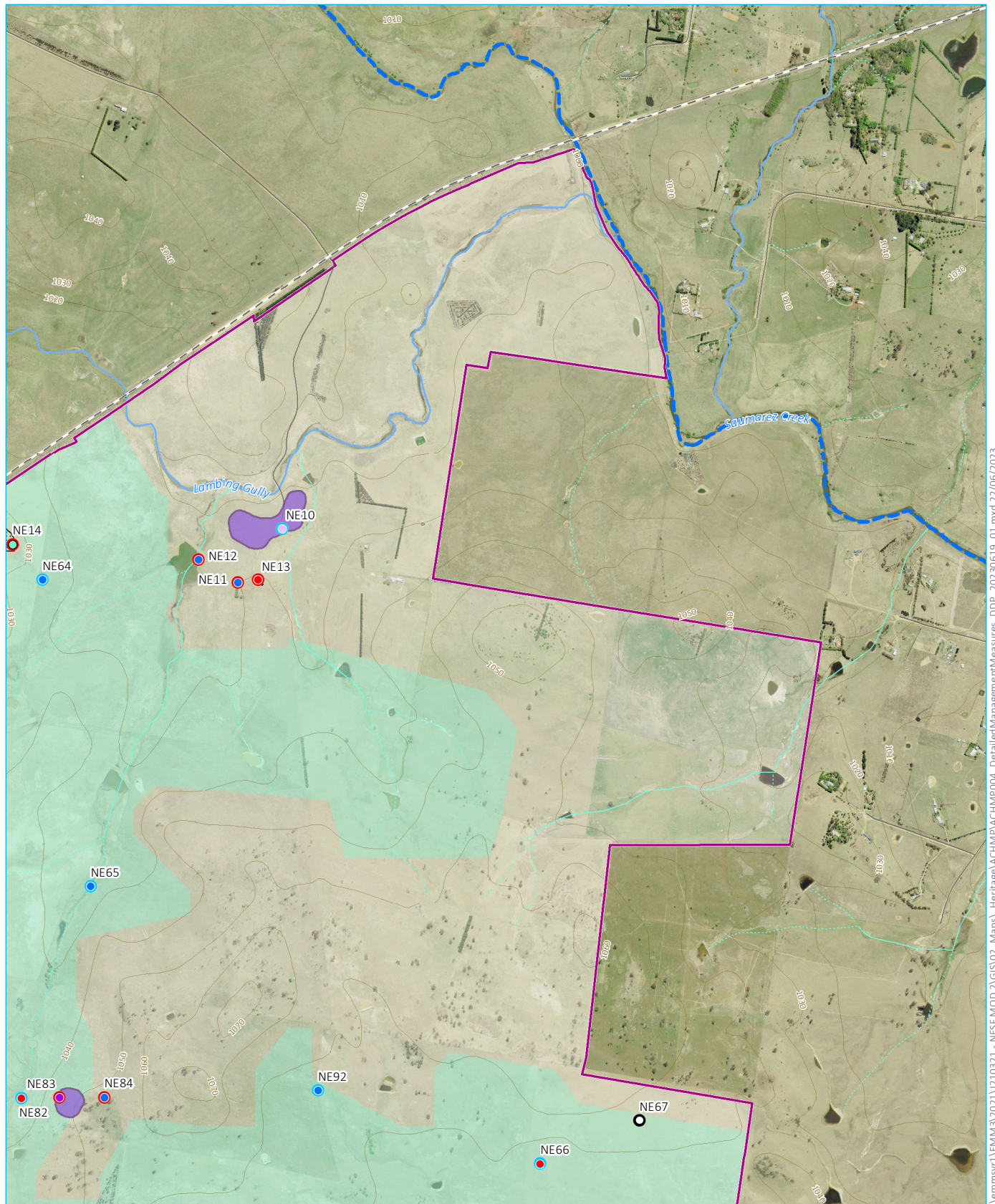
Revised management and mitigation measures

New England Solar and Battery Project  
Aboriginal heritage management plan

Figure 3.1A

**EMM**  
creating opportunities





Source: EMM (2023); DFSI (2017); UPC (2019)

## KEY

Project boundary

Rail line

Minor road

Contour (10 m)

Development footprint

Solar array

Site type

Artefact scatter

Isolated find

Isolated find, PAD

Isolated find, confirmed deposit, PAD

Quarry, artefact scatter, PAD

Scarred tree

Management measure

Avoidance

Surface collection

Salvage: remove and relocate

Unmitigated impact (tree has collapsed)

PAD/minimum avoidance area

Site area

Strahler stream order

1st order

2nd order

3rd order

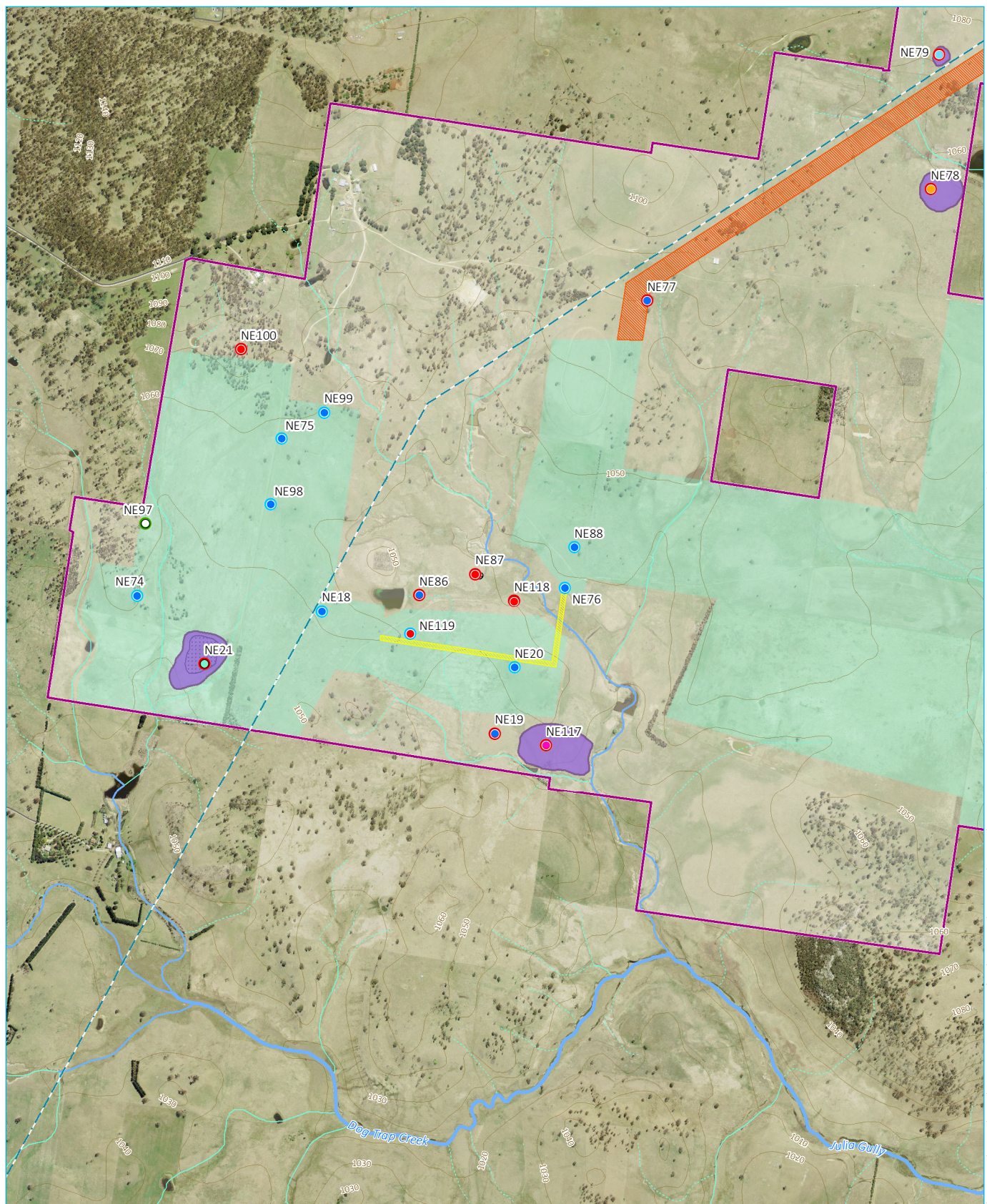
5th order

Revised management and mitigation measures

New England Solar and Battery Project  
Aboriginal heritage management plan

Figure 3.1B





Source: EMM (2023); DFSI (2017); UPC (2019)

0 0.5 1 km  
GDA 1994 MGA Zone 56

## KEY

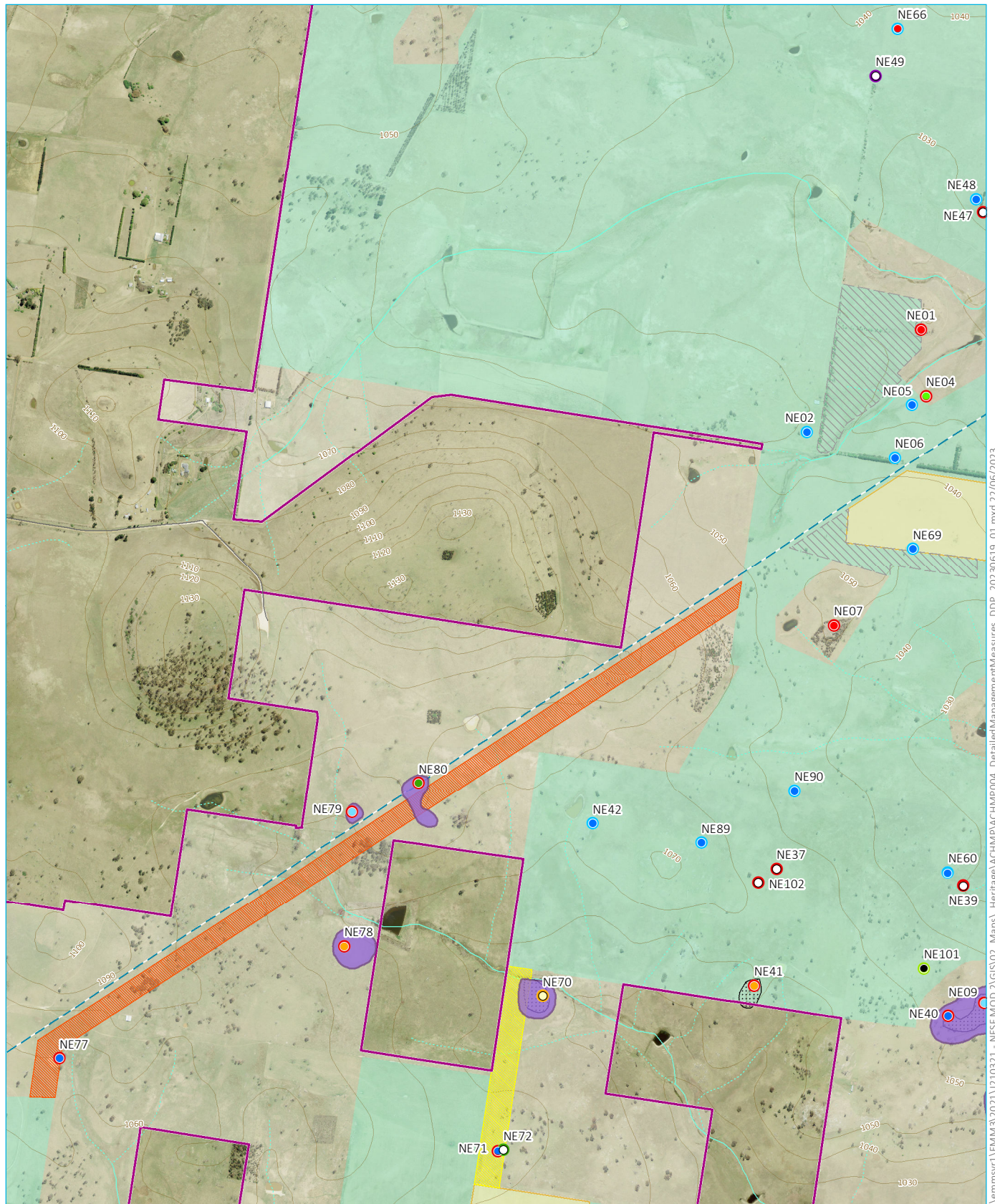
- |                                                                                                                                      |                                                                            |                                                                                                                    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <span style="border: 2px solid purple; padding: 2px;"> </span> Project boundary                                                      | <span style="color: blue;">●</span> Grinding groove, artefact scatter, PAD | <span style="background-color: purple; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> </span> PAD/minimum avoidance area |
| <span style="color: grey;">—</span> Minor road                                                                                       | <span style="color: blue;">●</span> Isolated find                          | <span style="background-color: purple; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> </span> Site area                  |
| <span style="color: grey;">—</span> Contour (10 m)                                                                                   | <span style="color: green;">●</span> Quarry, artefact scatter, PAD         | <span style="color: blue;">—</span> Strahler stream order                                                          |
| <span style="color: blue;">—</span> 330 kV transmission line                                                                         | <span style="color: green;">○</span> Scarred tree                          | <span style="color: blue;">—</span> 1st order                                                                      |
| <span style="background-color: lightgreen; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> </span> Development footprint                    | <span style="color: red;">●</span> Management measure                      | <span style="color: blue;">—</span> 2nd order                                                                      |
| <span style="background-color: orange; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> </span> Solar array                                  | <span style="color: red;">●</span> Avoidance                               | <span style="color: blue;">—</span> 3rd order                                                                      |
| <span style="background-color: orange; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> </span> Potential electrical cabling                 | <span style="color: blue;">●</span> Surface collection                     | <span style="color: blue;">—</span> 4th order                                                                      |
| <span style="background-color: yellow; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> </span> Potential site access and electrical cabling | <span style="color: green;">●</span> No management required (fallen tree)  |                                                                                                                    |
| <span style="color: red;">●</span> Site type                                                                                         |                                                                            |                                                                                                                    |
| <span style="color: orange;">●</span> Artefact scatter                                                                               |                                                                            |                                                                                                                    |
| <span style="color: orange;">●</span> Artefact scatter, PAD                                                                          |                                                                            |                                                                                                                    |

Revised management and mitigation measures

New England Solar and Battery Project  
Aboriginal heritage management plan  
Figure 3.1C

**EMM**  
creating opportunities





Source: EMM (2023); DFSI (2017); UPC (2019)

0 0.5 1 km  
GDA 1994 MGA Zone 56

## KEY

- Project boundary
- Minor road
- Contour (10 m)
- 330 kV transmission line
- Development footprint
  - Solar array
  - Potential electrical cabling
  - Potential site access and electrical cabling
- Site type
  - Artefact scatter
  - Artefact scatter, PAD

- Artefact scatter, confirmed deposit, PAD
- Grinding groove
- Grinding groove, PAD
- Grinding groove, artefact scatter, PAD
- Isolated find
- Scarred tree
- Not an Aboriginal scar tree
- Management measure
  - Avoidance
  - Avoid significant area

- Surface collection
- Salvage: remove and relocate
- No management required
- No management required (fallen tree)
- Potential substation/BESS footprint
- Additional substation/BESS footprint
- PAD/minimum avoidance area

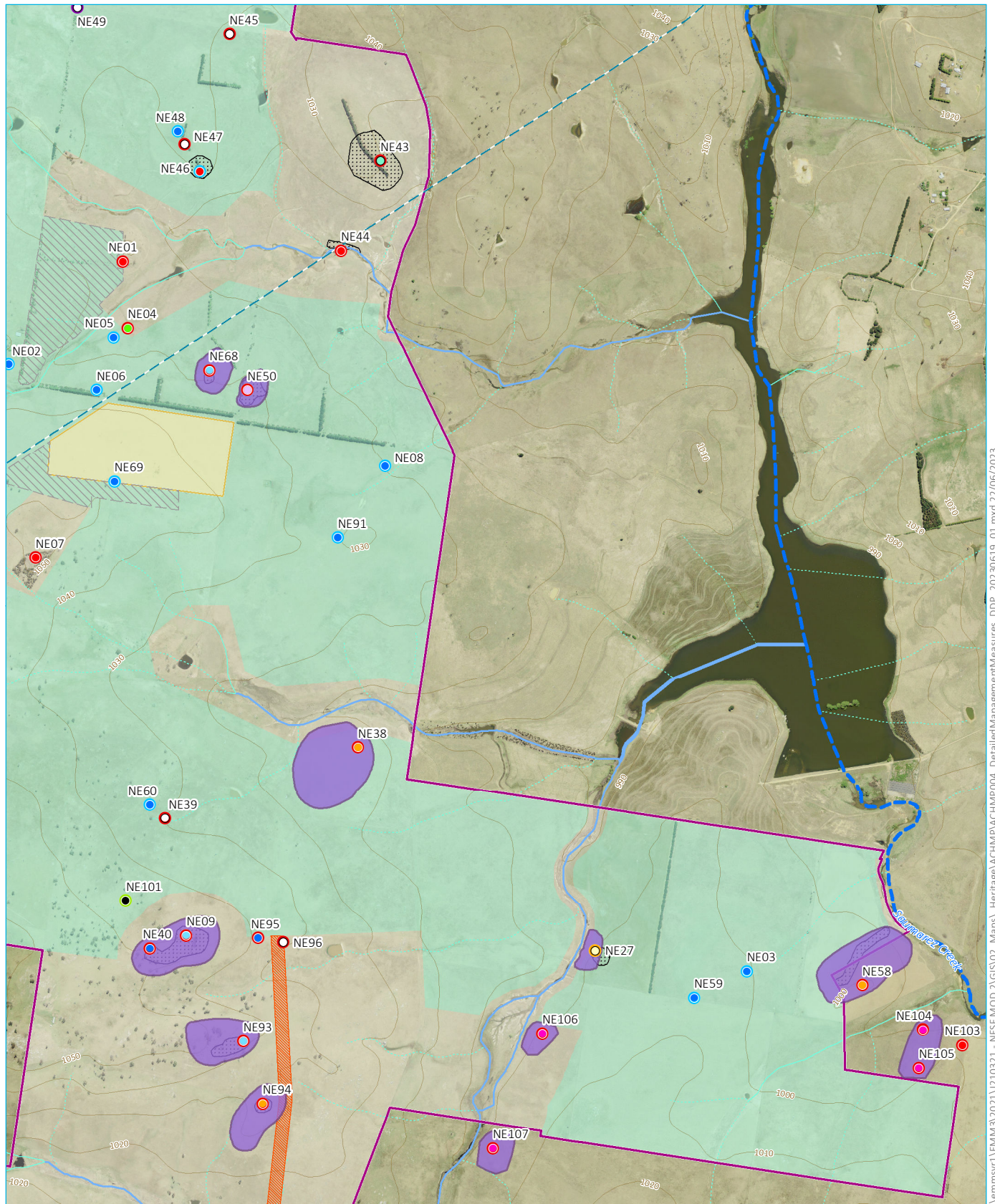
- Site area
- Strahler stream order
- 1st order
- 2nd order

## Revised management and mitigation measures

New England Solar and Battery Project  
Aboriginal heritage management plan  
Figure 3.1D







Source: EMM (2023); DFSI (2017); UPC (2019)

0 0.5 1 km  
GDA 1994 MGA Zone 56

## KEY

- Project boundary
- Minor road
- Contour (10 m)
- 330 kV transmission line
- Development footprint
- Solar array
- Potential electrical cabling
- Site type
- Artefact scatter
- Artefact scatter, PAD
- Artefact scatter, confirmed deposit, PAD

- Grinding groove
- Grinding groove, artefact scatter, PAD
- Isolated find
- Isolated find, PAD
- Quarry, artefact scatter, PAD
- Scarred tree
- Not an Aboriginal scar tree
- Management measure
- Avoidance
- Avoid significant area

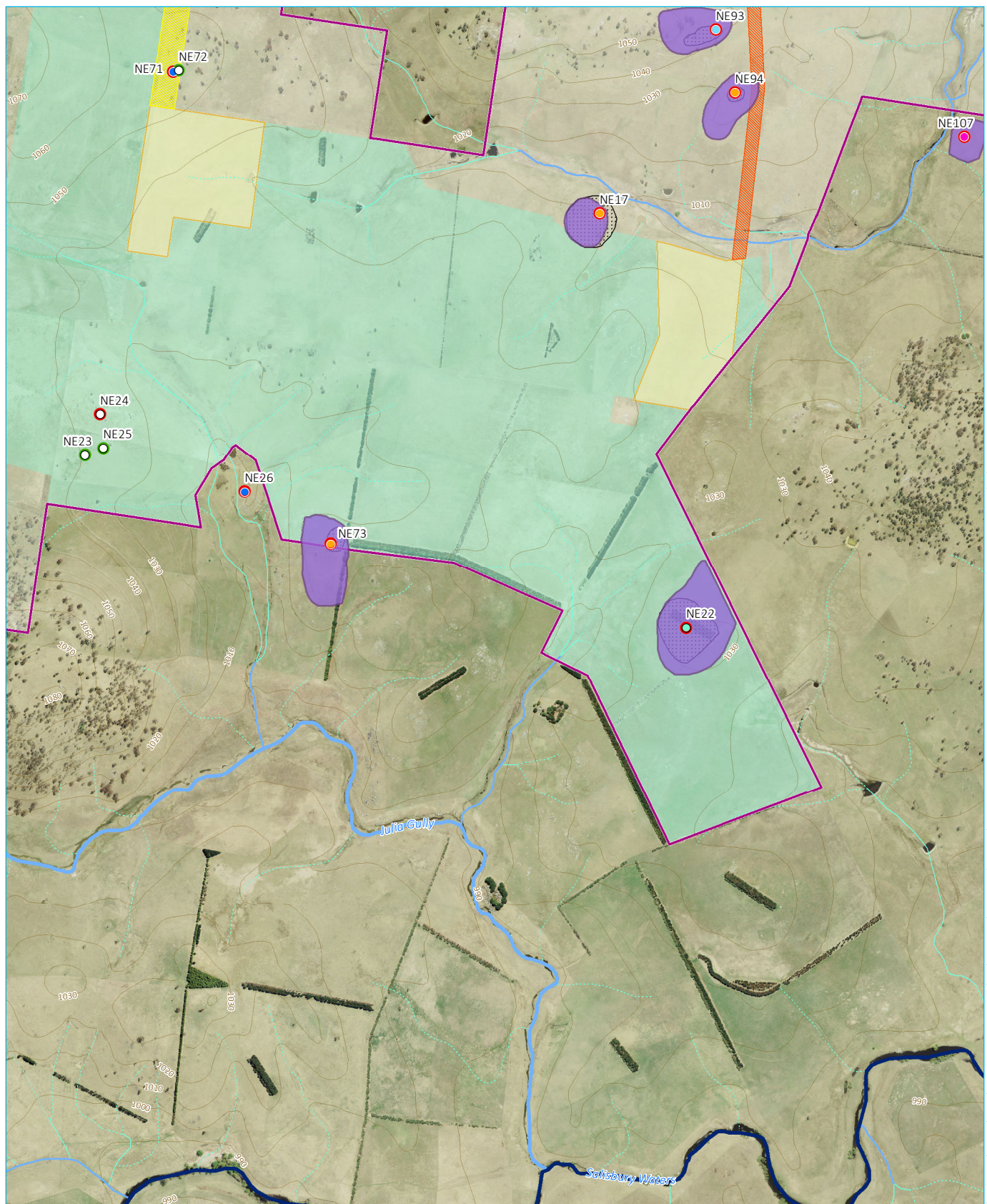
- Surface collection
- Salvage: remove and relocate
- No management required
- Potential substation/BESS footprint
- Additional substation/BESS footprint
- PAD/minimum avoidance area
- Site area

- Strahler stream order
- 1st order
- 2nd order
- 3rd order
- 4th order
- 5th order

## Revised management and mitigation measures

New England Solar and Battery Project  
Aboriginal heritage management plan  
Figure 3.1E





Source: EMM (2023); DFSI (2017); UPC (2019)

## KEY

- Project boundary
- Contour (10 m)
- Development footprint
- Solar array
- Potential electrical cabling
- Potential site access and electrical cabling
- Site type**
  - Artefact scatter, PAD
  - Grinding groove, artefact scatter, PAD
  - Isolated find

- Quarry, artefact scatter, PAD
- Scarred tree
- Management measure**
  - Avoidance
  - No management required (fallen tree)
  - Potential substation/BESS footprint
  - PAD/minimum avoidance area
  - Site area

- Strahler stream order**
  - 1st order
  - 2nd order
  - 3rd order
  - 4th order
  - 6th order

## Revised management and mitigation measures

New England Solar and Battery Project  
Aboriginal heritage management plan  
Figure 3.1F

## 4 Aboriginal heritage management

### 4.1 Overview – management of known sites

Aboriginal heritage management over the life of the project will primarily take the form of either protective measures for avoided sites, or salvage as mitigation for sites that will be impacted.

Aboriginal sites close to the development footprint that are not salvaged but are scheduled for protection from project impacts will be actively protected. Active protection measures will vary depending on site type and other specific requirements.

All surface artefact sites (artefact scatters and isolated finds) impacted by the project will be collected. This will involve collecting the entire visible contents of 27 isolated artefacts and 7 artefact scatters. One felled and sawn in half Aboriginal scar tree, NE49, has also been collected. Notwithstanding the intention of collection, this will be subject to successfully locating and identifying the artefacts which may have moved since first identified, for example due to being disturbed by grazing stock, stormwater runoff etc.

Ongoing management will be required for scarred tree sites, grinding groove sites NE09 and NE68, and salvaged archaeological material. This will be completed with the involvement of RAPs and suitably qualified archaeologists. A summary of the Aboriginal sites identified in the project boundary, how each of the sites will be managed, and their current management status is presented in Appendix A.

### 4.2 Aboriginal heritage protection

#### 4.2.1 Active or passive protection

Aboriginal sites that are not identified as being impacted by the ACHA will be protected. Either active or passive protection measures will be implemented. Active management means construction of temporary or permanent barriers, installation of signage and controls on access by those undertaking activities within the project boundary. Passive management means no fencing or signage will be applied as the sites are at limited risk of inadvertent impacts because they are a suitable distance from the development footprint.

#### 4.2.2 Active protection close to development footprint

##### 4.2.2.1 Overview

The sites scheduled for avoidance within, or within 20 m of, the development footprint will be managed through active protection using stakes and wire fencing for scarred trees and grinding groove sites, and bollards or wire fencing supported on concrete blocks for the remaining sites to provide active protection during project construction. Additionally, the highly significant Aboriginal grinding groove site NE09 will be managed through active protection despite the site area occurring over 100 m from the development footprint.



#### 4.2.2.1.1 Barriers

Barriers (either bollards or wire fencing) will be erected prior to construction occurring in the vicinity of the relevant sites. Fencing will be on the boundaries marked by the project archaeologist and at least one RAP representative with assistance by a qualified surveyor or fencing contractor. These boundaries will be guided by Aboriginal site 'point', 'site area' and 'PAD area' GIS data layers contained in the New England Solar Farm Aboriginal Heritage Database (NES AH Database).

The barriers and fencing will incorporate a 20 m minimum buffer from site features (eg no additional buffer is required from PAD area boundaries). There are special provisions for grinding groove sites NE09 owing to their high cultural value warranting a greater visual buffer so that they can be appreciated in context with the natural landscape. A construction buffer of 100 m will be applied to the 'site area' boundaries of NE09 beyond their fenced boundaries.

Note 1: This section has been amended to remove the 100 m construction buffer previously applied to NE68. Upon review of project design and layout, ACEN Australia have aimed to maintain existing vegetation on site where feasible. This will require trenching north of the pine tree wind row that lines Big Ridge Road, which would otherwise require clearance if the 100 m buffer was applied to NE68's southern boundary. This activity will require trenching works only, which is necessary for cabling (underground) as part of the project design. This will not affect the original intention of the buffer, which was to serve as a visual buffer from project elements applied to the site for landscape views to assist in future RAP access and visitation for cultural and learning experiences. Moreover, NE68 has a north, north-westerly aspect overlooking a drainage feature which will not be impacted visually or by project construction. Maintaining the wind row of trees along Big Ridge Rd, where possible, will maintain a visual barrier to the substation when viewed from NE68. As such, the proposed change will not result in additional visual or cultural object impacts and the original significant site curtilage will be retained.

The 'PAD boundary' for NE68 now represents the avoidance area for this site. No known stone artefacts or grinding grooves will be disturbed by this proposed change, as the PAD area already incorporates a buffer beyond the recorded site features which are within a concentration of outcropping silcrete bedrock expanses. ACEN Australia would like to note that a 100 m visual buffer referred to in the ACHA will still be maintained as to not affect the curtilage of the site, however underground works will need to be installed within 100 m of NE68 but still outside of the PAD boundary.

Note 2: fencing boundary for NE96 (dead scarred tree) has reduced to 10m to accommodate the site access and electrical cabling easement. This buffer was established during Stage 2a October 2022 fieldwork with RAPs and demarcated by stakes which were logged by a surveyor. This modified boundary still allows adequate protection of the tree. Table A1 reflects this management measure for NE96.

The fencing contractor will be guided by boundary markers according to spatial data and/or mapping provided by the project archaeologist.

A durable sign will be attached to the fencing including words to the effect of:

- Environmentally sensitive area
- Do not disturb
- Contact the Project Manager on [phone number].



At the end of construction, ACEN Australia will assess the need for ongoing active protection of the sites given operations of the facility is low impact. If ACEN Australia determines that the site does not require active protection during operations, ACEN Australia may remove the barriers with the exception of scarred tree and grinding groove sites.

#### **4.2.2.1.2 Weed management within wire and stake protected areas**

Aboriginal sites subject to protective wire and stake fencing will require ongoing weed management to ensure the sites are not impacted by grass and weed infestation. This will require non-invasive weed management measures such as slashing, weeding, treatment with weed control products to prevent grass and weed overgrowth.

As per Section 2.4.3, where is practical and feasible to employ suitably qualified and certified Aboriginal person(s) if required for weed management activities relating to the Aboriginal sites, ACEN Australia and/or its contractors will aim to prioritize this.

Areas protected by bollards will have sufficient spaces left to allow grazing animals to continue to manage vegetation growth. These areas only comprise open stone artefact sites in existing ploughed and grazed paddocks, so the continuation of animal grazing is considered a suitable management strategy.

#### **4.2.2.1.3 Provisions for protected Aboriginal scar trees**

The 12 identified standing Aboriginal scar trees within the project boundary will be avoided through stake and wire active protection measures. Additional management is required to address their long-term management given that all examples are dead trees and most are in a highly deteriorated condition. The following long-term measures will be undertaken:

- After active protection measures are implemented the trees will be left in-situ to weather naturally.
- The trees will be inspected at five-year intervals to assess the trees' condition. The inspection will identify any structural and material issues with the trees. Alternatively, if structural or material issues are observed outside of these monitoring timeframes, RAPs and an archaeologist will be notified to determine if the step listed below is warranted.
- If through natural events or other unforeseen circumstances, the tree(s) break, fall or deteriorate beyond preservation, the tree(s) will be offered to the Aboriginal community (RAPs) for salvage and relocation to the Aboriginal keeping place as specified in Section 4.2.4. RAPs may decline the offer to salvage the tree(s) depending on the condition of the tree. If salvage is possible and desired by RAPs, salvage will involve sawing the tree at a suitable buffer above and below the scar(s) and extracting the scarred section. Any salvaged trees to be kept in the keeping place will be subject to the same provisions as specified for Aboriginal tree NE49.
- The duration of ACEN Australia's management commitments for the trees will be limited to the life of the project's operation.

Update as of June 2023:

- Scar Tree Site NE67 was identified by EMM as collapsed and deteriorated beyond salvage in January 2021 during fieldwork with RAPs. RAPs considered the tree to be in a condition beyond

salvage and did not nominate to salvage the tree (refer consultation material in Appendix B3). As such, unmitigated impacts over the site area applies.

- During AHMP site boundary demarcation and surface artefact collection fieldwork for project Stage 2, archaeologists and RAP field officers noted damage to some scarred trees: NE102, NE23 and NE25 had fallen and were severely deteriorated, and NE72 and NE97 were not relocatable presumably because they had deteriorated beyond recognition and were not discernible from surrounding fallen trees and branches in the landscape. This quick series of site deteriorations was attributed to recent years of regular rain and soil moisture that rotted many of the tree's structural roots. RAPs were consulted about these issues in October 2022 and March 2023 and considered that salvage was not suitable and did not nominate to salvage the trees (refer consultation material in Appendix B3). As such, their management requirements have been updated and are shown in Appendix A.
- Of the above trees, only NE102 had been fenced as it is within the project Stage 1 area, while the remaining tree locations are within the project Stage 2 area and had not undergone management. ACEN Australia is committed to keeping the NE102 fenced area and exploring opportunities with RAPs to undergo contemporary cultural scarring as a means to continue cultural practices at a location where an Aboriginal scar tree had fallen. Scarring would be undertaken by RAP representatives and would follow a culturally appropriate procedure at an existing native tree within the fenced area. Additionally, interpretative signage would be installed at NE102 to acknowledge the fallen tree and the contemporary cultural practice.
- ACEN Australia has developed an ongoing site visual condition assessment program with RAPs which includes provisions to audit tree condition on a monthly basis so that suitable management measures can be carried out with the aim to prevent tree collapse or salvage trees that face imminent collapse. The site visual condition assessment checklist template is included in Appendix F.

#### **4.2.3 Passive protection away from project activities**

Passive management will apply to the Aboriginal sites identified for avoidance on land within the project boundary but over 20 m from the development footprint. While no fencing, signage or active land management measures are proposed for these sites, their locations are kept on the NES AH Database for persons working on or visiting the project boundary. If within the project boundary (under the responsibility of ACEN Australia), their presence in the landscape will be demarcated by at least one high visibility peg, stake or other marker to alert persons to their location. These locations will be marked by the project archaeologist and at least one RAP representative.

For sites identified during the course of investigations for the project that fall outside the project boundary, ACEN Australia will notify relevant landholders that Aboriginal sites are recorded on their property and there is the obligation not to harm those Aboriginal objects under the NPW Act. ACEN Australia will provide relevant landholders with mapping of these sites to assist their identification and avoidance.

#### **4.2.4 Keeping place and reburial of salvaged material**

A keeping place is a designated long-term secure area for the purpose of storing and curating Aboriginal cultural materials and their associated documentation.

Recovered stone artefacts will be temporarily stored at a designated location during cataloguing and analysis. At the completion of cataloguing and analysis, the recovered objects will be

transferred to a long-term facility. A dedicated storage facility has been established at the Armidale and Region Aboriginal Cultural Centre and Keeping Place (96-104 Kentucky Street, Armidale NSW). The storage and management of Aboriginal objects here is approved under Care Agreement 5045 which was issued by Heritage NSW on 14 March 2023.

The keeping place will store a representative sample of the Aboriginal stone artefacts collected and excavated as part of the project. The keeping place also stores Aboriginal scar tree NE49 and any other unexpected finds salvaged under the AHMP.

A suitable sample of collected artefacts, as advised by RAP representatives, will be made available for display in a display case. The display case will include relevant signage for contextual, informational and educational purposes. The keeping place will also include facilities for inspecting the materials including appropriate table, chairs and lighting.

Where objects are too large for inside storage, they may be installed in a suitably secure location on the grounds of the keeping place with interpretative signage.

All associated reports and records bound in a hard copy and digital form will be stored in the same location as the salvaged artefacts.

All stored materials are to be held in locked cabinets with access managed by the keeping place manager or delegate in accordance with instructions by RAPs. The cabinet is to be clearly labelled with the contents and conditions for access.

The selection of salvaged materials will be retained at the keeping place for the life of the project unless otherwise determined by RAPs and approved by Heritage NSW a Section 85 Care Agreement.

After salvage collection activities, cataloguing and the selection of display materials, the RAPs may consider it appropriate to rebury surplus material on Country. If reburial is determined by RAPs, the location of the reburial will be decided upon in consultation with ACEN Australia and relevant Landholders if applicable. Any location chosen will need to be suitable for long term conservation and not be at risk of any foreseeable impacts.

The reburial activity would be guided by the stone artefact disposition procedures as set out in Section 3.7 of the *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW* (DECCW 2010).

Any reburial fieldwork will be undertaken by a qualified archaeologist so that it is recorded appropriately. RAPs who wish to be involved in the activity will also be requested to participate.

If the nominated keeping place closes or can no longer accommodate the project Aboriginal objects, consideration of an alternative location will be determined with RAP consultation. Where no facility can be identified, the material should be reburied within the project boundary in a secure manner that allows later retrieval at a location notified to DPE and Heritage NSW in the designated manner.

#### **4.2.5 Care Agreement**

The NSW *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW Act) provides for the transfer of Aboriginal objects to Aboriginal owners. Aboriginal owners are defined in the Act as persons whose names are entered on the Register of Aboriginal Owners because of the persons' cultural association with

particular land under the NSW *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983*<sup>2</sup>. If Aboriginal owners under this definition cannot be identified, a Care Agreement can facilitate the transfer to other persons.

A NPW Section 85a 'Care Agreement' has been entered into with Heritage NSW and the Armidale and Region Aboriginal Cultural Centre and Keeping Place (96-104 Kentucky Street, Armidale NSW) Care Agreement 5045, attached as Appendix E, which allows for the transfer to the facility for safekeeping. The Armidale and Region Aboriginal Cultural Centre and Keeping Place is the custodian for the purposes of safekeeping, with a person delegated from the Board of Custodians being the responsible person.

## 4.3 Aboriginal heritage salvage measures

### 4.3.1 Surface artefact collection

#### 4.3.1.1 Method

Salvage surface collection of all Aboriginal sites in the development footprint will be completed by the project archaeologist and RAP representatives. This will be undertaken prior to any ground disturbance related to the project in the vicinity of the Aboriginal sites.

Additionally, based on the outcomes of RAP consultation, the surface artefact of site NE10 has been collected despite not being within the development footprint (refer Table 4.1).

The collection will be undertaken by qualified archaeologists and RAP representatives. The collection method will be as follows:

1. Site coordinates and area polygons for each site will be entered into mobile GPS devices to re-locate and confirm the location. It is noted that it may not be possible to find all of the recorded artefacts.
2. The general vicinity of each site location will be inspected by the field team. Stone artefacts will be flagged on the ground and a photo taken of the flagged site. Each flagged artefact will be marked as a waypoint in the GPS.
3. All artefacts will be collected into snap lock plastic bags or similar, marked with the project name, site name, collection date and waypoint number.
4. All artefacts will be sorted and recorded post-fieldwork with respect to technological type, implement type, raw material, maximum block length and weight.
5. The collected artefacts will be incorporated into a salvage report detailing the results of the fieldwork, the artefacts recovered at each site and GIS figures showing the artefact locations.
6. The Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) records will be updated with a site impact recording form for each collected site.

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<sup>2</sup> There is currently no such defined registered Aboriginal owner for the project to whom the Aboriginal objects can be transferred.

### **4.3.1.2 Additional requirements for unsuccessful site collection attempts**

#### **4.3.1.2.1 Overview**

In January 2021, EMM and RAPs attempted to collect all 32 stone artefact sites designated with the salvage collection management measure. However, not all stone artefact sites were possible to collect due to ground visibility constraints associated with extensive grass and weed growth since the original site identification surveys; and natural environmental factors that may have resulted in the movement and/or loss of previously identified cultural materials.

The artefacts of 21 sites could not be re-located for collection (status incomplete), and two sites only had a portion of their contents collected (status partially collected). These 23 sites required further management provisions prior to project development.

EMM assessed the condition and contents of each site to put forward potential management measures for RAP consideration via an updated draft of the AHMP. The potential measures were also the outcome of discussions with RAPs during fieldwork. Only one response from RAPs (Armidale and New England Gumbaynggirr Descendants) which proposed an alternative method. EMM/ACEN Australia's response to this submission is provided in Appendix B.

Overall, RAPs indicated that an additional attempt to salvage the outstanding sites was warranted and ACEN Australia accommodated this request under an updated AHMP (AHMP Revision 1). As such, 22 sites of the 23 sites underwent further collection attempts in July 2021 as outlined below. The remaining site NE13 is outside of the project footprint and will be managed as passive avoidance.

#### **4.3.1.2.2 Additional collection attempts – vegetation clearance and raking**

ACEN Australia proposes that a method with as minimal ground disturbance as possible is employed in attempts relocate and salvage nominated sites (refer to sites listed as 'surface collection (additional attempt)' in Table 4.1A1). Further management attempts may be staged but must occur prior to ground disturbance related to the project in the vicinity of the Aboriginal site.

1. ACEN Australia will engage a landscape maintenance/management contractor to clear vegetation over the site areas. This may be achieved using a combination of mechanical slashing, mowing and line trimmer (as required). An archaeologist and RAP representatives (as engaged per Section 2.4.3) will monitor the vegetation clearance and provide guidance to ensure it is employed to a level satisfactory to reveal the ground surface for the identification of Aboriginal objects.
2. The vegetation clearance will cover the mapped site area of the relevant sites. For isolated finds without mapped site areas, this will require clearing an area of up to approximately 10 m x 10 m over the original site coordinates.
3. Following vegetation clearance, RAPs and an archaeologist will inspect the cleared areas. If the artefacts are not identified through vegetation clearance alone, the RAPs and an archaeologist will use suitably fine gauged steel rakes over the areas to reveal artefacts for collection.
4. Any artefacts identified within these areas will be recorded and collected in accordance with the surface artefact collection method in this AHMP.

5. Regardless of whether stone artefacts are identified during this process, no further collection attempts or mitigation measures will be required after the exercise is completed for each relevant site (with the exception of Stage 2a sites as detailed in Section 4.3.1.3). Following this procedure, the management status of these sites will be regarded as completed and project related development may proceed without further heritage measures.

### **4.3.1.3 Additional measure – community collection grader scrapes**

#### **4.3.1.3.1 Overview**

The additional measure detailed in this section was in response to RAP feedback about the limited success of prior surface collection attempts and vegetation clearance/raking employed for Stage 2a sites in October 2022 whereby only artefacts at 4 out of 9 sites were identified and collected using this method.

ACEN acknowledges that RAPs wish to pursue every reasonable option to salvage the stone artefact sites within the project development footprint. ACEN proposes community collection grader scrapes to response to RAP feedback (refer Appendix B4).

The adoption of grader scrapes to expose the under-lying soil profile has been periodically adopted in NSW in the past, but is highly destructive to cultural deposits and typically lacks spatial or stratigraphic control of any identified cultural materials. As such, in more recent years, it is generally not supported by archaeologists nor Heritage NSW as an archaeological method to explore potential archaeological deposits (PADs). However, here the approach is proposed by the Aboriginal participants who wish to improve visibility and recover their cultural materials where surface artefacts were previously recorded, with less concern for the exact provenance or location of them. As such, it has been included here as a mitigation measure, noting that these areas are not predicated to feature cultural deposits that would meet the definition of PAD.

#### **4.3.1.3.2 Community collection grader scrapes**

The following method applies to Stage 2a sites that have been scheduled for surface artefact collection. These 11 sites are:

- NE03
- NE18
- NE20
- NE59
- NE74
- NE75
- NE76
- NE88
- NE98
- NE99
- NE119

Works may be staged but must occur prior to ground disturbance related to the project in the vicinity (within 50 m) of each Aboriginal site. The following process will be undertaken:

1. Site coordinates on handheld GPS devices will be used to find the site location.



2. Within an area of approximately 10 m x 10 m, a machine grader (or similar machine) will be employed to scrape the ground surface to remove surface vegetation and a limited amount of topsoil. Multiple grader passes may be employed but the depth of grading should not exceed ~50 cm depth, bedrock, or clay (whichever comes first). Grading would only exceed ~50 cm depth if the project archaeologist and RAPs on site consider it reasonable and justifiable to continue.
3. This process will be monitored by RAP representatives and an archaeologist and will involve inspection of the ground surface and grader windows after each pass of the grader machine over the ~10 m x 10 m area.
4. If artefacts are identified within these areas, the surface artefact collection method as set out in Section 4.3.1.1 of the ACHMP will be employed.
5. After the grader scrapes are completed, the machine will distribute graded soil back over the inspected area to level the area again.
6. Regardless of whether stone artefacts are identified during this process, no further measures will be required after the exercise is completed for each relevant site. Following this procedure, the management status of these sites will be regarded as completed and project related development may proceed without further heritage measures.

#### **4.3.2 Additional collection for Aboriginal stone hatchets**

Through ongoing Aboriginal consultation, a selection of RAPs has requested that all Aboriginal stone hatchets (i.e. stone artefacts with evidence of flaking as 'blanks' or with ground edges) within the project area be collected for deposition and display at the nominated keeping place. Some of these have been collected as part of the 32 artefact sites designated with a salvage collection management measure. However, the remaining stone hatchets are associated with sites designated for avoidance. As part of the updated AHMP, all outstanding hatchets will have collection attempts in accordance with Section 4.3.1. However, if during the initial collection attempts at these sites are unsuccessful due to poor ground surface visibility, then the sites will be left in-situ. In this scenario RAPs and ACEN Australia may consult about future collection attempts when visibility conditions may improve in the future.

The details of the stone hatchets identified during the archaeological survey phase of the ACHA are summarised in Table 4.1. Additionally, Table 4.1 features information relevant to the outcomes of a recent DPE compliance investigation regarding the unauthorised collection and movement of stone hatchets across archaeological sites within the project area (January–February 2021). The outcome resulted in four stone hatchets being placed within the site boundary of grinding groove site NE09 as an interim protective measure. In January–February 2021 during the compliance investigation, EMM identified that two of the four moved hatchets were from sites NE87 and NE50, but the remaining two hatchets could not be associated with any existing site. In April 2021, EMM conducted further review of AHIMs site card data, our internal site information databases, and photographic records to investigate the provenance of the two unknown items. EMM determined that one of the hatchets is from site potential hatch quarry site NE83. However, the final unknown item could not be identified through the review process. As such, the object is still likely to have derived from the project area, but further contextual information cannot be speculated.

Two of the four moved stone hatchets at NE09 have been collected as part of the Stage 1 surface salvage collection in January and July 2021 (NE 87 and NE50), while two were collected in October 2021 (NE83 – stone hatch 1, and stone hatch with unknown provenance). The ‘management status’ column of Table 4.1 provides further detail of the collected items. The updated management status information is tracked in the management inventory (Appendix A).

Additionally, any previously unrecorded stone hatchet artefacts identified in the future within existing site boundaries also have the provision to be recorded, collected, catalogued and transferred to the nominated keeping place.

Table 4.1 Details of stone hatchets (axes) in project area

Site Name	Comment:	Prior management measure	Management status
NE87	Single retouched stone hatch blank	Passive avoidance	Stone hatch was involved in compliance issue and was moved from its original location at NE88.  Collection completed as part of the Stage 1 surface salvage collection in July 2021.  <b>No further action required.</b>
NE83	Basalt stone hatch blank (Hatch 1) retouched completely around one lateral margin and one flake removal from ventral surface.  Two additional basalt hatchets (Hatch 2 and Hatch 3) were identified on the surface during subsequent inspections and test excavation program.	Active avoidance	Site demarcated and valid – Hatch 1 was identified to have been moved from NE83 to site NE09 as the result of DPE compliance investigation.  Hatch 1 has been collected (October 2021 during Mod 2 fieldwork) and is in keeping place.  An unsuccessful collection attempt was made for Hatchets 2 and 3 remain at site NE83 in July 2021.
NE90	Basalt hatch blank with initial retouch	Collection	Collection completed as part of the Stage 1 surface salvage collection in January 2021.  <b>No further action required.</b>
NE50	Basalt hatch blank with initial retouch	Active avoidance	Hatch blank was involved in compliance issue and moved from its original location at NE50.



Site Name	Comment:	Prior management measure	Management status
			Collection completed as part of the Stage 1 surface salvage collection in July 2021. <b>No further action required.</b>
NE27	Basalt hatch blank with initial retouch	Active avoidance	Site valid Unsuccessful surface collection attempt in October 2022 as part of Stage 2 collection fieldwork.
NE17	Very fine-grained greywacke or basalt possibly very small hatch head, bifacial retouch along all margins	Active avoidance	Site valid. Hatch blank collected in October 2022 during Stage 2 collection fieldwork. <b>No further action required.</b>
NE10	Stone hatch head of basalt with bifacial retouch but no evidence of ground edges observed.	Collection	Collection completed as part of the Stage 1 surface salvage collection in January 2021. <b>No further action required.</b>
Provenance Unknown	Potential stone hatchet manufactured from atypical raw material, likely to be a coarse grained, hard quartzite material. Bifacial flaking and stone hatch form suggest item may be hatch rather than a core tool.	Not applicable – item provenance was unable to be determined through review of site database information.	Stone artefact collected October 2021 during Mod 2 fieldwork. <b>No further action required.</b>

#### 4.3.2.1 Analysis

Collected artefacts will be catalogued in a database with the basic attributes of each artefact recorded. Analysis of collected stone artefacts will include:

- initial sorting and cleaning of salvaged material;
- establishment of a computer database to record artefact provenance; and
- measuring and recording basic artefact attributes, comprising:
  - artefact type;

- raw material type;
- maximum length;
- weight; and
- implement type (if applicable).

The analysis team will comprise of the project archaeologist and assisting archaeologists.

#### **4.3.2.2 Reporting**

A salvage report will be prepared describing the work and including a catalogue of all recovered Aboriginal objects. The report will be prepared with reference to the findings of the ACHA. The report will be prepared upon the completion of salvage activities set for known sites in this plan and will be completed within one year of completion of salvage activities.

The salvage report will be distributed to RAPs and Heritage NSW's AHIMS database for their records.

#### **4.3.3 Aboriginal scar tree removal**

The felled and sawn in half Aboriginal scar tree, NE49, will be salvaged prior to project construction. The salvage method for the tree will be as follows:

- A suitably qualified person in scar tree management (eg archaeologist with scar tree specialisation, arbor-culturalist or arborist) will be engaged to determine a suitable removal method in consultation with RAPs. This may involve the requirement to saw the tree above the scar location allowing a suitable buffer from the scar feature. The process of removal will be photographed.
- The removed tree and scar may be treated to preserve the scar to prevent its further deterioration. Any treatment option would be completed in consultation with RAPs, ACEN Australia and a suitably qualified curator.
- The tree will be relocated to the Aboriginal keeping place as specified in Section 4.2.4 and appropriately displayed using suitable materials in consultation with ACEN Australia and RAPs.

The outcomes of the tree management activity will be documented in a short letter report including records of the original and new tree location.

The AHIMS records will be updated with a site impact recording form for the site.

August 2022 update:

Note: the salvage activity for NE49 was completed in January 2021. The tree is on display in an appropriate cabinet at the keeping place.

## 4.4 Cultural interpretation and recording of oral histories

The request for cultural interpretation measures and the recording of oral histories was raised through Aboriginal consultation in developing this plan (refer submission from Nganyawana Cultural Consultants in Table 2.3).

Interpretative signage will be installed within the proposed fence area of grinding groove site NE09. The final location, content, medium and design of the signage will be prepared in consultation with RAPs and may involve contracting a qualified interpretive design company facilitate the task. This signage will be installed within one year after project construction is completed and access is made available to RAPs and the community.

ACEN Australia will also explore opportunities to incorporate an acknowledgement of Country into signage for the solar farm entrance, subject to location and project design considerations.

An oral history based on Aboriginal knowledge holder information about Ooralla will be recorded and stored at the Armidale and Region Aboriginal Cultural Centre and Keeping Place. This will involve interviewing interested and willing RAP knowledge holders (such as Les Ahoy from Nganyawana Cultural Consultants) via audio and/or video mediums. The content of oral histories would be at the direction and discretion of knowledge holders. All documented material will be stored on archival quality digital mediums and stored at the nominated keeping place in association will salvaged archaeological material. The availability of this information to the broader community would be at the discretion of the knowledge provider or delegated person.

June 2023 update:

In March 2022 ACEN Australia commissioned the filming and production of a video documenting oral histories from the local Aboriginal community including interviews with RAPs. Interviews were undertaken by anthropologist Dr. Philip Clarke. A video "Ooralla: A Collection of Cultural Stories from First Nations" was also produced which features a compilation of the interviews and other On Country content. This video is publicly accessible on YouTube© and can be viewed at the following weblink:

<https://youtu.be/XJ1E5YHg5pl>

Individual interviews are still undergoing review and editing prior to final publishing.

## 5 New finds procedures

### 5.1 Discovery of new Aboriginal sites

In the event of discovery of new Aboriginal sites within the project boundary (outside of previously identified Aboriginal site and PAD areas), the following will apply:

- a minimum of 10 m around the site will be secured to protect the find with temporary fencing. The temporary fencing will be colour specific that is not used for any other purpose on site. The find will be immediately reported to the work supervisor who will immediately advise the ACEN Australia HSE Manager or other nominated senior staff member;
- formal notification will be made to the Stage 1b Contractor Operations Manager and the Stage 2a EPC Contractor Project Manager by the ACEN Australia HSE Manager highlighting the potential find;
- signage will be installed along the 10m exclusion zone to identify the potential new find;
- an archaeologist must be contacted at the earliest opportunity from the date of the find to validate the find, determine the archaeological significance of the objects(s) and confirm whether the 10 m buffer is appropriate;
- if the object is determined not to be an Aboriginal object by the archaeologist, works may continue upon receipt of a written confirmation by the project archaeologist;
- if considered cultural, the site will be recorded in accordance with current best practice archaeological methods and guidelines;
- assessments of archaeological significance will be documented in a letter report in a manner consistent with the significance assessment for the ACHA (EMM 2018; 2019a);
- if the find is determined to be an Aboriginal object, RAPs will be contacted to determine the cultural significance of the find and have input into desired management measures;
- any new sites will be registered in the NES AH Database and the AHIMs database (refer Chapter 7); and
- any new sites will be added to the AHMP site inventory within one month of the find.

### 5.2 Management of new Aboriginal sites

Newly identified sites that are not at risk of impact (ie over 20 m from approved disturbance areas of the development footprint) will be avoided through passive protection (Section 4.2.3). Avoidable sites that are within 20 m of approved disturbance areas of the development footprint will be managed through active protection measures identified in this plan (refer Section 4.2.2). Note that avoidance of newly identified Aboriginal objects is always the preferred heritage outcome. Mitigation measures should only be employed when it can be reasonably demonstrated that avoidance is not feasible.

Table 5.1 sets out the measures that are proposed for newly identified Aboriginal sites. Heritage NSW must be notified and consulted about any plans to move, collect or salvage newly identified sites.

All proposed salvage measures must be completed by a qualified archaeologist(s) with participation of at least one RAP representative. All salvaged objects will be relocated to the nominated keeping place, if practical to do so (i.e. there is still sufficient capacity to accommodate new objects) and managed as per Section 4.2.4.

Table 5.1 Management of newly identified sites

Site type	Can the site be avoided?	If avoidance is not feasible, the following management will be proposed.
Open stone artefact site or potential remnants of a stone quarry.	Apply active or passive protection measures as per Sections 4.2.2 and 4.2.3.	<p>For sites of low to moderate archaeological significance, surface collection will be employed as per Section 4.3.1.</p> <p>For sites of high archaeological significance, or with potential to be of high archaeological significance through the identification of significant PAD, as determined by the project archaeologist, test excavation may be employed to a methodology prepared in consultation with ACEN Australia , RAPs and Heritage NSW.</p> <p>For a site to reach the threshold of high archaeological significance, it would need to be of a similar character to other open sites assessed as high significance, such as NE70 (artefact scatter with PAD and confirmed deposit) and NE83 (potential basalt quarry).</p> <p>Any salvage excavation program would require a report on the methods and outcomes of the excavation.</p>
Modified trees	Apply active or passive protection measures as per Sections 4.2.2 and 4.2.3.	Follow Aboriginal scar tree removal procedure as guided by the methodology for NE49 as set out in Section 4.3.3
Grinding grooves	Apply active or passive protection measures as per Sections 4.2.2 and 4.2.3.	<p>Determine grinding groove recovery procedure in consultation with ACEN Australia and RAPs. The process for removal must involve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A site meeting between project archaeologist, RAPs and suitably qualified earthmoving or grinding groove recovery specialist to discuss logistics of the removal.</li> <li>• If removal of the grooves carries a significant risk of their destruction through cracking or</li> </ul>

Site type	Can the site be avoided?	If avoidance is not feasible, the following management will be proposed.
		<p>breaking, the removal will not continue and active management measures will be employed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Archival recording of features using photogrammetric methods must be undertaken prior to removal.</li> <li>Any grooves requiring removal will be relocated and installed within the project boundary on land that is designated for long-term conservation without the risk of foreseeable future impact.</li> <li>If possible and desired by RAPs, grooves may be relocated to the nominated keeping place and installed securely with suitable signage and interpretation.</li> </ul>
Hearths	Apply active or passive protection measures as per Sections 4.2.2 and 4.2.3.	Archaeological excavation of the hearth will be employed and will involve taking suitable dating and soil samples if feasible as determined by the archaeologist.
Other site types not known to occur in the project boundary (e.g. stone arrangements, rock art, middens etc).	Apply active or passive protection measures as per Sections 4.2.2 and 4.2.3.	<p>As other site types have a very limited chance of being identified in the project boundary, no specific management methodology has been devised.</p> <p>If other site types not previously identified in the project boundary are identified, a salvage method must be prepared by the project archaeologist in consultation with RAPs. This may be established through an extraordinary meeting with RAPs or through letter correspondence with a reasonable timeframe for review.</p> <p>Any salvage activity would require a report on the methods and results of the exercise.</p>

## 5.3 Discovery of Aboriginal ancestral remains

In the event that known or suspected human skeletal remains are encountered during the activity, the following procedure presented in Table 5.2.

Table 5.2 Procedure for the discovery of potential Aboriginal ancestral remains

Steps	Actions
1. Stop work and secure site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The immediate vicinity will be secured to protect the find and the find will be immediately reported to the work supervisor who will</li> </ul>



Steps	Actions
	<p>immediately advise the site supervisor or other nominated senior staff member.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A 10 m no-go zone will be established around the immediate area of the site.</li> <li>• Contact the project heritage specialist for advice – provide images and location information via email.</li> <li>• If the bones are not clearly human and are difficult to identify, such as an isolated long bone, access the services of a physical anthropologist who may be able to identify origins based on photographs.</li> </ul>
2. Establish the origin of the remains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This will occur after discussion with the project heritage specialist.</li> <li>• If the bones are identified as human or suspected of being human, follow step 3 below.</li> </ul>
3. Notification to authorities and stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ACEN Australia's HSE Manager or other nominated senior staff member will notify: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ the DPE Archaeologist for the New England region (02 6773 7005) within two days – DPE employs specialists in-house that may be able to confirm the origin of the bones;</li> <li>○ Uralla Police (02 6778 4400) at the same time as DPE – the police will notify the State Coroner;</li> <li>○ if the human remains are less than 100 years old, they will be addressed under the NSW Coroners Act 2009; and</li> <li>○ determine if the bones are ancestral Aboriginal remains or a historical burial; and if so, manage as Step 4 below.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
4. Determination of the find and further notification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If it is determined that the skeletal material is of ancestral Aboriginal remains, RAPs contacted and consultative arrangements will be made to discuss ongoing care of the remains.</li> <li>• Engage project archaeologist to assist and/or facilitate management of the Aboriginal ancestral remains with RAPs and ACEN Australia.</li> <li>• Heritage NSW will be notified of these discussions and proposed action.</li> <li>• If it is determined that the skeletal remains are historic in origin, follow the process in the HHMP.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the skeletal material is not human, resume work. Ensure determination of non-human material is provided by relevant experts (e.g. Coroner or Police) before resuming work. Heritage NSW and DPE will be advised of this outcome in writing.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the remains are historic, but non – Aboriginal human remains, the NSW Heritage Council will be consulted to determine requirements in accordance with the Heritage Act and relevant guidelines. Further</li> </ul>

Steps	Actions
	<p>actions are likely to require adherence with the following NSW Heritage Council guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Conservation Management Documents: Guidelines on Conservation Management Plans and other Management Documents.</i></li> <li>○ <i>Skeletal Remains; Guidelines for Management of Human Skeletal Remains.</i></li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the remains are non-Aboriginal and non-historic human remains, coordinate ACEN Australia's involvement with police. Works will not proceed until written approval is granted from relevant authorities (ie Coroner and/or NSW Police).</li> </ul>
4.Initial planning and reporting if it is determined that the remains are Aboriginal ancestral remains.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aboriginal ancestral remains certificate to be submitted to the Police/Coroner to address the Coroners Act 2009 (Coroners Act).</li> <li>• In consultation with RAPs and archaeologist, establish investigation area and any additional protocols to be adhered to during further investigation. The investigation will aim to establish whether any other burials are within or likely to occur nearby. Suitable methods could include controlled and monitored hand or machine excavation and/or non-invasive techniques such as geophysical techniques.</li> <li>• Engage an archaeologist to record the site and undertake significance and impact assessment of the burial site with RAPs and archaeologist. Site recordings must involve drawings and photography. Additional technical studies and samples may be taken with the consent of RAPs such as those for dating and biological information (eg age, sex and health of deceased).</li> <li>• Record burial site on the NES AH Database and AHIMs register, noting any restricted access requirements requested by RAPs.</li> </ul>
5.Engagement with construction and operation manager to determine whether disturbance of the burial site(s) can be avoided.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the Aboriginal ancestral remains cannot be avoided: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Consult with RAPs and project archaeologist to facilitate recovery and reburial protocols and actions. (Heritage NSW will be advised of the proposed actions). Recovery methods must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Exhumation in a controlled archaeological method and in consultation with RAPs and placed into a secure, temperate controlled storage location until a final reburial site can it identified.</li> <li>▪ Access to the secure storage location containing any human remains will be managed and facilitated by ACEN Australia in consultation with RAPs.</li> <li>▪ RAPs will determine if further studies, media releases or other investigations are appropriate for the finds.</li> <li>▪ Where required, ACEN Australia will help facilitate any culturally appropriate reburial or ceremonial methods.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Prepare report for Heritage NSW and RAPs on the outcome of relevant investigation, recovery and reburial outcomes.</li> <li>○ Update AHMP by adding the newly discovered burial site to Table A.1 and describing subsequent actions; and.</li> <li>○ Works will not recommence until written approval is received from relevant authorities.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Steps	Actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the Aboriginal ancestral remains can be avoided: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ develop appropriate management and mitigation measures in consultation with RAPs and archaeologists;</li> <li>○ prepare report for DPE, Heritage NSW and RAPs;</li> <li>○ update AHMP; and</li> <li>○ works will not recommence until written advice is provided from the project archaeologist that the remains are suitably protected and away from project impacts.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

## 6 Ongoing operational and training protocols

### 6.1 Obligation to protect Aboriginal cultural heritage

#### 6.1.1 Obligation to avoid harm

All employees, contractors, sub-contractors and visitors to the project have an obligation to avoid harming Aboriginal heritage unless engaged in an Aboriginal heritage management activity described in this plan.

The NPW Act defines “harm” to an object or place as any act or omission that:

- (a) destroys, defaces or damages the object or place, or
- (b) in relation to an object-moves the object from the land on which it had been situated, or
- (c) is specified by the regulations, or
- (d) causes or permits the object or place to be harmed in a manner referred to in paragraph (a), (b) or (c), but does not include any act or omission that:
  - (e) desecrates the object or place, or
  - (f) is trivial or negligible, or
  - (g) is excluded from this definition by the regulations.

#### 6.1.2 Obligation to protect and implement management measures

Site personnel, contractors and subcontractors responsible for land management or construction have an obligation to protect Aboriginal heritage within their area or work responsibility. Protection means active recognition of known Aboriginal heritage and active measures to avoid Aboriginal heritage. This may include fencing, erosion control and modification of work plans to avoid impacts to Aboriginal heritage, as well as facilitating a process where work personnel are aware of the nearby heritage.

Site personnel, contractors and subcontractors also have the responsibility to ensure that appropriate management measures have been employed prior to, or in association with, their activities which impact Aboriginal sites.

## **6.2 Aboriginal heritage induction**

### **6.2.1 Site inductions**

All employees, contractors, sub-contractors involved in ground-disturbing activities will undergo an Aboriginal cultural heritage induction conducted either by a representative of the RAP, the lead contractor (once appropriately trained to present the induction), or their subcontractor (once appropriately trained to present the induction). In addition, visitors to the project and general contractors not involved in ground-disturbing activities will be made aware of their obligation to avoid harm to Aboriginal heritage through an Aboriginal heritage component of the general site induction. Records of these inductions will be kept by ACEN Australia/its contractors.

The Aboriginal heritage induction / relevant sub-component of the site induction will be planned in consultation with RAPs. ACEN Australia will seek input from RAPs regarding appropriate materials for input and key issues that RAPs would like raised to all inductees. This may involve sending relevant draft material (such as induction booklets or slideshow slides) to RAPs for their review and comment within a reasonable timeframe (minimum one week).

The following points will be conveyed through site induction material:

- Aboriginal sites have been identified across the project boundary and beyond;
- Aboriginal sites are of high significance to the Aboriginal community, are important to the wider community and must be treated with respect;
- Aboriginal sites are protected by law and that project approval includes conditions allowing impacts to certain specified Aboriginal sites in accordance with this plan;
- Aboriginal sites have included grinding grooves, scarred trees, quarries, stone artefact sites;
- Aboriginal sites can be hard to recognise, therefore reference must be made to the Aboriginal heritage maps in this AHMP in order to clearly identify demarcated site boundaries;
- certain sites must be protected or salvaged by the project archaeologist and RAPs prior to ground disturbance activities; and
- that there are new finds procedures which involve stopping work if suspected new Aboriginal sites or skeletal material is identified on-site.

### **6.2.2 Fostering cultural heritage awareness**

ACEN Australia will provide opportunities for RAP representatives to participate in activities related to training and fostering cultural heritage awareness in the project boundary. This will involve ACEN Australia exploring opportunities to involve RAPs in training the lead contractor and/or relevant subcontractors to give cultural heritage inductions, toolbox sessions during construction and operations (as may be relevant) and provide updates on Aboriginal heritage matters for the

project. ACEN Australia will also explore opportunities to work with suitable Aboriginal people to develop and implement Cultural Heritage Awareness Training for the life of the project.

June 2023 update:

ACEN Australia and RAPs have developed and implemented cultural toolbox sessions since December 2021 that are hosted by RAP representatives on a rotating roster. These toolbox sessions are generally undertaken on a monthly basis unless cancelled or postponed due to unforeseen circumstances.

A 'run sheet' for the toolbox sessions is attached to this AHMP as Appendix G.

## 6.3 Implementation of this plan

The individuals responsible for the implementation of the plan are provided in Table 6.1. The plan will be stored in ACEN Australia / its contractor's document control system; the latest version will be available electronically at all times. As the document owner, ACEN Australia is the contact point for this plan and its requirements and will provide guidance and training to any person that requires additional training regarding this plan.

Table 6.1 Roles and responsibilities for Aboriginal heritage management

Role	Responsibilities
ACEN Australia Project Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure the implementation of this plan is carried out appropriately during construction.</li> </ul>
ACEN Australia Operations Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure the implementation of this plan is carried out appropriately during operations.</li> </ul>
Stage 2a EPC Contractor Project Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure adequate financial and personnel resources are made available for the implementation of this plan for the relevant Stage.</li> </ul>
Stage 1b Contractor Operations Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure subcontractors complete site induction, and are aware of new finds protocol, prior to ground disturbing works.</li> </ul>
All Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Manage the implementation of this plan during construction and operations.</li> </ul>
ACEN Australia's HSE Manager (Including Contractors HSE managers where relevant).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Primary contact with RAPs.</li> <li>Lead the implementation of this plan during construction and operations, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oversee signage and fencing of areas containing artefacts in accordance with this plan.</li> <li>Ensure the Aboriginal heritage management measures required to be undertaken prior to construction are conducted in accordance with the measures outlined in this plan.</li> <li>Ensure signage and fencing of Aboriginal sites is maintained.</li> <li>Ensure inclusion of Aboriginal heritage in work inductions through delivery or input to induction documents.</li> <li>Distribute copies of this plan as required.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



Role	Responsibilities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage and coordinate relevant specialist personnel to undertake management measures or additional assessment as specified in this plan.</li> <li>Maintain records of Aboriginal consultation.</li> <li>Ensure relevant reporting, data management and registration is conducted, maintained and updated.</li> <li>Arrange for a review of this plan in accordance with review cycles and conditions specified in this plan.</li> </ul>

## 6.4 Measuring performance

Actions undertaken under the plan will be reported as part of required Independent Environmental Audits to DPE. Compliance with the plan will be measured by standard environmental auditing procedures undertaken at regular intervals. The audit will include an assessment of compliance with development consent conditions and will include auditing the following measures:

- collection of all nominated sites;
- protection of all nominated sites;
- inductions are taking place and include appropriate material;
- a keeping place is suitably established and collected material is suitably stored and presented; and
- the NES AH Database is updated and maintained as required by this plan.

ACEN Australia may engage a heritage consultant to assist with reporting compliance as part of an Independent Environmental Audit. Any incidents and non-compliance notifications will follow requirements set out in Section 7.4 and Section 7.5 below.

Regular inspections of the fencing will be completed by the Stage 2a EPC Project Manager for Stage 2a areas and the Stage 1b Operations Manager for Stage 1b areas. These inspections are completed monthly or after periods of high wind and will monitor whether the protection mechanisms are intact and have not impacted Aboriginal objects.

September 2023 update:

ACEN Australia and RAP members have co-developed a cultural heritage sites management program, including development of condition assessment criteria to support ongoing monitoring of heritage sites. The condition assessment checklist template is included in Appendix F.

## 6.5 Ground disturbance proposed outside of development footprint

Ground disturbance proposed outside of the approved development footprint, or outside other existing approved areas under the development consent, will not occur without prior Aboriginal heritage assessment and other relevant legislative and internal approvals. Further, it is noted that

ACEN Australia has no rights outside of the development footprint given that it is not the owner of the land; its rights are limited to the boundary of the Leased areas and that any development or construction activities outside of the approved development footprint would require a modification of the DA.

Passive management will apply to items that have been identified for protection within the project boundary but over 50 m from the development footprint. While no fencing, signage or active land management measures are proposed for these sites, their locations will be kept on the NES AH Database for persons working on or visiting the project boundary.

Items within the passive protection zone will be clearly identified during the project induction and toolbox talks as project exclusion zones. No project activities can occur in these areas even though they are not visually identified – in these instances ACEN Australia has the obligation to advise relevant landholders about their responsibilities not to harm items on their property.

Depending on the scope, nature and approval pathway of the proposed ground disturbance, the following may apply:

- If the proposed activity requires additional environmental assessment, such as a modification to the existing development consent, an Aboriginal heritage assessment will be completed in accordance with relevant assessment requirements as specified by DPE.
- If the proposed activity is permissible under the existing SSD development consent (ie Aboriginal heritage impact permit (AHIP) not required), an Aboriginal heritage assessment must initially be completed to a level consistent with the *Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (DECCW 2010b). Any potential impacts to known or newly identified Aboriginal objects will be managed in accordance with the new finds procedures set out in Chapter 5.
- If the proposed activity requires a separate approval pathway not permissible as part of SSD under the EP&A Act, then an Aboriginal heritage assessment must initially be completed to a level consistent with the *Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (DECCW 2010b). Depending on the outcomes of the due diligence assessment, further investigation may be required in accordance with the *Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in New South Wales* (DECCW 2010c) and relevant subdocuments. If Aboriginal objects are likely to be impacted, an AHIP would need to be pursued under the NPW Act to allow harm to Aboriginal objects.

# 7 Reporting, review and data management

## 7.1 Statutory reporting requirements

Notifications to Heritage NSW are required in relation to discovery, impact and care of Aboriginal objects under the NPW Act. This will be the responsibility of ACEN Australia's HSE Manager with information received by relevant Contractors.

### 7.1.1 Discovery of Aboriginal objects

Under Section 89A of the NPW Act, it is a requirement that Heritage NSW is notified of the existence of Aboriginal objects as soon as practicable after they are first identified. This is done through the completion of the Heritage NSW Aboriginal Site Card which is submitted to the Registrar of AHIMS for inclusion on the Aboriginal site database. Information regarding AHIMS and site recording forms can be downloaded from Heritage NSW's website:

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/licences/DECCAHIMSSiteRecordingForm.htm>.

### 7.1.2 Care agreements

Under s85A of the NPW Act, Aboriginal objects remain the property, and under the protection of, the Crown until formal transfer to a person or persons of a class prescribed by the regulations occurs. A Care Agreement should be lodged with Heritage NSW for the recovered objects specified in this plan (Section 4.2.5).

Care Agreement application forms can be downloaded at:

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/aboriginal-cultural-heritage/protect-and-manage/care-agreements>.

### 7.1.3 Reporting impact to Aboriginal sites

An Aboriginal Site Impact Recording Form must be completed following impacts to AHIMS sites that are:

- a) a result of test excavation carried out in accordance with the *Code of Practice for the Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW*;
- b) authorised by an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) issued by DPE;
- c) undertaken for the purpose of complying with Secretary's environmental assessment requirements issued by DPE for:
  - i) state significant development (SSD),
  - ii) state significant infrastructure (SSI), or
  - iii) a major project, or

- d) authorised by a SSD/SSI/former Part 3A consent/approval under the EP&A Act.

Completed forms must be submitted to the AHIMS Registrar at:

[www.environment.nsw.gov.au/contact/AHIMSRegistrar.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/contact/AHIMSRegistrar.htm).

Aboriginal Site Impact Recording Forms can be downloaded at:

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/cultureheritage/120558asirf.pdf>.

## **7.2 AHMP review**

### **7.2.1 Review cycle for this plan**

This AHMP will be reviewed and, if necessary, revised to the satisfaction of the Secretary prior to carrying out works associated with any modification to the conditions of SSD-9255.

This AHMP will be reviewed following a discovery of heritage significance, any incident or independent audit where issues are found. Additional review is to occur when there is an audit conducted for the site.

### **7.2.2 Making changes to this plan**

Changes to the plan will be made in the following circumstances:

- where approved modifications to the project introduce new impacts on Aboriginal heritage which are not generally covered by the AHMP;
- where approved changes to the project change or remove previously planned impacts on Aboriginal heritage where mitigation was proposed in the plan but is no longer required; and/or
- where other conditions or situations arise that require the updating of this plan.

It is noted that the AHMP may require modification to the project approval if not aligned with the current project conditions of approval. However, the document provides a framework for post-approval heritage management, and where issues are identified, the AHMP may require updating and/or modification. Where such updates are required, DPE will be consulted and a modification to approval would only be sought if deemed necessary by DPE. ACEN Australia will be guided by DPE whether the nature of any proposed changes require endorsement by Heritage NSW.

### **7.2.3 Aboriginal consultation for AHMP review**

Where changes are made to the AHMP, a draft of the modified plan will be provided to RAPS for their review and comment (14 calendar day review period).

Matters raised during consultation which are specific to any proposed changes in the plan will be acknowledged and addressed in the modified plan. Further requirements for Aboriginal consultation are set out in Chapter 2.

## 7.3 New England Solar Aboriginal Heritage Database

The NES AH Database will be issued to and maintained by ACEN Australia. The database will be a 'live' document of the Aboriginal heritage resources within the project boundary that will be continuously updated to reflect new finds and the management status of all Aboriginal sites within the project boundary.

The database must include:

- a record of current management status, location and boundaries of Aboriginal sites, site areas and PAD boundaries; and
- a record of Aboriginal heritage survey coverage (represented by GPS survey tracks).

The database will comprise datasets available in both MS Excel format and Geographical Information System (GIS) Format. GIS data will be made available for mapping purposes to assist in the identification and management of Aboriginal heritage sites and areas during the life of the project. The database will be 'version controlled' to ensure that all relevant parties involved in Aboriginal heritage management are working with the most up to date datasets.

ACEN Australia/its contractors will be responsible for ensuring that all relevant employees, RAPs and subcontractors are provided with up to date datasets.

The database will be updated within 28 days in the following circumstances:

- discovery of a confirmed new Aboriginal site or human remains;
- changes or incidents to existing Aboriginal sites;
- changes to the management status of Aboriginal sites and areas; and/or
- the completion of Aboriginal heritage activities such as survey, excavation, surface collection, and protective measures.

Note that any newly identified Aboriginal object must be registered on AHIMS as specified in Section 7.1.1.

## 7.4 Complaints

The following contact details are available for the community to make a complaint or send an enquiry:

- A 24 hour telephone number (1800 844 889).
- An email address to which electronic complaints may be transmitted ([info@newenglandsolar.com](mailto:info@newenglandsolar.com)).
- A Facebook page has been established (<https://www.facebook.com/newenglandsolarfarm>).

These details are provided on the NES website.



## 7.5 Notifiable Incidents

The Development Consent defines an incident as:

*An occurrence or set of circumstances that causes or threatens to cause material harm.*

The Development Consent defines material harm as harm that:

- *involves actual or potential harm to the health or safety of human beings or to ecosystems that is not trivial; or*
- *results in actual or potential loss of property damage of an amount, or amounts in aggregate, exceeding \$10,000 (such loss includes the reasonable costs and expenses that would be incurred in taking all reasonable and practicable measures to prevent, mitigate or make good harm to the environment).*

This definition of 'material harm' is consistent with the definition in Section 147 of the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* and the associated legal obligations to notify the EPA where a 'pollution' incident occurs such that material harm to the environment is caused or threatened.

In the context of aboriginal heritage management, a notifiable incident is:

*Unauthorised ground disturbance within Aboriginal site or PAD boundaries identified in this ACHMP that are scheduled for active or passive avoidance as per Table A.1.*

### 7.5.1 Immediate Response

Any incident that occurs that causes or threatens to cause material harm will be reported immediately to ACEN Australia's Project Manager (during construction and operations).

Upon receiving notification of an incident, ACEN Australia's Project Manager (or their nominee if off-site at the time of the incident) will immediately attend the incident and:

- Isolate the area affected by the incident
- Stop works around the area
- Implement containment measures to prevent the impact of the incident spreading
- Decide as to whether the incident has caused or threatens to cause material harm.

### 7.5.2 External Notifications

#### 7.5.2.1 Duty to Report

If ACEN Australia's Project Manager (or their nominee if off-site at the time of the incident) has determined the incident has caused or threatens to cause material harm, he/she will, pursuant to requirements under Section 148 of the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* immediately notify the EPA, the NSW Ministry of Health, Fire and Rescue NSW and SafeWork NSW by verbal means.

These authorities will be notified (verbally) and provided the following relevant information:

- The time, date, nature, duration and location of the incident
- The location of the place where pollution is occurring or is likely to occur
- The nature, the estimated quantity or volume and the concentration of any pollutants involved, if known
- The circumstances in which the incident occurred (including the cause of the incident, if known)
- The action taken or proposed to be taken to deal with the incident and any resulting pollution or threatened pollution, if known.

The EPA may direct ACEN Australia to notify such other persons of the incident as the EPA requires.

### 7.5.2.2 Notifications

All agencies including DPE will be notified immediately after becoming aware of an incident. Consistent with Schedule 4 Condition 7 of the Development Consent, notification to DPE will be in writing via the Major Projects website portal, including the following information:

- Identify the development (i.e. the NES) and the application number (SSD 9255)
- Set out the location and nature of the incident.

Seven days after the incident, ACEN Australia will prepare a report as per Appendix 7 of the Development Consent.

## 7.6 Non-Compliance

### 7.6.1 Commitment

A failure to comply with a Condition of Development Consent or statutory approval will constitute a non-compliance.

### 7.6.2 Response

In the event of a non-compliance, ACEN Australia and its contractor (where relevant) will undertake the five steps as outlined within Table 7.1 below, consistent with the guidance advice for ISO 14001 – Environmental management systems.

Table 7.1 *Non-compliance Response*

Step	Action
React	<p>React to the non-compliance and, as applicable:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Act to control and correct it</li> <li>2. Notify and communicate to relevant parties where required</li> <li>3. Deal with the consequences, including mitigating adverse environmental impacts.</li> </ol>

Evaluate	Evaluate the need for action to eliminate the cause of the non-compliance in order that it does not recur or occur elsewhere by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reviewing the non-compliances</li> <li>2. Determining the cause of the non-compliances</li> <li>3. Determining if similar non-compliances exist or could potentially occur.</li> </ol>
Act	Implement any action required.
Review	Review the effectiveness of any corrective action taken.
Change	Make changes to the environmental management plans, if necessary.

### 7.6.3 Corrective Action

Any non-compliance will trigger a Corrective Action appropriate to the significance of the effect of the non-compliance. ACEN Australia and its Contractor (where relevant) will retain documented information as evidence of the nature of the non-compliance and any subsequent actions taken, and the results of the Corrective Action.

### 7.6.4 Notification

Consistent with Schedule 4 Conditions 8-10 of the Development Consent, DPE will be notified in writing via the Major Projects website portal within seven days after ACEN Australia and its Contractor becomes aware of any non-compliance. A non-compliance which has been notified as an incident does not need to also be notified as a non-compliance.

The notification will:

- Identify the development (i.e. as NES) and the application number (SSD 9255)
- Set out the Condition/s of Development Consent that the NES is non-compliant with
- The way in which it does not comply
- The reasons for non-compliance (if known)
- What actions have been done, or will be, undertaken to address the non-compliance.

DPE can also be contacted via the Major Projects Portal.

## 8 References

EMM Consulting Pty Limited (EMM) 2018, *New England Solar Farm - Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment*, prepared for ACEN Australia (then, UPC\AC Renewables) November 2018,

- 2019a, *New England Solar Farm - Addendum to the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment report*, prepared for ACEN Australia (then, UPC\AC Renewables) June 2019.
- 2019b, *New England Solar Farm, Proposed Road Upgrades, addendum to the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment report*, prepared for ACEN Australia (then, UPC) September 2019.
- 2019c, *New England Solar Farm Amendment Report*, prepared for ACEN Australia (then, UPC) June 2019.
- 2019d, *New England Solar Farm Response to Submissions*, prepared for ACEN Australia (then, UPC) June 2019.
- 2022, *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment, New England Solar Farm Modification 2*, prepared for ACEN Australia , August 2022
- Department of Climate Change and Water (DECCW) 2010a, *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010*.
- 2010b, *Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales*.
- 2010c, *Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in New South Wales*.

# Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Full term
AHIMS	Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System
AHMP	Aboriginal heritage management plan
AR	Amendment report
BESS	Battery energy storage system
CoA	Conditions of Approval
Council	Uralla Shire Council
EIS	Environmental impact statement
EMM	EMM Consulting Pty Limited
DPE	NSW Department of Planning and Environment
IPC	Independent Planning Commission
LGA	Local government area
MW	Megawatt
RTS	Response to submissions
SSD	State Significant Development
ACEN Australia	ACEN Australia Pty Ltd

# APPENDIX A ABORIGINAL SITE INVENTORY

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# A1 ABORIGINAL SITE INVENTORY

Table Legend:

	Management completed
	Management partially completed

*Aboriginal site inventory and management*

Site name:	AHIMS	Site type	Archaeological Significance Rating	Cultural significance rating	Area	Level of impact	Management	Status (Aug 2023)
NE01	(21-4-0196)	Artefact scatter	Low	High	Stage 1	None	Avoidance – active	Management completed: fencing verified July 2022
NE02	(21-4-0197)	Isolated find	Low	High	Stage 1	Total disturbance	Surface collection (additional attempt)	Salvage complete: artefacts recovered July 2021
NE03	(21-4-0198)	Isolated find	Low	High	Stage 2	Total disturbance	Surface collection (additional attempt) Community Collection Grader Scrape	No objects recovered October 2022 during additional attempt. Grader Scrape method required.
NE04	(21-4-0199)	Grinding groove	Moderate	High	Stage 1	None	Avoidance – active	Management completed: fencing verified July 2022

Site name:	AHIMS	Site type	Archaeological Significance Rating	Cultural significance rating	Area	Level of impact	Management	Status (Aug 2023)
NE05	(21-4-0200)	Isolated find	Low	High	Stage 1	Total disturbance	Surface collection (additional attempt)	Management completed: no objects recovered.
NE06	(21-4-0201)	Isolated find	Low	High	Stage 1	Total disturbance	Surface collection	Salvage completed
NE07	(21-4-0202)	Artefact scatter	Moderate	High	Stage 1	None	Avoidance – passive	Demarcation completed
NE08	(21-4-0203)	Isolated find	Low	High	Stage 1	Total disturbance	Surface collection (additional attempt)	Management completed: no objects recovered.
NE09	(21-4-0204)	Grinding groove, artefact scatter, PAD	High	High	Stage 1	None	Avoidance – active	Management completed: fencing completed July 2021
NE10	(21-4-0205)	Isolated find, PAD	Moderate	High	Outside Stage 1	Other	Surface collection	Salvage completed Stone hatchet collected
NE11	(21-4-0206)	Isolated find	Low	High	Outside Stage 1	None	Avoidance – passive	Demarcation completed
NE12	(21-4-0207)	Isolated find	Low	High	Outside Stage 1	None	Avoidance – passive	Demarcation completed

Site name:	AHIMS	Site type	Archaeological Significance Rating	Cultural significance rating	Area	Level of impact	Management	Status (Aug 2023)
NE13	(21-4-0208)	Artefact scatter	Low	High	Outside Stage 1	Other	Avoidance – passive	Demarcation required
NE14	(21-4-0209)	Quarry, artefact scatter, PAD	Moderate	High	Stage 1	None	Avoidance – active	Demarcation completed but fencing required.
NE15	(21-4-0210)	Artefact scatter	Low	High	Stage 1	Total disturbance	Surface collection (additional attempt)	Salvage complete: artefacts recovered July 2021
NE16	(21-4-0211)	Artefact scatter	Low	High	Stage 1	Total disturbance	Surface collection (additional attempt)	Management completed: no objects recovered.
NE17	(21-4-0212)	Artefact scatter, PAD	Moderate	High	Outside Stage 2	None	Avoidance – active Collect stone hatchet	Demarcation completed. Stone hatched recovered October 2022  Fencing to be completed as part of Perimeter Fencing.
NE18	(21-4-0213)	Isolated find	Low	High	Stage 2	Total loss	Surface collection (additional attempt)	Artefacts recovered October 2022

Site name:	AHIMS	Site type	Archaeological Significance Rating	Cultural significance rating	Area	Level of impact	Management	Status (Aug 2023)
							Community Collection Grader Scrape	Grader Scrape method required
NE19	(21-4-0214)	Isolated find	Low	High	Outside Stage 2	None	Avoidance – passive	Demarcation completed October 2022
NE20	(21-4-0215)	Isolated find	Low	High	Stage 2	Total disturbance	Surface collection Community Collection Grader Scrape	Management incomplete Grader Scrape method required
NE21	(21-4-0216)	Quarry, artefact scatter, PAD	Moderate	High	Stage 2	None	Avoidance – active	Demarcation completed but fencing required October 2022.
NE22	(21-4-0217)	Quarry, artefact scatter, PAD	Moderate	High	Stage 2	None	Avoidance – active	Demarcation completed but fencing required October 2022.
NE23	(21-4-0218)	Scarred tree	Moderate	High	Stage 2	None	None	Tree has fallen and will not be salvaged. No management required.



Site name:	AHIMS	Site type	Archaeological Significance Rating	Cultural significance rating	Area	Level of impact	Management	Status (Aug 2023)
NE24	(21-4-0219)	Scarred tree	Moderate	High	Stage 2	None	Avoidance – active	Demarcation completed but fencing required October 2022.
NE25	(21-4-0220)	Scarred tree	Low	High	Stage 2	None	None	Tree has fallen and will not be salvaged. No management required.
NE26	(21-4-0221)	Isolated find	Low	High	Outside Stage 2	None	Avoidance – passive	Demarcation completed.
NE27	(21-4-0222)	Artefact scatter, confirmed deposit, PAD	Moderate	High	Stage 2	Partial disturbance	Avoidance – active Avoid significant area by active protection of mapped PAD area Collect stone hatchet.	Demarcation completed. Surveyor logging required. Fencing required. Stone hatchet not recovered during July 2021 or October 2022 fieldwork as it couldn't be relocated. However, site will be protected so no further collection attempt necessary.

Site name:	AHIMS	Site type	Archaeological Significance Rating	Cultural significance rating	Area	Level of impact	Management	Status (Aug 2023)
NE37	(21-4-0232)	Scarred tree	Moderate	High	Stage 1	None	Avoidance – active	Management completed: fencing completed July 2021
NE38	(21-4-0233)	Artefact scatter, PAD	Moderate	High	Stage 2	None	Avoidance – active	Demarcation completed but fencing required October 2022.
NE39	(21-4-0234)	Scarred tree	Moderate	High	Stage 1	None	Avoidance – active	Management completed: fencing completed July 2021
NE40	(21-4-0235)	Isolated find	Moderate	High	Stage 1	None	Avoidance – active	Management completed: fencing completed July 2021
NE41	(21-4-0236)	Artefact scatter, PAD	Moderate	High	Stage 1	None	Avoidance – active	Management completed: fencing verified July 2022
NE42	(21-4-0237)	Isolated find	Low	High	Stage 1	Total disturbance	Surface collection (additional attempt)	Management completed: no objects recovered.
NE43	(21-4-0238)	Quarry, artefact	Moderate	High	Outside Stage 1	None	Avoidance – passive	Demarcation completed

Site name:	AHIMS	Site type	Archaeological Significance Rating	Cultural significance rating	Area	Level of impact	Management	Status (Aug 2023)
		scatter, PAD						
NE44	(21-4-0239)	Artefact scatter	Moderate	High	Outside Stage 1	None	Avoidance – passive	Demarcation completed
NE45	(21-4-0240)	Scarred tree	Moderate	High	Stage 1	None	Avoidance – active	Management completed: fencing verified July 2022
NE46	(21-4-0241)	Artefact scatter	Low	High	Stage 1	Total disturbance	Surface collection (additional attempt)	Salvage complete: sample of artefacts recovered July 2021
NE47	(21-4-0242)	Scarred tree	Moderate	High	Stage 1	None	Avoidance – active	Management completed: fencing verified July 2022
NE48	(21-4-0243)	Isolated find	Low	High	Stage 1	Total disturbance	Surface collection (additional attempt)	Salvage complete: artefacts recovered July 2021
NE49	(21-4-0244)	Scarred tree	Moderate	High	Stage 1	Total loss	Salvage: remove and relocate.	Salvage completed. Transferred to keeping place
NE50	(21-4-0245)	Isolated find, PAD	Moderate	High	Stage 1	None	Avoidance – active Collect stone hatchet.	Demarcation completed Fencing verified July 2022

Site name:	AHIMS	Site type	Archaeological Significance Rating	Cultural significance rating	Area	Level of impact	Management	Status (Aug 2023)
								Stone hatchet recovered from NE09 July 2021
NE58	(21-4-0252)	Artefact scatter, PAD	Moderate	High	Outside Stage 2	None	Avoidance – Active	Demarcation completed. Surveyor logging of demarcation required. Fencing to be completed as part of Perimeter Fencing.
NE59	(21-4-0253)	Isolated find	Low	High	Stage 2	Total disturbance	Surface collection (additional attempt) Community Collection Grader Scrape	No objects recovered October 2022 during additional attempt. Grader Scrape method required.
NE60	(21-4-0254)	Isolated find	Low	High	Stage 1	Total disturbance	Surface collection	Salvage completed
NE61	N/A	Not an Aboriginal scar tree	Not applicable	High	Stage 1	Total loss	No management required: not an Aboriginal scar tree.	None required
NE62	(21-4-0255)	Isolated find	Low	High	Stage 1	Total disturbance	Surface collection (additional attempt)	Management completed: no objects recovered.



Site name:	AHIMS	Site type	Archaeological Significance Rating	Cultural significance rating	Area	Level of impact	Management	Status (Aug 2023)
NE63	(21-4-0256)	Isolated find	Low	High	Stage 1	Total disturbance	Surface collection (additional attempt)	Salvage complete: artefacts recovered July 2021
NE64	(21-4-0257)	Isolated find	Low	High	Stage 1	Total disturbance	Surface collection (additional attempt)	Management completed: no objects recovered.
NE65	(21-4-0258)	Isolated find	Low	High	Stage 1	Total disturbance	Surface collection (additional attempt)	Salvage complete: sample of artefacts recovered July 2021
NE66	(21-4-0259)	Artefact scatter	Low	High	Stage 1	Total disturbance	Surface collection	Salvage completed
NE67	(21-4-0260)	Scarred tree	Low	High	Stage 1	None	Unmitigated impact (tree has collapsed)	None required
NE68	(21-4-0261)	Grinding groove, artefact scatter, PAD	High	High	Stage 1	None	Avoidance – active	Management completed: fencing verified July 2022
NE69	(21-4-0262)	Isolated find	Low	High	Stage 3	Total disturbance	Surface collection (additional attempt)	Management completed: no objects recovered.

Site name:	AHIMS	Site type	Archaeological Significance Rating	Cultural significance rating	Area	Level of impact	Management	Status (Aug 2023)
NE70	(21-4-0263)	Artefact scatter, confirmed deposit, PAD	High	High	Stage 2	Partial disturbance	Avoidance – active Avoid significant area by active protection of mapped PAD area	Demarcation completed Fencing to be completed as part of Perimeter Fencing, if access road located within 20m of NE70.
NE71	(21-4-0264)	Isolated find	Low	High	Stage 2	None	Avoidance – active	Demarcation completed Fencing to be completed as part of Perimeter Fencing
NE72	(21-4-0265)	Scarred tree	Low	High	Stage 2	None	None	Tree has fallen and will not be salvaged. No management required.
NE73	(21-4-0266)	Artefact scatter, PAD	Moderate	High	Outside Stage 2	None	Avoidance – active	Demarcation completed Fencing to be completed as part of Perimeter Fencing.
NE74	(21-4-0267)	Isolated find	Low	High	Stage 2	Total disturbance	Surface collection Community Collection Grader Scrape	Surface artefact collected. Grader Scrape method required.

Site name:	AHIMS	Site type	Archaeological Significance Rating	Cultural significance rating	Area	Level of impact	Management	Status (Aug 2023)
NE75	(21-4-0268)	Isolated find	Low	High	Stage 2	Total disturbance	Surface collection (additional attempt) Community Collection Grader Scrape	No objects recovered October 2022. Grader Scrape method required.
NE76	(21-4-0269)	Isolated find	Low	High	Stage 2	Total disturbance	Surface collection Community Collection Grader Scrape	Surface artefact collected October 2022. Grader Scrape method required.
NE77	(21-4-0270)	Isolated find	Low	High	Potential ETL easement	None	Avoidance – active (if required)	Demarcation completed Fencing required if construction to occur in nearby vicinity.
NE78	(21-4-0271)	Artefact scatter, PAD	Moderate	High	Potential ETL easement	None	Avoidance – passive	Demarcation completed
NE79	(21-4-0272)	Grinding groove, artefact scatter, PAD	High	High	Potential ETL easement	None	Avoidance – passive	Demarcation completed October 2022

Site name:	AHIMS	Site type	Archaeological Significance Rating	Cultural significance rating	Area	Level of impact	Management	Status (Aug 2023)
NE80	(21-4-0273)	Grinding groove, PAD	High	High	Potential ETL easement	None	Avoidance active– (if required)	Demarcation completed Fencing required if construction to occur in nearby vicinity.
NE82	(21-4-0275)	Artefact scatter	Low	High	Stage 1	Total disturbance	Surface collection (additional attempt)	Salvage complete: artefacts recovered July 2021
NE83	(21-4-0276)	Isolated find, confirmed deposit, PAD	High	High	Stage 1	None	Avoidance – active Collect stone hatchet.	Demarcation completed Fencing completed. Stone hatchets not recovered during July 2021 fieldwork. However, site will be protected so no further collection attempt necessary.
NE84	(21-4-0277)	Isolated find	Low	High	Outside Stage 1	None	Avoidance – passive	Outside Development Footprint. Demarcation to be completed
NE86	(21-4-0279)	Isolated find	Low	High	Outside Stage 2	None	Avoidance – passive	Outside Development Footprint.

Site name:	AHIMS	Site type	Archaeological Significance Rating	Cultural significance rating	Area	Level of impact	Management	Status (Aug 2023)
								Demarcation Completed Oct 2022. No Further action required
NE87	(21-4-0280)	Artefact scatter	Low	High	Outside Stage 2	None	Avoidance – passive Collect stone hatchet.	Demarcation completed October 2022. Stone hatchet recovered from NE09 July 2021. No further action required.
NE88	(21-4-0281)	Isolated find	Low	High	Stage 2	Total disturbance	Surface collection Community Collection Grader Scrape	Surface artefact collected October 2022. Grader Scrape method required.
NE89	(21-4-0282)	Isolated find	Low	High	Stage 1	Total disturbance	Surface collection	Salvage completed
NE90	(21-4-0283)	Isolated find	Low	High	Stage 1	Total disturbance	Surface collection	Salvage completed Stone hatchet collected
NE91	(21-4-0284)	Isolated find	Low	High	Stage 1	Total disturbance	Surface collection	Salvage completed



Site name:	AHIMS	Site type	Archaeological Significance Rating	Cultural significance rating	Area	Level of impact	Management	Status (Aug 2023)
NE92	(21-4-0285)	Isolated find	Low	High	Stage 1	Total disturbance	Surface collection (additional attempt)	Management completed: no objects recovered.
NE93	(21-4-0286)	Grinding groove, artefact scatter, PAD	Moderate	High	Outside Stage 2	None	Avoidance – passive	Outside Development Footprint. Demarcation to be completed.
NE94	(21-4-0287)	Artefact scatter, PAD	Moderate	High	Outside Stage 2	None	Avoidance – passive To be fenced during construction only.	Management incomplete Temporary fencing may be employed during construction only if within 20 m of site boundary.
NE95	(17-4-0049)	Isolated find	Low	High	Outside Stage 2	None	Avoidance – active	Demarcation completed October 2022 Fencing to be completed as part of Perimeter Fencing.
NE96	(21-4-0288)	Scarred tree	Moderate	High	Stage 2	None	Avoidance – active	Demarcation completed October 2022 Fencing required. Fencing to be minimum of 10 m

Site name:	AHIMS	Site type	Archaeological Significance Rating	Cultural significance rating	Area	Level of impact	Management	Status (Aug 2023)
								from tree trunk as per October 2022 demarcation fieldwork discussion with RAPs.
NE97	(21-4-0289)	Scarred tree	Moderate	High	Stage 2	None	None	Tree has fallen and will not be salvaged. No management required
NE98	(21-4-0290)	Isolated find	Low	High	Stage 2	Total disturbance	Surface collection (additional attempt) Community Collection Grader Scrape	No objects recovered October 2022. Grader Scrape method required.
NE99	(21-4-0291)	Isolated find	Low	High	Stage 2	Total disturbance	Surface collection (additional attempt) Community Collection Grader Scrape	No objects recovered October 2022. Grader Scrape method required.
NE100	(21-4-0292)	Open artefact scatter	Low	High	Outside Stage 2	None	Avoidance – passive	Demarcation completed October 2022
NE101	N/A	Not an Aboriginal scar tree	Not applicable	High	Stage 1	Total loss	No management required: not an Aboriginal scar tree.	No Further action required

Site name:	AHIMS	Site type	Archaeological Significance Rating	Cultural significance rating	Area	Level of impact	Management	Status (Aug 2023)
NE102	(21-4-0293)	Scarred tree	Moderate	High	Stage 1	None	Avoidance – active	Management completed: Fencing completed July 2021. Tree has fallen and will not be salvaged. Fenced area will remain for native plantings
NE103	TBC	Artefact scatter	Low	High	Outside Stage 2	None	Passive – outside project boundary	Outside Development Footprint, will not be impacted. No Further action required
NE104	TBC	PAD	TBC - moderate	High	Outside Stage 2	None	Passive – outside project boundary	Outside Development Footprint, will not be impacted. No Further action required
NE105	TBC	PAD	TBC - moderate	High	Outside Stage 2	None	Passive – outside project boundary	Outside Development Footprint, will not be impacted. No Further action required

Site name:	AHIMS	Site type	Archaeological Significance Rating	Cultural significance rating	Area	Level of impact	Management	Status (Aug 2023)
NE106	TBC	PAD	TBC - moderate	High	Outside Stage 2	None	Avoidance - Active	Fencing to be completed as part of Perimeter Fencing.
NE107	TBC	PAD	TBC - moderate	High	Outside Stage 2	None	Passive – outside project boundary	Outside Development Footprint. No Further action required
NE108	TBC	Isolated artefact	Low	High	Outside Stage 1	None	Passive – outside project boundary	Outside Development Footprint. No Further action required
NE109	TBC	Artefact scatter	Low	High	Outside Stage 1	None	Passive – outside project boundary	Outside Development Footprint. No Further action required
NE110	TBC	Scarred tree	Moderate	High	Outside Stage 1	None	Passive – outside project boundary	Outside Development Footprint. No Further action required
NE111	TBC	Scarred tree	Moderate	High	Outside Stage 1	None	Passive – outside project boundary	Outside Development Footprint. No Further action required

Site name:	AHIMS	Site type	Archaeological Significance Rating	Cultural significance rating	Area	Level of impact	Management	Status (Aug 2023)
NE112	TBC	Scarred tree	Moderate	High	Outside Stage 1	None	Passive – outside project boundary	Outside Development Footprint. No Further action required
NE113	TBC	Scarred tree	Moderate	High	Outside Stage 1	None	Passive – outside project boundary	Outside Development Footprint. No Further action required
NE114	TBC	Artefact scatter	Low	High	Outside Stage 1	None	Passive – outside project boundary	Outside Development Footprint. No Further action required
NE115	TBC	Isolated artefact	Low	High	Outside Stage 1	None	Passive – outside project boundary	Outside Development Footprint. No Further action required
NE116	TBC	Isolated artefact	Low	High	Outside Stage 1	None	Passive – outside project boundary	Outside Development Footprint. No Further action required
NE117	TBC	PAD	TBC - moderate	High	Outside Stage 2	None	Passive protection	Outside Development Footprint. No Further action required



Site name:	AHIMS	Site type	Archaeological Significance Rating	Cultural significance rating	Area	Level of impact	Management	Status (Aug 2023)
NE118	TBC	Artefact scatter	Low	High	Outside Stage 2	None	Passive protection	Outside Development Footprint. No Further action required
NE119	TBC	Artefact scatter	Low	High	Outside Stage 2	Total disturbance	Surface collection Community Collection Grader Scrape	Management Incomplete. Grader Scrape Required

## **APPENDIX B**

# **ABORIGINAL CONSULTATION FOR THIS PLAN**

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Aboriginal Consultation Log: New England Solar Farm	Contact type	Date	Comment
Consultation Log			
Post EIS Exhibition: Scar tree survey and archaeological test excavation: notice of survey and test excavation methods			
Organisation	Contact type	Date Sent	Comments
Nunawanna Aboriginal Corporation (NAC)	Email	18-Feb-19	Colin Ahoy replied requesting involvement in fieldwork (18/02/2019)
Armidale Local Aboriginal Land Council	Email	18-Feb-19	
Armidale and New England Gumbaynggirr Descendants	Email	18-Feb-19	Bruce Cohen replied requesting involvement in fieldwork (19/02/2019)
Aaron Broad	Email	18-Feb-19	No response provided
Les Townsend	Letter	18-Feb-19	No response provided
Steven Ahoy	Email	18-Feb-19	Steve Ahoy replied requesting involvement in fieldwork (26/02/2019)
Culturally Aware	Email	18-Feb-19	No response provided
Nyakka Aboriginal Culture Heritage Corporation Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Consultants	Email	18-Feb-19	No response provided
Nganyawana Clan Group	Email	18-Feb-19	Les Ahoy replied requesting involvement in fieldwork (20/02/2019)
Post EIS Exhibition: Scar tree verification update and approach email			
Organisation	Contact type	Date Sent	Comments
Nunawanna Aboriginal Corporation (NAC)	Email	24-Apr-19	
Armidale Local Aboriginal Land Council	Email	24-Apr-19	
Armidale and New England Gumbaynggirr Descendants	Email	24-Apr-19	
Aaron Broad	Email	24-Apr-19	
Les Townsend	Letter	24-Apr-19	
Steven Ahoy	Email	24-Apr-19	Ryan Desic talked to Steve Ahoy about the proposed approach as described in the email. Steve indicated that RAPs would wait until the report detailing the results was issued before making comment.
Culturally Aware	Email	24-Apr-19	
Nyakka Aboriginal Culture Heritage Corporation Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Consultants	Email	24-Apr-19	
Neanyawana Clan Group	Email	24-Apr-19	
Issue of ACHA amendment report to RAPs			
Organisation	Contact type	Date Sent	Comments
Nunawanna Aboriginal Corporation (NAC)	Email	04-Jun-19	
Armidale Local Aboriginal Land Council	Email	04-Jun-19	
Armidale and New England Gumbaynggirr Descendants	Email	04-Jun-19	
Aaron Broad	Email	04-Jun-19	
Les Townsend	Letter	04-Jun-19	
Steven Ahoy	Email	04-Jun-19	
Culturally Aware	Email	04-Jun-19	
Nyakka Aboriginal Culture Heritage Corporation Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Consultants	Email	04-Jun-19	
Nganyawana Clan Group	Email	04-Jun-19	
Notification of Haulage Road Upgrade survey and methods			
Organisation	Contact type	Date Sent	Comments
Nunawanna Aboriginal Corporation (NAC)	Email	05-Aug-19	Email to notify RAPs of proposed road upgrade work
Armidale Local Aboriginal Land Council	Email	05-Aug-19	Email to notify RAPs of proposed road upgrade work
Armidale and New England Gumbaynggirr Descendants	Email	05-Aug-19	Email to notify RAPs of proposed road upgrade work
Aaron Broad	Email	05-Aug-19	Email to notify RAPs of proposed road upgrade work
Les Townsend	Letter	13-Aug-19	Email to notify RAPs of proposed road upgrade work, tracking number 604 46858 402 092
Steven Ahoy	Email	05-Aug-19	Email to notify RAPs of proposed road upgrade work
Culturally Aware	Email	05-Aug-19	Email to notify RAPs of proposed road upgrade work
Nyakka Aboriginal Culture Heritage Corporation Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Consultants	Email	05-Aug-19	Email to notify RAPs of proposed road upgrade work
Nganyawana Clan Group	Email	05-Aug-19	Email to notify RAPs of proposed road upgrade work
Haulage Road Upgrade survey and methods			
Organisation	Contact type	Date Sent	Comments
Nunawanna Aboriginal Corporation (NAC)	Email	01-Aug-19	Emailled to find availability for survey efforts the following week
Steven Ahoy	Email	01-Aug-19	Emailled to find availability for survey efforts the following week
Armidale and New England Gumbaynggirr Descendants	Email	01-Aug-19	Emailled to find availability for survey efforts the following week
Nunawanna Aboriginal Corporation (NAC)	Email	05-Aug-19	Emailled survey work details for Thursday 8 August
Steven Ahoy	Email	05-Aug-19	Emailled survey work details for Thursday 8 August
Armidale and New England Gumbaynggirr Descendants	Email	05-Aug-19	Emailled survey work details for Thursday 8 August
Issue of Road Upgrades addendum report to RAPs			
Organisation	Contact type	Date Sent	Comments
Nunawanna Aboriginal Corporation (NAC)	Email	06-Sep-19	Email to notify RAPs of proposed road upgrade work
Armidale Local Aboriginal Land Council	Email	06-Sep-19	Email to notify RAPs of proposed road upgrade work
Armidale and New England Gumbaynggirr Descendants	Email	06-Sep-19	Email to notify RAPs of proposed road upgrade work
Aaron Broad	Email	06-Sep-19	Email to notify RAPs of proposed road upgrade work
Les Townsend	Letter	06-Sep-19	Email to notify RAPs of proposed road upgrade work, tracking number 604 46858 402 092
Steven Ahoy	Email	06-Sep-19	Email to notify RAPs of proposed road upgrade work
Culturally Aware	Email	06-Sep-19	Email to notify RAPs of proposed road upgrade work
Nyakka Aboriginal Culture Heritage Corporation Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Consultants	Email	06-Sep-19	Email to notify RAPs of proposed road upgrade work
Nganyawana Clan Group	Email	06-Sep-19	Email to notify RAPs of proposed road upgrade work
Notice of preparation of Aboriginal heritage management plan			
Organisation	Contact type	Date Sent	Comments
Nunawanna Aboriginal Corporation (NAC)	Email	11-Feb-20	
Armidale Local Aboriginal Land Council	Email	11-Feb-20	
Armidale and New England Gumbaynggirr Descendants	Email	11-Feb-20	
Aaron Broad	Email	11-Feb-20	
Les Townsend	Letter	11-Feb-20	
Steven Ahoy	Email	11-Feb-20	
Culturally Aware	Email	11-Feb-20	
Nyakka Aboriginal Culture Heritage Corporation Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Consultants	Email	11-Feb-20	
Neanyawana Clan Group	Email	11-Feb-20	
Issue of draft Aboriginal heritage management plan to RAPs			
Organisation	Contact type	Date Sent	Comments
Les Townsend	Express post - mail	15-May-20	No response received
Nunawanna Aboriginal Corporation (NAC)	Email	15-May-20	Responses received 25 and 27 May 2020
Armidale Local Aboriginal Land Council	Email	15-May-20	No response received
Armidale and New England Gumbaynggirr Descendants	Email	15-May-20	No response received
Aaron Broad	Email	15-May-20	No response received
Steven Ahoy	Email	15-May-20	Response received 25 May 2020
Culturally Aware	Email	15-May-20	No response received
Nyakka Aboriginal Culture Heritage Corporation Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Consultants	Email	15-May-20	No response received
Neanyawana Clan Group	Email	15-May-20	Response received 15 May 2020
Modification 1 Road Upgrades - Provision of assessment (no impacts identified)			
Organisation	Contact type	Date Sent	Comments
Les Townsend	Express post - mail	18-Sep-20	
Nunawanna Aboriginal Corporation (NAC)	Email	18-Sep-20	
Armidale Local Aboriginal Land Council	Email	18-Sep-20	
Armidale and New England Gumbaynggirr Descendants	Email	18-Sep-20	
Aaron Broad	Email	18-Sep-20	
Steven Ahoy	Email	18-Sep-20	
Culturally Aware	Email	18-Sep-20	
Nyakka Aboriginal Culture Heritage Corporation Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Consultants	Email	18-Sep-20	
Nganyawana Clan Group	Email	18-Sep-20	
Notification email of DPIE approved AHMP for the project			
Organisation	Contact type	Date Sent	Comments
Les Townsend	Express post - mail	8/12/2020	
Nunawanna Aboriginal Corporation (NAC)	Email	8/12/2020	
Armidale Local Aboriginal Land Council	Email	8/12/2020	
Armidale and New England Gumbaynggirr Descendants	Email	8/12/2020	
Aaron Broad	Email	8/12/2020	

Steven Ahoy	Email	8/12/2020	
Culturally Aware	Email	8/12/2020	
Nyakka Aboriginal Culture Heritage Corporation Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Consultants	Email	8/12/2020	
Neanyawana Clan Group	Email	8/12/2020	
<b>Issue of draft updated AHMP to RAPs (proposed 14-day review period): Revision 1 2023</b>			
<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Contact type</b>	<b>Date Sent</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Les Townsend	Express post - mail	16/03/2021	Follow up call on 24/03/21 - Les stated that he had no input and would be happy to rely on other RAPs.
Nunawanna Aboriginal Corporation (NAC)	Email	16/03/2021	Follow up call on 24/03/21 - No feedback on AHMP provided. Ryan reminded Colin to review the updated sections and provided feedback if desired.
Armidale Local Aboriginal Land Council	Email	16/03/2021	Follow up call on 24/03/21 - No response.
Armidale and New England Gumbaynggirr Descendants	Email	16/03/2021	Response received (Bruce Cohen) on 30 March 2021. Addressed in email and letter.
Aaron Broad	Email	16/03/2021	Emailed only - Aaron Broad is based in Wollongong and has not been involved in the ACHA or AHMP since registration in 2017.
Steven Ahoy	Email	16/03/2021	Follow up call on 24/03/21 - No feedback on AHMP provided, except that the collection of stone axes was supported. Ryan reminded Steven to review the updated sections and provided feedback if desired.
Culturally Aware	Email	16/03/2021	Follow up call on 24/03/21 - Ryan discussed proposed management changes with Cheryl Kitchener. Ryan reminded Cheryl to review the AHMP but talked through changes. Cheryl supported the collection of stone axes. Cheryl also supported vegetation removal and the premise of another collection attempt for nominated stone artefact sites.
Nyakka Aboriginal Culture Heritage Corporation Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Consultants	Email	16/03/2021	Follow up call on 24/03/21 - No feedback on AHMP provided. Ryan reminded Rhonda to review the updated sections and provided feedback if desired.
Neanyawana Clan Group	Email	16/03/2021	Follow up call on 24/03/21 - No response. Left message.
<b>Issue of proposed preservation and display of Scar Tree NE49 at Keeping Place</b>			
<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Contact type</b>	<b>Date Sent</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Les Townsend	Express post - mail	22-Mar-21	EMM called and discussed approach. Les informed that we was happy to follow the RAP consensus on management measures.
Nunawanna Aboriginal Corporation (NAC)	Email	22-Mar-21	Colin Ahoy Snr originally responding suggested alternative keeping place options as he thought the ACKCP would not store the tree. Ryan called Colin and clarified the matter based on the letter contents. Colin did no raise any issues with the proposed method.
Armidale Local Aboriginal Land Council	Email	22-Mar-21	Colin noted that it is important to keep the European scar from fencing construction on the side of the tree trunk. Furthermore, he suggested that the tree be cut slightly higher above the scar than that shown in the methods letter – this was to ensure the scar apex will still be visible after cutting.
Armidale and New England Gumbaynggirr Descendants	Email	22-Mar-21	No response received.
Aaron Broad	Email	22-Mar-21	Response received (Bruce Cohen) on 30 March 2021. Addressed in email and letter.
Steven Ahoy	Email	22-Mar-21	Emailed only - Aaron Broad is based in Wollongong and has not been involved in the ACHA or AHMP since registration in 2017.
Culturally Aware	Email	22-Mar-21	The methods presented were originally made in consultation with Steven as he has been working closely with the ACKCP for the management of this tree. Steven supports the proposed methods.
Nyakka Aboriginal Culture Heritage Corporation Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Consultants	Email	22-Mar-21	In late January 2020 Cheryl provided the ACKCP with tree management advice gathered from a curator from the Australian Museum (Logan Metcalfe). Cheryl provided this information to EMM recently and is generally consistent with the proposed methods in the EMM methods letter. An additional point included the advice to "ensure the tree is completely secure and bound to avoid further splitting".
Neanyawana Clan Group	Email	22-Mar-21	Ryan contacted Rhonda over the phone and requested any feedback she would like to make. No issues were raised.
			Email and call attempted – no response received. However, subsequent correspondence via email shows Les's support on 30 March and 1 April 2021
<b>Draft AHMP update reminder to RAPs for review</b>			
<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Contact type</b>	<b>Date Sent</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Les Townsend	Express post - mail	29-Mar-21	
Nunawanna Aboriginal Corporation (NAC)	Email	29-Mar-21	
Armidale Local Aboriginal Land Council	Email	29-Mar-21	
Armidale and New England Gumbaynggirr Descendants	Email	29-Mar-21	
Aaron Broad	Email	29-Mar-21	
Steven Ahoy	Email	29-Mar-21	
Culturally Aware	Email	29-Mar-21	
Nyakka Aboriginal Culture Heritage Corporation Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Consultants	Email	29-Mar-21	
Neanyawana Clan Group	Email	29-Mar-21	
<b>Notice of completion of further management of Scar Tree NE49</b>			
<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Contact type</b>	<b>Date Sent</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Les Townsend	Express post - mail	01-Apr-21	
Nunawanna Aboriginal Corporation (NAC)	Email	01-Apr-21	
Armidale Local Aboriginal Land Council	Email	01-Apr-21	
Armidale and New England Gumbaynggirr Descendants	Email	01-Apr-21	
Aaron Broad	Email	01-Apr-21	
Steven Ahoy	Email	01-Apr-21	
Culturally Aware	Email	01-Apr-21	
Nyakka Aboriginal Culture Heritage Corporation Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Consultants	Email	01-Apr-21	
Neanyawana Clan Group	Email	01-Apr-21	
<b>Notice of finalisation of 1st AHMP revision</b>			
<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Contact type</b>	<b>Date Sent</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Les Townsend	Express post - mail	14-Apr-21	
Nunawanna Aboriginal Corporation (NAC)	Email	14-Apr-21	
Armidale Local Aboriginal Land Council	Email	14-Apr-21	
Armidale and New England Gumbaynggirr Descendants	Email	14-Apr-21	
Aaron Broad	Email	14-Apr-21	
Steven Ahoy	Email	14-Apr-21	
Culturally Aware	Email	14-Apr-21	
Nyakka Aboriginal Culture Heritage Corporation Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Consultants	Email	14-Apr-21	
Neanyawana Clan Group	Email	14-Apr-21	
<b>Clarification regarding proposed Aboriginal stone artefact workshop on 25 May 2021:</b>			
Notes: "The attached letter been prepared on behalf of UPC/AC Renewables Pty limited (UPC) to address some concerns raised recently by registered Aboriginal parties (RAPs) for the New England Solar Farm (NESF) project. The matter is in relation to a proposed workshop on 25 May 2021 at Kentucky NSW about the identification and legal implications of Aboriginal stone artefacts which will be hosted by Archaeologist John Appleton. Please refer to the attached email about UPC's understanding of the event and their involvement in it."			
<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Contact type</b>	<b>Date Sent</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Les Townsend	Express post - mail	16-May-21	
Nunawanna Aboriginal Corporation (NAC)	Email	16-May-21	
Armidale Local Aboriginal Land Council	Email	16-May-21	
Armidale and New England Gumbaynggirr Descendants	Email	16-May-21	
Aaron Broad	Email	16-May-21	
Steven Ahoy	Email	16-May-21	
Culturally Aware	Email	16-May-21	
Nyakka Aboriginal Culture Heritage Corporation Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Consultants	Email	16-May-21	
Neanyawana Clan Group	Email	16-May-21	
<b>Notification that revised AHMP was approved and upcoming fieldwork</b>			
Email included request to advise on availability of w/c 28 June for fieldwork , but it was delayed until 6 July 2021			
<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Contact type</b>	<b>Date Sent</b>	<b>Comments</b>

Les Townsend	N/A does not participate in fieldwork	17-Jun-21
Nunawanna Aboriginal Corporation (NAC)	Email	17-Jun-21
Armidale Local Aboriginal Land Council	Email	17-Jun-21
Armidale and New England Gumbaynggirr Descendants	Email	17-Jun-21
Aaron Broad	Email	17-Jun-21
Steven Ahoy	Email	17-Jun-21
Culturally Aware	Email	17-Jun-21
Nyakka Aboriginal Culture Heritage Corporation Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Consultants	Email	17-Jun-21
Nganyawana Clan Group	Email	17-Jun-21

Provision of fieldwork roster for AHMP salvage fieldwork with regard to additional collection attempts and collection of stone axes			
Organisation	Contact type	Date Sent	Comments
Les Townsend	N/A does not participate in fieldwork	28-Jun-21	
Nunawanna Aboriginal Corporation (NAC)	Email	28-Jun-21	
Armidale Local Aboriginal Land Council	Email	28-Jun-21	
Armidale and New England Gumbaynggirr Descendants	Email	28-Jun-21	
Aaron Broad	Email	28-Jun-21	
Steven Ahoy	Email	28-Jun-21	
Culturally Aware	Email	28-Jun-21	
Nyakka Aboriginal Culture Heritage Corporation Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Consultants	Email	28-Jun-21	
Nganyawana Clan Group	Email	28-Jun-21	

Provision of COVID 19 Fieldwork Protocols for AHMP fieldwork			
Organisation	Contact type	Date Sent	Comments
Les Townsend	N/A does not participate in fieldwork	01-Jul-21	
Nunawanna Aboriginal Corporation (NAC)	Email	01-Jul-21	
Armidale Local Aboriginal Land Council	Email	01-Jul-21	
Armidale and New England Gumbaynggirr Descendants	Email	01-Jul-21	
Aaron Broad	Email	01-Jul-21	
Steven Ahoy	Email	01-Jul-21	
Culturally Aware	Email	01-Jul-21	
Nyakka Aboriginal Culture Heritage Corporation Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Consultants	Email	01-Jul-21	
Nganyawana Clan Group	Email	01-Jul-21	

<b>Provision of draft slides for Big Ridge Road Upgrade Induction material:</b> <b>Notes:</b> Dear Registered Party, Slide 9-13 of the attached powerpoint presentation includes content that UPC/Greenlight will be sharing at inductions for the New England Solar Farm. UPC invites you to review the slides and welcomes your feedback on the content or any additional content you may wish to see. Please note it is part of a larger induction so we are limited to approximately 4-5 slides.  It would be great to get your feedback by 13 August 2021. Please don't hesitate to call me if you have any questions			
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Organisation	Contact type	Date Sent	Comments: Feedback requested by 13 August 2021
Les Townsend			
Nunawanna Aboriginal Corporation (NAC)	Email	06-Aug-21	
Armidale Local Aboriginal Land Council	Email	06-Aug-21	
Armidale and New England Gumbaynggirr Descendants	Email	06-Aug-21	
Aaron Broad	Email	06-Aug-21	
Steven Ahoy	Email	06-Aug-21	
Culturally Aware	Email	06-Aug-21	response received 9/08/2021
Nyakka Aboriginal Culture Heritage Corporation Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Consultants	Email	06-Aug-21	
Nganyawana Clan Group	Email	06-Aug-21	response received 8/08/2021

Notice of Modification 2 Methodology and ACHA Consultation: <b>ONLY DOCUMENTED IN ACHA AND NOT IN AHMP</b>			
Organisation	Contact type	Date Sent	Feedback requested by 20 October 2021
Les Townsend	Express post - mail	22-Sep-21	
Nunawanna Aboriginal Corporation (NAC)	Email	21-Sep-21	
Armidale Local Aboriginal Land Council	Email	21-Sep-21	
Armidale and New England Gumbaynggirr Descendants	Email	21-Sep-21	
Aaron Broad	Email	21-Sep-21	
Steven Ahoy	Email	21-Sep-21	
Culturally Aware	Email	21-Sep-21	Response received 23/09/2021
Nyakka Aboriginal Culture Heritage Corporation Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Consultants	Email	21-Sep-21	
Nganyawana Clan Group	Email	21-Sep-21	

<b>Fostering cultural awareness and site inductions:</b> <b>Notes:</b>  "Dear Registered Party, The attached letter relates to RAP involvement in site induction processes and opportunities for fostering cultural awareness. The letter: •responds to RAP feedback provided in August 2021 about NESF site induction slides and their content; and •invites RAPs to attend an online meeting on 7 October 2021 at 3:00 pm to discuss options and content for RAP involvement in cultural inductions/toolbox sessions.  I will be sending a Microsoft Teams invite shortly. Please RSVP to the upcoming teams invite as soon as possible. Please note if there are clashes with your			
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Organisation	Contact type	Date Sent	Comments
Les Townsend	Express post - mail	28-Sep-21	
Nunawanna Aboriginal Corporation (NAC)	Email	28-Sep-21	Colin Ahoy accepted meeting request however did not attend
Armidale Local Aboriginal Land Council	Email	28-Sep-21	Declined meeting via outlook
Armidale and New England Gumbaynggirr Descendants	Email	28-Sep-21	Bruce Cohen accepted meeting request however did not attend
Aaron Broad	Email	28-Sep-21	
Steven Ahoy	Email	28-Sep-21	Steve Ahoy accepted meeting but did not attend
Culturally Aware	Email	28-Sep-21	
Nyakka Aboriginal Culture Heritage Corporation Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Consultants	Email	28-Sep-21	
Nganyawana Clan Group	Email	28-Sep-21	Response received 23/09/2021: Attended meeting

<b>Fostering cultural awareness and site inductions: Meeting Outcomes and Proposed Toolbox Sessions</b> <b>Notes:</b>  "Dear Registered Party, Attached is the outcomes of the online discussion on 7 October 2021 and a draft of the proposed toolbox sessions to be held on the New England Solar Farm site. The letter has a number of next steps outlined that require your feedback and input. Please read carefully and get back to me with any feedback. "			
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Organisation	Contact type	Date Sent	Comments
Les Townsend	Express post - mail	26-Oct-21	
Nunawanna Aboriginal Corporation (NAC)	Email	26-Oct-21	Response received 26/10/2021: nominated a representative to participate in inductions.
Armidale Local Aboriginal Land Council	Email	26-Oct-21	
Armidale and New England Gumbaynggirr Descendants	Email	26-Oct-21	
Aaron Broad	Email	26-Oct-21	
Steven Ahoy/Iwatta	Email	26-Oct-21	Response received 28/10/2021: nominated a representative to participate in inductions. Also put forward expression of interest for site maintenance work.
Culturally Aware	Email	26-Oct-21	
Nyakka Aboriginal Culture Heritage Corporation Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Consultants	Email	26-Oct-21	
Nganyawana Clan Group	Email	26-Oct-21	Les Ahoy Provided script for toolbox sessions on 23/11/2021

<b>New England Solar Farm: Fostering Cultural Awareness and Site Maintenance Services.</b> <b>Email relating to: 1. Aboriginal heritage toolbox sessions and 2. Aboriginal site maintenance works (request for proposal)</b>			
Organisation	Contact type	Date Sent	Comments
Steven Ahoy (Iwatta)	Email	23-Nov-21	Response to email received by Iwatta on 28/10/2021 - Note: separate commercial aspect and not documented in AHMP consultation appendix.



<b>Feedback requested: Proposed signage at New England Solar Farm</b> Notes: "Dear registered parties, Below are some draft signs to be placed at the New England Solar Farm. UPC would like to get your feedback on the wording and content of the signs before they are produced and erected. The first sign is what would be erected when you enter the site. The second would be erected on fencing that outline the sites. A couple of questions: *Would you prefer Ainiwain/Nganyawana or just Ainiwain? Is this the most appropriate spelling? *Is the wording appropriate? If not, are is alternative text that you would recommend? Could you please get back to me by 11 February so that we have enough time to get these created prior to upcoming filming.			
Organisation	Contact type	Date Sent	Comments
Les Townsend	Express post - mail	31-Jan-22	Response received 31/01/2022. Supported all information.
Nunawanna Aboriginal Corporation (NAC)	Email	31-Jan-22	
Armidale Local Aboriginal Land Council	Email	31-Jan-22	
Armidale and New England Gumbaynggirr Descendants	Email	31-Jan-22	Response received 01/02/2022 from Kevin Green. Kevin stated "As far as I'm aware it is not Anaiwan Land but Gumbaynggirr. So placing signs up like this would be disrespectful to the Gumbaynggirr descendants. There is a lot of debate about which aboriginal tribe resides in this area. So not to be disrespectful to any tribe no Aboriginal name or signage should be erected. I am quite happy to discuss this further with you."
Aaron Broad	Email	31-Jan-22	
Steven Ahoy/Iwatta	Email	31-Jan-22	Response received 31/01/2022. Request to use spelling Anaiwan instead of Ainiwain
Culturally Aware	Email	31-Jan-22	
Nyakka Aboriginal Culture Heritage Corporation Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Consultants	Email	31-Jan-22	
Nganyawana Clan Group	Email	31-Jan-22	
Request for expressions of interest: Recording of oral history about Ooralla and the New England Solar Project Area			
Emails sent inviting RAPs to participate in recording of Oral history interviews on 7-11 March 2022.			
Organisation	Contact type	Date Sent	Comments
Les Townsend	Phone	25-Jan-22	Responded and participated.
Nunawanna Aboriginal Corporation (NAC)	Email	04-Feb-22	Responded via phone and was involved.
Armidale Local Aboriginal Land Council	Email	04-Feb-22	No response
Armidale and New England Gumbaynggirr Descendants	Email	04-Feb-22	Responded via phone and was involved.
Aaron Broad	Email	04-Feb-22	No response
Steven Ahoy/Iwatta	Email	25-Jan-22	Responded via phone and was involved.
Culturally Aware	Email	25-Jan-22	Responded via phone and was involved.
Nyakka Aboriginal Culture Heritage Corporation Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Consultants	Email	25-Jan-22	Responded via phone and was involved.
Nganyawana Clan Group	Email	25-Jan-22	Responded via phone and was involved.
New England Solar Farm: Draft Oral History Video for RAP review Email content included: Dear Registered Aboriginal parties,  I'd firstly like to acknowledge that it is National Sorry Day and would like to take the opportunity to recognise the Stolen Generations and stand with the people across the nation who have been affected by this terrible chapter in our history.  Thank you again for your efforts in March participating in the filming project for the New England Solar Farm. I'm pleased to share with you the draft video for your feedback and approval for release. There was so much amazing content shared which I do hope you feel we've captured well. The draft video is available for review at the link below:  <a href="https://reelimage.box.com/s/7ljyxq0nf62l9wx2eq99bz817ecwr93">https://reelimage.box.com/s/7ljyxq0nf62l9wx2eq99bz817ecwr93</a>  When reviewing, please note the following items as outlined in the initial proposal for the project issued to all RAPs:  *This video is separate to the full oral history interviews undertaken, and has a particular focus on the grinding groove site and fostering cultural awareness initiatives between UPC\AC and RAPs. A lot of interview content was captured and knowing that we would not be able to include all of it in a video, all interview content will also be provided to RAPs and the ACKCP as standalone videos for sharing amongst communities for broader knowledge sharing. This content will be shared following approval of this 20min video currently provided. *The video will be made available to RAP members for their use, Armidale Aboriginal Cultural Centre and Keeping Place (ACKCP) for their use, and UPC\AC Renewables for their use including its publicly available website and social media channels. The primary purpose of the video is for cultural knowledge sharing for RAPs and the Armidale Cultural Centre and Keeping Place (ACKCP). The secondary purpose is for UPC\AC Renewables to use as a tool to promote workforce cultural awareness *The video will be produced for non-profit purposes, and not for commercial use. *The video goes for ~20mins. There will also be a few shorter videos of 1-2 mins produced from this longer version to support social media comms.  The Armidale Cultural Centre and Keeping Place (ACKCP) have indicated that they would like to host a small event at the centre to screen the video to a select audience beyond the RAPs. We are aiming to have this video finalised and a screened on an evening on 23 June 2022. We would like as many RAPs to attend as possible, please indicate if you would be available to attend this event.  Actions: Please review the draft video and provide any feedback to Ryan by Friday 3 June 2022			
Organisation	Contact type	Date Sent	Comments
Les Townsend	Phone	25-Jun-22	
Nunawanna Aboriginal Corporation (NAC)	Email	25-Jun-22	Email received Colin Ahoy senior 25 May 2023
Armidale Local Aboriginal Land Council	Email	25-Jun-22	
Armidale and New England Gumbaynggirr Descendants	Email	25-Jun-22	
Aaron Broad	Email	25-Jun-22	
Steven Ahoy/Iwatta	Email	25-Jun-22	
Culturally Aware	Email	25-Jun-22	
Nyakka Aboriginal Culture Heritage Corporation Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Consultants	Email	25-Jun-22	
Nganyawana Clan Group	Email	25-Jun-22	
NES Proposed Stage 2a Surface Collection Fieldwork and Toolbox Session update Letter was sent to RAPs covering the following items. 1. Updates to the structure and payment provisions of the Cultural Awareness Toolbox Sessions, and 2. Upcoming fieldwork for surface collection and fencing boundary demarcation of sites with the project Stage 2 area. Proposed dates: 10-13 October 2022			
Organisation	Contact type	Date Sent	Comments
Les Townsend	Phone	21-Sep-22	
Nunawanna Aboriginal Corporation (NAC)	Email	21-Sep-22	Participated in Stage 2 fieldwork
Armidale Local Aboriginal Land Council	Email	21-Sep-22	
Armidale and New England Gumbaynggirr Descendants	Email	21-Sep-22	Participated in Stage 2 fieldwork
Aaron Broad	Email	21-Sep-22	
Steven Ahoy/Iwatta	Email	21-Sep-22	Participated in Stage 2 fieldwork
Culturally Aware	Email	21-Sep-22	Participated in Stage 2 fieldwork
Nyakka Aboriginal Culture Heritage Corporation Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Consultants	Email	21-Sep-22	Participated in Stage 2 fieldwork
Nganyawana Clan Group	Email	21-Sep-22	Participated in Stage 2 fieldwork
New England Solar Farm: Aboriginal Scar Tree Management. RAP input required. After NESF Stage 2 to salvage and protection fieldwork undertaken in mid-October 2022. Umwelt issued email on 19/10/2022 to RAPs advising on the status of fallen/missing scarred trees. Email noted that sites NE102, NE23 and NE25 had fallen and were severely deteriorated, and that NE72 and NE97 were missing entirely.			
Organisation	Contact type	Date Sent	Comments
Les Townsend	Phone	19-Oct-22	
Nunawanna Aboriginal Corporation (NAC)	Email	19-Oct-22	Nunawanna Aboriginal Corporation (Colin Ahoy): "I agree with Les Ahoy suggestion about rescuing the trees that can be saved. I know there is a scared tree under cover at the CSIRO built by national parks maybe worth looking at as an example"
Armidale Local Aboriginal Land Council	Email	19-Oct-22	
Armidale and New England Gumbaynggirr Descendants	Email	19-Oct-22	Bruce Cohen:  "I do take on board all points of view from all the RAP's involved. So this gives us options to protect and salvage if it is do able. Options are to provide a shelter(s), salvage and relocate maybe Aboriginal Cultural Centre Keeping Place as the other 1/2 scare tree there in a glass case, or leave it for natural decline. My preference I would be salvage and relocate maybe Aboriginal Cultural Centre Keeping Place, with interrupts of the tree background. Everyone safe travels in this wet weather."
Aaron Broad	Email	19-Oct-22	
Steven Ahoy/Iwatta	Email	19-Oct-22	

Culturally Aware	Email	19-Oct-22	Cheryl Kitchener: Thanks for the update re: condition of scar trees, it is really unfortunate that this has happened, but what can you do about nature? I personally have two thoughts about this. One is to salvage as much as we can with the tree that has the most defining features. I really don't think we can do anything about the others if the damage or deterioration has been too great. Two, I would like to propose that our young men/RAP's be allowed to re-scar trees in the vicinity of the damaged or deteriorated trees to demonstrate that tree scarring is a continuing practice and the local area doesn't lose its cultural integrity. All the new scarred trees can be recorded with notes about the scar trees that have been lost to nature.
Nyakka Aboriginal Culture Heritage Corporation Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Consultants	Email	19-Oct-22	
Nganyawana Clan Group	Email	19-Oct-22	Nganywana (Les Ahoy): "Can the trees that are able to be salvaged be stored on site and in situ. Out west way they put the trees in a roofed cage with a cemented floor. This allows the trees to be protected and viewed. I feel there could be a danger of the cultural centre being over sunlied with scarred trees "
New England Solar project: Request to host Yindjibarndi Nation Leader at Grinding Groove site Email invited RAPs to meet with Mr Michael Woodley, leader of the Yindjibarndi Nation in Western Australia during an upcoming site visit to the New England Solar Farm on Tuesday 24 January 2023.			
Les Townsend	Phone	20-Dec-22	
Nunawanna Aboriginal Corporation (NAC)	Email	20-Dec-22	Representative attended
Armidale Local Aboriginal Land Council	Email	20-Dec-22	
Armidale and New England Gumbaynggirr Descendants	Email	20-Dec-22	Representative attended
Aaron Broad	Email	20-Dec-22	
Steven Ahoy/Iwatta	Email	20-Dec-22	Representative attended
Culturally Aware	Email	20-Dec-22	
Nyakka Aboriginal Culture Heritage Corporation Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Consultants	Email	20-Dec-22	Representative attended
Neanyawana Clan Group	Email	20-Dec-22	Representative attended
Important Update - Response Required - 16 March - New England Solar Official Opening, RAP Meeting and Visit by Yindjibarndi Traditional Owners The attached letter to the email provides further detail about the event:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*1 – Invitation to official opening of New England Solar</li> <li>*2 – Visit by Yindjibarndi Traditional Owners Item</li> <li>*3 – RAP member meeting Item</li> <li>*4 – Acknowledgement of Country signage</li> </ul>			
Les Townsend	Phone	02-Mar-23	
Nunawanna Aboriginal Corporation (NAC)	Email	02-Mar-23	
Armidale Local Aboriginal Land Council	Email	02-Mar-23	
Armidale and New England Gumbaynggirr Descendants	Email	02-Mar-23	
Aaron Broad	Email	02-Mar-23	
Steven Ahoy/Iwatta	Email	02-Mar-23	
Culturally Aware	Email	02-Mar-23	
Nyakka Aboriginal Culture Heritage Corporation Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Consultants	Email	02-Mar-23	
Nganyawana Clan Group	Email	02-Mar-23	
Issue of Meeting Minutes for onsite RAP Meeting 16 March 2023			
Les Townsend	Phone	19-Apr-23	
Nunawanna Aboriginal Corporation (NAC)	Email	19-Apr-23	
Armidale Local Aboriginal Land Council	Email	19-Apr-23	
Armidale and New England Gumbaynggirr Descendants	Email	19-Apr-23	
Aaron Broad	Email	19-Apr-23	
Steven Ahoy/Iwatta	Email	19-Apr-23	
Culturally Aware	Email	19-Apr-23	
Nyakka Aboriginal Culture Heritage Corporation Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Consultants	Email	19-Apr-23	
Neanyawana Clan Group	Email	19-Apr-23	
Draft AHMP provision: Revision 2			
Les Townsend	Letter	13-Sep-23	
Nunawanna Aboriginal Corporation (NAC)	Email	13-Sep-23	
Armidale Local Aboriginal Land Council	Email	13-Sep-23	
Armidale and New England Gumbaynggirr Descendants	Email	13-Sep-23	
Aaron Broad	Email	13-Sep-23	
Steven Ahoy/Iwatta	Email	13-Sep-23	
Culturally Aware	Email	13-Sep-23	
Nyakka Aboriginal Culture Heritage Corporation Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Consultants	Email	13-Sep-23	
Nganyawana Clan Group	Email	13-Sep-23	Responded on 14 September supporting updates to AHMP
Draft AHMP Virtual Meeting (via MSTEams) Attendance			
Les Townsend	Did not attend	19-Sep-23	
Nunawanna Aboriginal Corporation (NAC)	Did not attend	19-Sep-23	
Armidale Local Aboriginal Land Council	Did not attend	19-Sep-23	
Armidale and New England Gumbaynggirr Descendants	Bruce Cohen Attended	19-Sep-23	
Aaron Broad	Did not attend	19-Sep-23	
Steven Ahoy/Iwatta	Steven Ahoy Attended	19-Sep-23	
Culturally Aware	Did not attend	19-Sep-23	
Nyakka Aboriginal Culture Heritage Corporation Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Consultants	Rhonda Kitchener Attended	19-Sep-23	
Neanyawana Clan Group	Did not attend	19-Sep-23	
Provision of Draft AHMP Virutal Meeting Minutes and Proposed Actions For RAP review			
Les Townsend	Phone	29-Sep-23	Ryan Desic called but no response.
Nunawanna Aboriginal Corporation (NAC)	Email	29-Sep-23	Ryan Desic caled Colin Ahoy Jr on 3 October 2023 for feedback. Colin supported proposed outcomes/actions from letter
Armidale Local Aboriginal Land Council	Email	29-Sep-23	Ryan Desic called but no response.
Armidale and New England Gumbaynggirr Descendants	Email	29-Sep-23	Ryan Desic caled Bruce Cohen on 3 October 2023 for feedback. Bruce supported proposed outcomes and actions from letter.
Aaron Broad	Email	29-Sep-23	Ryan Desic called but no response.
Steven Ahoy/Iwatta	Email	29-Sep-23	Ryan Desic caled Steve Ahoy on 29 September 2023 for feedback. Steve supported proposed outcomes and actions from letter.
Culturally Aware	Email	29-Sep-23	Ryan Desic called but no response.
Nyakka Aboriginal Culture Heritage Corporation Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Consultants	Email	29-Sep-23	Ryan Desic called Rhonda Kitchener on October 2023 for feedback. Rhonda supported proposed outcomes and actions from letter.
Nganyawana Clan Group	Email	29-Sep-23	Ryan Desic called Les Ahoy on October 2023 for feedback. Les supported prooosed outcomes and actions from letter.

## **B2 AHMP CONSULTATION CORRESPONDENCE – INITIAL AHMP NOVEMBER 2020**

11 February 2020

Ground floor, 20 Chandos Street  
St Leonards NSW 2065  
PO Box 21  
St Leonards NSW 1590

Registered Aboriginal Party for the New England Solar Farm

T 02 9493 9500

E [info@emmconsulting.com.au](mailto:info@emmconsulting.com.au)

[www.emmconsulting.com.au](http://www.emmconsulting.com.au)

**Re: New England Solar Farm: Notice of preparation of Aboriginal heritage management plan**

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Dear Registered Party,

## 1 Introduction

Thank you for your continued involvement in Aboriginal cultural heritage matters for the New England Solar Farm (the project) at Uralla NSW. This letter is to advise your party that EMM Consulting Pty Limited (EMM) has been engaged on behalf of the proponent UPC Renewables Australia Pty Limited (UPC) to prepare an Aboriginal heritage management plan (AHMP) for the project.

The project is classed as a State Significant Development (SSD) under the State Environmental Planning Policy (State and Regional Development) 2011 (SRD SEPP). A development application (DA) and environmental impact statement (EIS) was submitted under Part 4, Division 4.1 of the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act). Project approval is anticipated in March 2020 and we are initiating the Aboriginal consultation early.

As part of the EIS, EMM prepared an Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment report (ACHAR) for the project, inclusive of an addendum report issued after the public exhibition phase in early 2019. The ACHAR included an Aboriginal heritage impact assessment and outlined management measures that are required to be detailed in an AHMP.

The primary aims of this letter is to notify your party that the AHMP is being prepared and to gather upfront input and feedback about the management commitments outlined in the project ACHAR. Further comments and feedback will be sought once the draft AHMP is prepared and issued to all registered Aboriginal parties (RAPs), and during a proposed consultation meeting in Armidale planned for March 2020 (date to be advised).

## 2 Scope of AHMP

An AHMP will be prepared based on the management recommendations set out in the ACHAR. The AHMP will involve the following main tasks:

- Consultation with the DPIE Biodiversity and Conservation Division (BCD) regional archaeologist (Roger Mehr) and RAPs about the details of the AHMP;
- Preparation of a draft AHMP for RAP review, which will provide details of;
  - all Aboriginal sites identified during the archaeological investigation for the project;
  - management measures and their progress towards completion;
  - measures to ensure ongoing consultation and involvement of project RAPs;

- RAP access arrangements for a selection of significant sites for educational purposes;
  - protocols for newly identified sites;
  - protocols for educating staff and contractors of their obligations relating to Aboriginal cultural heritage values through a site induction process;
  - protocols for suspected human skeletal materials;
  - protocols for the ongoing care of salvaged Aboriginal objects within a keeping place; and
  - provisions for review and updates of the AHMP;
- preparation of a revised AHMP incorporating the outcomes of RAP consultation;
  - preparation of a final draft for BCD and Uralla Shire Council (Council) review and comment; and
  - preparation of the final AHMP, based on RAP, Council and BCD review, for issue to, and to be endorsed by, the Secretary of DPIE.

### 3 Key matters to be addressed in the AHMP

Important matters requiring RAP feedback include:

1. The methods and materials for site avoidance and conservation (including stone artefact sites, grinding grooves and scar trees).
2. Management of significant grinding groove sites NE09 and NE68, including fencing and long-term cultural/educational access and maintenance by RAPs.
3. The methods and procedures for conducting surface salvage of Aboriginal objects within the project impact area, including the collection of 26 isolated artefacts and six artefact scatters.
4. The methods for the salvage, curation and presentation of the felled and sawn in half scar tree NE49.
5. The details of the proposed Aboriginal keeping place at the Armidale and Region Aboriginal Cultural Centre and Keeping Place (96-104 Kentucky Street, Armidale NSW), McCrossins Mill Museum, and/or the Uralla Visitor Information Centre.

EMM will proceed to draft the first version of the AHMP and will incorporate best practice archaeological measures and methods into the document for RAP consideration. However, we will be seeking feedback from RAPs throughout the process (in writing and during the proposed consultation meeting) so that the final AHMP considers the views and input of RAPs. We welcome any feedback upfront about the items listed above.



## 4 Next steps

EMM will proceed to draft the AHMP which will be issued to RAPs within the next month. RAPs will be provided with 28 days to review the AHMP and provide written feedback. During the RAP review period, we plan to hold a meeting with UPC, EMM and RAPs in Armidale to workshop the details of the proposed management measures.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ryan Desic', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Ryan Desic**

Associate Archaeologist - Heritage Team Leader

[rdesic@emmconsulting.com.au](mailto:rdesic@emmconsulting.com.au)

## Ryan Desic

---

**From:** Ryan Desic  
**Sent:** Friday, 15 May 2020 4:59 PM  
**To:** 'nganyawana@gmail.com'; 'steven1ahoy@gmail.com'; 'minnamunnung@gmail.com'; 'ceo@alalc.org.au'; Bruce Cohen; Colin Ahoy; colinahoy57@gmail.com; Green, Kevin; Cheryl Kitchener; rhonda kitchener; 'Bruce.Cohen@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au'; Colin Ahoy; colinahoy57@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Provision of Draft Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan for the New England Solar Farm  
**Attachments:** J200088\_NESF\_AHMP\_Draft.pdf

Dear Registered Party for the New England Solar Farm Project,

Thank you for your continued involvement in Aboriginal cultural heritage matters for the New England Solar Farm (the project) at Uralla NSW. The report attached provides the draft Aboriginal heritage management plan (AHMP) for the project. In accordance with project approval conditions, RAPs must be given 28 days to review the AHMP and given the opportunity to provide feedback on the plan.

Once the review period has ended, EMM will collate the feedback, address issues or concerns where relevant and finalise the plan for approval by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE). After the Aboriginal community review process, the AHMP will also be reviewed by DPIE regional archaeologist Roger Mehr along with Uralla Shire Council and additional changes to the plan may be required.

Of particular note, EMM and UPC no longer intend to hold a consultation meeting due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the risks associated with travel and face to face meetings. We apologise for this, but believe it is the safest option based on current health advice. As such, I (Ryan) will be happy to take calls and discuss items, issues and concerns during the review period. Please do not hesitate to contact me on my details below.

Apart from the content within the whole AHMP that requires review and feedback, I would like to draw attention to some key decisions that still require resolution and feedback on:

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Our preference is that any party wishing to provide feedback, to provide it via email or letter. Please reference relevant sections (eg Section 4.3.2) of the AHMP to assist in us providing targeted responses to your feedback. I will

be happy to take calls to clarify and discuss certain items but I would request that your feedback is followed up in writing.


Once again, thank you for your time and I hope you are all doing well.

Regards,

**Ryan Desic**

Associate Archaeologist – Heritage Team Leader



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15 May 2020

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[www.emmconsulting.com.au](http://www.emmconsulting.com.au)

**Re: Provision of Draft Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan for the New England Solar Farm**

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Once again, thank you for your time and I hope you are all doing well.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ryan Desic', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Ryan Desic**

Associate Archaeologist and Heritage Team Leader  
rdesic@emmconsulting.com.au



## Ryan Desic

---

**From:** Colin Ahoy <cahoy7@myune.edu.au>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 27 May 2020 11:47 AM  
**To:** Ryan Desic  
**Subject:** Re: Provision of Draft Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan for the New England Solar Farm

This is just an inquiry but I feel that an Aboriginal person from the community should be on site at all times given the highly cultural significance to the location of the solar farm. Or would that be something that should be taken up with UPC?

Regards

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---

**From:** Colin Ahoy <cahoy7@myune.edu.au>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 27, 2020 11:43:50 AM  
**To:** Ryan Desic <rdesic@emmconsulting.com.au>  
**Subject:** Re: Provision of Draft Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan for the New England Solar Farm

Hello Ryan,

With regards to the AHMP for the New England Solar Farm could it be possible that EMM in conjunction with UPC hire a Cultural and Heritage officer as part of the construction and on going work associated with the solar farm?

I have seen in other AHMP for the construction of Dungowan Dam that EMM and Water NSW have appointed two available position for local Aboriginal people to be apart of there team as cultural and heritage advisors over that particular project and I was wandering if the same could apply for the Solar Farm?

Regards

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---

**From:** Ryan Desic <rdesic@emmconsulting.com.au>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 18, 2020 9:22:27 AM  
**To:** Colin Ahoy <cahoy7@myune.edu.au>  
**Subject:** RE: Provision of Draft Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan for the New England Solar Farm

Hi Colin,

I hope you are well. In general, if those grooves are outside of the footprint (and outside UPC's project area), UPC won't have any involvement in the site and it will be up to the landholder to just make sure they don't impact the site.

It would be firstly good to get some GPS coordinates for this site so we are sure it is outside of the project footprint. I doubt it is within our footprint as we surveyed all outcrops of stone.


If it is outside UPC's responsibility I would advise you to complete an AHIMS site card for the site and submit it to the AHIMS register. I am sure Wendy and John could assist with that task. I would also make sure you advise the landholder of this site and advise they are obliged not to harm the site.

Regards,

**Ryan Desic**

Associate Archaeologist – Heritage Team Leader



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---

**From:** Colin Ahoy <cahoy7@myune.edu.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 15 May 2020 6:16 PM  
**To:** Ryan Desic <rdesic@emmconsulting.com.au>  
**Subject:** Re: Provision of Draft Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan for the New England Solar Farm

Hello Ryan,

I have found another Grinding Groove site in Uralla but i think it might be just outside of the solar farm footprint but it's on Richard Munsie property we have counted a total of around 120. What will happen to these grooves?

Regards

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---

**From:** Ryan Desic <[rdesic@emmconsulting.com.au](mailto:rdesic@emmconsulting.com.au)>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 15, 2020 4:58:43 PM  
**To:** 'nganyawana@gmail.com' <'nganyawana@gmail.com'>; 'steven1ahoy@gmail.com' <'steven1ahoy@gmail.com'>; 'minnamunnung@gmail.com' <'minnamunnung@gmail.com'>; 'ceo@alalc.org.au' <'ceo@alalc.org.au'>; Bruce Cohen <[bruce.cohey@yahoo.com.au](mailto:bruce.cohey@yahoo.com.au)>; Colin Ahoy <[cahoy4@une.edu.au](mailto:cahoy4@une.edu.au)>; [colinahoy57@gmail.com](mailto:colinahoy57@gmail.com) <[colinahoy57@gmail.com](mailto:colinahoy57@gmail.com)>; Green, Kevin <[kevin.green@alsnswact.org.au](mailto:kevin.green@alsnswact.org.au)>; Cheryl Kitchener <[anaiwannation@gmail.com](mailto:anaiwannation@gmail.com)>; rhonda kitchener <[rhondakitchener09@hotmail.com](mailto:rhondakitchener09@hotmail.com)>; 'Bruce.Cohen@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au' <'Bruce.Cohen@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au'>; Colin Ahoy <[cahoy7@myune.edu.au](mailto:cahoy7@myune.edu.au)>; [colinahoy57@gmail.com](mailto:colinahoy57@gmail.com) <[colinahoy57@gmail.com](mailto:colinahoy57@gmail.com)>  
**Subject:** Provision of Draft Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan for the New England Solar Farm

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Once again, thank you for your time and I hope you are all doing well.

Regards,

**Ryan Desic**

Associate Archaeologist – Heritage Team Leader



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## Ryan Desic

---

**From:** Colin Ahoy Ahoy <colinahoy57@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, 25 May 2020 6:20 PM  
**To:** Ryan Desic; les.ahoy@lwb.org.au  
**Cc:** Bruce Cohen; Colin Ahoy; Green, Kevin  
**Subject:** Re: Provision of Draft Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan for the New England Solar Farm

Hullo Ryan,

Thanks for the opportunity to respond to the report.

Firstly I give support to Les Ahoy's response on the history of the proposed site and the area that has been surveyed. I'm not sure where Les wants to go from here with the oral history but in relation to the storage of artefacts that will be salvaged, my preference would be the Armidale Aboriginal Keeping Place.

The management of the keeping place has come through some important changes recently and is now owned and controlled by the Aboriginal community in Armidale.

Yours

Colin Ahoy

On Friday, 15 May 2020, Les Ahoy <[nganyawana@gmail.com](mailto:nganyawana@gmail.com)> wrote:

G'day Ryan and RAP's,

My concern with the report is that it focuses on the scientific tangible aspects of the survey site e.g. artefacts etc. And not on the non-tangible aspects. Let me explain why I have this concern and hopefully I want be long winded.

**NOTE:** this is as told to me by my Great Great Grandparents and Great Grand Parents (and is inclusive of Allan Mackenzie and his then partner Aunty Dulcie Brown) and was supported by the many conversations I had with Uncle Warner Saunders, Uncle Mick Saunders and Uncle Herb Ritchie (all Guiwan Clans Men of the Biripi Nation and now deceased). All these people I will refer to as my Elders as I held all with the utmost respect as being initiated cultural knowledge holders.

My Elders often spoke of a gathering place between Armidale and Uralla in which 3 clans, the Nganyawana (Armidale area), the Oban (east of Guyra as they were referred to by the Elders), the Niangala mob (south of Walcha as they were referred to by the Elders) and then at times the Guiwan Clan of the Biripi Nation from Taree area. This place was called Ooralla which in language means 'Meeting Place'. The Elders spoke of how each clan had its own area to camp, to tell stories, perform their own dances and ceremonies. They often spoke of the camp fires at night and how beautiful it was to look across 'country' to see the clans dancing by the fire light. Then when all was right, how they all came together for big dancing, talking and trading. This gathering lasted many days as the Elders would say and when it was all over, everyone went back to their own 'country'. The Niangala Mob and Biripi went south together. The Oban north and Nganyawana back to their camp ground which was located on the slopes of the now Armidale Lookout.

**NOTE:** my Elders when speaking of Ooralla never spoke of either Gumbangirr nor Dhunghutti attending these gathering. My Elders only spoke of Gumbangirr when speaking of the Nimborder area and Dhunghutti when speaking of Kunderang Camp Site and so because of this I have not included them..

I am convinced that the survey area is the Ooralla in which over many hundreds of years, meetings and gathering were held at this location in restrengthening ties, exchanging news and to trade. This is supported by the nearby town of Uralla which is the English spelling of Ooralla. The UNE also have a centre with the title of Ooralla (meaning meeting place). And this is where my concern lies, in that the report does not have any mention of this non-tangible aspect, which to me is just as important as the tangible aspects. And if the Ooralla is not mentioned in the report in the context I have written about then, personally the report will fail my people greatly in that another part of our oral culture will have disappeared like much culture previously.

As such, I strongly urge yourself (Ryan) and the other RAP's to, while supporting or not supporting the report as is, to request that the report take into consideration the non-tangible aspects which even though cannot be measured from a scientific perspective, should be inclusive from a traditional oral Aboriginal historical perspective of teaching and passing on culture through the process of story telling, dance and such gathering as with Ooralla site. It has just as much historical importance to me as an Aboriginal Cultural Knowledge Holder as do the artefacts found at this location.

Happy to discuss further as required

On Fri, 15 May 2020 at 16:59, Ryan Desic <[rdesic@emmconsulting.com.au](mailto:rdesic@emmconsulting.com.au)> wrote:

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--

Les Ahoy JP  
Nganyawana Cultural Knowledge Holder  
M: 0481 524 377  
E: [nganyawana@gmail.com](mailto:nganyawana@gmail.com)

--

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--

Colin Ahoy

## Ryan Desic

---

**From:** Les Ahoy <nganyawana@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, 15 May 2020 8:36 PM  
**To:** Ryan Desic  
**Cc:** Bruce Cohen; Colin Ahoy; colinahoy57@gmail.com; Green, Kevin; Cheryl Kitchener; rhonda kitchener; Colin Ahoy  
**Subject:** Re: Provision of Draft Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan for the New England Solar Farm

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My concern with the report is that it focuses on the scientific tangible aspects of the survey site e.g. artefacts etc. And not on the non-tangible aspects. Let me explain why I have this concern and hopefully I want be long winded.

**NOTE:** this is as told to me by my Great Great Grandparents and Great Grand Parents (and is inclusive of Allan Mackenzie and his then partner Auntie Dulcie Brown) and was supported by the many conversations I had with Uncle Warner Saunders, Uncle Mick Saunders and Uncle Herb Ritchie (all Guiwan Clans Men of the Biripi Nation and now deceased). All these people I will refer to as my Elders as I held all with the utmost respect as being initiated cultural knowledge holders.

My Elders often spoke of a gathering place between Armidale and Uralla in which 3 clans, the Nganyawana (Armidale area), the Oban (east of Guyra as they were referred to by the Elders), the Niangala mob (south of Walcha as they were referred to by the Elders) and then at times the Guiwan Clan of the Biripi Nation from Taree area. This place was called Ooralla which in language means 'Meeting Place'. The Elders spoke of how each clan had its own area to camp, to tell stories, perform their own dances and ceremonies. They often spoke of the camp fires at night and how beautiful it was to look across 'country' to see the clans dancing by the fire light. Then when all was right, how they all came together for big dancing, talking and trading. This gathering lasted many days as the Elders would say and when it was all over, everyone went back to their own 'country'. The Niangala Mob and Biripi went south together. The Oban north and Nganyawana back to their camp ground which was located on the slopes of the now Armidale Lookout.

**NOTE:** my Elders when speaking of Ooralla never spoke of either Gumbangirr nor Dhunghutti attending these gathering. My Elders only spoke of Gumbangirr when speaking of the Nimborder area and Dhunghutti when speaking of Kunderang Camp Site and so because of this I have not included them..

I am convinced that the survey area is the Ooralla in which over many hundreds of years, meetings and gathering were held at this location in strengthening ties, exchanging news and to trade. This is supported by the nearby town of Uralla which is the English spelling of Ooralla. The UNE also have a centre with the title of Ooralla (meaning meeting place). And this is where my concern lies, in that the report does not have any mention of this non-tangible aspect, which to me is just as important as the tangible aspects. And if the Ooralla is not mentioned in the report in the context I have written about then, personally the report will fail my people greatly in that another part of our oral culture will have disappeared like much culture previously.

As such, I strongly urge yourself (Ryan) and the other RAP's to, while supporting or not supporting the report as is, to request that the report take into consideration the non-tangible aspects which even though cannot be measured from a scientific perspective, should be inclusive from a traditional oral Aboriginal historical perspective of teaching and passing on culture through the process of story telling, dance and such gathering as with Ooralla site. It has just as much historical importance to me as an Aboriginal Cultural Knowledge Holder as do the artefacts found at this location.

Happy to discuss further as required

On Fri, 15 May 2020 at 16:59, Ryan Desic <[rdesic@emmconsulting.com.au](mailto:rdesic@emmconsulting.com.au)> wrote:

Dear Registered Party for the New England Solar Farm Project,

Thank you for your continued involvement in Aboriginal cultural heritage matters for the New England Solar Farm (the project) at Uralla NSW. The report attached provides the draft Aboriginal heritage management plan (AHMP) for the project. In accordance with project approval conditions, RAPs must be given 28 days to review the AHMP and given the opportunity to provide feedback on the plan.

Once the review period has ended, EMM will collate the feedback, address issues or concerns where relevant and finalise the plan for approval by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE). After the Aboriginal community review process, the AHMP will also be reviewed by DPIE regional archaeologist Roger Mehr along with Uralla Shire Council and additional changes to the plan may be required.

Of particular note, EMM and UPC no longer intend to hold a consultation meeting due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the risks associated with travel and face to face meetings. We apologise for this, but believe it is the safest option based on current health advice. As such, I (Ryan) will be happy to take calls and discuss items, issues and concerns during the review period. Please do not hesitate to contact me on my details below.

Apart from the content within the whole AHMP that requires review and feedback, I would like to draw attention to some key decisions that still require resolution and feedback on:

- Where the Keeping place of Aboriginal objects will be (refer Section 4.2.4 of the document). Please express your opinions. The current options are:
  - Armidale and Region Aboriginal Cultural Centre and Keeping Place (96-104 Kentucky Street, Armidale NSW) (first preference)
  - McCrossin's Mill Museum (Salisbury St, Uralla NSW) OR Uralla Visitor Information Centre (104 Bridge St, Uralla NSW 2358) (alternative)
- Additional item to be resolved – Cheryl and Rhonda Kitchener requested that any additional collected objects not placed on display should be reburied on Country in a safe location. The outcomes of the RAP review period will establish the following:
  - whether the consensus of RAPs agree for reburial of collected objects;
  - if reburial is determined by RAPs, the location of the reburial will need to be decided upon in consultation with UPC and relevant Landholders if applicable;
  - any reburied location will receive the same active protection as presented in Section 4.2.3;
  - any reburial procedure will follow the stone artefact disposition procedures as set out in Section 3.7 of the Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW (DECCW 2010).
  - Any reburial fieldwork will be undertaken by a qualified archaeologist so that it is recorded appropriately. RAPs who wish to be involved in the activity will also be invited to participate.

Our preference is that any party wishing to provide feedback, to provide it via email or letter. Please reference relevant sections (eg Section 4.3.2) of the AHMP to assist in us providing targeted responses to your feedback. I will be happy to take calls to clarify and discuss certain items but I would request that your feedback is followed up in writing.

Once again, thank you for your time and I hope you are all doing well.

Regards,

**Ryan Desic**

Associate Archaeologist – Heritage Team Leader



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--

Les Ahoy JP  
Nganyawana Cultural Knowledge Holder

M: 0481 524 377  
E: [nganyawana@gmail.com](mailto:nganyawana@gmail.com)

--

Les Ahoy JP  
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## Ryan Desic

---

**From:** Steven Ahoy <steven1ahoy@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, 25 May 2020 10:59 AM  
**To:** Ryan Desic  
**Subject:** Re: Provision of Draft Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan for the New England Solar Farm

Hello Ryan,  
How are you?

I will express Iwatta Aboriginal Corporation's opinion to your questions:

- - Where the Keeping place of Aboriginal objects will be (refer Section 4.2.4 of the document). Please express your opinions. The current options are:
    - Armidale and Region Aboriginal Cultural Centre and Keeping Place (96-104 Kentucky Street, Armidale NSW) (first preference)
    - McCrossin's Mill Museum (Salisbury St, Uralla NSW) OR Uralla Visitor Information Centre (104 Bridge St, Uralla NSW 2358) (alternative)

The Armidale and Region Aboriginal Cultural Centre and Keeping Place is the only place suitable for storage and display of the Artefact's, the facilities that McCrossin's Mill Museum (Salisbury St, Uralla NSW) OR Uralla Visitor Information Centre has to offer are insufficient for this purpose.

- Additional item to be resolved – Cheryl and Rhonda Kitchener requested that any additional collected objects not placed on display should be reburied on Country in a safe location. The outcomes of the RAP review period will establish the following:
  - whether the consensus of RAPs agree for reburial of collected objects;
  - if reburial is determined by RAPs, the location of the reburial will need to be decided upon in consultation with UPC and relevant Landholders if applicable;
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  - any reburial procedure will follow the stone artefact disposition procedures as set out in Section 3.7 of the Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW (DECCW 2010).
  - Any reburial fieldwork will be undertaken by a qualified archaeologist so that it is recorded appropriately. RAPs who wish to be involved in the activity will also be invited to participate.

Iwatta requests that the more significant artefact's with educational potential be collected and displayed at the Armidale and Region Aboriginal Cultural Centre and Keeping Place (96-104 Kentucky Street, Armidale NSW). these Artefacts include the located various stone Axe's, scrapper's, the scarred trees that have been unnaturally cut down by human and the rarer Artefact's as determined by the RAP'S.  
All other Artefact's to be reburied as requested.

We also recommend that the RAP'S nominated a spokes person for all the stakeholder groups involved, a spokes person will help to coordinate future works and give precise and clear progress updates regularly.

I am happy to discuss these matters further with anyone that has concerns or questions.

Thank you Steven Ahoy  
0413990868

On Fri, May 15, 2020 at 4:59 PM Ryan Desic <[rdesic@emmconsulting.com.au](mailto:rdesic@emmconsulting.com.au)> wrote:

Dear Registered Party for the New England Solar Farm Project,

Thank you for your continued involvement in Aboriginal cultural heritage matters for the New England Solar Farm (the project) at Uralla NSW. The report attached provides the draft Aboriginal heritage management plan (AHMP) for the project. In accordance with project approval conditions, RAPs must be given 28 days to review the AHMP and given the opportunity to provide feedback on the plan.

Once the review period has ended, EMM will collate the feedback, address issues or concerns where relevant and finalise the plan for approval by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE). After the Aboriginal community review process, the AHMP will also be reviewed by DPIE regional archaeologist Roger Mehr along with Uralla Shire Council and additional changes to the plan may be required.

Of particular note, EMM and UPC no longer intend to hold a consultation meeting due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the risks associated with travel and face to face meetings. We apologise for this, but believe it is the safest option based on current health advice. As such, I (Ryan) will be happy to take calls and discuss items, issues and concerns during the review period. Please do not hesitate to contact me on my details below.

Apart from the content within the whole AHMP that requires review and feedback, I would like to draw attention to some key decisions that still require resolution and feedback on:

- Where the Keeping place of Aboriginal objects will be (refer Section 4.2.4 of the document). Please express your opinions. The current options are:
  - Armidale and Region Aboriginal Cultural Centre and Keeping Place (96-104 Kentucky Street, Armidale NSW) (first preference)
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- Any reburial fieldwork will be undertaken by a qualified archaeologist so that it is recorded appropriately. RAPs who wish to be involved in the activity will also be invited to participate.

Our preference is that any party wishing to provide feedback, to provide it via email or letter. Please reference relevant sections (eg Section 4.3.2) of the AHMP to assist in us providing targeted responses to your feedback. I will be happy to take calls to clarify and discuss certain items but I would request that your feedback is followed up in writing.

Once again, thank you for your time and I hope you are all doing well.

Regards,

**Ryan Desic**

Associate Archaeologist – Heritage Team Leader



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## **B3 AHMP CONSULTATION CORRESPONDENCE – FIRST REVISION APRIL 2021**

### **B3.1 AHMP UPDATE CONSULTATION**

## Ryan Desic

---

**From:** Ryan Desic  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 16 March 2021 5:16 PM  
**To:** 'nganyawana@gmail.com'; 'steven1ahoy@gmail.com'; 'minnamunnung@gmail.com'; 'ceo@alalc.org.au'; Bruce Cohen; Colin Ahoy; colinahoy57@gmail.com; Green, Kevin; Cheryl Kitchener; rhonda kitchener; 'Bruce.Cohen@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au'; Colin Ahoy; colinahoy57@gmail.com; Iwatta Aboriginal Corporation  
**Cc:** Tim Kirk  
**Subject:** New England Solar Farm: Proposed Updates to the Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan  
**Attachments:** J200088\_NESF\_AHMP\_Update\_RAPDraft.pdf

Dear Registered Party,

In accordance with the outcomes and discussions had during the January 2021 surface artefact collection fieldwork stint, it was determined that the current Aboriginal heritage management plan (AHMP) for the New England Solar Farm project requires an update to permit a number of management measure changes required for all of UPC/AC Renewables' commitments to be fulfilled. Accordingly, I have attached a draft of the updated AHMP for your review and comment within a 14 day timeframe as specified in the existing AHMP.

To be clear about which sections have changed and require your review, please refer to the following sections of the AHMP:

- Section 4.2.2 (ii) Barriers
- Section 4.3.1 (ii) Additional requirements for unsuccessful site collection attempts
- Section 4.3.1 (iii) Additional collection for Aboriginal stone hatchets.

I am currently on fieldwork this week, however I intend to call each registered party throughout next week to verbally explain the changes and gather any comments and feedback you wish to make. Written responses and feedback is also acceptable and encouraged.


Regards,

**Ryan Desic**

Associate Archaeologist – Heritage Team Leader  
Bushfire, Ecology, Heritage and Spatial Solutions (BEHSS)



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## Ryan Desic

---

**From:** Ryan Desic  
**Sent:** Monday, 29 March 2021 1:34 PM  
**To:** 'nganyawana@gmail.com'; 'steven1ahoy@gmail.com'; 'minnamunning@gmail.com'; 'ceo@alalc.org.au'; Bruce Cohen; Colin Ahoy; colinahoy57@gmail.com; Green, Kevin; Cheryl Kitchener; rhonda kitchener; 'Bruce.Cohen@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au'; Colin Ahoy; colinahoy57@gmail.com; Iwatta Aboriginal Corporation  
**Cc:** Tim Kirk; Tim Greenaway  
**Subject:** RE: New England Solar Farm: Proposed Updates to the Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan  
**Attachments:** J200088\_NESF\_AHMP\_Update\_RAPDraft.pdf

Dear Registered Party,

I would like to remind everyone that the 14-day response timeframe for the AHMP updates as specified in the email below will be coming to a close tomorrow on 30 March 2021. I have discussed the content with all those available via telephone during other discussions about the scar tree NE49 at the keeping place.

Presently I have not yet received any formal responses or alternative proposed methods to that provided in the AHMP. Of primary interest, the proposed additional surface collection methods shown in 4.3.1 (ii) (a) provides a table with site condition and management summaries for each site. EMM has presented our recommendations on the feasibility of the sites being salvaged from an archaeological perspective. Sites highlighted orange in the table indicate where EMM considers collection could be potentially successful with additional measures. Sites highlighted red in the table indicate where EMM considers that further collection attempts would be unsuccessful, and therefore no further collection or mitigation is recommended. Finally, site NE13 is outside of the proposed disturbance footprint and is highlighted green as it will not be disturbed and will not require further management. As such, if no alternatives are offered, the updated AHMP will be submitted as per the recommendations set out in the draft plan.

If you require further time to review the plan or would like to discuss further, please contact me on my details below.


Regards,

**Ryan Desic**

Associate Archaeologist – Heritage Team Leader  
Bushfire, Ecology, Heritage and Spatial Solutions (BEHSS)



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**From:** Ryan Desic

**Sent:** Tuesday, 16 March 2021 5:16 PM

**To:** 'nganyawana@gmail.com'; 'steven1ahoy@gmail.com'; 'minnamunnung@gmail.com'; 'ceo@alalc.org.au'; Bruce Cohen <bruce.cohey@yahoo.com.au>; Colin Ahoy <cahoy4@une.edu.au>; colinahoy57@gmail.com; Green, Kevin <kevin.green@alsnswact.org.au>; Cheryl Kitchener <anaiwannation@gmail.com>; rhonda kitchener <rhondakitchener09@hotmail.com>; 'Bruce.Cohen@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au'; Colin Ahoy <cahoy7@myune.edu.au>; colinahoy57@gmail.com; Iwatta Aboriginal Corporation <iwattaac@gmail.com>

**Cc:** Tim Kirk <Tim.Kirk@upc-ac.com>

**Subject:** New England Solar Farm: Proposed Updates to the Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan

Dear Registered Party,

In accordance with the outcomes and discussions had during the January 2021 surface artefact collection fieldwork stint, it was determined that the current Aboriginal heritage management plan (AHMP) for the New England Solar Farm project requires an update to permit a number of management measure changes required for all of UPC/AC Renewables' commitments to be fulfilled. Accordingly, I have attached a draft of the updated AHMP for your review and comment within a 14 day timeframe as specified in the existing AHMP.

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- Section 4.2.2 (ii) Barriers
- Section 4.3.1 (ii) Additional requirements for unsuccessful site collection attempts
- Section 4.3.1 (iii) Additional collection for Aboriginal stone hatchets.

I am currently on fieldwork this week, however I intend to call each registered party throughout next week to verbally explain the changes and gather any comments and feedback you wish to make. Written responses and feedback is also acceptable and encouraged.


Regards,

**Ryan Desic**

Associate Archaeologist – Heritage Team Leader  
Bushfire, Ecology, Heritage and Spatial Solutions (BEHSS)



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## Ryan Desic

---

**From:** Bruce Cohen (Hunter New England LHD) <Bruce.Cohen@health.nsw.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 30 March 2021 9:11 AM  
**To:** Ryan Desic; 'nganyawana@gmail.com'; 'steven1ahoy@gmail.com'; 'minnamunnung@gmail.com'; 'ceo@alalc.org.au'; Bruce Cohen; Colin Ahoy; colinahoy57@gmail.com; Green, Kevin; Cheryl Kitchener; rhonda kitchener; 'Bruce.Cohen@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au'; Colin Ahoy; colinahoy57@gmail.com; Iwatta Aboriginal Corporation  
**Cc:** Tim Kirk; Tim Greenaway  
**Subject:** RE: New England Solar Farm: Proposed Updates to the Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan

CAUTION: This email originated outside of the Organisation.

---

Hello Ryan,

Its Bruce Cohen (Armidale and New England Gumbynggirr Descendants). I would like to add my comments on the Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan.

Practise Due Diligence. Sites being salvaged but due to them not being found and environmental factors also come into play with drought, rain, long grass and live stock.

Further RAP monitoring when ground disturbance starts on the roads and sites themselves.

If you did get a chance to take a look at Walcha diamond tree in the pioneer cabin last year. It has been standing for at least 40 – 50 years within in a glass and wooden cabinet. It is protected from the elements but it could be better constructed. Also I have some ideas on how to assist the protect the scared tree.

Yours sincerely,

Bruce Cohen  
(Armidale and New England Gumbynggirr Descendants)

---

**From:** Ryan Desic [mailto:rdesic@emmconsulting.com.au]  
**Sent:** Monday, 29 March 2021 1:34 PM  
**To:** 'nganyawana@gmail.com'; 'steven1ahoy@gmail.com'; 'minnamunnung@gmail.com'; 'ceo@alalc.org.au'; Bruce Cohen <bruce.cohey@yahoo.com.au>; Colin Ahoy <cahay4@une.edu.au>; colinahoy57@gmail.com; Green, Kevin <kevin.green@alsnswact.org.au>; Cheryl Kitchener <anaiwannation@gmail.com>; rhonda kitchener <rhondakitchener09@hotmail.com>; 'Bruce.Cohen@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au'; Colin Ahoy <cahay7@myune.edu.au>; colinahoy57@gmail.com; Iwatta Aboriginal Corporation <iwattaac@gmail.com>  
**Cc:** Tim Kirk <Tim.Kirk@upc-ac.com>; Tim Greenaway <tim.greenaway@upc-ac.com>  
**Subject:** RE: New England Solar Farm: Proposed Updates to the Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan

Dear Registered Party,

I would like to remind everyone that the 14-day response timeframe for the AHMP updates as specified in the email below will be coming to a close tomorrow on 30 March 2021. I have discussed the content with all those available via telephone during other discussions about the scar tree NE49 at the keeping place.

Presently I have not yet received any formal responses or alternative proposed methods to that provided in the AHMP. Of primary interest, the proposed additional surface collection methods shown in 4.3.1 (ii) (a) provides a table with site condition and management summaries for each site. EMM has presented our recommendations on the feasibility of the sites being salvaged from an archaeological perspective. Sites highlighted orange in the table

## Ryan Desic

---

**From:** Ryan Desic  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 13 April 2021 3:52 PM  
**To:** Bruce Cohen (Hunter New England LHD)  
**Subject:** RE: New England Solar Farm: Proposed Updates to the Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan

Hi Bruce,

Thank you for your feedback regarding the update NESF AHMP. I would firstly like to respond to your comment on management of the scar tree NE49 at the Armidale and Region Cultural Centre and Keeping Place. We are currently sourcing a quote for a cabinet construction for the tree. It will be generally made in the same manner as the Walcha Diamond Tree as it will involve a cabinet (either timber or steel) and clear display casing (either glass, Perspex or similar transparent material for viewing). We welcome any further suggestions on protecting and displaying the tree in the keeping place. Once received, we will pass it on to the keeping place for further consideration.

Your second point refers to the proposed management of the 23 stone artefact sites where the previous collection attempt in January 2021 was unsuccessful. Your suggestion was "Further RAP monitoring when ground disturbance starts on the roads and sites themselves". We would firstly like to clarify that the new AHMP section 4.3.1 (ii) (b) "Additional collection attempts – vegetation clearance and raking" is proposed as an alternative to (and not additional to) any monitoring of ground disturbance activities. Upon careful consideration of the nature of the sites (the characteristics of the artefacts and the current condition of the sites) and their archaeological significance, we propose that additional vegetation clearance and raking is a better suited option in the attempt to re-identify and collect the outstanding sites. These sites typically feature very small artefacts in small frequencies (18 isolated artefacts and the remaining are small artefact scatters (between 2 and 7 artefacts) ). We acknowledge that vegetation clearance and raking may not be successful, but propose that alternative measures would have equal, if not lesser, success and with greater hazard risks and ground disturbance.

Construction ground disturbance monitoring, or monitoring controlled grader scrapes prior to construction, can sometimes be employed to monitor for previously un-recorded sub-surface artefact material. However, we propose that such methods are not appropriate for the following reasons:

- As the artefacts were previously identified on the surface, grader scrapes or other machine excavation likely gather the artefacts in the resulting mounded soil, thus obscuring the ground surface, displacing the artefacts, and reducing the chance of re-identifying the artefacts.
- The artefacts are typically isolated finds or small artefact scatters. Their generally small size would make it very difficult for identification during ground disturbance activities.
- There are also project-related risks of having non-construction team personnel on site during the construction phase. There is increased hazard risks of having people monitoring on site next to heavy machinery.
- Employing grader scrapes over sites may result in greater ground disturbance than actual project-related ground disturbance. Broader scale grader scrapes over some of the site areas (eg NE15 which had a sparsely scattered 7 artefacts over an approx. 200 m by 100 m area) would constitute a far greater net surface disturbance than originally planned. UPC are working under a principle to employ as little ground disturbance as possible.

We believe that the proposed method of vegetation removal and raking is better suited for the following reasons:

- It will provide RAPs with another attempt to identify and collect artefacts that are culturally important to the Aboriginal community;
- It will attempt to return the ground surface to a similar 'bare-surface' condition to when the sites were originally identified; and
- It will result in as minimum ground disturbance as possible to the sites.

Unfortunately, we are often faced with this issue in post-approval surface collection for projects across NSW. Overall, we would like to remind that one of the key reasons of salvage collection is to gather a representative sample of artefacts within a project area for analysis, reporting, safekeeping and display. It is commonly acknowledged that not every stone artefact in a project area can be identified and collected. One of the ways UPC has offered to offset this issue has been to update the management plan permit the collection all re-identifiable Aboriginal stone axes in the project area for display at the keeping centre. This decision has been made in consultation with the Aboriginal community as particular significance has been placed on these items. As such, as per the updated AHMP, once a further attempt of salvage collection has been made for the nominated 23 sites, there will be no further attempts to identify and collect those artefacts. Notwithstanding, any artefact identified during the life of the project will be subject to the unexpected finds protocol as per chapter 5 of the AHMP.

I hope this information helps. Please feel free to contact me with any further queries, questions or comments.


Regards,

**Ryan Desic**

Associate Archaeologist – Heritage Team Leader  
Bushfire, Ecology, Heritage and Spatial Solutions (BEHSS)



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Regards,

**Ryan Desic**

Associate Archaeologist – Heritage Team Leader  
Bushfire, Ecology, Heritage and Spatial Solutions (BEHSS)



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14 April 2021

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[www.emmconsulting.com.au](http://www.emmconsulting.com.au)

**Re: New England Solar Farm: Revision of Aboriginal heritage management plan - notice of finalisation**

---

Dear Registered Party,

EMM on behalf of UPC/AC Renewables would like to advise your party that UPC/AC Renewables intends to submit the updated New England Solar Farm Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan (AHMP) to the Department of Planning Industry and Environment (DPIE) for approval. This follows the issue of the draft updated AHMP to all parties on 16 March 2021, followed by requests for feedback via phone the following week. In summary, the updated AHMP included changes under the following sections:

- *Section 4.2.2 (ii) Barriers.*
- *Section 4.3.1 (ii) Additional requirements for unsuccessful site collection attempts.* Note that this section contained a draft table that provided site condition details for each site. EMM presented recommendations on the feasibility of the sites being salvaged from an archaeological perspective. Sites highlighted orange in the table indicated where EMM considered collection could be potentially successful with additional measures. Sites highlighted red in the table indicated where EMM considered that further collection attempts would be unsuccessful, and therefore no further collection or mitigation was recommended. Despite this initial recommendation, UPC/AC Renewables has resolved to attempt to all these orange and red highlighted sites regardless of the prior recommendation. This is proposed to demonstrate that UPC are committed to giving all outstanding sites appropriate attempts at resolving their management.

Finally, site NE13 is outside of the proposed disturbance footprint and is highlighted green as it will not be disturbed and will not require further management.

- The table also included the recommendation to allow unmitigated impacts to scar tree NE67 which was observed during fieldwork to have collapsed. RAPs considered the tree to be in a condition beyond salvage and did not nominate to salvage the tree. This recommendation has been included in the updated AHMP.
- *Section 4.3.1 (iii) Additional collection for Aboriginal stone hatchets.*

One response to the AHMP was provided by Bruce Cohen of Armidale and New England Gumbynggirr Descendants which is provided below:

*"Practise Due Diligence. Sites being salvaged but due to them not being found and environmental factors also come into play with drought, rain, long grass and live stock. Further RAP monitoring when ground disturbance starts on the roads and sites themselves.*

*If you did get a chance to take a look at Walcha diamond tree in the pioneer cabin last year. It has been standing for at least 40 – 50 years within in a glass and wooden cabinet. It is protected from the elements but it could be better constructed. Also I have some ideas on how to assist the protect the scared tree."*

Regarding Scar Tree NE49: We are currently sourcing a quote for a cabinet construction for the tree. It will be generally made in the same manner as the Walcha Diamond Tree as it will involve a cabinet (either timber or steel) and clear display casing (either glass, Perspex or similar transparent material for viewing). We welcome any further suggestions on protecting and displaying the tree in the keeping place. Once received, we will pass it on to the keeping place for further consideration.

The second point refers to the proposed management of the stone artefact sites where the previous collection attempts in January 2021 was unsuccessful. The suggestion was “Further RAP monitoring when ground disturbance starts on the roads and sites themselves”. We would firstly like to clarify that the new AHMP section 4.3.1 (ii) (b) “Additional collection attempts – vegetation clearance and raking” is proposed as an alternative to (and not additional to) any monitoring of ground disturbance activities and focused on the site areas rather than the general construction footprint. Upon careful consideration of the nature of the sites (the characteristics of the artefacts and the current condition of the sites) and their archaeological significance, it is proposed that additional vegetation clearance and raking is a better suited option in the attempt to re-identify and collect the outstanding sites. These sites typically feature very small artefacts in small frequencies (18 isolated artefacts and the remaining are small artefact scatters (between 2 and 7 artefacts)). It is acknowledged that vegetation clearance and raking may not be successful, but propose that alternative measures would have equal, if not lesser, success and with greater hazard risks and ground disturbance.

Construction ground disturbance monitoring, or monitoring controlled grader scrapes prior to construction, can sometimes be employed to monitor for previously un-recorded sub-surface artefact material. However, it is proposed that such methods are not appropriate for the following reasons:

- As the artefacts were previously identified on the surface, grader scrapes or other machine excavation would likely gather the artefacts in the resulting mounded soil, thus obscuring the ground surface, displacing the artefacts, and reducing the chance of re-identifying the artefacts.
- The artefacts are typically isolated finds or small artefact scatters. Their generally small size would make it very difficult for identification during ground disturbance activities.
- There are also project-related risks of having non-construction team personnel on site during the construction phase. There are increased hazard risks of having people monitoring on site next to heavy machinery.
- Employing grader scrapes over sites may result in greater ground disturbance than actual project-related ground disturbance. Broader scale grader scrapes over some of the site areas (eg NE15 which had a sparsely scattered 7 artefacts over an approx. 200 m by 100 m area) would constitute a far greater net surface disturbance than originally planned. UPC are working under a principle to employ as little ground disturbance as possible.

It is proposed that the method of vegetation removal and raking is better suited for the following reasons:

- It will provide RAPs with another attempt to identify and collect artefacts that are culturally important to the Aboriginal community;
- It will attempt to return the ground surface to a similar ‘bare-surface’ condition to when the sites were originally identified; and
- It will result in as minimum ground disturbance as possible to the sites.

Unfortunately, we are often faced with the issue of being unable to re-locate sites in post-approval surface collection for projects across NSW. One of the key reasons of salvage collection is to gather a representative sample of artefacts within a project area for analysis, reporting, safekeeping and display. It is commonly acknowledged that not every stone artefact in a project area can be identified and collected. One of the ways

UPC/APC Renewables proposes to offset this issue has been to update the management plan permit the collection all re-identifiable Aboriginal stone axes in the project area for display at the keeping centre. This decision has been made in consultation with the Aboriginal community as particular significance has been placed on these items, and this measure has been integrated into the updated AHMP.

As such, as per the updated AHMP, once a further attempt of salvage collection has been made for the nominated sites, there will be no further attempts to identify and collect those artefacts. Notwithstanding, any artefact identified during the life of the project will be subject to the unexpected finds protocol as per Chapter 5 of the AHMP.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ryan Desic', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Ryan Desic**

Associate Archaeologist - Heritage Team Leader

[rdesic@emmconsulting.com.au](mailto:rdesic@emmconsulting.com.au)

## **B3.2 MANAGEMENT OF NE49**

## Ryan Desic

---

**From:** Ryan Desic  
**Sent:** Monday, 22 March 2021 7:59 PM  
**To:** 'nganyawana@gmail.com'; 'steven1ahoy@gmail.com'; 'minnamunnung@gmail.com'; 'ceo@alalc.org.au'; Bruce Cohen; Colin Ahoy; colinahoy57@gmail.com; Green, Kevin; Cheryl Kitchener; rhonda kitchener; 'Bruce.Cohen@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au'; Colin Ahoy; colinahoy57@gmail.com; Iwatta Aboriginal Corporation; director@acckp.com.au  
**Cc:** Tim Greenaway  
**Subject:** New England Solar Farm: Proposed preservation and display of Scar Tree NE49 at Keeping Place  
**Attachments:** J200088\_NE49\_mgmt\_details\_v1.pdf

Dear Registered Party,

Please find attached a proposed methods for the further preservation and display of the scar tree NE49 that is currently in temporary storage at the Armidale Cultural Centre and Keeping Place (ACCKP). The ACCKP has advised that further steps are relatively urgent to free storage space for other collections and manage potential insect problems arising from the tree. As such, we would appreciate it if you could review and respond to the letter as soon as possible. I will be calling registered parties this week to seek feedback and comments too; however, comments in writing are always preferred.

Thank you for your time.


Regards,

**Ryan Desic**

Associate Archaeologist – Heritage Team Leader  
Bushfire, Ecology, Heritage and Spatial Solutions (BEHSS)



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22 March 2021

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T 02 4907 4800

E [info@emmconsulting.com.au](mailto:info@emmconsulting.com.au)

[www.emmconsulting.com.au](http://www.emmconsulting.com.au)

**Re: New England Solar Farm: Further details on the management of Aboriginal Scar Tree NE49**

---

Dear Registered Party,

Thank you for your continued participation in Aboriginal cultural heritage matters for the New England Solar Farm project. This letter provides detail on the proposed preservation and display of Aboriginal scar tree NE49 for your input and/or comment. Scar tree NE49 was salvaged and relocated to the Armidale Cultural Centre and Keeping Place (ACCKP) on 8 January 2021 in accordance with Section 4.3.2 of the project Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan (AHMP). The fieldwork was completed by EMM Archaeologist Ryan Desic, NESF RAPs Steven Ahoy, Colin Ahoy and Cheryl Kitchener, and arborists Bells Tree Service. The tree is currently stored temporarily at the ACCKP in a holding room awaiting arrangements for its display.

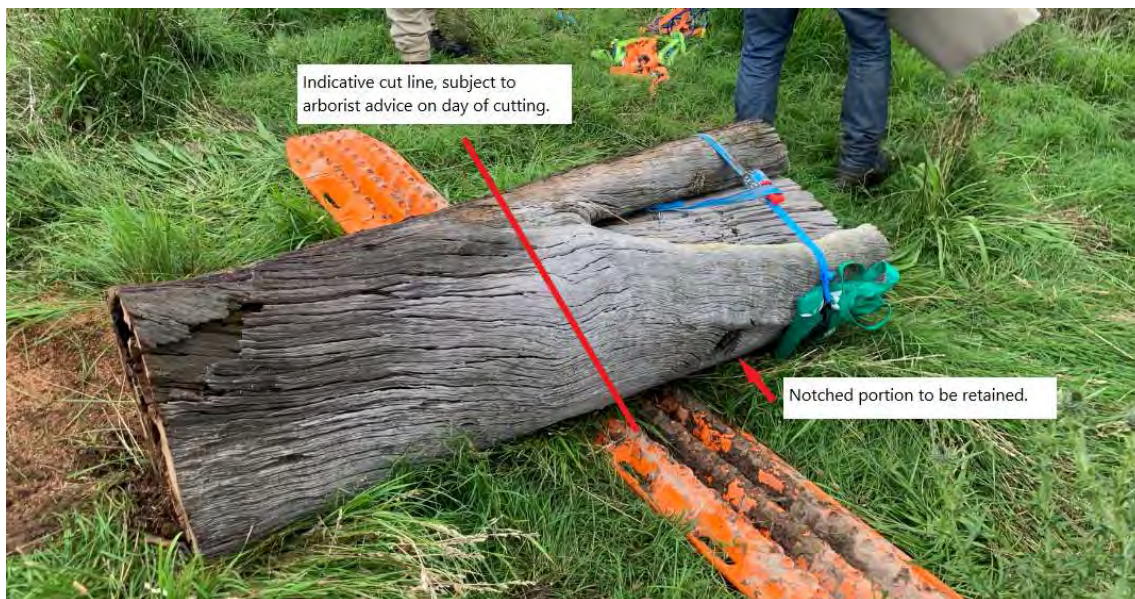
EMM on behalf of UPC/AC Renewables (UPC) has recently discussed tree preservation and display options with the ACCKP and Registered Aboriginal Party Steven Ahoy. There are two key actions required to progress the AHMP commitments for tree display and signage:

- ACCKP has advised that the current size of the tree portion is too large in height and weight to display appropriately at the centre. As such, it requires a reduction in size to fit within a movable display case.
- Insects, including termites, within the tree must be eliminated prior to display. As the tree was already dead and decaying in the field, it is probable that insects observed recently by the ACCKP have been transported with the tree. The ACCKP have raised this as an issue requiring immediate attention so as not to compromise other parts of the collection.

UPC propose the following method which is in accordance with Section 4.3.2 of the project AHMP:

- To reduce the current size of the tree, an Arborist will be engaged to shorten the tree to a suitable length that preserves the tree scar and does not compromise the structural integrity of the tree. The ACCKP raised the possibility of cutting the tree vertically and retain the scar in a semi-cylinder trunk form; however, this would not comply with the current AHMP provisions and therefore is unlikely to be permitted unless the AHMP is changed. Furthermore, there is a farmer-made notched square in the side of the tree that would be lost by vertical cut method, but RAP Colin Ahoy has requested for it to be retained as it demonstrates why the tree was originally felled.
- An indicative proposed cut line is shown in Plate 1 below. It is estimated that the tree length would be 1.2-1.5 m after further cutting.





**Plate 1** Indicative tree cut line and notched portion that requires to be retained.

- After the tree is cut to size, the overhanging portion will be removed and discarded. The section with the scar will be taken outside and further cleaned to remove as much decayed wood as possible from the inside of the trunk. This may involve using hand tools and power tools to an arborists discretion to effectively remove insects and their habitat from the centre of the tree. Once the tree is suitably cleaned it will be placed in a dry and secure location to aerate. This temporary location may either be at the keeping place or at the pest control specialist's workshop, in preparation for insect treatment.
- A pest control specialist will be engaged to treat the tree once suitably dry. After application, the tree may be covered for a period to ensure treatment absorption. The scar tree will be returned to the keeping place after treatment.

The tree cutting and cleaning procedure will be overseen by an EMM archaeologist, a RAP representative, and a representative of the ACCKP.

After the tree is treated, a contractor will be engaged to build a display case to accommodate the tree. The display case will be transparent to allow appropriate viewing and security for the tree. The display will also include signage containing details of the tree and its provenance. The ACCKP will be further consulted for UPC to provide a suitable display case.

Please provide feedback to the proposed methods as soon as possible to allow the ACCKP to progress with the required treatment and display of the tree. If you have any questions about the proposed methods feel free to contact me via email or telephone.

Yours sincerely,

**Ryan Desic**  
Associate Archaeologist - Heritage Team Leader  
[rdesic@emmconsulting.com.au](mailto:rdesic@emmconsulting.com.au)

## Ryan Desic

---

**From:** Ryan Desic  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 24 March 2021 8:36 AM  
**To:** Colin Ahoy Ahoy  
**Subject:** RE: New England Solar Farm: Proposed preservation and display of Scar Tree NE49 at Keeping Place  
**Attachments:** J200088\_NESF\_AHMP\_Update\_RAPDraft.pdf

Hi Colin,

Thank you for your response and consideration. Unfortunately we are previously committed to placing the tree in the Armidale Regional Community Centre and Keeping Place (ARCKP). This is where the tree is temporarily stored right now and the ARCKP have already made arrangements to have the tree on display. This is in accordance with the approved Aboriginal heritage management plan attached as set out in Section 4.3.2. I have attached the AHMP again for your reference.

Other than the location for the tree to be displayed, have you any issues about the proposed management of the scar tree?

I will give you a call this week to discuss the matter further and also touch base on the requested AHMP updates that review your review and comment.


Regards,

### Ryan Desic

Associate Archaeologist – Heritage Team Leader  
Bushfire, Ecology, Heritage and Spatial Solutions (BEHSS)



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---

**From:** Colin Ahoy Ahoy <colinahoy57@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 23 March 2021 8:47 PM  
**To:** Ryan Desic <rdesic@emmconsulting.com.au>  
**Subject:** Re: New England Solar Farm: Proposed preservation and display of Scar Tree NE49 at Keeping Place

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Hi Ryan,

My apologies I didn't read right through the email so therefore I missed the shot of the tree.

Any way just looking at the size of the tree and if the Arborist could do the trimming I'm pretty sure that

management of the Aboriginal Oorala centre at the University of New England would put the tree on display

Should the other raps be in agreeance to this proposal I would like to be there when the tree doctor does his thing trimming.

Cheer Ryan

Colin Ahoy Senior

On Monday, 22 March 2021, Ryan Desic <[rdesic@emmconsulting.com.au](mailto:rdesic@emmconsulting.com.au)> wrote:

Dear Registered Party,

Please find attached a proposed methods for the further preservation and display of the scar tree NE49 that is currently in temporary storage at the Armidale Cultural Centre and Keeping Place (ACCKP). The ACCKP has advised that further steps are relatively urgent to free storage space for other collections and manage potential insect problems arising from the tree. As such, we would appreciate it if you could review and respond to the letter as soon as possible. I will be calling registered parties this week to seek feedback and comments too; however, comments in writing are always preferred.

Thank you for your time.

Regards,


**Ryan Desic**

Associate Archaeologist – Heritage Team Leader

Bushfire, Ecology, Heritage and Spatial Solutions (BEHSS)



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--

Colin Ahoy

## Ryan Desic

---

**From:** Colin Ahoy <cahoy7@myune.edu.au>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 24 March 2021 2:04 PM  
**To:** Ryan Desic  
**Subject:** Re: New England Solar Farm: Proposed preservation and display of Scar Tree NE49 at Keeping Place

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---

Hello Ryan,

I do not have an issue with some of the trunk being cut down but I would like where you have drawn the line to be brought back as it seems to be where the scar is healing. As stated I do not agree with the tree being cut vertically.

Kind regards

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---

**From:** Ryan Desic <rdesic@emmconsulting.com.au>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 22, 2021 7:59:12 PM  
**To:** 'nganyawana@gmail.com' <'nganyawana@gmail.com'; 'steven1ahoy@gmail.com' <'steven1ahoy@gmail.com'; 'minnamunnung@gmail.com' <'minnamunnung@gmail.com'; 'ceo@alalc.org.au' <'ceo@alalc.org.au'; Bruce Cohen <bruce.cohey@yahoo.com.au>; cahoy4 <cahoy4@une.edu.au>; colinahoy57@gmail.com <colinahoy57@gmail.com>; Green, Kevin <kevin.green@alsnswact.org.au>; Cheryl Kitchener <anaiwannation@gmail.com>; rhonda kitchener <rhondakitchener09@hotmail.com>; 'Bruce.Cohen@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au' <'Bruce.Cohen@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au'; Colin Ahoy <cahoy7@myune.edu.au>; colinahoy57@gmail.com <colinahoy57@gmail.com>; Iwatta Aboriginal Corporation <iwattaac@gmail.com>; director@acckp.com.au <director@acckp.com.au>  
**Cc:** Tim Greenaway <tim.greenaway@upc-ac.com>  
**Subject:** New England Solar Farm: Proposed preservation and display of Scar Tree NE49 at Keeping Place

Dear Registered Party,

Please find attached a proposed methods for the further preservation and display of the scar tree NE49 that is currently in temporary storage at the Armidale Cultural Centre and Keeping Place (ACCKP). The ACCKP has advised that further steps are relatively urgent to free storage space for other collections and manage potential insect problems arising from the tree. As such, we would appreciate it if you could review and respond to the letter as soon as possible. I will be calling registered parties this week to seek feedback and comments too; however, comments in writing are always preferred.

Thank you for your time.


Regards,

**Ryan Desic**

Associate Archaeologist – Heritage Team Leader  
Bushfire, Ecology, Heritage and Spatial Solutions (BEHSS)



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## Ryan Desic

---

**From:** Cheryl Kitchener <anaiwannation@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, 28 March 2021 8:12 AM  
**To:** Ryan Desic  
**Cc:** Bruce Cohen; Colin Ahoy; colinahoy57@gmail.com; Green, Kevin; rhonda kitchener; Colin Ahoy; Iwatta Aboriginal Corporation; director@acckp.com.au; Tim Greenaway  
**Subject:** Re: New England Solar Farm: Proposed preservation and display of Scar Tree NE49 at Keeping Place

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---

Good Morning Ryan,

Thank you for the update.

In January during the collection of artefacts and removal of the scar tree to the ACCKP, I was tasked with the job of contacting the relevant agency to seek advice on how to proceed with the protection and maintenance of the tree.

I contacted colleagues from the Australian Museum who outlined the process, I forwarded this information onto Steven and Rose Lovelock via email, I will forward the email onto you for your reference.

Regards

Cheryl

**Cheryl Kitchener**

**M: 0431 519 607**

**E: [anaiwannation@gmail.com](mailto:anaiwannation@gmail.com)**

On Mon, Mar 22, 2021 at 7:59 PM Ryan Desic <[rdesic@emmconsulting.com.au](mailto:rdesic@emmconsulting.com.au)> wrote:

Dear Registered Party,

Please find attached a proposed methods for the further preservation and display of the scar tree NE49 that is currently in temporary storage at the Armidale Cultural Centre and Keeping Place (ACCKP). The ACCKP has advised that further steps are relatively urgent to free storage space for other collections and manage potential insect problems arising from the tree. As such, we would appreciate it if you could review and respond to the letter as soon as possible. I will be calling registered parties this week to seek feedback and comments too; however, comments in writing are always preferred.

Thank you for your time.


Regards,

**Ryan Desic**

Associate Archaeologist – Heritage Team Leader

Bushfire, Ecology, Heritage and Spatial Solutions (BEHSS)



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## Ryan Desic

---

**From:** Cheryl Kitchener <[anaiwannation@gmail.com](mailto:anaiwannation@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, 28 March 2021 8:14 AM  
**To:** Ryan Desic  
**Subject:** Fwd: Scar Tree Treatment

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---

Good Morning Ryan,

FYI

Regards

Cheryl

**Cheryl Kitchener**

**M: 0431 519 607**

**E: [anaiwannation@gmail.com](mailto:anaiwannation@gmail.com)**

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Cheryl Kitchener <[anaiwannation@gmail.com](mailto:anaiwannation@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** Wed, Jan 20, 2021 at 12:11 PM  
**Subject:** Scar Tree Treatment  
**To:** Steven <[steven1ahoy@gmail.com](mailto:steven1ahoy@gmail.com)>, <[director@acckp.com.au](mailto:director@acckp.com.au)>

Good Morning Steven and Rose,

I have contacted the Australian Museum, Indigenous Team for advice on the treatment of the Scar Tree. I spoke to Logan Metcalfe, Acting Manager, Indigenous Team.

Logan's team do not work on the conservation of cultural materials but have suggested you speak with Colin McGegor who is an expert in this form of conservation. Colin is currently retired but Logan is suggesting that Colin would be happy to assist. Colin's contact number is 0405737437.

In the initial stages of conservation for scar tree, Logan has suggested:

1. The carpet surrounding the Scar tree is to be removed as soon as possible as the carpet would be a breeding ground for termites, beetles, insects etc.
2. Cut tree to the required size before treating
3. Brush tree carefully to remove outstanding soil, dead insects etc
4. Ensure tree is completely secure and bound to avoid further splitting
5. Cover the tree completely with thick black plastic, making sure the tree is airtight

There are two ways to treat the tree:

1. Freeze tree in a large freezer for a week. UPC would need to hire a cold storage freezer for a week.
2. Pest Control: UPC would have to hire a Pest Controller to get rid of termites, borers, beetles etc

For further information contact Logan on 0422 162 809 and [logan.metcalf@australian.museum](mailto:logan.metcalf@australian.museum)

I hope this information is of assistance.

Regards

Cheryl

**Cheryl Kitchener**

**M: 0431 519 607**

**E: [anaiwannation@gmail.com](mailto:anaiwannation@gmail.com)**

## Ryan Desic

---

**From:** Ryan Desic  
**Sent:** Monday, 29 March 2021 11:52 AM  
**To:** 'nganyawana@gmail.com'; 'steven1ahoy@gmail.com'; 'minnamunnung@gmail.com'; 'ceo@alalc.org.au'; Bruce Cohen; Colin Ahoy; colinahoy57@gmail.com; Green, Kevin; Cheryl Kitchener; rhonda kitchener; 'Bruce.Cohen@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au'; Colin Ahoy; colinahoy57@gmail.com; lwatta Aboriginal Corporation; director@acckp.com.au  
**Cc:** Tim Greenaway  
**Subject:** New England Solar Farm - Aboriginal heritage management plan and scar tree management

Dear Registered Party,

You may recall that last Monday, EMM sent a letter regarding the proposed methods for further preservation and display of the scar tree NE49 that is currently in temporary storage at the Armidale Cultural Centre and Keeping Place (ACCKP). This letter requested any feedback or comments you may have. I also attempted to call each party to gather feedback, the majority of which was successful. Overall, there were no significant issues raised with the proposed methods, and the feedback gathered represents only slight changes to the original letter. A summary of feedback from consultation is provided in the table below. Apologies if I am paraphrasing your comments and let me know ASAP if what I have written is not a reflection of your feedback. If you have not yet responded and wish to, please do so as soon as possible.

RAP	Comment	Outcomes
Steve Ahoy (lawatta)	The methods presented were originally made in consultation with Steven as he has been working closely with the ACCKP for the management of this tree. Steven supports the proposed methods.	Steven will be present during the proposed cutting and cleaning of the tree.
Rose Lovelock (ACCKP)	Ryan (EMM) and Rose had multiple telephone discussions to discuss the proposed approach provided in the letter. It was resolved that the approach should proceed as soon as possible.	To arrange management measures as soon as possible.
Cheryl Kitchener (Culturally Aware)	In late January 2020 Cheryl provided the ACCKP with tree management advice gathered from a curator from the Australian Museum (Logan Metcalfe). Cheryl provided this information to EMM recently and is generally consistent with the proposed methods in the EMM methods letter. An additional point included the advice to "ensure the tree is completely secure and bound to avoid further splitting".	The arborist will be consulted to determine if the tree requires to be bound to avoid splitting. Note that the tree is not currently split so it may not be an issue. If required, we will apply strapping to bind the tree as an interim measure, but binding suitable for display would need to be considered further.
Rhonda Kitchener (Nyakka)	Ryan contacted Rhonda over the phone and requested any feedback she would like to make. No issues were raised.	Not applicable

Colin Ahoy Senior (Nunawanna)	Colin originally responding suggested alternative keeping place options as he thought the ACCKP would not store the tree. Ryan called Colin and clarified the matter based on the letter contents. Colin did not raise any issues with the proposed method.	Not applicable
Colin Ahoy Junior (Nunawanna)	Colin noted that it is important to keep the European scar from fencing construction on the side of the tree trunk. Furthermore, he suggested that the tree be cut slightly higher above the scar than that shown in the methods letter – this was to ensure the scar apex will still be visible after cutting.	The tree will be cut approximately 10 cm above the indicative line shown in the methods letter to accommodate this request.
Les Ahoy (Nganyawana Clan Group)	Email and call attempted – no response received.	Not applicable
Les Townsend	EMM called and discussed approach. Les informed that we was happy to follow the RAP consensus on management measures.	Not applicable
Bruce Cohen (Armidale and New England Gumbynggirr Descendants)	Email and call attempted – no response received.	Not applicable
Aaron Broad	Email and call attempted – no response received. Note that Aaron did not participate in consultation for the NESF and resides in the South Coast of NSW.	Not applicable
Armidale Local Aboriginal Land Council	No response received	Not applicable.

The next steps will be to organise an Arborist as soon as possible to undertake the works. I will let everyone know once sourced.

Regards,

### Ryan Desic

Associate Archaeologist – Heritage Team Leader  
Bushfire, Ecology, Heritage and Spatial Solutions (BEHSS)



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## Ryan Desic

---

**From:** Ryan Desic  
**Sent:** Thursday, 1 April 2021 6:52 PM  
**To:** 'nganyawana@gmail.com'; 'steven1ahoy@gmail.com'; 'minnamunnung@gmail.com'; 'ceo@alalc.org.au'; Bruce Cohen; Colin Ahoy; colinahoy57@gmail.com; Green, Kevin; Cheryl Kitchener; rhonda kitchener; 'Bruce.Cohen@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au'; Colin Ahoy; colinahoy57@gmail.com; Iwatta Aboriginal Corporation  
**Cc:** Tim Greenaway  
**Subject:** New England Solar Farm: Further Management of Scar Tree NE49

Dear Registered Party,

Further management of scar tree NE49 was completed successfully on Wednesday 31 March 2021. Arborists CJW Tree Services, Steve Ahoy (Iwatta Corp) and representatives of the keeping place attended, including Adam Spencer and director Rose Lovelock. The tree was cut to approximately 1 m in length and then thoroughly cleaned and placed under a covered area at the Keeping Place to dry prior to pest control treatment. It is noted that the tree is in a fragile condition and has been re-strapped around the girth of the for additional support. EMM recommends that the strapping is left on the tree while it is being moved and mounted in its display case in the future. The strapping should only be removed once the tree is positioned and secured well in its display case.

The temporary storage area under an outdoor covered area was nominated by Keeping Place staff Adam Spencer and RAP Steve Ahoy who confirmed that the area is a suitable temporary space that will be monitored regularly. It is anticipated that the tree will require up to 2 weeks to dry prior to pest control treatment.

In the meantime, Steve Ahoy is arranging for a local cabinet maker to measure the tree to construct a suitable display case. Photographs of the proceedings are shown below.



Tree prior to cutting





Tree after being cut by arborist in consultation with RAP Steve Ahoy and Keeping Place staff Adam Spencer





Tree after cleaning and removal of rot and insects



Tree is strapped and placed under a covered area at the keeping place to allow to dry

Regards,

**Ryan Desic**

Associate Archaeologist – Heritage Team Leader  
Bushfire, Ecology, Heritage and Spatial Solutions (BEHSS)



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**B4 AHMP CONSULTATION CORRESPONDENCE – CULTURAL  
TOOLBOX SESSIONS, ORAL HISTORIES, STAGE 2  
FIELDWORK, AND DRAFT AHMP REVISION 2**

**B4.1 CULTURAL AWARENESS AND TOOLBOX SESSIONS 2021-  
2022**

## Ryan Desic

---

**From:** Ryan Desic  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 28 September 2021 4:24 PM  
**To:** 'nganyawana@gmail.com'; 'steven1ahoy@gmail.com'; 'minnamunnung@gmail.com'; 'ceo@alalc.org.au'; Bruce Cohen; Colin Ahoy; colinahoy57@gmail.com; Green, Kevin; Cheryl Kitchener; rhonda.kitchener; 'Bruce.Cohen@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au'; Colin Ahoy; colinahoy57@gmail.com; Iwatta Aboriginal Corporation  
**Cc:** Tim Greenaway  
**Subject:** New England Solar Farm: Fostering cultural awareness and site inductions  
**Attachments:** J200088\_RAPInductionsFosteringCulturalAwareness\_v1.pdf

Dear Registered Party,

The attached letter relates to RAP involvement in site induction processes and opportunities for fostering cultural awareness. The letter:

- responds to RAP feedback provided in August 2021 about NESF site induction slides and their content; and
- invites RAPs to attend an online meeting on **7 October 2021 at 3:00 pm** to discuss options and content for RAP involvement in cultural inductions/toolbox sessions.

I will be sending a Microsoft Teams invite shortly. Please RSVP to the upcoming teams invite as soon as possible. Please note if there are clashes with your schedule and you feel as though you must attend, we may be able to change the meeting time to suit.

Regards,

### Ryan Desic

Associate Archaeologist – Heritage Team Leader – MAACAI  
Bushfire, Ecology, Heritage and Spatial Solutions (BEHSS)



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# Memorandum



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[www.emmconsulting.com.au](http://www.emmconsulting.com.au)

28 September 2021

To: Registered Aboriginal Parties for the New England Solar Farm  
From: Ryan Desic  
Subject: New England Solar Farm: Fostering cultural awareness and site inductions

---

Dear Registered Party,

On behalf of UPC\AC Renewables and EMM, thank you for your continued participation in ongoing consultation as registered Aboriginal parties (RAPs) for the New England Solar Farm (NESF) project. This letter relates to sections 6.2.1 and 6.2.2 of the NESF Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan (AHMP), regarding RAP involvement in site induction processes and opportunities for fostering cultural awareness. In brief, this letter:

- responds to RAP feedback provided in August 2021 about NESF site induction slides and their content; and
- invites RAPs to attend an online meeting on **7 October 2021 at 3:00 pm** to discuss options and content for RAP involvement in cultural inductions/toolbox sessions.

## 1 Response to RAP feedback

On 6 August 2021, EMM provided RAPs with NESF induction slides prepared by UPC\AC Renewables contractor Green Light Contractors. The slides included draft content aimed at informing employees and contractors about their obligations towards Aboriginal cultural heritage. Table 1 provides a summary of RAP comments and UPC\AC's response to these comments.

**Table 1** RAP comments on induction slides and how they are addressed

RAP representative	Summary of RAP Comment	UPC\AC response
Cheryl Kitchener	<p>1. <i>Are all site personnel, contractors and sub-contractors skilled and/or qualified to identify or determine what an Aboriginal cultural object is?</i></p> <p>2. <i>If not, will they have some form of training provided before work begins?</i></p>	UPC\AC and Green Light Contractors understand the Aboriginal community's concern over appropriate training in Aboriginal cultural awareness. We propose to prepare a training and awareness plan to address this concern. Section 2 of this letter invites RAPs to a meeting to discuss this matter further with the overall aim of fostering cultural awareness at the NESF site.
Cheryl Kitchener and Les Ahoy	<p>3. <i>Can you add 'Archaeologists must be contacted and consult with Aboriginal stakeholders when a new find is located'</i></p>	RAPs will be notified if potential new finds are identified during construction works. Depending on the nature of the find, this may involve inviting one RAP representative to site to assess the find alongside an archaeologist.

**Table 1** RAP comments on induction slides and how they are addressed

RAP representative	Summary of RAP Comment	UPC\AC response
Cheryl Kitchener	<i>4. An archaeologist cannot determine cultural values. Cultural values can only be determined by Aboriginal people. If cultural values are to be determined with new finds this needs to be done in consultation with Aboriginal Stakeholders.</i>	We note that AHMP states “if the find is determined to be an Aboriginal object, RAPs will be contacted to determine the cultural significance of the find and have input into the desired management measures”. As such, we have updated the slide content will be updated to reflect this point.
Les Ahoy	<i>Maintaining the sites access by 'TO's' or other community people should be determined by a 'TO Advisory Panel' (?). This Panel could be established to approve access to the site by TO's or others outside of official access purposes, for example site surveys. Members of such a Panel could also act in a monitoring capacity in that they could have ongoing access to the sites to ensure sites are being protected appropriately.</i>	Section 2.4.2 of the AHMP sets out the current procedure for accessing sites. UPC\AC can revisit this protocol closer to the operational phase of the project if there is a desire amongst RAPs to change the current procedure.

## 2 Fostering cultural awareness through cultural training and inductions

UPC\AC are committed to providing opportunities for RAP representatives to participate in activities related to training and fostering cultural awareness. As such, UPC\AC and EMM would like to workshop Aboriginal community involvement in providing culturally appropriate content and training to NESF site personnel. The first step to achieve this goal will be to hold a meeting with RAPs to establish:

- the key messages and information RAPs would like to convey to site personnel during training and information sessions;
- the people who would like to be involved in presenting cultural information and in what format (it is proposed by UPC\AC and GLC that this be undertaken as a specific toolbox talk which is updated and repeated for changes in personnel on site); and
- materials and teaching aids to be used for the training and information.

UPC/AC and EMM propose to hold an online Microsoft Teams meeting on **7 October 2021 at 3:00 pm** to discuss the issues above. We welcome your attendance. I will be sending through a link to the meeting via email shortly.

Please RSVP to Ryan Desic via email at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,



**Ryan Desic**

Associate Archaeologist - Heritage Team Leader

[rdesic@emmconsulting.com.au](mailto:rdesic@emmconsulting.com.au)

## Ryan Desic

---

**From:** Ryan Desic  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 26 October 2021 5:37 PM  
**To:** 'nganyawana@gmail.com'; 'steven1ahoy@gmail.com'; 'minnamunnung@gmail.com'; 'ceo@alalc.org.au'; Bruce Cohen; Colin Ahoy; colinahoy57@gmail.com; Green, Kevin; Cheryl Kitchener; rhonda.kitchener; 'Bruce.Cohen@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au'; Colin Ahoy; colinahoy57@gmail.com; Iwatta Aboriginal Corporation  
**Cc:** Tim Greenaway  
**Subject:** New England Solar Farm: Fostering cultural awareness and site inductions: Meeting Outcomes and Proposed Toolbox Sessions  
**Attachments:** NESF\_AH\_MeetingMinutes\_v.1.pdf

Dear Registered Party,

Attached is the outcomes of the online discussion on 7 October 2021 and a draft of the proposed toolbox sessions to be held on the New England Solar Farm site. The letter has a number of next steps outlined that require your feedback and input. Please read carefully and get back to me with any feedback.


Regards,

### Ryan Desic

Associate Archaeologist – Heritage Team Leader – MAACAI  
Bushfire, Ecology, Heritage and Spatial Solutions (BEHSS)



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---

**From:** Ryan Desic  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 28 September 2021 4:24 PM  
**To:** 'nganyawana@gmail.com'; 'steven1ahoy@gmail.com'; 'minnamunnung@gmail.com'; 'ceo@alalc.org.au'; 'Bruce Cohen' <bruce.cohey@yahoo.com.au>; 'Colin Ahoy' <cahay4@une.edu.au>; 'colinahoy57@gmail.com' <colinahoy57@gmail.com>; 'Green, Kevin' <kevin.green@alsnswact.org.au>; 'Cheryl Kitchener'

<anaiwannation@gmail.com>; 'rhonda kitchener' <rhondakitchener09@hotmail.com>;  
'Bruce.Cohen@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au'; 'Colin Ahoy' <cahoy7@myune.edu.au>; 'colinahoy57@gmail.com'  
<colinahoy57@gmail.com>; 'Iwatta Aboriginal Corporation' <iwattaac@gmail.com>  
**Cc:** 'Tim Greenaway' <tim.greenaway@upc-ac.com>  
**Subject:** New England Solar Farm: Fostering cultural awareness and site inductions

Dear Registered Party,

The attached letter relates to RAP involvement in site induction processes and opportunities for fostering cultural awareness. The letter:

- responds to RAP feedback provided in August 2021 about NESF site induction slides and their content; and
- invites RAPs to attend an online meeting on **7 October 2021 at 3:00 pm** to discuss options and content for RAP involvement in cultural inductions/toolbox sessions.

I will be sending a Microsoft Teams invite shortly. Please RSVP to the upcoming teams invite as soon as possible. Please note if there are clashes with your schedule and you feel as though you must attend, we may be able to change the meeting time to suit.

Regards,

**Ryan Desic**

Associate Archaeologist – Heritage Team Leader – MAACAI  
Bushfire, Ecology, Heritage and Spatial Solutions (BEHSS)



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# Memorandum



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26 October 2021

To Registered Aboriginal Parties  
From EMM Consulting Pty Limited

Subject New England Solar Farm: outcomes of discussion regarding fostering cultural awareness and site inductions.

## 1 Introduction

The following letter presents the outcomes of discussion between UPC/AC Renewables, Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs), EMM Consulting and Green Light Contractors about fostering cultural awareness and site inductions for the New England Solar Farm (NESF) project. A meeting was held online via Microsoft Teams on 7 October 2021, after a letter invite on 28 September 2021 inviting all RAPs to participate in the discussion. The aims of the discussion were to:

- Notify RAPs that UPC/AC intends to have Aboriginal community involvement in providing culturally appropriate training to NESF site personnel;
- Establish the key messages and information RAPs would like to convey to site personnel during training and information sessions; and
- The people, materials and teaching aids that should be involved for the training and information.

The topics discussed are presented in the attached discussion slides, and areas of key discussion points are presented in Table 2. The outcomes of the discussion resolved that the development and implementation of an Aboriginal heritage toolbox session was an appropriate way to address the aims of the discussion. A summary of the proposed toolbox session is provided in Section 5 of this letter. We require your input and feedback prior to finalising the toolbox session plan as requested in Section 6.

## 2 Attendees

**Table 1 Meeting attendees**

Name	Organisation	Position on project
Les Ahoy (LA)	Nganyawana Aboriginal Cultural Corporation	Registered Aboriginal Party and Nganyawana Cultural Elder
Tim Greenaway (TG)	UPC/AC Renewables	Project Director
Sarah Donnan (SD)	UPC/AC Renewables	Project Manager
Joey Chalk (JC)	UPC/AC Renewables	Manager Community Engagement
Michael Connarty (MC)	UPC/AC Renewables	Manager Strategy and Stakeholder Engagement
Ryan Desic (RD)	EMM Consulting	Project Archaeologist
Carlos Miralles Sanchez (CS)	Green Light Contractors	EPC Director
Liam Carusi (LC)	Green Light Contractors	Project Site Engineer

### 3 General proceedings

- Meeting start time: 3pm 7 October 2021.
- Welcome to Country by Les Ahoy.
- Agenda topics:
  1. Introduction and background (RD);
  2. Project update (TG):
    - External roads providing access to the site are substantially complete.
    - Collection of artefacts from the site by RAPs occurred in January 2021 and July 2021.
    - Identified significant sites across the solar farm Stage 1 footprint have been fenced.
    - A recovered fallen scar tree was taken to the Armidale Keeping Place and will be displayed.
  3. Establishing aims of knowledge sharing and training (RD);
  4. Workshop about the form and content of proposed knowledge sharing and training sessions (all) (refer to Table 2).
- Next steps: RD outlined that the workshop table would be refined into a draft toolbox session plan and issued to RAPs for review (now presented as Table 3 of this letter) . UPC/AC would aim to implement the actions once the toolbox session plan is finalised.
- Meeting end time: 4:15 pm.

### 4 Meeting minutes

**Table 2** Topics of key meeting minute discussion points

Topic	Discussion points	Response/outcome
<b>Proposed knowledge sharing and training sessions: timing, structure and location.</b>	<p>RD explained that in accordance with sections 6.2.1 and 6.2.2 of the NESF Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan (AHMP), UPC/AC Renewables have taken the initiative to development opportunities for RAP involvement in the NESF site induction process to foster cultural awareness. This proposal involves the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The knowledge sharing and training sessions to take form as toolbox sessions to be held on the NESF project site.</li><li>• Toolbox sessions to occur monthly for all new site personnel and for a duration of up to approximately 30 mins per session.</li><li>• Toolbox sessions to be facilitated by UPC/AC and Green Light and presented by nominated RAP representatives.</li></ul>	<p>LA generally agreed to this proposal and agreed that he could see the benefit these sessions providing training and cultural awareness to site personnel.</p> <p>LA emphasised that it should take the form in a face-to-face format and be presented by Aboriginal people in an interactive way with the allowance for questions and feedback.</p> <p>LA advised that 30 min toolbox sessions would be useful for the project, but further training and knowledge sharing would be needed to fully teach personnel about cultural awareness and gave some examples. LA expressed his preference for such training to be conducted on-country where possible.</p> <p>TG acknowledged the limitations of the proposed 30 min toolbox sessions. UPC/AC will</p>



**Table 2** Topics of key meeting minute discussion points

Topic	Discussion points	Response/outcome
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Toolbox sessions to be mandatory for all new employees or contractors.</li> </ul>	<p>explore options for cultural awareness training for key personnel, including those that will be present during the Operations phase.</p> <p>Overall, the proposed toolbox session timing, structure and location was agreed to be developed. UPC/AC are supportive of the sessions being in face-to-face format as proposed by LA.</p>
<b>Toolbox session content and delivery</b>	Using the table in slide no.5 of the presentation, RD presented options for key messages, information content and teaching mediums to be included as part of the proposed toolbox sessions. It was noted that this material would be additional to the induction content provided to all new site personnel in their 'Induction Packs' issued prior to working on site.	<p>With key input by LA, it was determined that the toolbox sessions need to address two main aspects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the first being a presentation of the Aboriginal history and cultural significance of the land on which the project is being developed;</li> <li>the second being a practical aspect where teaching aids are used by RAPs to teach site personnel about what types of Aboriginal archaeological sites occur throughout the landscape and how to identify Aboriginal objects in the instance of unexpected finds.</li> </ul> <p>LA agreed that examples of Aboriginal sites, such as stone artefacts should be used to assist the RAPs to present the toolbox session material. These can be sourced from the materials salvaged for the NESF project.</p>
<b>Other business</b>	<p>LA noted the on-going importance for local RAPs to be able to access the identified culturally significant sites such that they can re-assure the local community of their condition. TG and RD noted that the sites were all fenced and that weed management around the sites would likely need to occur on a regular basis. This may create a regular opportunity for the sites to be visited by RAP representatives. This was recognised as likely to occur during project operation of the rather than during project construction (access during Construction likely to be affected by WH&amp;S).</p> <p>LA noted that he would like to see a process in place by which RAP reps can 'verify' access requests to heritage sites before they are approved by UPC.</p>	<p>UPC/AC will explore the best options to combine site condition monitoring with weed management tasks for fenced Aboriginal sites. This is likely to involve RAP representative participation in the weed management fieldwork tasks.</p> <p>UPC/AC to review current access protocols with RAPs, and confirm it is reflective of all RAP aspirations. Any amendments to protocols to be made in agreement with RAPs.</p>

## 5 Draft proposed toolbox session

Table 3 provides a draft of the proposed toolbox session that will be developed, implemented and reviewed as the Project progresses. RAP review and feedback is requested prior to initial implementation. UPC/AC require RAPs to nominate themselves or others that they believe should be involved in the toolbox sessions, particular to any new persons to site. Note that UPC/AC will negotiate payment and commercial arrangement of RAP representative involvement prior to the implementation of this plan.

**Table 3**      **Draft toolbox session plan**

Toolbox session component	Details
<b>Location</b>	NESF project site compound (at the end of Big Ridge Road within project area)
<b>Occurrence</b>	Monthly
<b>Duration</b>	30 minutes (expected)
<b>Content</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Smoking ceremony and Welcome to Country (5-10 mins)</li> <li>2. Part A – Knowledge Sharing: Overview of Aboriginal history of the local area and its people, the high significance and importance of the cultural landscape of ‘Oorala’, the significance of intangible cultural values and the significance of Aboriginal archaeological sites (5-10 mins)</li> <li>3. Part B – Site training and protocols: Presentation of obligations to protect and manage known Aboriginal heritage sites, and new finds procedures which involve stopping work if suspected new Aboriginal sites or skeletal material is identified on site. RAPs may use teaching aids such as examples of artefacts salvaged under the AHMP. (5-10 mins).</li> </ol>

RAP input requirements	Input required	Nominations for RAP personnel
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Procurement of smoking ceremony materials (eg fire pit, plant material).</li> <li>• Presentation of smoking ceremony.</li> </ul>	<i>To be nominated by RAPs. Please advise EMM (Ryan Desic) of appropriate persons to be involved.</i>
	Part A – Knowledge Sharing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preparation of script outlining key points to be conveyed to personnel.</li> <li>• Presentation of information as part of toolbox session.</li> </ul>	<i>To be nominated by RAPs. Please advise EMM (Ryan Desic) of appropriate persons to be involved.</i>
	Part B – Site training and protocols: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preparation of script regarding obligations, procedures and new finds protocols.</li> <li>• Sourcing appropriate materials for educational purposes (eg stone artefacts and/or photos of other site types across the project area).</li> <li>• Presentation of information during toolbox session and/or assistance with loaning, handling and keeping a register of educational materials.</li> </ul>	<i>To be nominated by RAPs. Please advise EMM (Ryan Desic) of appropriate persons to be involved.</i>

## 6 Next steps

The next steps in this process are:

- Please review this letter and notably the proposed structure and content of the toolbox session as provided in Table 3. Input into the content and structure of the toolbox sessions is welcome.
- Submit your nominations for RAP personnel involvement in the preparation and implementation of the toolbox sessions. RAPs may nominate themselves or other RAPs for particular tasks.
- Please respond to this by 5 November 2021.
- Once RAP feedback has been received, UPC/AC will address any outstanding items and finalise the toolbox session plan. UPC/AC will then develop a run sheet for the toolbox sessions and gather input as per the toolbox session plan. It is anticipated that the first toolbox sessions will be undertaken within a month of finalising the run sheet, and that the sessions will develop over time.

## 7 Closing

Thank you for your time. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about this letter.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ryan Desic', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Ryan Desic**

Associate Archaeologist – Heritage Team Leader – MAACAI

*Attachments: Discussion slides from presentation on 7 October 2021*

# UPC/AC Renewables: New England Solar Farm Fostering Cultural Awareness

Site induction cultural training and knowledge sharing workshop

1

## Agenda

- Acknowledgement of Country
- Introductions
- Project update
- Establish aims of knowledge sharing and training as part of site inductions
- Establish the type of content that Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) wish to convey to all personnel
- Build a framework for how will this be achieved (venue, format, materials and teaching aids)
- Nominate who will be involved going forward.

2

## Aims of knowledge sharing and training

---

- **Obligation to avoid harm**
  - All employees, contractors, sub-contractors and visitors to the project have an obligation to avoid harming Aboriginal heritage unless engaged in an Aboriginal heritage management activity described in the Aboriginal heritage management plan.
- **Obligation to protect and follow management measures for Aboriginal heritage**
  - Site personnel, contractors and subcontractors responsible for land management or construction have an obligation to protect Aboriginal heritage within their area or work responsibility. Establish aims of knowledge sharing and training as part of site inductions.
  - Site personnel, contractors and subcontractors also have the responsibility to ensure that appropriate management measures have been employed prior to, or in association with, their activities which impact Aboriginal sites
- **Promote and foster cultural awareness**
  - Less tangible element, but the way to achieve the above aims are to make personnel aware of cultural heritage and engage them through training and information sessions.

## Project Update: Stage 1 Area

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## Management to date

- All heritage management activities within project Stage 1 completed.
- Involved salvaging artefact sites/stone axes, fallen scarred tree (NE49) and fencing sites designated for protection.



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## Workshop items – draft for review and additions

Key message	Content suggestions	Teaching medium suggestions
Aboriginal sites have been identified across the project boundary and beyond	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Map overview showing distribution of sites across the project area</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Induction material/slide</li> </ul>
Aboriginal sites and the cultural landscape are of high significance to the Aboriginal community, are important to the wider community and must be treated with respect.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome to/acknowledgement of Country educating personnel of cultural significance and its importance to the Aboriginal community.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome to Country led by RAPs.</li> <li>• Toolbox sessions outlining key points of cultural significance by RAPs</li> </ul>
Aboriginal sites have included grinding grooves, scarred trees, quarries, stone artefact sites.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing examples of different site types to visually educate personnel.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing sample materials during toolbox sessions (eg artefacts from keeping place).</li> </ul>
Aboriginal sites can be hard to recognize.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aboriginal heritage maps showing known sites within project area should be made available to relevant people so they understand 'no-go' zones.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing photographs in induction material and toolbox sessions;</li> <li>• Opportunities for field tours to show site types.</li> </ul>
Aboriginal sites are protected by law. The remaining Aboriginal sites within the project area have been fenced and must be avoided.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• List types of sites that are avoided by fencing comprising open artefact sites, quarries, scarred trees and grinding groove sites.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide photographic examples of fenced site areas as part of inductions and/or toolbox sessions</li> </ul>
There are new finds procedures which involve stopping work if suspected new Aboriginal sites or skeletal material is identified on-site.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As per induction slide.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Induction material/slide</li> </ul>

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## Workshop items

## Nominations for involvement

- Presentation of information
  - Welcome to Country
    - XXX
  - Toolbox sessions
    - XXX
  - Venues and timing
- Selection of material for display
  - Source from keeping place. Care agreement to state material usage rights. Appropriate management of loan material through registers.
- Other items

## Next steps

---

- Workshop table will be refined with personnel involve and timing attributed to each of the key tasks.
- Once workshop table is finalized, UPC/AC will aim to implement the actions in consultation with RAPs.

## Ryan Desic

---

**From:** Ryan Desic  
**Sent:** Monday, 31 January 2022 11:18 AM  
**To:** 'nganyawana@gmail.com'; 'steven1ahoy@gmail.com'; 'minnamunnung@gmail.com'; 'ceo@alalc.org.au'; Bruce Cohen; Colin Ahoy; colinahoy57@gmail.com; Green, Kevin; Cheryl Kitchener; 'Bruce.Cohen@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au'; Colin Ahoy; colinahoy57@gmail.com; lwatta Aboriginal Corporation; Nyakkacorp1@gmail.com; rhondannkitchener9@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Feedback requested: Proposed signage at New England Solar Farm

Dear registered parties,

Below are some draft signs to be placed at the New England Solar Farm. UPC would like to get your feedback on the wording and content of the signs before they are produced and erected. The first sign is what would be erected when you enter the site. The second would be erected on fencing that outline the sites. A couple of questions:

- Would you prefer Ainiwain/Nganyawana or just Ainiwain? Is this the most appropriate spelling?
- Is the wording appropriate? If not, are is alternative text that you would recommend?

Could you please get back to me by 11 February so that we have enough time to get these created prior to upcoming filming.

**You are on *Ainiwain / Nganyawana* country.**

UPC\AC Renewables acknowledges the *Ainiwain / Nganyawana* descendants of the Armidale and New England region as custodians of this area.

We ask that you respect their wishes, those who have passed before us and to the *Ainiwain / Nganyawana* descendants that continue to care for country.



NEW ENGLAND  
SOLAR FARM

# RESTRICTED ACCESS

This area is of cultural significance  
to Aboriginal people.

A permit is required to enter.



NEW ENGLAND  
SOLAR FARM

Regards,

**Ryan Desic**

Associate Archaeologist – Heritage Team Leader – MAACAI  
Bushfire, Ecology, Heritage and Spatial Solutions (BEHSS)



**NEWCASTLE | Level 3, 175 Scott Street, Newcastle NSW 2300**

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## **B4.2 RECORDING ORAL HISTORIES**

## Ryan Desic

---

**From:** Ryan Desic  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 25 January 2022 10:59 AM  
**To:** nganyawana@gmail.com; cahoy4@une.edu.au; Cheryl Kitchener; rhonda.kitchener;  
Colin Ahoy; Steven Ahoy  
**Subject:** RE: Request for expressions of interest: Recording of oral history about Ooralla and the  
New England Solar Project Area

Hi all once again,

UPC are looking to tentatively book in the week of 7-11 March to conduct the recording of oral history interviews with anthropologist Phillip Clarke and also attendance of a film crew. For those interested in participating and sharing knowledge, can you please confirm that you would be available to be in Armidale/Uralla during that week? Happy to discuss details further once a more detailed plan is developed by UPC. UPC is keen to have involvement from elders, women, men and youth to gather a number of perspectives. Filming locations are likely to include being on site and at the Armidale keeping place, and happy to take suggestions of other local places that may be of importance to telling the story of Ooralla.

Please get back to me as soon as possible.


Regards,

### Ryan Desic

Associate Archaeologist – Heritage Team Leader – MAACAI  
Bushfire, Ecology, Heritage and Spatial Solutions (BEHSS)



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---

**From:** Ryan Desic  
**Sent:** Thursday, 2 December 2021 2:56 PM  
**To:** nganyawana@gmail.com; cahoy4@une.edu.au; Cheryl Kitchener <anaiwannation@gmail.com>; rhonda.kitchener <rhondakitchener09@hotmail.com>; Colin Ahoy <cahay7@myune.edu.au>; Steven Ahoy <steven1ahoy@gmail.com>



**Subject:** Request for expressions of interest: Recording of oral history about Ooralla and the New England Solar Project Area

Hi everyone,

UPC/AC Renewables wish to progress their management plan commitment to commence the recording of oral history about the project area/Ooralla. The commitment is here:

“An oral history based on Aboriginal knowledge holder information about Ooralla will be recorded and stored at the Armidale and Region Aboriginal Cultural Centre and Keeping Place. This will involve interviewing interested and willing RAP knowledge holders (such as Les Ahoy from Nganyawana Clan Group) via audio and/or video mediums. The content of oral histories would be at the direction and discretion of knowledge holders. All documented material will be stored on archival quality digital mediums and stored at the nominated keeping place in association with salvaged archaeological material. The availability of this information to the broader community would be at the discretion of the knowledge provider or delegated person.”

UPC are exploring the best approach to gathering this information, but at present a draft idea is a two-stage approach whereby:

1. An anthropologist experienced in recording oral histories is to undertake interviews with knowledge holders who express an interest in providing cultural information about Ooralla or other information they believe should be relevant to the NESF project area. This may take place as early as mid December or potentially in the early new year.
2. Once information is gathered, it is collated. Then potentially working with a small film production crew, a structure for video recording is created. A second round of video interviews would be undertaken, possibly some undertaken at the NESF site, to support an educational/oral history recording. We could then discuss how this information is used for cultural awareness or educational purposes. The timing for this could be around February next year.

UPC are seeking expressions of interest to those RAPs who are willing to share cultural information to support the recording of an oral history. As suggested by Steve, Elders may be prioritised in these interviews, but UPC are also interested in getting the views and opinions of the younger generations in fostering cultural awareness and continuing connection with Country.

Please get back to me with any comments or questions.

Regards,

**Ryan Desic**

Associate Archaeologist – Heritage Team Leader – MAACAI  
Bushfire, Ecology, Heritage and Spatial Solutions (BEHSS)



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## Ryan Desic

---

**From:** Ryan Desic  
**Sent:** Friday, 4 February 2022 1:33 PM  
**Subject:** Request for expressions of interest: Recording of oral history about Ooralla and the New England Solar Project Area

Dear Registered Aboriginal Party,

UPC/AC Renewables wish to progress their management plan commitment to commence the recording of oral history about the project area/Ooralla. The commitment is here:

“An oral history based on Aboriginal knowledge holder information about Ooralla will be recorded and stored at the Armidale and Region Aboriginal Cultural Centre and Keeping Place. This will involve interviewing interested and willing RAP knowledge holders (such as Les Ahoy from Nganyawana Clan Group) via audio and/or video mediums. The content of oral histories would be at the direction and discretion of knowledge holders. All documented material will be stored on archival quality digital mediums and stored at the nominated keeping place in association with salvaged archaeological material. The availability of this information to the broader community would be at the discretion of the knowledge provider or delegated person.”

UPC are looking to tentatively book in the week of 7-11 March to conduct the recording of oral history interviews with anthropologist Phillip Clarke and also attendance of a film crew. For those interested in participating and sharing cultural knowledge, can you please confirm that you would be available to be in Armidale/Uralla during that week? Happy to discuss details further once a more detailed plan is developed by UPC. UPC is keen to have involvement from elders, women, men and youth to gather a number of perspectives. Filming locations are likely to include being on site and at the Armidale keeping place, and happy to take suggestions of other local places that may be of importance to telling the story of Ooralla and the local Aboriginal history.

UPC are seeking expressions of interest to those RAPs who are willing to share cultural information to support the recording of an oral history. Please get back to me with any comments or questions.

Regards,

**Ryan Desic**

Associate Archaeologist – Heritage Team Leader – MAACAI  
Bushfire, Ecology, Heritage and Spatial Solutions (BEHSS)



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## Ryan Desic

---

**From:** Ryan Desic  
**Sent:** Thursday, 26 May 2022 10:25 AM  
**To:** 'nganyawana@gmail.com'; 'steven1ahoy@gmail.com'; 'minnamunnung@gmail.com'; 'ceo@alalc.org.au'; Bruce Cohen; Colin Ahoy; colinahoy57@gmail.com; Green, Kevin; Cheryl Kitchener; 'Bruce.Cohen@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au'; Colin Ahoy; colinahoy57@gmail.com; lwatta Aboriginal Corporation; Nyakkacorp1@gmail.com; rhondannkitchener9@gmail.com  
**Cc:** Joey Chalk; Adin Pilcer; Tim Greenaway; Phillip Clarke - NT Anthro  
**Subject:** New England Solar Farm: Draft Video for RAP review.  
**Attachments:** Photographic and Video Consent Form - NESF RAPs Film.pdf

Dear Registered Aboriginal parties,

I'd firstly like to acknowledge that it is National Sorry Day and would like to take the opportunity to recognise the Stolen Generations and stand with the people across the nation who have been affected by this terrible chapter in our history.

Thank you again for your efforts in March participating in the filming project for the New England Solar Farm. I'm pleased to share with you the draft video for your feedback and approval for release. There was so much amazing content shared which I do hope you feel we've captured well. The draft video is available for review at the link below:

<https://reelimage.box.com/s/7ljyxq0nf662l9wx2eq99bz817ecwr93>

When reviewing, please note the following items as outlined in the initial proposal for the project issued to all RAPs:

- This video is separate to the full oral history interviews undertaken, and has a particular focus on the grinding groove site and fostering cultural awareness initiatives between UPC\AC and RAPs. A lot of interview content was captured and knowing that we would not be able to include all of it in a video, all interview content will also be provided to RAPs and the ACCKP as standalone videos for sharing amongst communities for broader knowledge sharing. This content will be shared following approval of this 20min video currently provided.
- The video will be made available to RAP members for their use, Armidale Aboriginal Cultural Centre and Keeping Place (ACCKP) for their use, and UPC\AC Renewables for their use including its publicly available website and social media channels. The primary purpose of the video is for cultural knowledge sharing for RAPs and the Armidale Cultural Centre and Keeping Place (ACCKP). The secondary purpose is for UPC\AC Renewables to use as a tool to promote workforce cultural awareness
- The video will be produced for non-profit purposes, and not for commercial use.
- The video goes for ~20mins. There will also be a few shorter videos of 1-2 mins produced from this longer version to support social media comms.

The Armidale Cultural Centre and Keeping Place (ACCKP) have indicated that they would like to host a small event at the centre to screen the video to a select audience beyond the RAPs. We are aiming to have this video finalised and a screened on an evening on **23 June 2022**. We would like as many RAPs to attend as possible, please indicate if you would be available to attend this event.

### Actions:

1. Please review the draft video and provide any feedback to Ryan by **Friday 3 June 2022**
2. Please sign and return the release forms attached to Ryan by **Friday 3 June 2022**
3. Confirm your availability to attend a community screening event for the film at the ACCKP on **Thursday 23 June**.

Regarding public release of the film, below are some of these activities UPC\AC has planned:

- ACCKP screening event with RAPs, Landholder, Uralla Council and general community
- Local media promotion of event and video release, with option for one of the RAPs and/ACCKP to be interviewed
- Loading to websites and social media

We're looking forward to hearing your feedback on the film and do hope that you find it enjoyable. A further reminder is that individual interviews will be released in the future, along

Regards,

**Ryan Desic**

Associate Archaeologist – Heritage Team Leader – MAACAI  
Bushfire, Ecology, Heritage and Spatial Solutions (BEHSS)



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## Ryan Desic

---

**From:** Colin Ahoy <cahoy4@une.edu.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 26 May 2022 6:07 PM  
**To:** Ryan Desic

CAUTION: This email originated outside of the Organisation.

---

Hi Ryan,

Thanks for the video it's really great I'm so proud of the younger people who got involved,

It's pleasing to see that our future is in good hands.

For myself please accept my apologies for not being more active in the whole project just about the time the project started to move along I became sick.

My health has now become terminal but I think I will be around for a while yet, I missed out on the hand back of mount Yarrowyk to the Anaiwan people who are the traditional owners,

Unfortunately it happened the same day as graduation out at the university I was offered and presented with a honorary doctorates

Thanks to you and your team that worked on the project they were very respectable and showed a lot courtesy working along side the raps,

I would like to think that they learnt as much of Anaiwan history as did the raps learning from your team.

Cheers

Colin Ahoy

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## **B4.3 STAGE 2A FIELDWORK**



Our Ref: 22851

21 September 2022

**RE: New England Solar Farm: September 2022 Update. Notification of:  
Cultural Awareness Toolbox Session Updates and Stage 2 Collection  
Fieldwork**

Dear Registered Party,

**1.0 Introduction**

Thank you for your continued involvement in Aboriginal cultural heritage management for the New England Solar Farm Project (the project). This letter is to advise your party of the following items:

1. Updates to the structure and payment provisions of the Cultural Awareness Toolbox Sessions, and
2. Upcoming fieldwork for surface collection and fencing boundary demarcation of sites with the project Stage 2 area. **Proposed dates: 10–13 October 2022.**

**Item 1: Updates to structure and payment provisions of the Cultural Awareness Toolbox Sessions**

ACEN has been in the process of reviewing the project Cultural Awareness Toolbox Sessions based on feedback provided by Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs). ACEN value these sessions and appreciate the contribution RAPs have made to their success in fostering cultural awareness for all personnel involved in the project. Proposed changes to the session structure and fees are proposed to reflect:

- Acknowledgment of the skills and experience required for individuals to successfully deliver the content of the toolbox sessions to large audiences
- To encourage RAP participation in ongoing sessions by making the sessions fair and equitable, and
- To acknowledge that the skills and experience involved in the delivery of the toolbox sessions are separate to that of fieldwork and payment should be structured accordingly.

The proposed terms and conditions of the toolbox session are as follows:

1. The RAPs listed in Table 1 have previously been involved in delivering the toolbox sessions and will continue to be given the opportunity to deliver the sessions.

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Each toolbox session, held at monthly intervals (where possible), will be allocated to **one** RAP group on a rostered basis. The rostered RAP will nominate a person to lead the toolbox session and may have an assistant if needed. A fee of up to \$875 (excluding GST) will be available for the rostered RAP group. If only the lead person partakes in the session, the fee available will be \$700, and if a support is used the fee will be \$875.

**Table 1 RAPs involved in the delivery of Cultural Awareness Toolbox Sessions**

RAP name	Representative
Nunawanna Aboriginal Corporation	Colin Ahoy
Armidale and New England Gumbaynggirr Descendents	Bruce Cohen
Iwatta Aboriginal Corporation	Steven Ahoy
Culturally Aware Aboriginal Heritage Consultancy	Cheryl Kitchener
Nyakka Aboriginal Culture Heritage Corporation Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Consultants	Rhonda Kitchener
Nganyawana Clan Group	Les Ahoy

- It is acknowledged that not all the RAP groups may be willing to deliver the toolbox sessions without experienced assistance. As such, rostered RAPs would be able to arrange help from other RAP members if necessary. Note that the total fee would remain at \$875 and any division of those fees amongst the participating people would be at their own discretion.
- The \$875 fee mentioned above does not account for expenses incurred for RAPs that do not live locally (eg accommodation and travel). RAPs may contact ACEN to discuss reimbursement for expenses separately.
- RAPs responsible for their rostered session will be required to advise ACEN of the nominated persons prior to each session.
- If RAPs are not available for their rostered session, it will be offered to other RAPs in an equitable manner.

The proposed Cultural Awareness Toolbox Session roster for the next 12 months is provided in Table 2. ACEN will be in contact with RAPs on their nominated month to arrange suitable dates and times for each individual session.

**Table 2 Cultural Awareness Toolbox Sessions Roster**

Month	RAP lead
October 2022	Iwatta Aboriginal Corporation
November 2022	Nyakka Aboriginal Culture Heritage Corporation Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Consultants
December 2022	Nunawanna Aboriginal Corporation
January 2023	Culturally Aware Aboriginal Heritage Consultancy
February 2023	Armidale and New England Gumbaynggirr Descendents
March 2023	Nganyawana Clan Group
April 2023	Iwatta Aboriginal Corporation
May 2023	Nyakka Aboriginal Culture Heritage Corporation Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Consultants
June 2023	Nunawanna Aboriginal Corporation
July 2023	Culturally Aware Aboriginal Heritage Consultancy
August 2023	Armidale and New England Gumbaynggirr Descendents
September 2023	Nganyawana Clan Group

## Item 2: Stage 2 surface collection works

ACEN plan to proceed with Aboriginal site management tasks associated with the Stage 2 portion of the approved project area. In accordance with the project Aboriginal heritage management plan (AHMP), this will require fieldwork tasks comprising: marking site boundaries for fencing and avoidance, and surface collection of artefacts from relevant Aboriginal sites within the Stage 2 project footprint.

We propose to undertake this fieldwork from Monday to Thursday **10–13 October 2022**. Fieldwork arrangements will involve Umwelt archaeologists and three RAP representatives each day according to existing roster arrangements. The terms of payment will be \$900 per RAP (excluding GST) per day for each rostered day. As the exact required duration of fieldwork is difficult to determine, we will advise RAPs during fieldwork if Friday 14 October will be required to complete the fieldwork scope as continue the roster accordingly. The roster is provided in Table 3.

One invoice should be issued for all of an organisation's involvement. Invoices must be made out to ACEN Australia. Payment will be made following receipt of a tax invoice from your party. Payment will not be made separately to individual organisation members. Appropriate insurance coverage (workers compensation, public liability insurance) must be provided by all applicants.

Table 3 - NESF Stage 2	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	10/10/2022	11/10/2022	12/10/2022	13/10/2022	14/10/2022
Nunawanna Aboriginal Corporation (NAC)	1		1		
Armidale and New England Gumbaynggirr Descendents	1	1			
Iwatta Aboriginal Corp	1	1			
Culturally Aware			1	1	
Les Ahoy - Nganyawana			1	1	
Nyakka Aboriginal Culture		1		1	

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or feedback and advise of your party's availability for the upcoming Stage 2 fieldwork. We will be in contact shortly to provide information about the logistics of fieldwork.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ryan', is positioned below a horizontal line.

**Ryan Desic**

Principal Archaeologist – Aboriginal Heritage Team Leader

E | [rdesic@umwelt.com.au](mailto:rdesic@umwelt.com.au)

M | 0411 329 712



## Ryan Desic

---

**From:** Ryan Desic  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 21 September 2022 5:25 PM  
**To:** 'nganyawana@gmail.com'; 'steven1ahoy@gmail.com'; 'minnamunnung@gmail.com'; 'ceo@alalc.org.au'; Bruce Cohen; Colin Ahoy; colinahoy57@gmail.com; Green, Kevin; Cheryl Kitchener; 'Bruce.Cohen@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au'; Colin Ahoy; colinahoy57@gmail.com; Iwatta Aboriginal Corporation; Nyakkacorp1@gmail.com; rhondannkitchener9@gmail.com  
**Cc:** Tim Greenaway; Adin Pilcer; Sarah Donnan  
**Subject:** NESF Consultation Update: Upcoming Fieldwork and Toolbox Session update  
**Attachments:** 22851\_NESF Consultation Update September 2022.pdf

Dear registered party,

I hope everyone has been doing well since my brief hiatus from the project. As most of you know I have joined Umwelt and but I'm very lucky to be given the opportunity by ACEN to continue to work on the New England Solar Farm and continue consulting with RAPs. The attached letter is to advise your party of the following items:

1. Updates to the structure and payment provisions of the Cultural Awareness Toolbox Sessions, and
2. Upcoming fieldwork for surface collection and fencing boundary demarcation of sites with the project Stage 2 area. **Proposed dates: 10–13 October 2022**

Please review the letter and it would be great if you could get back to me specifically about your availability for the fieldwork roster 10-13 October.

**Ryan Desic**  
Principal Archaeologist - NSW/ACT Aboriginal Heritage Team Leader

**Umwelt (Australia) Pty Limited**  
Mobile: 0411 329 712  
Phone: 1300 793 267

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## Ryan Desic

---

**From:** Ryan Desic  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 19 October 2022 7:44 PM  
**To:** 'nganyawana@gmail.com'; 'steven1ahoy@gmail.com'; 'minnamunnung@gmail.com'; 'ceo@alalc.org.au'; Bruce Cohen; Colin Ahoy; colinahoy57@gmail.com; Green, Kevin; Cheryl Kitchener; 'Bruce.Cohen@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au'; Colin Ahoy; colinahoy57@gmail.com; Iwatta Aboriginal Corporation; Nyakkacorp1@gmail.com; rhondannkitchener9@gmail.com  
**Cc:** Sarah Donnan; Adin Pilcer; Tim Greenaway  
**Subject:** New England Solar Farm: Aboriginal Scar Tree Management. RAP input required.

Dear Registered Party,

Last week we undertook Aboriginal site management fieldwork for the Stage 2 area of the New England Solar Farm. During the course of the fieldwork, the team observed that a number of scarred trees have deteriorated quickly and have fallen over or deteriorated beyond preservation. This is likely the result of frequent wet weather that has destabilised soils and accelerated rot of the dead tree root systems. In response, ACEN will act in accordance with the Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan (AHMP), which is highlighted in the excerpt below:

#### iv Provisions for protected Aboriginal scar trees

The 12 identified standing Aboriginal scar trees within the project boundary will be avoided through stake and wire active protection measures. Additional management is required to address their long-term management given that all examples are dead trees and most are in a highly deteriorated condition. The following long-term measures will be undertaken:


- after active protection measures are implemented the trees will be left in-situ to weather naturally.
- The trees will be inspected at five-year intervals to assess the trees' condition. The inspection will identify any structural and material issues with the trees. Alternatively, if structural or material issues are observed outside of these monitoring timeframes, RAPs and an archaeologist will be notified to determine if the step listed below is warranted.
- If through natural events or other unforeseen circumstances, the tree(s) break, fall or deteriorate beyond preservation, the tree(s) will be offered to the Aboriginal community (RAPs) for salvage and relocation to the Aboriginal keeping place as specified in Section 4.2.4. RAPs may decline the offer to salvage the tree(s) depending on the condition of the tree. If salvage is possible and desired by RAPs, salvage will involve sawing the tree at a suitable buffer above and below the scar(s) and extracting the scarred section. Any salvaged trees to be kept in the keeping place will be subject to the same provisions as specified for Aboriginal tree NE49.
- The duration of ACEN Australia's management commitments for the trees will be limited to the life of the project's operation.

The trees in question are provided in the table below.

Site Name	Photo	Area	Comment/recommendation
-----------	-------	------	------------------------

NE102		Stage 1	<p>Tree is within fenced location as management was completed in July 2021. Tree was noted to be fallen, but only from a distance while team was in transit. Tree will require inspection by RAPs and/or an archaeologist to determine if salvage is warranted.</p>
NE23		Stage 2 Central Array	<p>Tree has fallen since original recording. Tree trunk and bark is highly deteriorated and the base of the scar is missing due to rotted/termite infested bark falling away from scar feature. Salvage of scar would be possible, but the extent of existing rotting indicates that the remainder of the scar will soon detach from tree trunk. Trunk is very brittle.</p>



NE25		Stage 2 Central Array	Scar on previously fallen tree. Dry face of scar feature is rotted/termite infested and been subject to considerable damage and removal. Overgrowth bark is missing, leaving scar feature ambiguous. Salvage is not considered possible as feature is unrecognisable and the tree is too deteriorated for preservation.
NE72	N/A tree no longer present.	North/outside of Stage 2 Central Array	Tree was not identified. The team noted a number of fallen and deteriorated/splintered/broken dead trees in the general area, which was likely the result of accelerated by wet weather. No scar feature could be identified. Salvage is not possible as scar feature is no longer present.
NE97	N/A tree no longer present.	West/outside of Stage 2 Central Array	Tree was not identified. The team noted a number of fallen and deteriorated/splintered/broken dead trees in the general area, which was likely the result of accelerated by wet weather. No scar feature could be identified. Salvage is not possible as scar feature is no longer present.

## Outcomes

From the information provided above, I consider that only site NE102 has a reasonable chance of salvage if it is also desired by RAPs. NE23 has some features of the scar intact, but the condition of the bark and tree trunk is probably too deteriorated by rot and termite damage to be reasonably salvage. NE25 is unrecognisable as a scar feature. Notwithstanding, ACEN would salvage NE23 and NE25 in accordance with the AHMP if RAPs request it.

Site NE102 will be visited during the next monthly toolbox session which will provide more clarity about its condition and whether salvage is a suitable option.

Additionally, ACEN has committed to conducting monthly status checks on trees within the Stage 1 area with the aim to proactively manage any further issues with the scarred trees and their management.

Please get back to me as soon as possible if you have any comments about the management of the trees discussed above.

**Ryan Desic**

Principal Archaeologist - NSW/ACT Aboriginal Heritage Team Leader

**Umwelt (Australia) Pty Limited**

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Phone: 1300 793 267

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## Ryan Desic

---

**From:** Les Ahoy <nganyawana@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 20 October 2022 9:00 AM  
**To:** Ryan Desic  
**Cc:** Bruce Cohen; Colin Ahoy; colinahoy57@gmail.com; Green, Kevin; Cheryl Kitchener; Colin Ahoy; Iwatta Aboriginal Corporation; Nyakkacorp1@gmail.com; rhondannkitchener9@gmail.com; Sarah Donnan; Adin Pilcer; Tim Greenaway  
**Subject:** Re: New England Solar Farm: Aboriginal Scar Tree Management. RAP input required.  
**Attachments:** image001.png; image004.png; image005.jpg; image006.png

Dhangana All

Can the trees that are able to be salvaged be stored on site and in situ. Out west way they put the trees in a roofed cage with a cemented floor. This allows the trees to be protected and viewed.

I feel there could be a danger of the cultural centre being over supplied with scarred trees.

Hàppi to discuss further

Les Ahoy JP.

On Wed, 19 Oct 2022, 7:44 pm Ryan Desic, <[rdesic@umwelt.com.au](mailto:rdesic@umwelt.com.au)> wrote:

Dear Registered Party,

Last week we undertook Aboriginal site management fieldwork for the Stage 2 area of the New England Solar Farm. During the course of the fieldwork, the team observed that a number of scarred trees have deteriorated quickly and have fallen over or deteriorated beyond preservation. This is likely the result of frequent wet weather that has destabilised soils and accelerated rot of the dead tree root systems. In response, ACEN will act in accordance with the Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan (AHMP), which is highlighted in the excerpt below:

## Ryan Desic

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**From:** Colin Ahoy <cahoy4@une.edu.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 20 October 2022 2:30 PM  
**To:** Les Ahoy; Ryan Desic  
**Cc:** Bruce Cohen; colinahoy57@gmail.com; Green, Kevin; anaiwannation@gmail.com; Colin Ahoy; Iwatta Aboriginal Corporation; Nyakkacorp1@gmail.com; rhondannkitchener9@gmail.com; Sarah Donnan; Adin Pilcer; Tim Greenaway  
**Subject:** Re: New England Solar Farm: Aboriginal Scar Tree Management. RAP input required.

Hi everyone

I agree with Les Ahoy suggestion about rescuing the trees that can be saved.

I know there is a scared tree under cover at the csiro built by national parks maybe worth looking at as an example.

Colin Ahoy

Nunawanna Aboriginal Corporation

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---

**From:** Les Ahoy <nganyawana@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 20, 2022 8:59:37 AM  
**To:** Ryan Desic <rdesic@umwelt.com.au>  
**Cc:** Bruce Cohen <bruce.cohey@yahoo.com.au>; Colin Ahoy <cahoy4@une.edu.au>; colinahoy57@gmail.com <colinahoy57@gmail.com>; Green, Kevin <kevin.green@alsnswact.org.au>; anaiwannation@gmail.com <anaiwannation@gmail.com>; Colin Ahoy <cahoy7@myune.edu.au>; Iwatta Aboriginal Corporation <iwattaac@gmail.com>; Nyakkacorp1@gmail.com <Nyakkacorp1@gmail.com>; rhondannkitchener9@gmail.com <rhondannkitchener9@gmail.com>; Sarah Donnan <sarah.donnan@acenrenewables.com.au>; Adin Pilcer <adin.pilcer@acenrenewables.com.au>; Tim Greenaway <tim.greenaway@acenrenewables.com.au>  
**Subject:** Re: New England Solar Farm: Aboriginal Scar Tree Management. RAP input required.

Dhangana All

Can the trees that are able to be salvaged be stored on site and in situ. Out west way they put the trees in a roofed cage with a cemented floor. This allows the trees to be protected and viewed.

I feel there could be a danger of the cultural centre being over supplied with scarred trees.

Hàppi to discuss further

Les Ahoy JP.

## Ryan Desic

---

**From:** Bruce Cohen <bruce.cohey@yahoo.com.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 21 October 2022 9:40 AM  
**To:** Ryan Desic; Cheryl Kitchener  
**Cc:** Colin Ahoy; colinahoy57@gmail.com; Green, Kevin; Colin Ahoy; Iwatta Aboriginal Corporation; Nyakkacorp1@gmail.com; rhondannkitchener9@gmail.com; Sarah Donnan; Adin Pilcer; Tim Greenaway  
**Subject:** Re: New England Solar Farm: Aboriginal Scar Tree Management. RAP input required.

Hello Everyone,

I do take on board all points of view from all the RAP's involved. So this gives us options to protect and salvage if it is do able. Options are to provide a shelter(s), salvage and relocate maybe Aboriginal Cultural Centre Keeping Place as the other 1/2 scare tree there in a glass case, or leave it for natural decline. My preference I would be salvage and relocate maybe Aboriginal Cultural Centre Keeping Place, with interrupts of the tree background. Everyone safe travels in this wet weather.

Thanks,

Bruce Cohen

On Friday, 21 October 2022, 09:24:59 am AEDT, Cheryl Kitchener <anaiwannation@gmail.com> wrote:

Good Morning Ryan,

Thanks for the update re: condition of scar trees, it is really unfortunate that this has happened, but what can you do about nature? I personally have two thoughts about this.

One is to salvage as much as we can with the tree that has the most defining features. I really don't think we can do anything about the others if the damage or deterioration has been too great.

Two, I would like to propose that our young men/RAP's be allowed to rescar trees in the vicinity of the damaged or deteriorated trees to demonstrate that tree scarring is a continuing practice and the local area doesn't lose its cultural integrity. All the new scarred trees can be recorded with notes about the scar trees that have been lost to nature.

Regards

Cheryl

**Cheryl Kitchener**

## Ryan Desic

---

**From:** Cheryl Kitchener <anaiwannation@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, 21 October 2022 9:25 AM  
**To:** Ryan Desic  
**Cc:** Bruce Cohen; Colin Ahoy; colinahoy57@gmail.com; Green, Kevin; Colin Ahoy; Iwatta Aboriginal Corporation; Nyakkacorp1@gmail.com; rhondannkitchener9@gmail.com; Sarah Donnan; Adin Pilcer; Tim Greenaway  
**Subject:** Re: New England Solar Farm: Aboriginal Scar Tree Management. RAP input required.

Good Morning Ryan,

Thanks for the update re: condition of scar trees, it is really unfortunate that this has happened, but what can you do about nature? I personally have two thoughts about this.

One is to salvage as much as we can with the tree that has the most defining features. I really don't think we can do anything about the others if the damage or deterioration has been too great.

Two, I would like to propose that our young men/RAP's be allowed to rescar trees in the vicinity of the damaged or deteriorated trees to demonstrate that tree scarring is a continuing practice and the local area doesn't lose its cultural integrity. All the new scarred trees can be recorded with notes about the scar trees that have been lost to nature.

Regards

Cheryl

**Cheryl Kitchener**

**M: 0431 519 607**

**E: [anaiwannation@gmail.com](mailto:anaiwannation@gmail.com)**

On Wed, Oct 19, 2022 at 7:44 PM Ryan Desic <[rdesic@umwelt.com.au](mailto:rdesic@umwelt.com.au)> wrote:

Dear Registered Party,

## **B4.4 AHMP REVISION 2 CONSULTATION**

## Ryan Desic

---

**From:** Ryan Desic  
**Sent:** Thursday, 2 March 2023 10:34 AM  
**To:** 'nganyawana@gmail.com'; 'steven1ahoy@gmail.com'; 'minnamunnung@gmail.com'; 'ceo@alalc.org.au'; Bruce Cohen; Colin Ahoy; colinahoy57@gmail.com; Green, Kevin; Cheryl Kitchener; 'Bruce.Cohen@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au'; Colin Ahoy; colinahoy57@gmail.com; lwatta Aboriginal Corporation; Nyakkacorp1@gmail.com; rhondannkitchener9@gmail.com  
**Cc:** Joey Chalk; Robyn Doyle; Sarah Donnan; Tim Greenaway  
**Subject:** Important Update - Response Required - 16 March - New England Solar Official Opening, RAP Meeting and Visit by Yindjibarndi Traditional Owners  
**Attachments:** 22022023 Letter to RAPs.docx.pdf  
**Importance:** High

Dear Registered Parties,

Thank you for your patience regarding further information about the official opening of the New England Solar project in Uralla on 16 March 2023. Thank you to those who have already responded to the save the date confirming their attendance.

The attached letter provides further detail about the event:

- 1 – Invitation to official opening of New England Solar
- 2 – Visit by Yindjibarndi Traditional Owners Item
- 3 – RAP member meeting Item
- 4 – Acknowledgement of Country signage

Importantly, ACEN requests your response on the following items covered in the letter, at your earliest convenience:

1. Your attendance at the New England Solar official opening (thank you to Rhonda, Cheryl, Colin, and Les who have already confirmed attendance).
2. Expressions of interest for involvement in content and delivery about Welcome to Country and associated ceremonies.
3. Your attendance at the RAP member meeting.
4. Feedback about content and wording of the Acknowledgement of Country signage.

Thank you and please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or feedback. Feedback in writing will be appreciated.

Regards,

**Ryan Desic**  
Principal Archaeologist - NSW/ACT Aboriginal Heritage Team Leader

**Umwelt (Australia) Pty Limited**  
Mobile: 0411 329 712  
Phone: 1300 793 267

[www.umwelt.com.au](http://www.umwelt.com.au)

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**From:** Ryan Desic

**Sent:** Thursday, 23 February 2023 12:04 PM

**To:** 'nganyawana@gmail.com'; 'steven1ahoy@gmail.com'; 'minnamunnung@gmail.com'; 'ceo@alalc.org.au'; Bruce Cohen <bruce.cohey@yahoo.com.au>; Colin Ahoy <cahoy4@une.edu.au>; colinahoy57@gmail.com; Green, Kevin <kevin.green@alsnswact.org.au>; Cheryl Kitchener <anaiwannation@gmail.com>;

'Bruce.Cohen@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au'; Colin Ahoy <cahoy7@myune.edu.au>; colinahoy57@gmail.com; Iwatta Aboriginal Corporation <iwattaac@gmail.com>; Nyakkacorp1@gmail.com; rhondannkitchener9@gmail.com

**Cc:** Joey Chalk <joe.chalk@acenrenewables.com.au>; Robyn Doyle <Robyn.doyle@acenrenewables.com.au>; Sarah Donnan <sarah.donnan@acenrenewables.com.au>; Tim Greenaway <tim.greenaway@acenrenewables.com.au>

**Subject:** Save the Date - 16 March - New England Solar Official Opening, RAP Meeting and Visit by Yindjibarndi Traditional Owners

Hello Registered Aboriginal Parties,

I'm writing on behalf of ACEN Australia to advise you to save the date of 16 March 2023 for formally participate in and attend the official opening of the New England Solar project in Uralla on 16 March 2023. It is anticipated that during this time, ACEN Australia would also like to host a combined meeting with RAP members to discuss matters associated with Aboriginal cultural heritage management plan (ACHMP). Also during this week, the Yindjibarndi Traditional Owners will be returning to the region and wish to meet with RAP members again.

Further detail, including a detailed schedule and agenda will be provided next week.

Many thanks,

**Ryan Desic**

Principal Archaeologist - NSW/ACT Aboriginal Heritage Team Leader

**Umwelt (Australia) Pty Limited**

Mobile: 0411 329 712

Phone: 1300 793 267

[www.umwelt.com.au](http://www.umwelt.com.au)

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Registered Aboriginal Party for New England Solar  
Issued via email

1 March 2023

To the Registered Aboriginal Parties for the New England Solar project

**Subject: New England Solar Official Opening, RAP Meeting and Visit by Yindjibarndi Traditional Owners**

I write to you in relation a number of items relevant to New England Solar of which I seek your input and response to:

- Item 1 – Invitation to official opening of New England Solar
- Item 2 – Visit by Yindjibarndi Traditional Owners
- Item 3 – RAP member meeting
- Item 4 – Acknowledgement of Country signage

**Item 1 – Official opening of New England Solar**

As a key partner in New England Solar, I wish to personally invite RAP members to ACEN Australia's official opening event on **16 March 2023 at 11.00am** at the New England Solar project site, to be opened by the Hon Chris Bowen MP, Federal Minister for Climate Change and Energy. Please confirm your attendance by 9 March 2023. Attendance to be limited to a senior RAP representative from each party (preferably RAP party director or similar position).

As part of official proceedings for the event, ACEN Australia is also seeking expressions of interest from RAP members to deliver a Welcome to Country, cultural dances, as well as a smoking and/or water ceremony commencing at 11.00am. Please confirm your interest in providing this service by 9 March 2023. If multiple RAPs express an interest in delivering these ceremonies, we will aim to develop proceedings that are inclusive for all RAPs wishing to participate. We welcome your feedback and advice about options to deliver a ceremony that appropriately combines the needs of all RAPs wishing to participate.

Additionally, we also offer an invitation to RAPs to participate in an optional tour of the solar facility at 10.00am. This tour is being offered to all event guests and would take place before official event proceedings commence (including the Welcome to Country) at 11.00am. Please confirm your attendance by 9 March 2023. If attending the tour, please note it departs from the Uralla Information Centre.

**Item 2 – Visit by Yindjibarndi Traditional Owners**

Further to the recent visit by Mr Michael Woodley, leader of the Yindjibarndi Nation in Western Australia to New England Solar, the Yindjibarndi Traditional Owners will be returning to the region and wish to meet with RAP members again. The Yindjibarndi will also be attending the official opening event and will be residing in Armidale during their stay between 15-17 March 2023.

**ACEN Australia**  
Suite 2, Level 2  
15 Castray Esplanade  
Battery Point, TAS 7004  
ACN 616 856 672  
ABN 27 616 856 672

For background, ACEN Australia and Yindjibarndi Aboriginal Corporation (YAC) are partnering to co-develop renewable energy on Aboriginal land in the remote region of the Pilbara in Western Australia. With New England Solar one of Australia's largest utility scale solar projects to be in construction, YAC have expressed an interest in visiting the New England Solar project and meeting with project RAPs to hear first hand, your experiences of renewable energy developments on your country.

### **Item 3 – RAP member meeting**

ACEN Australia proposes to host a RAP member meeting on site at the New England Solar project site on **16 March 2023 at 2.00pm** to discuss a number of active matters relevant to the Aboriginal cultural heritage management plan (ACHMP). Please confirm your attendance by 9 March 2023. Attendance to be limited to a senior RAP representative from each party (preferably RAP party director or similar position).

The proposed agenda topics for the meeting is outlined below.

1. Current and future maintenance of heritage sites
2. Current and future contracting opportunities for RAPs
3. Cultural inductions schedule
4. Procurement of Aboriginal artwork and items by ACEN Australia
5. ACEN Australia draft Reconciliation Action Plan
6. Any other business

### **Item 4 – Temporary acknowledgement of Country signage**

To coincide with the official opening event on 16 March 2023, ACEN Australia proposes to install temporary acknowledgement of Country signage at the New England Solar project site. As such, we seek RAP input, feedback or endorsement on the proposed wording below by 9 March 2023.

*ACEN Australia acknowledges the Aboriginal descendants of the Armidale and New England region, the Anaiwan people, as custodians of this area. We ask that you respect their wishes, those who have passed before us and to the descendants that continue to care for country. We also to acknowledge all Aboriginal descendants that have and continue to reside in the Armidale and New England Region.*

Payment for activities on 16 March 2023 will be calculated at the agreed half day rate of \$450 per person. Travel costs and accommodation where appropriate would also be provisioned for by ACEN Australia.

We kindly ask that you confirm your participation as soon as possible so that suitable arrangements can be made to facilitate the visit. In summary, we request response/feedback by 9 March on the following:

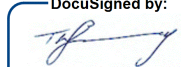
- Your attendance at the New England Solar official opening (Item 1)
- Expressions of interest for involvement in content and delivery about Welcome to Country and associated ceremonies (Item 1)
- Your attendance at the RAP member meeting (Item 3)
- Feedback about content and wording of the Acknowledgement of Country signage (Item 4).

Please direct all responses to:

**Ryan Desic**  
**Archaeologist, Umwelt**  
**0411 329 712**  
[rdesic@umwelt.com.au](mailto:rdesic@umwelt.com.au)

Your continued interest and participation in ACEN Australia's New England Solar project is appreciated, and we look forward to continuing our relationships with project RAPs. We recognise the value of a better understanding of Aboriginal culture and commit to meaningful participation with First Nations groups to support the protection of country, culture, and the development of aspirations.

Yours sincerely

DocuSigned by:  
  
4CEDF27EFC6B46B...

Tim Greenaway  
Project Director, New England Solar  
ACEN Australia

## Ryan Desic

---

**From:** Joey Chalk <joey.chalk@acenrenewables.com.au>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 19 April 2023 11:34 PM  
**To:** nganyawana@gmail.com; steven1ahoy@gmail.com; minnamunnung@gmail.com; ceo@alalc.org.au; bruce.cohey@yahoo.com.au; cahoy4@une.edu.au; colinahoy57@gmail.com; kevin.green@alsnswact.org.au; anaiwannation@gmail.com; Bruce.Cohen@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au; cahoy7@myune.edu.au; iwattaac@gmail.com; Nyakkacorp1@gmail.com; rhondannkitchener9@gmail.com  
**Cc:** Robyn Doyle; Sarah Donnan; Tim Greenaway; Ryan Desic  
**Subject:** RAP Member Meeting - Summary of Discussions and Actions  
**Attachments:** NES RAP Meeting Summary - 16 March 2023.pdf

*This message originated from outside of Umwelt - **BE CAUTIOUS** opening any link or attachment.*

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### Dhangana Registered Parties

Thank you again for your time recently to participate in the opening event of Stage 1 of New England Solar and to meet with the project team. Please see attached a summary of discussions and actions following the RAP member meeting with ACEN Australia for New England Solar on 16 March 2023.

We kindly ask that you review the summary, follow up actions and confirm your availability for the next meeting scheduled for 24 May 2023 at the New England Solar site. The purpose of this full day meeting is to:

1. Undertake a condition assessment audit of heritage sites for avoidance/protection
2. Develop an ongoing maintenance program
3. Workshop a draft agreement for long term contracting and employment

I look forward to your response. Should you have any queries for discussion, please don't hesitate to contact me at any stage.

Many thanks

**Joey Chalk**  
Manager, Social Participation and Communications



**ACEN Australia**

M: +61 408 271 101

E: joey.chalk@acenrenewables.com.au

Hobart: Suite 2, Level 2, 15 Castray Esplanade, Battery Point, TAS 7004

[www.acenrenewables.com.au](http://www.acenrenewables.com.au)

**ACEN Australia acknowledges the resilience and knowledge of the Traditional Custodians of this nation. We pay our respects to elders past and present, the many Aboriginal people that did not make their elder status and to those that continue to care for country.**

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<b>New England Solar Registered Aboriginal Party meeting</b>	
<b>Time and date</b>	2.00pm, 16 March 2023
<b>Location</b>	New England Solar construction site, Uralla
<b>Attendees</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Colin Ahoy Jr, Nunawanna Aboriginal Corporation (CAJ)</li> <li>2. Tyson Ahoy, Nunawanna Aboriginal Corporation (TA)</li> <li>3. Michael Walford , Armidale and New England Gumbaynggirr Descendants (MW)</li> <li>4. Steve Ahoy, Iwatta Aboriginal Corporation (SA)</li> <li>5. Jocelyn Blair, Iwatta Aboriginal Corporation (JB)</li> <li>6. Cheryl Kitchener, Culturally Aware Aboriginal Heritage Consultancy (CK)</li> <li>7. Les Ahoy, Nganyawana Clan Group (LA)</li> <li>8. Rhonda Kitchener, Nyakka Aboriginal Culture Heritage Corporation (RK)</li> <li>9. Ryan Desic, Umwelt (RDU)</li> <li>10. Robyn Doyle, ACEN Australia (RDA)</li> <li>11. Joey Chalk, ACEN Australia (JC)</li> </ol>
<b>Apologies</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Colin Ahoy Sr, Nunawanna Aboriginal Corporation</li> <li>2. Bruce Cohen, Armidale and New England Gumbaynggirr Descendants</li> <li>3. Tim Greenaway, ACEN Australia (TG)</li> </ol>
<b>References</b>	Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan <a href="https://newenglandsolar.com.au/documents/194/AHMP_August_2022.pdf">https://newenglandsolar.com.au/documents/194/AHMP_August_2022.pdf</a>
<b>Meeting summary</b>	
<b>1</b>	<b>Opening event</b>
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. RAPs provided feedback to ACEN Australia that the event Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony should have taken place at the start of the event, and not after housekeeping</li> <li>b. RAPs provided feedback to ACEN Australia that the Acknowledgments of Country in event speeches should reference Anaiwan only</li> <li>c. ACEN acknowledged the above points</li> </ol>
<b>2</b>	<b>Maintenance of heritage sites</b>
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. RAPs provided feedback that all sites scheduled for avoidance/protection are equally important as each other and must be maintained by the RAPs</li> <li>b. RAPs acknowledged that developing a fit for purpose maintenance program is a learning curve</li> <li>c. RAPs indicated that a lot of time has passed since the initial heritage assessment surveys and not all RAPs have had the opportunity to visit all the sites scheduled for avoidance/protection</li> <li>d. RAPs requested ACEN arrange for the RAPs and ACEN to visit these sites as a group to audit them and develop a maintenance program. The purpose of the audit would be to:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Undertake a condition assessment of each site</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Determine what ongoing maintenance is required for each site</li> <li>3. Determine the maintenance priority status of each site</li> <li>4. Determine the ongoing frequency of maintenance for each site that is adaptive to seasonal variability and vegetation growth</li> </ol> <p>Condition assessments to be undertaken by RAPs, with ACEN participation. ACEN to facilitate the audit governance including record keeping of RAP audit assessment notes.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> ACEN to schedule audit visit for the development of a maintenance program</p> <p><b>UPDATE:</b> Suggested date for audit visit Wednesday 24 May 2023. <u>Please confirm your attendance by 3 May 2023.</u> Attendance to be limited to one senior RAP representative from each party (preferably RAP party director or similar position). Payment for activities 24 May 2023 will be calculated at the agreed full day rate of \$900 per person. Travel costs where appropriate would also be provisioned for by ACEN Australia.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>e. As part of the audit, RAPs requested an agreed framework for assessing each site is developed and to be used for the audit. To include items such as fire risk, structural integrity of trees etc <b>ACTION:</b> ACEN to develop audit assessment framework for RAP feedback and endorsement <b>UPDATE:</b> Draft to be issued Friday 12 May 2023</li> <li>f. Once the audit is undertaken, RAPs requested ACEN schedule maintenance program, regular monitoring and conditional reports to RAPs to account for seasonal changes <b>ACTION:</b> Following audit visit, ACEN to develop an ongoing maintenance program that is adaptive to seasonal variability and vegetation growth for RAP consideration. The program is also to include the provision of regular conditional reports to RAPs.</li> <li>g. RAPs requested an agreed checklist be developed for maintenance crews to refer to when undertaking regular maintenance activities so that observations and actions can be recorded and actioned <b>ACTION:</b> ACEN to develop monitoring checklist for RAP feedback and endorsement <b>UPDATE:</b> Draft to be issued Friday 12 May 2023</li> <li>h. RAPs commented that the Grinding Groove site currently requires maintenance every two weeks</li> <li>i. RAPs commented that access to site NE50 is still not available in order to commence maintenance activities. Concerned as there appears to be drainage issues which may be destroying the site <b>ACTION:</b> ACEN to investigate and provide update back to RAPs <b>UPDATE:</b> Remediation works in progress and access to site NE50 will be available by 17 May 2023.</li> <li>j. RAPs commented that they do not want livestock in heritage areas as they bring invasive plants in the areas. Queried ACEN as to whether the method is a cost cutting exercise. ACEN confirmed that it is not, and that RAP requests for the maintenance methods for heritage sites are acknowledge <b>UPDATE:</b> To be further discussed during site audit and development of ongoing maintenance program.</li> <li>k. RAPs commented that they wish to introduce Kangaroo Grass and native foods into the Grinding Groove site area</li> </ol>
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	<p>UPDATE: To be further discussed during site audit and development of ongoing maintenance program.</p>
<b>3</b>	<p><b>Contracting and employment</b></p> <p>a. Iwatta Aboriginal Corporation commented that it has invested a lot of time, effort and money into building up its capability to tender for and deliver the current grounds maintenance contracts. Believes it should be up to each individual business to ensure their people are capable to undertake the works. Commented that the work Iwatta have been doing at the Grinding Groove site has been substantial as there has been so much mowing and slashing to be done.</p> <p>b. ACEN sought interest from RAPs on the option of ACEN providing grounds maintenance equipment that could be available for shared use by RAPs to undertake a rotating roster of services</p> <p>c. Iwatta Aboriginal Corporation expressed disappointment in this offer from ACEN. Commented that they originally requested this of ACEN but were declined. Iwatta have now heavily invested in purchasing the equipment so would be seeking reimbursement from ACEN if this model was to be undertaken</p> <p>d. Iwatta Aboriginal Corporation commented that they don't currently have the capability to undertake fencing activities</p> <p>e. Nunawanna Aboriginal Corporation commented that they may have capability to undertake fencing activities and are also interested in site maintenance</p> <p>f. ACEN advised that there may be fencing contracting opportunities as part of the project  <b>ACTION: Once information is available, on any possible fencing contacting opportunities, ACEN to provide to RAPs</b></p> <p>g. RAPs commented that rotating three month contracting periods are not long enough. While a roster period offers the benefit of sharing the work around, it does not provide people with job security</p> <p>h. Iwatta Aboriginal Corporation and Nunawanna Aboriginal Corporation indicated that two work teams of four people each could work well</p> <p>i. Culturally Aware Aboriginal Heritage Consultancy and Nganyawana Clan Group commented that the RAPs have been supporting the project since the beginning but ACEN now needs to come to the party. Commented that it's now time to get professional and put in place a commitment to long term contracting and employment for the life of the project.  <b>ACTION: ACEN to propose agreement commitments for RAPs to consider and schedule follow up meeting with RAPs to discuss and refine. Draft agreement to present options for RAP review that take into consideration an approach that is:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fair and equitable amongst RAPs</li> <li>• Provides opportunity for stable employment for members of the local Aboriginal community</li> </ul> <p><b>UPDATE: Draft to be issued Friday 12 May 2023. Suggested date for follow up meeting Wednesday 24 May 2023</b></p> <p>j. RAPs agreed that such an agreement should be between the RAPs and ACEN, with payments to be made directly to ORIC corporations.</p>



4	Cultural inductions	
	a. ACEN requested to seek agreement on a contingency process in the event of a RAP no-show b. RAPs agreed to ensure this is covered in the agreement to be prepared between RAPs and ACEN	
5	Other	
	1. RAPs agreed that the meeting was valuable and requested that they be scheduled more regularly. All agreed that future meetings can be done virtually if required ACTION: ACEN to schedule follow up meeting and propose frequency for future meetings UPDATE: Suggested meeting date Wednesday 24 May 2023. Proposed meeting schedule to be quarterly.	
Actions summary		
1	Develop audit assessment framework and monitoring checklist for heritage sites	Draft for comment to be issued Friday 12 May 2023
2	Full day site visit with RAPS to:  a. Undertake audit of heritage sites and develop ongoing maintenance program b. Workshop draft agreement for long term contracting and employment	Suggested date Wednesday 24 May 2023
3	Schedule quarterly monitoring of sites and provide conditional reports to RAPs. Condition assessments to be undertaken by RAPs, with ACEN participation. ACEN to facilitate the audit governance including record keeping of RAP audit assessment notes.	To be scheduled following audit assessment
4	Implement remediation works on site NE50 and make access available	In progress and access to be made available by 17 May 2023
5	Once known, ACEN to provide to RAPs information on any possible fencing contracting opportunities.	Information to be provided once known.
6	Develop long term contracting and employment agreement for the life of the project	First draft to be issued Friday 12 May 2023
7	Schedule follow up meetings	To be scheduled following Wednesday 24 May 2023

## Ryan Desic


---

**From:** Joey Chalk <joey.chalk@acenrenewables.com.au>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 13 September 2023 8:41 PM  
**To:** nganyawana@gmail.com; steven1ahoy@gmail.com; minnamunnung@gmail.com; ceo@alalc.org.au; bruce.cohey@yahoo.com.au; cahoy4@une.edu.au; colinahoy57@gmail.com; kevin.green@alsnswact.org.au; anaiwannation@gmail.com; Bruce.Cohen@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au; cahoy7@myune.edu.au; iwattaac@gmail.com; Nyakkacorp1@gmail.com; rhondannkitchener9@gmail.com  
**Cc:** Tim Greenaway; Robyn Doyle; Sarah Donnan  
**Subject:** FOR REVIEW: Update to Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan

### Dhangana Registered Parties

Please find attached correspondence from ACEN in relation to an update to the Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan for New England Solar.

Please note that due to file size restrictions the document is unable to be emailed. Instead it can be downloaded from this link here.

 [External Access Folder for RAPs](#)

Please don't hesitate to reach out though if you have any problems accessing it.

Many thanks

**Joey Chalk**  
Manager, Social Participation and Communications



**ACEN Australia**

M: +61 408 271 101

E: joey.chalk@acenrenewables.com.au

Hobart: Suite 2, Level 2, 15 Castray Esplanade, Battery Point, TAS 7004

[www.acenrenewables.com.au](http://www.acenrenewables.com.au)

**ACEN Australia acknowledges the resilience and knowledge of the Traditional Custodians of this nation. We pay our respects to elders past and present, the many Aboriginal people that did not make their elder status and to those that continue to care for country.**

This e-mail and its contents is intended solely for the individual to whom it is specifically and originally addressed and may contain confidential or privileged information. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify me immediately by return email and delete the email from your system. Retaining, disclosing, distributing or taking any action in reliance on this email or its contents is strictly prohibited



Registered Aboriginal Party for New England Solar  
Issued via email

Date 13 September 2023

To Registered member

**Subject: Update to Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan**

Thank you for your continued involvement in Aboriginal cultural heritage matters for New England Solar.

I write to you to inform you that the Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan (AHMP) is undergoing revision and updates in response to [Modification 2](#) approval granted by the NSW Government in May 2023.

Additionally, with Stage 1 construction of New England Solar almost complete, ACEN Australia is now making preparations to commence Stage 2 construction activities. This has provided ACEN Australia with the opportunity to update the Aboriginal site inventory and relevant sections in the AHMP to account for the salvage and management measures completed to date. For clarity however, the existing approved AHMP encompasses Stage 1 and Stage 2 activities, the AHMP is merely being updated to reflect the current status of the project.

The AHMP has been actively implemented over the past two years while Stage 1 of New England Solar has been in construction, and I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the work achieved by all parties during this period to protect and manage the cultural heritage within the project area in accordance with the AHMP. I believe the partnership approach between ACEN and RAP members demonstrates how an AHMP can meaningfully be implemented and embedded into long term business activities.

In accordance with the AHMP, RAPs are invited to review and comment on the proposed updated sections of the AHMP. For transparency, and to guide you as to where updates have been made, we have included a draft version of the AHMP with tracked changes. We have also provided a clean version. We would appreciate any **comments or feedback in writing by 28 September 2023**, which is the minimum 14 days from issue in accordance with the AHMP. Written comments and feedback are the preferred option for the purposes of documenting consultation and giving us the opportunity to respond appropriately. Additionally, ACEN invites RAPs to a **virtual meeting on Tuesday 19 September 2023 at 5.00pm** whereby ACEN and its consulting Archaeologist will explain the updates.

I would also like to note that ACEN has taken the opportunity to respond to a number of topics raised by RAPs at the last virtual meeting on 16 August 2023.

**ACEN Australia**  
Suite 2, Level 2  
15 Castray Esplanade  
Battery Point, TAS 7004

ACN 616 856 672  
ABN 27 616 856 672

### Significance ratings

Concern regarding the significance ratings applied to sites requiring management. As outlined during the development of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) in 2018, and the AHMP in 2021 significance ratings are applied via guidance by the NSW Government's Office of Environment and Heritage. We acknowledge however that all Aboriginal sites are of value and significance to the Aboriginal community and would like for the community's cultural significance to be acknowledged in the AHMP through the inclusion of an additional column. As such, please refer to Table A.1 Aboriginal Site Inventory, column titled 'Community cultural significance' in the enclosed updated draft AHMP where your party is welcome to comment on the cultural significance of each site. We can also discuss this matter at the next virtual meeting proposed for **Tuesday 19 September 2023 at 5.00pm**. Furthermore, we invite RAPs to provide any further statements of cultural significance that should be acknowledged upfront in the AHMP (such as in the title page sections).

### New England Solar Stage 2

Request by RAPs that the New England Solar Stage 2 area be resurveyed. ACEN does not consider this necessary. The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) completed in 2018 and subsequent AHMP developed in 2021 (and updated in 2022) are inclusive of New England Stage 2 and were undertaken with active participation by RAPs. Additionally, we believe the implementation of management processes during New England Solar Stage 1 construction to avoid or protect identified sites, and to manage the identification of unanticipated finds was suitable. This approach would be applied for Stage 2.

We do however acknowledge that it may have been some time since RAPs have visited a number of the Stage 2 heritage sites, particularly those identified in the AHMP as requiring passive or active management. As such, we invite senior RAP representatives to New England Solar to view these sites on **Thursday 21 September 2023 at 2.00pm**. Please RSVP by Friday 15 September 2023.

### Use of registered Archaeologist

Request for ACEN to consider engaging a new or alternative registered consulting archaeologist for future New England Solar AHMP activities. ACEN has considered this and believes the current approach remains suitable. Given that the existing approved AHMP includes Stage 2 activities, we don't foresee a significant amount of additional archeological works required into the future. For any works that may be required however, (such as this current update as a result of Modification 2), ACEN believes the engagement of Ryan Desic is appropriate and that his involvement in New England Solar over the past six years reflects a respectful and professional approach.

For feedback on the updated AHMP, please send in writing to:

**Ryan Desic**  
**Archaeologist, Umwelt**  
**0411 329 712**  
[rdesic@umwelt.com.au](mailto:rdesic@umwelt.com.au)

To RSVP to ACEN virtual meeting and/or site visit, please email:

[Robyn.doyle@acenrenewables.com.au](mailto:Robyn.doyle@acenrenewables.com.au) and [joey.chalk@acenrenewables.com.au](mailto:joey.chalk@acenrenewables.com.au)

Your continued interest and participation in ACEN Australia's New England Solar project is appreciated, and we look forward to continuing our relationships with project RAPs.

Yours sincerely

DocuSigned by:  
  
AF114CB7D88B498...

Joey Chalk

On behalf of

Tim Greenaway  
Project Director, New England Solar  
ACEN Australia

## Ryan Desic

---

**From:** Joey Chalk <joey.chalk@acenrenewables.com.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 29 September 2023 4:01 PM  
**To:** nganyawana@gmail.com; steven1ahoy@gmail.com; minnamunnung@gmail.com; ceo@alalc.org.au; bruce.cohey@yahoo.com.au; cahoy4@une.edu.au; colinahoy57@gmail.com; kevin.green@alsnswact.org.au; anaiwannation@gmail.com; Bruce.Cohen@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au; cahoy7@myune.edu.au; iwattaac@gmail.com; Nyakkacorp1@gmail.com; rhondannkitchener9@gmail.com  
**Cc:** Tim Greenaway; Robyn Doyle; Sarah Donnan  
**Subject:** Re: FOR REVIEW: Update to Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan  
**Attachments:** 28092023\_Letter\_to\_RAPs\_-\_AHMP\_Update signed.pdf

*This message originated from outside of Umwelt - **BE CAUTIOUS** opening any link or attachment.*

### Dhangana Registered Parties

Thank you for your feedback on the draft updated AHMP by email and during the meeting held between ACEN and registered parties on 19 September 2023.

The key topics discussed during this meeting, registered party comments and ACEN's response is detailed in the attached. The intent of this correspondence is to address matters raised by RAPs during the draft AHMP update process and is not intended as a comprehensive list of AHMP updates (as these were provided as tracked changes in the provided draft AHMP).

We kindly ask that members review this table. To expedite the process of getting resolution, Ryan Desic will be calling RAPs early next week to gather your views on our responses. Following which, the draft AHMP will be submitted to the NSW Government in accordance with the project's Development Consent.

For any queries, please don't hesitate to contact Ryan Desic, Robyn Doyle or Joey Chalk.

Many thanks

**Joey Chalk**

ACEN Australia

M: +61 408 271 101

E: [joey.chalk@acenrenewables.com.au](mailto:joey.chalk@acenrenewables.com.au)

---

**From:** Joey Chalk <joey.chalk@acenrenewables.com.au>

**Date:** Tuesday, 26 September 2023 at 4:52 pm

**To:** nganyawana@gmail.com <nganyawana@gmail.com>, steven1ahoy@gmail.com <steven1ahoy@gmail.com>, minnamunnung@gmail.com <minnamunnung@gmail.com>, ceo@alalc.org.au <ceo@alalc.org.au>, bruce.cohey@yahoo.com.au <bruce.cohey@yahoo.com.au>, cahoy4@une.edu.au <cahoy4@une.edu.au>, colinahoy57@gmail.com <colinahoy57@gmail.com>, kevin.green@alsnswact.org.au <kevin.green@alsnswact.org.au>, anaiwannation@gmail.com <anaiwannation@gmail.com>, Bruce.Cohen@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au <Bruce.Cohen@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au>, cahoy7@myune.edu.au <cahoy7@myune.edu.au>, iwattaac@gmail.com <iwattaac@gmail.com>, Nyakkacorp1@gmail.com <Nyakkacorp1@gmail.com>, rhondannkitchener9@gmail.com <rhondannkitchener9@gmail.com>

**Cc:** Tim Greenaway <tim.greenaway@acenrenewables.com.au>, Robyn Doyle

<Robyn.doyle@acenrenewables.com.au>, Sarah Donnan <sarah.donnan@acenrenewables.com.au>

**Subject:** Re: FOR REVIEW: Update to Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan

Dhangana Registered Parties

A reminder that written comments in relation to an update to the Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan for New England Solar are due Thursday 28 September 2023.

Many thanks

**Joey Chalk**

ACEN Australia

M: +61 408 271 101

E: [joey.chalk@acenrenewables.com.au](mailto:joey.chalk@acenrenewables.com.au)

---

**From:** Joey Chalk <[joey.chalk@acenrenewables.com.au](mailto:joey.chalk@acenrenewables.com.au)>

**Date:** Wednesday, 13 September 2023 at 8:41 pm

**To:** nganyawana@gmail.com <[nganyawana@gmail.com](mailto:nganyawana@gmail.com)>, steven1ahoy@gmail.com <[steven1ahoy@gmail.com](mailto:steven1ahoy@gmail.com)>, minnamunnung@gmail.com <[minnamunnung@gmail.com](mailto:minnamunnung@gmail.com)>, ceo@alalc.org.au <[ceo@alalc.org.au](mailto:ceo@alalc.org.au)>, bruce.cohey@yahoo.com.au <[bruce.cohey@yahoo.com.au](mailto:bruce.cohey@yahoo.com.au)>, cahoy4@une.edu.au <[cahoy4@une.edu.au](mailto:cahoy4@une.edu.au)>, colinahoy57@gmail.com <[colinahoy57@gmail.com](mailto:colinahoy57@gmail.com)>, kevin.green@alsnswact.org.au <[kevin.green@alsnswact.org.au](mailto:kevin.green@alsnswact.org.au)>, anaiwannation@gmail.com <[anaiwannation@gmail.com](mailto:anaiwannation@gmail.com)>, Bruce.Cohen@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au <[Bruce.Cohen@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Bruce.Cohen@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au)>, cahoy7@myune.edu.au <[cahoy7@myune.edu.au](mailto:cahoy7@myune.edu.au)>, iwattaac@gmail.com <[iwattaac@gmail.com](mailto:iwattaac@gmail.com)>, Nyakkacorp1@gmail.com <[Nyakkacorp1@gmail.com](mailto:Nyakkacorp1@gmail.com)>, rhondannkitchener9@gmail.com <[rhondannkitchener9@gmail.com](mailto:rhondannkitchener9@gmail.com)>

**Cc:** Tim Greenaway <[tim.greenaway@acenrenewables.com.au](mailto:tim.greenaway@acenrenewables.com.au)>, Robyn Doyle


<[Robyn.doyle@acenrenewables.com.au](mailto:Robyn.doyle@acenrenewables.com.au)>, Sarah Donnan <[sarah.donnan@acenrenewables.com.au](mailto:sarah.donnan@acenrenewables.com.au)>

**Subject:** FOR REVIEW: Update to Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan

Dhangana Registered Parties

Please find attached correspondence from ACEN in relation to an update to the Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan for New England Solar.

Please note that due to file size restrictions the document is unable to be emailed. Instead it can be downloaded from this link here.

 [External Access Folder for RAPs](#)

Please don't hesitate to reach out though if you have any problems accessing it.

Many thanks

**Joey Chalk**

Manager, Social Participation and Communications



ACEN Australia

M: +61 408 271 101

E: [joey.chalk@acenrenewables.com.au](mailto:joey.chalk@acenrenewables.com.au)

Hobart: Suite 2, Level 2, 15 Castray Esplanade, Battery Point, TAS 7004

[www.acenrenewables.com.au](http://www.acenrenewables.com.au)



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This e-mail and its contents is intended solely for the individual to whom it is specifically and originally addressed and may contain confidential or privileged information. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify me immediately by return email and delete the email from your system. Retaining, disclosing, distributing or taking any action in reliance on this email or its contents is strictly prohibited

Registered Aboriginal Party for New England Solar  
Issued via email

Date 29 September 2023

To Registered member

**Subject: New England Solar Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan Revision 2:  
Outcomes of Community Consultation**

Thank you for your continued involvement in Aboriginal cultural heritage management for the New England Solar Project. This letter relates to the draft update of the New England Solar Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan (AHMP) (V9 8 September 2023) provided to registered parties on 13 September 2023 for review and feedback. This letter responds to feedback provided via email correspondence and during an Aboriginal focus group meeting held between ACEN and registered parties on 19 September 2023<sup>1</sup>.

The intent of the focus group meeting was to a) provide an overview of draft updates to the AHMP in response to Modification 2 approval granted by the NSW Government in May 2023 and b) seek feedback from registered parties on the AHMP updates. Feedback was received verbally during the meeting and subsequently via email during the 14 day AHMP review period.

Ryan Desic (Project Archaeologist) provided an overview of key updates to the draft AHMP with visual aids of Aboriginal site management mapping. A summary of Modification 2 ACHA was provided along with an overview of the changes to AHMP that were needed to bring the AHMP up to date with the progress of management tasks that have been implemented since the last document revision.

The key topics discussed during this meeting, registered party comments and ACEN's response is detailed in the table below. The intent of this letter is to address matters raised by RAPs during the draft AHMP update process and is not intended as a comprehensive list of AHMP updates (as these were provided as tracked changes in the provided draft AHMP).

We kindly ask that members review this table. To expedite the process of getting resolution, Ryan Desic will be calling RAPs on Monday 2 October 2023 to gather your views on our responses. Following which, the draft AHMP will be submitted to the NSW Government in accordance with the project's Development Consent.


For any queries, please don't hesitate to contact Ryan Desic, Robyn Doyle or Joey Chalk.

---

<sup>1</sup> Meeting attendees were: RAPs – Steve Ahoy, Colin Ahoy Jr., Rhonda Kitchener, Bruce Cohen; ACEN – Tim Greenaway, Joey Chalk, Robyn Doyle; Umwelt: Ryan Desic.

Your continued interest and participation in ACEN Australia's New England Solar project is appreciated, and we look forward to continuing our relationships with project RAPs.

Yours sincerely

DocuSigned by:  
  
AEF30AE5ED2B491...

Tim Greenaway  
Project Director, New England Solar  
ACEN Australia

Item Presented by ACEN	RAP Feedback	ACEN Response
<p><b>Additional Aboriginal site management measures</b></p> <p>Modification 2 has resulted in the need for additional management measures to be implemented for sites identified during the Modification 2 ACHA, and for some management measures to change based on the revised Project layout. Overall, the Modification 2 area means that additional active and passive avoidance measures are required, and 2 additional sites (NE119 and NE20) will require surface collection.</p>	<p>The broader topic of surface artefact collection was raised, whereby the meeting attendees pointed out that the Stage 2a<sup>2</sup> surface artefact collection attempts in October 2022 were only partially successful because of current vegetation coverage over the ground surface. Furthermore, it was raised that even where stone artefacts had been recovered from a site location, those locations may represent additional artefacts obscured by vegetation.</p> <p>Meeting attendees proposed that the stone artefact sites scheduled for surface collection in the Stage 2a area (inclusive of NE119 and NE20 as the result of Mod 2) should be monitored during construction and any visible artefacts collected.</p> <p>The project archaeologist sought clarification about the areas/parameters of requested</p>	<p>The challenge of surface artefact collection within the construction footprint of the project has been ongoing since January 2021, whereby 21 of the 32 stone artefact sites designated for collection in the Stage 1a were initially unable to be collected due to poor ground surface visibility.</p> <p>ACEN responded to this by incorporating an additional vegetation clearance and inspection method into AHMP Revision 1 (refer to Section 4.3.1.2 of the AHMP). This modified method was largely successful for Stage 1a surface collection. However, although also implemented for the Stage 2a sites in October 2022, only artefacts at 4 out of 9 sites were identified and collected using this method.</p> <p>ACEN acknowledges that RAPs wish to pursue every reasonable option to salvage the stone artefact sites within the project construction footprint. ACEN proposes a 'pre clearance monitoring method' (Section 4.3.1.2.3 of AHMP) to respond to RAP feedback while avoiding the hazards of having personnel on site during active project construction.</p> <p>Prior to construction-related ground disturbance in the vicinity of the stone artefact sites scheduled for Stage 2a surface collection, the following method will be employed to the following sites:</p> <p>NE59</p>

<sup>2</sup> Stage 2a refers to Construction of a 320 megawatt solar farm within the Central Array, which is expected to commence by Q1 2024 (refer Section 1.1.1 of the AHMP). Note that the management of most of the Aboriginal sites within Stage 2a were approved under the initial project approval (March 2020) and first iteration of the AHMP.

Item Presented by ACEN	RAP Feedback	ACEN Response
	monitoring. RAP response was that the request for monitoring was specified to the stone artefact sites scheduled for surface collection in the Stage 2a area, regardless of whether stone artefacts were relocated and collected from these sites last year in October 2022.	<p>NE03 NE99 NE75 NE98 NE74 NE18 NE119 NE20 NE76 NE88</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Site coordinates on hand held GPS devices will be used to find the site location.</li> <li>2. Within an area of approximately 10m x 10m<sup>2</sup>, a machine grader (or similar machine) will be employed to scrape the ground surface to remove surface vegetation and a limited amount of topsoil. Multiple grader passes may be employed but the depth of grading should not exceed ~30 cm as the intent is to identify artefacts at the approximate ground surface.</li> <li>3. This process will be monitored by RAP representatives and an archaeologist and will involve inspection of the ground surface and grader windows after each pass of the grader machine over the ~10m x 10m area.</li> <li>4. If artefacts are identified within these areas, the surface artefact collection method as set out in Section 4.3.1.1 of the ACHMP will be employed.</li> <li>5. Regardless of whether stone artefacts are identified during this process, <u>no further collection attempts or mitigation measures will be required after the exercise is completed for each relevant site.</u></li> </ol>

Item Presented by ACEN	RAP Feedback	ACEN Response
		Following this procedure, the management status of these sites will be regarded as completed and project related development may proceed without further heritage measures.
<b>Updates on scar tree management</b> The project archaeologist revisited the topic of fallen Aboriginal scarred trees within the project area (refer to Section 4.2.3.1.3 of AHMP) for which consultation with RAPs was initiated in October 2022. ACEN sought to resolve the management of the fenced area around fallen tree NE102, as previous discussions had included opportunities for native plantings and for culturally scarring a nearby tree within this fenced area.	Meeting attendees proposed that a nearby native mature tree within the NE102 fenced area should undergo contemporary cultural scarring as a means to continue cultural practices at a location where an Aboriginal scar tree had fallen. It was proposed that the scarring would be undertaken by RAP representatives and would follow a culturally appropriate procedure. Additionally, interpretative signage would be installed at NE102 to acknowledge the fallen tree and the contemporary cultural practice.	ACEN support the RAP proposal to undertake contemporary cultural scarring of a tree within NE102 and interpretative signage. This commitment has been included in the AHMP under Section 4.2.3.1.3. ACEN would also like to reiterate that all scarred trees within the project area will be subject to ongoing monthly visual condition assessments with the aim to prevent tree collapse or salvage trees that face imminent collapse (refer Section 4.2.3.1.3 of the AHMP)
<b>Aboriginal community significance ratings for NES sites</b> As mentioned in ACEN's correspondence about the AHMP update issued 13 September 2023, ACEN	No specific statement of cultural significance have been provided by RAPs for individual sites. However, we acknowledge the consistent message from RAPs that all sites are of high cultural significance and must	ACEN propose to include ratings of high Aboriginal community significance to all NES sites to acknowledge the significance RAPs place on all Aboriginal objects. This will be completed in the AHMP site inventory unless specified otherwise.

Item Presented by ACEN	RAP Feedback	ACEN Response
<p>acknowledge that all Aboriginal sites are of value and significance to the Aboriginal community. We would like for the community's cultural significance to be acknowledged in the AHMP through the inclusion of an additional column in the Aboriginal site Inventory and for RAPs to nominate cultural significance for relevant sites at their discretion.</p>	<p>be considered as components of a broader cultural landscape.</p>	
<p>During the presentation of the overview of Modification 2, it was acknowledged that a number of sites including stone artefact sites and scarred trees are now outside of the NES Project boundary (due to project boundary refinements in response to avoiding Aboriginal heritage sites). These sites will be registered on AHIMS, but ACEN do not have the jurisdiction to manage</p>	<p>RAPs acknowledged this aspect but requested that ACEN explore contacting relevant landholders about avenues for ongoing Aboriginal custodianship over the identified sites. Meeting attendees explained that there are government grants available that landholders may be interested in that would allow ongoing positive Aboriginal site management.</p>	<p>Where there is a mutual desire from landholders and RAPs, ACEN will facilitate opportunities for relationship building between parties.</p>



Item Presented by ACEN	RAP Feedback	ACEN Response
private land outside of their lease boundaries. As such, although landholders have been notified about the presence of these sites, ACEN will not implement any management on these sites.		

## Ryan Desic

---

**From:** Joey Chalk <joey.chalk@acenrenewables.com.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 26 September 2023 5:21 PM  
**To:** Ryan Desic  
**Subject:** FW: FOR REVIEW: Update to Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan

*This message originated from outside of Umwelt - **BE CAUTIOUS** opening any link or attachment.*

**Joey Chalk**  
**ACEN Australia**  
M: +61 408 271 101  
E: [joey.chalk@acenrenewables.com.au](mailto:joey.chalk@acenrenewables.com.au)

---

**From:** Les Ahoy <nganyawana@gmail.com>  
**Date:** Thursday, 14 September 2023 at 1:34 pm  
**To:** Joey Chalk <joey.chalk@acenrenewables.com.au>, Robyn Doyle <Robyn.doyle@acenrenewables.com.au>  
**Subject:** Re: FOR REVIEW: Update to Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dhangana Joey and Robyn,

Thank you for your assistance. I have read the document and I am happy with how it reads. However, the document still references Nganyawana Cultural Consultants as Nganyawana Clan Group throughout. Can this be amended?

Do you think many will participate in a 7am meeting? \*yawn\*

Your truly,



Les Ahoy JP  
Nganyawana Cultural Knowledge Holder  
M: 0415 886 964  
E: [nganyawana@gmail.com](mailto:nganyawana@gmail.com)

On Thu, 14 Sept 2023 at 12:13, Joey Chalk <[joey.chalk@acenrenewables.com.au](mailto:joey.chalk@acenrenewables.com.au)> wrote:

Hi Les

No problem. I've sent it to you a different way. You should receive a separate email from WeTransfer prompting you to download the documents. Let me know though if you continue to have any problems.

Many thanks

**Joey Chalk**

**ACEN Australia**

M: +61 408 271 101

E: [joey.chalk@acenrenewables.com.au](mailto:joey.chalk@acenrenewables.com.au)

---

**From:** Les Ahoy <[nganyawana@gmail.com](mailto:nganyawana@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** Thursday, 14 September 2023 at 12:07 pm  
**To:** Joey Chalk <[joey.chalk@acenrenewables.com.au](mailto:joey.chalk@acenrenewables.com.au)>  
**Subject:** Re: FOR REVIEW: Update to Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dhangana Joey,

I am having trouble accessing the external folder for RAPs. I will continue trying later but in the meantime is there another method of sending it through?

**Error! Filename not specified.**

Les Ahoy JP

Nganyawana Cultural Knowledge Holder

M: 0415 886 964

E: [nganyawana@gmail.com](mailto:nganyawana@gmail.com)

On Wed, 13 Sept 2023 at 22:01, Joey Chalk <[joey.chalk@acenrenewables.com.au](mailto:joey.chalk@acenrenewables.com.au)> wrote:

Apologies, Correspondence attached this time.

Many thanks

Joey

Sent from my iPhone

On 13 Sep 2023, at 8:41 pm, Joey Chalk <[joey.chalk@acenrenewables.com.au](mailto:joey.chalk@acenrenewables.com.au)> wrote:

Dhangana Registered Parties

Please find attached correspondence from ACEN in relation to an update to the Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan for New England Solar.

Please note that due to file size restrictions the document is unable to be emailed. Instead it can be downloaded from this link here.

[<image002.png>](#)

[External Access Folder for RAPs](#)

Please don't hesitate to reach out though if you have any problems accessing it.

Many thanks

**Joey Chalk**

Manager, Social Participation and Communications

<image001.jpg>

**ACEN Australia**

M: +61 408 271 101

E: [joey.chalk@acenrenewables.com.au](mailto:joey.chalk@acenrenewables.com.au)

Hobart: Suite 2, Level 2, 15 Castray Esplanade, Battery Point, TAS 7004

[www.acenrenewables.com.au](http://www.acenrenewables.com.au)

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## Ryan Desic

---

**From:** Joey Chalk <joey.chalk@acenrenewables.com.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 3 October 2023 5:28 PM  
**To:** Iwatta Aboriginal Corporation  
**Cc:** Robyn Doyle; Ryan Desic  
**Subject:** Re: FOR REVIEW: Update to Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan

*This message originated from outside of Umwelt - **BE CAUTIOUS** opening any link or attachment.*

Hi Steve

Thanks for this feedback. Confirming we will incorporate your feedback into the draft AHMP for submission. In relation to the request for the provision of landholder details, it would not be permissible for ACEN to provide these details where there is not landholder consent to do so. As mentioned though, ACEN is committed to facilitating opportunities for relationship building where appropriate.

Many thanks again.

**Joey Chalk**  
**ACEN Australia**  
M: +61 408 271 101  
E: [joey.chalk@acenrenewables.com.au](mailto:joey.chalk@acenrenewables.com.au)

---

**From:** Iwatta Aboriginal Corporation <iwattaac@gmail.com>  
**Date:** Friday, 29 September 2023 at 5:54 pm  
**To:** Joey Chalk <joey.chalk@acenrenewables.com.au>  
**Cc:** Robyn Doyle <Robyn.doyle@acenrenewables.com.au>, Ryan Desic <rdesic@umwelt.com.au>  
**Subject:** Re: FOR REVIEW: Update to Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Joey,  
Sorry for the late reply.  
We have highlighted our comments in red, please refer to the attached document.  
And please let us know if you require anything further.

On Fri, Sep 29, 2023 at 4:01 PM Joey Chalk <[joey.chalk@acenrenewables.com.au](mailto:joey.chalk@acenrenewables.com.au)> wrote:

Dhangana Registered Parties

Thank you for your feedback on the draft updated AHMP by email and during the meeting held between ACEN and registered parties on 19 September 2023.

The key topics discussed during this meeting, registered party comments and ACEN's response is detailed in the attached. The intent of this correspondence is to address matters raised by RAPs during the draft AHMP update process and is not intended as a comprehensive list of AHMP updates (as these were provided as tracked changes in the provided draft AHMP).

We kindly ask that members review this table. To expedite the process of getting resolution, Ryan Desic will be calling RAPs early next week to gather your views on our responses. Following which, the draft AHMP will be submitted to the NSW Government in accordance with the project's Development Consent.

For any queries, please don't hesitate to contact Ryan Desic, Robyn Doyle or Joey Chalk.

Many thanks

**Joey Chalk**

**ACEN Australia**

M: +61 408 271 101

E: [joey.chalk@acenrenewables.com.au](mailto:joey.chalk@acenrenewables.com.au)

---

**From:** Joey Chalk <[joey.chalk@acenrenewables.com.au](mailto:joey.chalk@acenrenewables.com.au)>

**Date:** Tuesday, 26 September 2023 at 4:52 pm

**To:** [nganyawana@gmail.com](mailto:nganyawana@gmail.com) <[nganyawana@gmail.com](mailto:nganyawana@gmail.com)>, [steven1ahoy@gmail.com](mailto:steven1ahoy@gmail.com) <[steven1ahoy@gmail.com](mailto:steven1ahoy@gmail.com)>, [minnamunnung@gmail.com](mailto:minnamunnung@gmail.com) <[minnamunnung@gmail.com](mailto:minnamunnung@gmail.com)>, [ceo@alalc.org.au](mailto:ceo@alalc.org.au) <[ceo@alalc.org.au](mailto:ceo@alalc.org.au)>, [bruce.cohey@yahoo.com.au](mailto:bruce.cohey@yahoo.com.au) <[bruce.cohey@yahoo.com.au](mailto:bruce.cohey@yahoo.com.au)>, [cahoy4@une.edu.au](mailto:cahoy4@une.edu.au) <[cahoy4@une.edu.au](mailto:cahoy4@une.edu.au)>, [colinahoy57@gmail.com](mailto:colinahoy57@gmail.com) <[colinahoy57@gmail.com](mailto:colinahoy57@gmail.com)>, [kevin.green@alsnswact.org.au](mailto:kevin.green@alsnswact.org.au) <[kevin.green@alsnswact.org.au](mailto:kevin.green@alsnswact.org.au)>, [anaiwannation@gmail.com](mailto:anaiwannation@gmail.com) <[anaiwannation@gmail.com](mailto:anaiwannation@gmail.com)>, [Bruce.Cohen@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Bruce.Cohen@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au) <[Bruce.Cohen@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Bruce.Cohen@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au)>, [cahoy7@myune.edu.au](mailto:cahoy7@myune.edu.au) <[cahoy7@myune.edu.au](mailto:cahoy7@myune.edu.au)>, [iwattaac@gmail.com](mailto:iwattaac@gmail.com) <[iwattaac@gmail.com](mailto:iwattaac@gmail.com)>, [Nyakkacorp1@gmail.com](mailto:Nyakkacorp1@gmail.com) <[Nyakkacorp1@gmail.com](mailto:Nyakkacorp1@gmail.com)>, [rhondannkitchener9@gmail.com](mailto:rhondannkitchener9@gmail.com) <[rhondannkitchener9@gmail.com](mailto:rhondannkitchener9@gmail.com)>

**Cc:** Tim Greenaway <[tim.greenaway@acenrenewables.com.au](mailto:tim.greenaway@acenrenewables.com.au)>, Robyn Doyle <[Robyn.doyle@acenrenewables.com.au](mailto:Robyn.doyle@acenrenewables.com.au)>, Sarah Donnan <[sarah.donnan@acenrenewables.com.au](mailto:sarah.donnan@acenrenewables.com.au)>

**Subject:** Re: FOR REVIEW: Update to Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan

Dhangana Registered Parties



A reminder that written comments in relation to an update to the Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan for New England Solar are due Thursday 28 September 2023.

Many thanks

**Joey Chalk**

**ACEN Australia**

M: +61 408 271 101

E: [joey.chalk@acenrenewables.com.au](mailto:joey.chalk@acenrenewables.com.au)

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**Cc:** Tim Greenaway <[tim.greenaway@acenrenewables.com.au](mailto:tim.greenaway@acenrenewables.com.au)>, Robyn Doyle <[Robyn.doyle@acenrenewables.com.au](mailto:Robyn.doyle@acenrenewables.com.au)>, Sarah Donnan <[sarah.donnan@acenrenewables.com.au](mailto:sarah.donnan@acenrenewables.com.au)>

**Subject:** FOR REVIEW: Update to Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan

Dhangana Registered Parties

Please find attached correspondence from ACEN in relation to an update to the Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan for New England Solar.

Please note that the due to file size restrictions the document is unable to be emailed. Instead it can be downloaded from this link here.



[External Access Folder for RAPs](#)

Please don't hesitate to reach out though if you have any problems accessing it.

Many thanks

**Joey Chalk**

Manager, Social Participation and Communications



**ACEN Australia**

M: +61 408 271 101

E: [joey.chalk@acenrenewables.com.au](mailto:joey.chalk@acenrenewables.com.au)

Hobart: Suite 2, Level 2, 15 Castray Esplanade, Battery Point, TAS 7004

[www.acenrenewables.com.au](http://www.acenrenewables.com.au)

**ACEN Australia acknowledges the resilience and knowledge of the Traditional Custodians of this nation. We pay our respects to elders past and present, the many Aboriginal people that did not make their elder status and to those that continue to care for country.**

This e-mail and its contents is intended solely for the individual to whom it is specifically and originally addressed and may contain confidential or privileged information. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify me immediately by return email and delete the email from your system. Retaining, disclosing, distributing or taking any action in reliance on this email or its contents is strictly prohibited

--

Thank You

Jocelyn Blair

Sites Officer

Iwatta Aboriginal Corporation

(E) [iwattaac@gmail.com](mailto:iwattaac@gmail.com)

(M) 0413990868



Iwatta Aboriginal Corporation and its members, acknowledges that we are on the country of the Anaiwan people, who are the traditional custodians of the land, which we work from. We also pay our respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.

## Ryan Desic

---

**From:** Iwatta Aboriginal Corporation <iwattaac@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 3 October 2023 6:23 PM  
**To:** Joey Chalk  
**Cc:** Robyn Doyle; Ryan Desic  
**Subject:** Re: FOR REVIEW: Update to Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan

*This message originated from outside of Umwelt - **BE CAUTIOUS** opening any link or attachment.*

Thanks for the feedback!

On Tue, 3 Oct 2023 at 5:28 pm, Joey Chalk <[joey.chalk@acenrenewables.com.au](mailto:joey.chalk@acenrenewables.com.au)> wrote:

Hi Steve

Thanks for this feedback. Confirming we will incorporate your feedback into the draft AHMP for submission. In relation to the request for the provision of landholder details, it would not be permissible for ACEN to provide these details where there is not landholder consent to do so. As mentioned though, ACEN is committed to facilitating opportunities for relationship building where appropriate.

Many thanks again.

**Joey Chalk**

ACEN Australia

M: +61 408 271 101

E: [joey.chalk@acenrenewables.com.au](mailto:joey.chalk@acenrenewables.com.au)

---

**From:** Iwatta Aboriginal Corporation <[iwattaac@gmail.com](mailto:iwattaac@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** Friday, 29 September 2023 at 5:54 pm  
**To:** Joey Chalk <[joey.chalk@acenrenewables.com.au](mailto:joey.chalk@acenrenewables.com.au)>  
**Cc:** Robyn Doyle <[Robyn.doyle@acenrenewables.com.au](mailto:Robyn.doyle@acenrenewables.com.au)>, Ryan Desic <[rdesic@umwelt.com.au](mailto:rdesic@umwelt.com.au)>  
**Subject:** Re: FOR REVIEW: Update to Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Joey,

Sorry for the late reply.

We have highlighted our comments in red, please refer to the attached document.

And please let us know if you require anything further.

On Fri, Sep 29, 2023 at 4:01 PM Joey Chalk <[joey.chalk@acenrenewables.com.au](mailto:joey.chalk@acenrenewables.com.au)> wrote:

#### Dhangana Registered Parties

Thank you for your feedback on the draft updated AHMP by email and during the meeting held between ACEN and registered parties on 19 September 2023.

The key topics discussed during this meeting, registered party comments and ACEN's response is detailed in the attached. The intent of this correspondence is to address matters raised by RAPs during the draft AHMP update process and is not intended as a comprehensive list of AHMP updates (as these were provided as tracked changes in the provided draft AHMP).

We kindly ask that members review this table. To expedite the process of getting resolution, Ryan Desic will be calling RAPs early next week to gather your views on our responses. Following which, the draft AHMP will be submitted to the NSW Government in accordance with the project's Development Consent.

For any queries, please don't hesitate to contact Ryan Desic, Robyn Doyle or Joey Chalk.

Many thanks

**Joey Chalk**

**ACEN Australia**

M: +61 408 271 101

E: [joey.chalk@acenrenewables.com.au](mailto:joey.chalk@acenrenewables.com.au)

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**Cc:** Tim Greenaway <[tim.greenaway@acenrenewables.com.au](mailto:tim.greenaway@acenrenewables.com.au)>, Robyn Doyle

<[Robyn.doyle@acenrenewables.com.au](mailto:Robyn.doyle@acenrenewables.com.au)>, Sarah Donnan <[sarah.donnan@acenrenewables.com.au](mailto:sarah.donnan@acenrenewables.com.au)>

**Subject:** Re: FOR REVIEW: Update to Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan

Dhangana Registered Parties

A reminder that written comments in relation to an update to the Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan for New England Solar are due Thursday 28 September 2023.

Many thanks

**Joey Chalk**

**ACEN Australia**

M: +61 408 271 101

E: [joey.chalk@acenrenewables.com.au](mailto:joey.chalk@acenrenewables.com.au)

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[kevin.green@alsnswact.org.au](mailto:kevin.green@alsnswact.org.au) <[kevin.green@alsnswact.org.au](mailto:kevin.green@alsnswact.org.au)>, [anaiwannation@gmail.com](mailto:anaiwannation@gmail.com)  
<[anaiwannation@gmail.com](mailto:anaiwannation@gmail.com)>, [Bruce.Cohen@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Bruce.Cohen@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au)  
<[Bruce.Cohen@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Bruce.Cohen@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au)>, [cahoy7@myune.edu.au](mailto:cahoy7@myune.edu.au) <[cahoy7@myune.edu.au](mailto:cahoy7@myune.edu.au)>,  
[iwattaac@gmail.com](mailto:iwattaac@gmail.com) <[iwattaac@gmail.com](mailto:iwattaac@gmail.com)>, [Nyakkacorp1@gmail.com](mailto:Nyakkacorp1@gmail.com) <[Nyakkacorp1@gmail.com](mailto:Nyakkacorp1@gmail.com)>,  
[rhondannkitchener9@gmail.com](mailto:rhondannkitchener9@gmail.com) <[rhondannkitchener9@gmail.com](mailto:rhondannkitchener9@gmail.com)>

**Cc:** Tim Greenaway <[tim.greenaway@acenrenewables.com.au](mailto:tim.greenaway@acenrenewables.com.au)>, Robyn Doyle  
<[Robyn.doyle@acenrenewables.com.au](mailto:Robyn.doyle@acenrenewables.com.au)>, Sarah Donnan <[sarah.donnan@acenrenewables.com.au](mailto:sarah.donnan@acenrenewables.com.au)>

**Subject:** FOR REVIEW: Update to Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan

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[External Access Folder for RAPs](#)

Please don't hesitate to reach out though if you have any problems accessing it.

Many thanks

**Joey Chalk**

Manager, Social Participation and Communications  
**ACEN Australia**

M: +61 408 271 101

E: [joey.chalk@acenrenewables.com.au](mailto:joey.chalk@acenrenewables.com.au)

Hobart: Suite 2, Level 2, [15 Castray Esplanade, Battery Point, TAS 7004](#)

[www.acenrenewables.com.au](http://www.acenrenewables.com.au)

ACEN Australia acknowledges the resilience and knowledge of the Traditional Custodians of this nation. We pay our respects to elders past and present, the many Aboriginal people that did not make their elder status and to those that continue to care for country.

This e-mail and its contents is intended solely for the individual to whom it is specifically and originally addressed and may contain confidential or privileged information. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify me immediately by return email and delete the email from your system. Retaining, disclosing, distributing or taking any action in reliance on this email or its contents is strictly prohibited

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Thank You

Jocelyn Blair

Sites Officer

Iwatta Aboriginal Corporation

(E) [iwattaac@gmail.com](mailto:iwattaac@gmail.com)

(M) 0413990868

Iwatta Aboriginal Corporation and its members, acknowledges that we are on the country of the Anaiwan people, who are the traditional custodians of the land, which we work from. We also pay our respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.



# **APPENDIX C**

## **REGULATORY CONSULTATION**

---

## **C1 ENDORSEMENT OF AUTHOR**

Killian Wentrup  
Head of Solar Development  
UPC Renewables  
Level 14, 77 King Street  
Sydney, NSW 2000

06/04/2020

Dear Killian

**New England Solar Farm (SSD 9255)  
Request for endorsement to prepare Heritage Management Plan**

I refer to the letter dated 25 March 2020 requesting endorsement for suitably qualified and experienced persons to prepare a Heritage Management Plan for the New England Solar Farm.

The Department has reviewed the nominations and information provided and is satisfied that the proposed consultants are suitably qualified and experienced to prepare a Heritage Management Plan for the development, in accordance with condition 19, Schedule 3 of the Development Consent.

Accordingly, the Secretary has endorsed Ryan Desic and Pamela Kottaras to prepare a Heritage Management Plan.

If you wish to discuss the matter further, please contact Javier Canon on 02 9373 2821 or at [Javier.Canon@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Javier.Canon@planning.nsw.gov.au)

Yours sincerely



Nicole Brewer  
Director  
Energy Assessments

## C2 CONSULTATION WITH DPE AND HERITAGE NSW



Our ref: EF20/29501  
Senders ref: SSD-9255-PA-4

Heidi Watters  
Team Leader Compliance  
Energy, Industry & Compliance | Planning & Assessment  
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment  
By email: [heidi.watters@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:heidi.watters@planning.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Ms Watters

RE: New England Solar Farm Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan

Thank you for your request, uploaded to the Major Projects portal on 1 October 2020, about the draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan (ACHMP) for the New England Solar Farm development in the Uralla Shire local government area seeking comments from the Department of Premier and Cabinet, Heritage NSW (DPC). I appreciate the opportunity to provide input and apologise for the delay in responding.

We have reviewed the draft ACHMP and can provide in principle support however we note some areas where changes will be necessary before we can provide full endorsement.

We note a number of references to "BCD" within the document. Although many of these refer to historical events and should therefore remain, any references to relevant ongoing, or future, activities must be amended to refer to 'Heritage NSW'.

Section 2.4.1 of the draft ACHMP outlines some instances, including proposed changes to the ACHMP, where consultation with the project RAPs will be required. This section should be revised to include Heritage NSW in the consultation process for the instances referred to in that section. We also note references throughout the ACHMP to possible future changes to the ACHMP. Although we recognise that in some, very rare instances, changes to the ACHMP may be warranted we take this opportunity to note the following.

- 1 The ACHMP is a binding document directly referred to by certain conditions of approval for the project thus any changes to the ACHMP after its ratification would require a modification to the project approval.
- 2 Any proposed changes to the ACHMP after its ratification must be endorsed by Heritage NSW prior to being finalized.

Section 5 of the draft ACHMP outlines chance finds procedures to be followed for previously unknown Aboriginal objects or human remains are located during works. We note that these measures include; conservation *in-situ*, movement, test excavation and/or salvage. We further note that these various options for management are provided for all chance finds including ancestral human remains, grinding grooves, culturally modified trees, intact hearths and other site types. We also note that, apart from in the case of human remains, no provision for, or requirement of, notification to Heritage NSW is included in the protocols and measures outlined in the draft ACHMP. We require that this section is amended to ensure that Heritage NSW are

notified of all new Aboriginal and/or human remains discovered during the works. We furthermore require that any management measures (e.g. movement, collection or salvage), apart from conservation *in-situ*, must be endorsed by Heritage NSW prior to their being carried out. We furthermore take this opportunity to advise that Heritage NSW are extremely unlikely to endorse the harm, salvage or movement of ancestral human remains, grinding grooves or culturally modified trees as part of the construction, or ongoing life, of this project.

Section 6.2 of the draft ACHMP concerns Aboriginal Cultural Heritage site inductions. We note that facility is provided in the draft for site inductions to be done by non-Aboriginal people. We strongly recommend that a representative of the RAPs is present for all ACH site inductions.

If you have any questions about this advice, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Roger Mehr, Archaeologist, [roger.mehr@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:roger.mehr@environment.nsw.gov.au) or 0459075354.

Yours sincerely



**Dr Samantha Higgs**  
**Senior Team Leader**  
**Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Regulation - North**  
**Heritage NSW**

Date: 28 October 2020

**New England Solar Farm  
Post Approval Review**



Document: Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan

Revision: Version V4 Dated 21 September 2020

Reviewed: Heidi Watters on 30 September 2020

<b>Heritage MP, Condition 19, Schedule 3</b>	<b>Sufficient (Yes/No/Partial)</b>	<b>Document reference and comment</b>	<b>Action Required</b>	<b>Company Response</b>
Prior to commencing the development, the Applicant must prepare a Heritage Management Plan for the development to the satisfaction of the Secretary. This plan must:				
a) Be prepared by suitably qualified and experienced persons whose appointment has been endorsed by the Secretary;	Yes	Appendix C – letter from Department endorsing Ryan Desic and Pamela Kottaras		N/A
b) Be prepared in consultation with BCD, Aboriginal Stakeholders and Council;	Partial	Section 1.2.4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Regulatory consultation</li> <li>- BCD is now part of Heritage NSW. Heritage NSW consulted but has not yet reviewed management plan</li> <li>- Council – consulted and did not wish to provide comment</li> </ul> Section 2.3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Aboriginal stakeholder consultation</li> <li>- Table 2.3</li> </ul>	Include correspondence from Heritage NSW regarding consultation in Appendix C3  Update plan as per HNSW comments (attached)	Attached as Appendix C.2 including this document  Plan is updated – specific responses are addressed under 'Other Agency Comments in this table'
c) Include a description of the measures that would be implemented for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protecting the Aboriginal heritage items identified in Table 1 of Appendix 5 or items located outside the approved development footprint, including fencing off Aboriginal</li> </ul>		Section 4.2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Protecting Aboriginal heritage items identified in Table 1 of Appendix 5</li> </ul> Section 2.4.2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Providing ongoing access to NE09 and NE68 (subject to provisions)</li> </ul>		N/A



**New England Solar Farm  
Post Approval Review**



Document: Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan

Revision: Version V4 Dated 21 September 2020

Reviewed: Heidi Watters on 30 September 2020

heritage items prior to commencing construction and providing ongoing access and management opportunities for Aboriginal people to NE09 and NE68;				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Salvaging and relocating the Aboriginal heritage items located within the approved development footprint, as identified in Table 2 of Appendix 5;</li> </ul>	Partial	<p>Section 4.3 Aboriginal heritage salvage measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4.3.1 (iii) Reporting – who will receive copies of salvage reports?</li> </ul> <p>Section 4.2.4 Keeping place and reburial of salvaged material</p>	Clarify who will receive salvage reports	Addressed in relevant section. The salvage report will be distributed to RAPs and Heritage NSW for their records.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protecting the historic heritage items identified in Table 1 of Appendix 6 or items located outside the approved development footprint;</li> </ul>	N/A	<i>To be addressed in a separate management plan (Historic Heritage Management Plan)</i>		N/A
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Managing the impact of the development on the historic heritage items identified in Table 2 of Appendix 6, including photographic archival records prepared in accordance with the Heritage Council of NSW Guidelines for archival recordings;</li> </ul>	N/A	<i>To be addressed in a separate management plan (Historic Heritage Management Plan)</i>		N/A
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A contingency plan and reporting procedure if:</li> </ul>	Partial	Section 5.1 Management of new Aboriginal sites	Update cross reference in Table 1.2 from Section 1.1 to Section 5.3)	Addressed in relevant report sections.

**New England Solar Farm  
Post Approval Review**



Document: Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan

Revision: Version V4 Dated 21 September 2020

Reviewed: Heidi Watters on 30 September 2020

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Previously unidentified heritage items are found; or</li> <li>- Aboriginal skeletal material is discovered;</li> </ul>		<p>Section 5.3 Discovery of Aboriginal ancestral remains</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Table 5.2 – Stage 2 – when will Heritage NSW be notified? DPIE will also be required to be notified via the Major Projects website as per Schedule 4 condition 7 of the development consent.</li> <li>- Table 5.2 – Stage 3 – define “relevant authorities”</li> </ul>	<p>Update Table 5.2 as per comments</p> <p>See also Heritage NSW comments in section below.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring workers on site receive suitable heritage inductions prior to carrying out any development on site, and that records are kept of these inductions; and</li> </ul>	Yes	Section 6.2 Aboriginal heritage induction and permitting process		N/A
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing consultation with Aboriginal stakeholders during the implementation of the plan;</li> </ul>	Partial	<p>Section 2.4 Ongoing consultation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does not include consultation with Heritage NSW.</li> </ul> <p>Section 7.2.3 Aboriginal consultation for AHMP review</p>	Revise Section 2.4.1 to include consultation with Heritage NSW	<p>This section aimed at setting out ongoing consultation with RAPs. Consultation requirements with Heritage NSW is referred to in relevant sections of the AHMP elsewhere. Section 2.4.1 has been updated to clarify that Heritage NSW is also required to be consulted for new finds or ancestral remains.</p> <p>Section 7.2.3 has been updated to address DPIE and Heritage NSW involvement in any required changes to the plan.</p>
d) Include a program to monitor and report on the effectiveness of these	Yes	<p>Section 6.4 Measuring performance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To be reported in IEAs</li> </ul>		N/A

**New England Solar Farm  
Post Approval Review**



Document: Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan

Revision: Version V4 Dated 21 September 2020

Reviewed: Heidi Watters on 30 September 2020

measures and any heritage impacts of the project.				
Following the Secretary's approval, the Applicant must implement the Heritage Management Plan				
<b>Condition 17, Schedule 3</b>	<b>Sufficient (Yes/No/Partial)</b>	<b>Document reference and comment</b>	<b>Action Required</b>	<b>Company Response</b>
Prior to commencing the development, the Applicant must undertake consultation with Aboriginal stakeholders, in accordance with the <i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010</i> (DECCW, 2010), or its latest version.	Yes	Section 2 Aboriginal consultation protocols - Section 2.3		N/A
<b>Protection of Heritage Items, Condition 18, Schedule 3</b>	<b>Sufficient (Yes/No/Partial)</b>	<b>Document reference and comment</b>	<b>Action Required</b>	<b>Company Response</b>

**New England Solar Farm  
Post Approval Review**



Document: Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan

Revision: Version V4 Dated 21 September 2020

Reviewed: Heidi Watters on 30 September 2020

<p>The Applicant must ensure the development does not cause any direct or indirect impacts on Aboriginal heritage items identified in Table 1 of Appendix 5 or the historic heritage items identified in Table 1 of Appendix 6, or any Aboriginal or historic heritage items located outside the approved development footprint.</p> <p>Prior to carrying out any development that could directly or indirectly impact the heritage items identified in Table 2 of Appendix 5, the Applicant must salvage and relocate the item/s that would be impacted to a suitable alternative location, in accordance with the <i>Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW</i> (DECCW, 2010), or its latest version.</p> <p><i>Note: The location of the Aboriginal heritage and historic heritage items referred to in this condition are shown in the figures of Appendix 5 and Appendix 6, respectively.</i></p>	Partial	<p>Section 4.2 Aboriginal heritage protection</p> <p>Section 4.3 Aboriginal heritage salvage measures</p> <p><i>Noted that historic heritage is to be addressed in a separate management plan (Historic Heritage Management Plan)</i></p>	Refer comments for Condition 19(c)	No comments requiring for Condition 19(c) were provided in this table provided by DPIE.
<b>Other Agency Comments – Heritage NSW – letter dated 28 October 2020</b>			<b>Action Required</b>	<b>Company Response</b>
We note a number of references to “BCD” within the document. Although many of these refer to historical events and should therefore remain, any references to relevant ongoing, or future, activities must be amended to refer to ‘Heritage NSW’.			Amend references to BCD to ‘Heritage NSW’, where relevant	Addressed. EMM has completed a search function for BCD and it is only quoted in Table 1.2 as per original wording of the conditions of approval.
Section 2.4.1 of the draft ACHMP outlines some instances, including proposed changes to the ACHMP, where consultation with the project RAPs will be required. This section should be revised to include Heritage NSW in the consultation process for the instances referred to in that section.			Revise Section 2.4.1 to address comments	This section is intended to specify consultation required for RAPs specifically as it falls under the larger heading of Chapter 2 – Aboriginal consultation protocols. Notwithstanding, this section is cross referenced to other sections such as 7.2.3 and Section 5 which details that

**New England Solar Farm  
Post Approval Review**



Document: Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan

Revision: Version V4 Dated 21 September 2020

Reviewed: Heidi Watters on 30 September 2020

		<p>consultation with Heritage NSW is required in the event that changes are required to the plan (Section 7.2.3) and when new sites or potential remains are discovered (Section 5).</p> <p>Heritage NSW also state that changes to the AHMP after its ratification will require a modification to project approval, and any changes to the AHMP must be endorsed by Heritage NSW. This issue has been addressed in Section 7.2.2 of this report. It is noted that the AHMP may require modification to the project approval if not aligned with the current project conditions of approval; however DPIE will be consulted and a modification to approval would only be sought if deemed necessary by DPIE. Heritage NSW must be notified about changes to the AHMP and UPC will be guided by DPIE whether the nature of any proposed changes require endorsement by Heritage NSW.</p>
<p>Section 5 to be amended to ensure Heritage NSW:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Are notified of all new Aboriginal and/or human remains discovered during the works</li> <li>- Endorse any management measures (e.g. movement, collection or salvage), apart from conservation in-situ, prior to their being carried out.</li> </ul>	Revise Section 5 to address comments	<p>Addressed: Table 5.2 Stage 2 specifies that Heritage NSW and DPIE will be advised within 5 working days of the find being made. DPIE will require notification via the Major Projects website.</p>
Section 6.2 - strongly recommend that a representative of the RAPs is present for all ACH site inductions	Review Section 6.2 to address comment	
<b>General Comments</b>	<b>Action Required</b>	<b>Company Response</b>
Section 1.1 Background – The project does not necessarily need to include detail regarding the assessment process (EIS exhibition period, number of submissions, RTS submission date). It may simply state that the project was approved by the IPC on 9 March 2020.	Review comment	
Table 1.2 – incorrect condition numbers are referenced – should be 17, 18, 19	Revise condition numbers in Table 1.2	

# C3 CONSULTATION WITH COUNCIL

**From:** Tim Kirk [tim.kirk@upc-ac.com](mailto:tim.kirk@upc-ac.com)  
**Subject:** Re: New England Solar Farm - management plans for Council's review  
**Date:** 27 August 2020 at 1:29 pm  
**To:** Matt Clarkson [MClarkson@uralla.nsw.gov.au](mailto:MClarkson@uralla.nsw.gov.au)  
**Cc:** Terence Seymour [TSeymour@uralla.nsw.gov.au](mailto:TSeymour@uralla.nsw.gov.au)

TK

Hi Matt,

Thank you for the response.

Kind Regards,

**Tim Kirk** | Project Development Manager  
UPC\AC Renewables Australia  
*A UPC Renewables and AC Energy Company*



**M:** [+61 403 857 079](tel:+61403857079)

**E:** [tim.kirk@upc-ac.com](mailto:tim.kirk@upc-ac.com)

**Hobart:** Suite 2, Level 2, 15 Castray Esplanade, Battery Point, TAS 7004

**Melbourne:** 61 Cromwell Street, Collingwood VIC 3066

**Sydney:** Level 14, 77 King Street, Sydney, NSW 2000

[www.upc-ac.com](http://www.upc-ac.com)

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**From:** Matt Clarkson <[MClarkson@uralla.nsw.gov.au](mailto:MClarkson@uralla.nsw.gov.au)>  
**Date:** Wednesday, 26 August 2020 at 1:53 pm  
**To:** Tim Kirk <[Tim.Kirk@upc-ac.com](mailto:Tim.Kirk@upc-ac.com)>  
**Cc:** Terence Seymour <[TSeymour@uralla.nsw.gov.au](mailto:TSeymour@uralla.nsw.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: New England Solar Farm - management plans for Council's review

Hi Tim

I've reviewed the plans and Council does not wish to provide comment.

**Regards**  
**Matt Clarkson**  
**Manager of Development and Planning**

Uralla Shire Council | Po Box 106 Uralla NSW 2358  
**p** 02 6778 6310 | **f** 02 6778 6349 | **m** 0419 861 719





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**From:** Tim Kirk [mailto:Tim.Kirk@upc-ac.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 26 August 2020 12:10 PM  
**To:** Matt Clarkson  
**Cc:** Tim Greenaway  
**Subject:** Re: New England Solar Farm - management plans for Council's review

Hi Matt,

Can you please confirm receipt of the below email? I also left a message on your phone yesterday.

Kind Regards,

Tim Kirk | Project Development Manager  
UPC\AC Renewables Australia  
*A UPC Renewables and AC Energy Company*



**M:** +61 403 857 079  
**E:** [tim.kirk@upc-ac.com](mailto:tim.kirk@upc-ac.com)

**Hobart:** Suite 2, Level 2, 15 Castray Esplanade, Battery Point, TAS 7004  
**Melbourne:** 61 Cromwell Street, Collingwood VIC 3066  
**Sydney:** Level 14, 77 King Street, Sydney, NSW 2000

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**From:** Tim Kirk <[Tim.Kirk@upc-ac.com](mailto:Tim.Kirk@upc-ac.com)> on behalf of Tim Kirk <[Tim.Kirk@upc-ac.com](mailto:Tim.Kirk@upc-ac.com)>

**Date:** Wednesday, 19 August 2020 at 3:07 pm

**To:** Matt Clarkson <[MClarkson@uralla.nsw.gov.au](mailto:MClarkson@uralla.nsw.gov.au)>

**Cc:** Tim Greenaway <[tim.greenaway@upc-ac.com](mailto:tim.greenaway@upc-ac.com)>

**Subject:** New England Solar Farm - management plans for Council's review

Hi Matt,

Hope you have been well.

UPC are currently preparing for the commencement of construction of the New England Solar Farm. Before we are allowed to start construction we are required to consult with Uralla Shire Council on a number of management plans pursuant to Schedule 3, item 19 of the New England Solar Farm's Development Consent.

UPC are seeking Uralla Shire Council's review and feedback on the **Historic Heritage Management Plan** and **Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan**, both attached to this email. The UPC team are available for a teleconference if required.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Kind Regards,

**Tim Kirk** | Project Development Manager  
UPC\AC Renewables Australia  
*A UPC Renewables and AC Energy Company*

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**M:** [+61 403 857 079](tel:+61403857079)

**E:** [tim.kirk@upc-ac.com](mailto:tim.kirk@upc-ac.com)

**Hobart:** Suite 2, Level 2, 15 Castray Esplanade, Battery Point, TAS 7004

**Melbourne:** 61 Cromwell Street, Collingwood VIC 3066

**Sydney:** Level 14, 77 King Street, Sydney, NSW 2000

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# APPENDIX D

## NES AH DATABASE

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### D1 DATABASE CONTENTS

The NES AH Database is a digital and live appendix issued to and kept by ACEN Australia which contains the following:

- A MS Excel spreadsheet of Aboriginal site details and survey transect data;
- GIS shapefiles of the following:
  - Aboriginal site point data;
  - Aboriginal site areas;
  - Aboriginal PAD areas;
  - GPS tracks of survey transects completed for the ACHA.

# **APPENDIX E**

## **CARE AGREEMENT**

---

## Care Agreement

Your reference: New England Solar Farm SSD-9255  
Our reference: EF22/7642  
Document number: DOC23/22156  
Notice number: 5045  
Contact: [heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au)

### NOTICE ISSUED TO

Armidale and Region Aboriginal Cultural Centre and Keeping Place Inc  
c/o Ms Elizabeth (Rose) Lovelock  
96-104 Kentucky Street  
Armidale NSW 2350

Dear Ms Lovelock,

### CARE AGREEMENT NOTICE NUMBER 5045

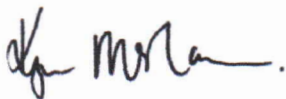
I refer to your application for the transfer of Aboriginal objects for safe keeping under section 85A(1)(c) of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW Act), received by Heritage NSW on 30 May 2022.

Heritage NSW has considered the application and supporting information provided and has decided to transfer the Aboriginal objects to Armidale and Region Aboriginal Cultural Centre and Keeping Place Inc pursuant to s85A(1)(c) of the NPW Act, under a Care Agreement which includes a number of conditions. The Care Agreement is attached.

To execute the agreement and for it to be valid you need to:

1. Sign the agreement in front of a witness in the space provided at the back of the form under "Care Agreement Executed as a Deed",
2. Have your witness sign the agreement in the space provided
3. Return the signed and witnessed agreement back to Heritage NSW.
4. Heritage NSW will then sign the agreement for it to come into effect.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss this matter further please contact Barry Gunther on 02 9995 6830 or [barry.gunther@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:barry.gunther@environment.nsw.gov.au).



**Kym McNamara**  
Manager Assessments  
Heritage NSW  
Department of Planning and Environment  
(As Delegate under *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*)

Date: 10 March 2023



## Care Agreement

### Care Agreement for the transfer and safekeeping of Aboriginal objects Notice Number: 5045

Section 85A(1)(c) *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW Act)

#### Heritage NSW

Environment and Heritage, Department of Planning and Environment

Locked Bag 5020

Parramatta NSW 2124

Telephone number: (02) 9873 8500

Email: [heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au)

## SCHEDULE A

### Reference Schedule

Item 1	Name of Agreement Holder:  Registered Business Address:  Email:  Phone number:  ABN:	C/O Ms Elizabeth (Rose) Lovelock Armidale and Region Aboriginal Cultural Centre and Keeping Place Inc 96 – 104 Kentucky Street Armidale, NSW 2350.  director@acckp.com.au  (02) 6771 3606  308 9074 7753
Item 2	State Significant development / Infrastructure number	SSD 9255 – New England Solar Farm
Item 3	Commencement date	Date agreement signed
Item 4	Term of care agreement	10 Years
Item 5	New storage location of Aboriginal objects	Armidale and Region Aboriginal Cultural Centre and Keeping Place Inc In Archival bag in locked room

### Details

### Parties

Secretary of the Department of Planning and Environment

And

The party identified at Item 1 of Schedule A to this Care Agreement (**Agreement holder**)

Care Agreement Notice No. 5045

Reference: EF22/7642

Printed: 4:28:48 PM 14/03/2023

Heritage NSW | Department of Planning and Environment | Locked Bag 5020 Parramatta NSW 2124 | Phone: 02 9873 8500

Email: [heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au) | [www.heritage.nsw.gov.au](http://www.heritage.nsw.gov.au) |

Page 2 of 11

Project Name: New England Solar Farm SSD-9255

### BACKGROUND

- A.** On 30 May 2022 an application was made to the Secretary of the Department of Planning and Environment for the transfer and safekeeping of Aboriginal objects pursuant to s.85A(1)(c) of the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974.
- B.** UPC Renewables Australia Pty Ltd (UPC) proposes to develop the New England Solar Farm; a significant grid-connected solar farm and battery energy storage system (BESS) along with associated infrastructure, approximately 6 kilometres (km) east of the township of Uralla, which lies approximately 19 km south of Armidale in the Uralla Shire local government area (LGA) (the project).
- C.** The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents (DECCW 2010) were used for completion of the ACHAR in order to satisfy the EIS requirements.
- D.** EMM issued a letter to government agencies on 6 April 2018 requesting advice on which Aboriginal parties to invite for consultation.
- E.** The Aboriginal parties identified by the government agencies were invited to register their interest in the project on 23 April 2018 via letter and email.
- F.** An advertisement was placed in the Armidale Express on 13 April 2018 allowing a 14 day registration period.
- G.** Eight Aboriginal parties registered their interest in being consulted for the project being Armidale Local Aboriginal Land Council Tom Briggs, Nunawanna Aboriginal Corporation Colin Ahoy, Armidale and New England Gumbaynggirr Descendents Hazel Green, Les Townsend, Steven Ahoy Consultants, Culturally Aware Aboriginal Heritage Consultancy Cheryl Kitchener, Nyakka Aboriginal Culture Heritage Corporation Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Consultants Rhonda Kitchener, Aaron Broad and Nganyawana Clan Group Les Ahoy.
- H.** On 9 May 2018, EMM issued a letter to all RAPs registered for the presentation of project information and assessment methods.
- I.** Nganyawana Clan Group (Les Ahoy) expressed their interest in the project on 14 May 2018.
- J.** UPC and EMM held an on-site consultation meeting with RAPs on 21 May 2018 prior to commencing the first day of the archaeological survey.
- K.** The draft ACHA and management recommendations, was issued to all RAPs on 28 September 2018.
- Only two responses to the draft ACHA were received, which were submitted verbally. Cheryl Kitchener (Culturally Aware Aboriginal Heritage Consultancy) called EMM on 26 October 2018 to provide comments on the ACHA verbally. Cheryl stated that she agreed with the draft ACHA generally but had a small number of comments.
  - Rhonda Kitchener (Nyakka Aboriginal Culture Heritage Corporation Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Consultants) also called on 26 October 2018 stating her support of Cheryl's comments.
- L.** UPC and EMM held a consultation meeting at Armidale Bowling Club on Friday 19 October 2018 and invited all RAPs to attend.
- The RAP meeting attendees supported the collection of surface artefacts within the development footprint for storage and curation at the Armidale and Region Aboriginal



## Care Agreement

Cultural Centre and Keeping Place. However, it was also noted that McCrossins Mill Museum and the Uralla Visitor Information Centre may also be appropriate places for some of the collection.

- RAP consultation for the project ACHA was completed between April 2018 and September 2019. The management measures outlined in the ACHA reviewed by RAPs included the establishment of a keeping place at Armidale and Region Cultural Centre and Keeping Place (ARCCCKP). RAPs supported this as the keeping place.
- M.** An application for a Care Agreement signed by Armidale and Region Aboriginal Cultural Centre and Keeping Place Inc has been received by Heritage NSW.
- N.** The artefacts will be stored in a locked cabinet at Armidale and Region Aboriginal Cultural Centre and Keeping Place Inc at 96 – 104 Kentucky Street Armidale NSW 2350.
- O.** Heritage NSW considered the application and supporting information provided and decided to enter into this Care Agreement subject to conditions.

**Note:** A Dictionary at the end of the Care Agreement defines terms used in this document. Further information about this Care Agreement is also set out after the Dictionary

## Care Agreement

### OPERATIVE PROVISIONS

#### 1 COMMENCEMENT AND DURATION OF THE CARE AGREEMENT

1.1 The Care Agreement commences on the commencement date set out at Item 3 of Schedule A.

1.2 The term of this Care Agreement is stated at Item 4 of Schedule A.

#### 2 LOCATION OF OBJECTS TO WHICH THIS CARE AGREEMENT APPLIES

2.1 The location/s of Aboriginal Objects to which this Care Agreement applies is/are set out in Item 5 of Schedule A.

#### 3 TRANSFER OF ABORIGINAL OBJECTS

3.1 Pursuant to s85A(1)(c) of the Act, the Aboriginal objects specified in Schedule B are transferred to the Agreement holder in accordance with the conditions of this Care Agreement.

#### 4 RESPONSIBILITIES OF AGREEMENT HOLDER FOR SAFEKEEPING

4.1 Upon transfer of the Aboriginal objects specified in Schedule B to the Agreement holder, the safekeeping of those Aboriginal objects is the responsibility of the Agreement holder.

4.2 The Agreement Holder is to abide by the terms of this Care Agreement.

4.3 The Agreement holder must ensure that all persons involved in the safekeeping of the Aboriginal objects specified in Schedule B (whether employees, contractors, sub-contractors, agents or other persons granted access) are made aware of and comply with the conditions of this Care Agreement.

4.4 If the Aboriginal objects specified in Schedule B are loaned out for educational/display purposes, the responsibility for their safekeeping still rests with the Agreement holder.

#### 5 CONDITIONS OF SAFEKEEPING

5.1 Upon transfer to the Agreement holder, the Aboriginal objects specified in Schedule B are to be stored securely at the storage location identified at [Item 5 of Schedule A]

5.2 A copy of Schedule B, which list the object, must be kept with the collection.

5.3 The Aboriginal objects must be stored in Archival bag in locked room as agreed with the RAPS.

5.4 Archival bag must be externally labelled using permanent marker, and an 'independent' label on robust material (e.g. tyvek) written with permanent marker must be placed inside each box or bag, next to the object on display.

The label must identify its:

5.4.1 contents

5.4.2 origin

5.4.3 storage location (any other information that will ensure that a bag and its contents can be returned to its correct storage location if it is left outside the storage box for any reason)



## Care Agreement

**5.5** Upon request, the Agreement holder must provide reasonable access to the Aboriginal objects specified in Schedule B, to any persons in accordance with Aboriginal lore and custom.

**5.6** Upon request from Heritage NSW, the Agreement holder must provide reasonable access to Aboriginal objects specified in Schedule B to any Heritage NSW authorised officer.

## 6 NOTIFICATION AND REPORTING CONDITIONS

### 6.1 Written notice

**6.1.1** The Agreement holder must notify Heritage NSW in writing within 7 days of taking custody of the Aboriginal objects specified in Schedule B.

**6.1.2** Any requirement to provide written notice to Heritage NSW in this Care Agreement may be complied with by emailing the notice to Heritage NSW or by sending by registered post to Heritage NSW. The Heritage NSW office's contact details are specified at the front of this Care Agreement.

**6.2** The Agreement holder must seek approval from Heritage NSW by applying in writing to Heritage NSW, if they intend to move the Aboriginal objects specified in Schedule B to another location. The Aboriginal objects, subject to the application, must not be moved to the new location, until Heritage NSW has issued a written approval to the Agreement holder.

**6.3** The Agreement holder must provide a copy of this Care Agreement to each Registered Aboriginal Party or others consulted, within 14 days from the date of this Care Agreement, to inform these parties of the Care Agreement.

## 7 GENERAL PROVISIONS

### 7.1 Variation of Care Agreement

**7.1.1** The Agreement holder may apply to Heritage NSW in writing for a variation of any conditions of a Care Agreement.

### 7.2 Transfer of Care Agreement to another person

**7.2.1** Only the Secretary of Department of Premier and Cabinet can transfer Aboriginal objects under s85A1(c) of the Act.

**7.2.2** If the Agreement holder wants the safekeeping under the Care Agreement to be the responsibility of another person, the Agreement holder must notify Heritage NSW in writing. The proposed new Care Agreement holder must then submit an application for a Care Agreement to Heritage NSW. This clause also applies in circumstances where a company is sold or wound up.

### 7.3 Termination of Care Agreement

**7.3.1** The Care Agreement may be terminated at any time at the discretion of the Secretary of Department of Premier and Cabinet, including where the Agreement Holder does not honour the terms of this Care Agreement.

**7.3.2** Upon termination of the Care Agreement, the Agreement holder must arrange with Heritage NSW for the return of the Aboriginal objects within **28 Days**.

**7.3.3** In the event the Agreement holder can no longer ensure safekeeping of the objects in accordance with the terms of the Care Agreement, whether by reason of death or other unexpected circumstances, the Aboriginal objects must be returned to the Secretary of Department of Premier and Cabinet,

## Care Agreement

### 8 DICTIONARY

8.1 In this Care Agreement, unless the contrary is indicated, the terms below have the following meanings:

<b>Aboriginal object(s)</b>	has the same meaning as in the Act
<b>Act</b>	means the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NSW)
<b>Agreement holder</b>	means the person listed at Item 1 in Schedule A
<b>AHIMS</b>	means the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System maintained by DPE
<b>AHIP</b>	means an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit issued by OEH under Part 6 of the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NSW)
<b>Application</b>	means the completed application form and all other documents in written or electronic form which accompanied the application when it was lodged or which were subsequently submitted in support of the application.
<b>Authorised officer</b>	means an employee of the DPE who is appointed as authorised officer under s.156B of the Act
<b>Care Agreement</b>	Means this document and includes all Schedules
<b>DPE</b>	Department of Planning and Environment
<b>Heritage NSW Office</b>	means the office listed on the cover page of this Care Agreement
<b>Secretary DPE</b>	means the Secretary of Department of Planning and Environment
<b>Local Aboriginal group</b>	means the following groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Armidale and Region Aboriginal Cultural Centre and Keeping Place Inc</li> <li>• 96 – 104 Kentucky Street Armidale NSW 2350</li> <li>• Ms Elizabeth (Rose) Lovelock</li> </ul>
<b>Registered Aboriginal Parties</b>	means the following parties: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Armidale Local Aboriginal Land Council - Tom Briggs</li> <li>• Nunawanna Aboriginal Corporation - Colin Ahoy</li> <li>• Armidale and New England Gumbaynggirr Descendents - Hazel Green</li> <li>• Les Townsend</li> <li>• Steven Ahoy Consultants - Steven Ahoy</li> <li>• Culturally Aware Aboriginal Heritage Consultancy - Cheryl Kitchener</li> <li>• Nyakka Aboriginal Culture Heritage Corporation Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Consultants -Rhonda Kitchener</li> <li>• Aaron Broad</li> <li>• Nganyawana Clan Group - Les Ahoy</li> </ul>
<b>Salvage</b>	the recovery of Aboriginal objects in accordance with the conditions of any AHIP referred to in the Care Agreement.



## Care Agreement

### CARE AGREEMENT EXECUTED AS A DEED

EXECUTED for and on behalf of the Secretary of the Department of  
Planning and Environment

By

Kym Mcnamara

Name

Date

Manager Assessments

Position

Signature

Name of Witness (print)

Witness (signature)

Date

---

EXECUTED for and on behalf of the Agreement holder

By

Rose Lovelock

Name

10, 09, 2023

Date

Director AccKD

Position

Rhove lock

Signature

[Signature]

Witness (signature)

10, 09, 2023

Date

David Harney

Name of Witness (print)

## SCHEDULE B

### ABORIGINAL OBJECTS

Aboriginal Objects Identified on AHIMS:

AHIMS Site ID	Site Feature	Description of Objects	Number of Objects
21-4-0197	Isolated find	Isolated silcrete core identified on a hill slope context. Site is amongst minor pavement silcrete outcropping.	1
21-4-0198	Isolated find	Isolated silcrete flaked piece identified on hill slope.	1
21-4-0200	Isolated find	Silcrete distal flake isolated find on a footslope landform	1
21-4-0201	Isolated find	Single greywacke core identified on hill crest landform	1
21-4-0203	Isolated find	Isolated silcrete flake identified adjacent to a stream channel of a first order stream.	1
21-4-0205	Isolated find, PAD	Single basalt retouched flake representing an axe blank identified within vehicle track cutting on spur crest between the confluence of two streams.	1
21-4-0208	Artefact scatter	Artefact scatter comprising chert and silcrete material and flake and core artefact types. Identified on vehicle track on crest landform.	5
21-4-0210	Artefact scatter	Open artefact scatter of silcrete and chert cores and one retouched silcrete flake identified distributed across hill crest and hill slope landform. Test excavation of this site revealed no archaeological deposit. Minimal to no soil present.	7
21-4-0211	Artefact scatter	Three silcrete cores identified on lower hill slope landform near drainage depression.	4
21-4-0213	Isolated find	Isolated silcrete core identified in a cultivated/ploughed field paddock on a plain landform.	1

Care Agreement Notice No. 5045

Reference: EF22/7642

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Project Name: New England Solar Farm SSD-9255



## Care Agreement

AHIMS Site ID	Site Feature	Description of Objects	Number of Objects
21-4-0237	Isolated find	Isolated chert core identified on rocky granite hill crest.	1
21-4-0241	Artefact scatter	Artefact scatter identified on southern edge of hill crest.	6
21-4-0243	Isolated find	Rounded quartzite stone, possible hammerstone or manuport.	1
21-4-0244	Scarred tree	Probable scar tree on a small spur crest. Tree has been cut down and scar is cut in half. Base of tree is missing.	1
21-4-0253	Isolated find	Single isolated silcrete core identified amongst small cobbles of silcrete and quartz on a very broad hill crest. Nearby cobbles inspected but with no sign of human modification.	1
21-4-0254	Isolated find	Isolated silcrete core identified on spur crest landform. Site is nearby some outcropping silcrete bedrock that is common and continues across the landform.	1
21-4-0255	Isolated find	Single large greywacke flake identified in a pile of greywacke and silcrete cobbles - the result of paddock rock clearing. As such, context is highly disturbed.	1
21-4-0256	Isolated find	Single retouched greywacke flake on small spur crest, overlooking 1st order crest. Artefact is amongst smaller cobbles of natural grey wacke, but there is evidence of rock collecting a piling.	1
21-4-0257	Isolated find	Isolated silcrete core on hill slope landform. Site is down slope from NE14 and isolated. Very likely to have rolled down slope post-deposition.	1
21-4-0258	Isolated find	Isolated silcrete flaked piece identified on stream bank.	1
21-4-0259	Artefact scatter	Two small silcrete flakes identified on a disturbed mound on a small spur crest. Area appears to have been	2
21-4-0262	Isolated find	Isolated silcrete core identified within a cattle track exposure adjacent to a fence line on a broad plain	1

Care Agreement Notice No. 5045

Reference: EF22/7642

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Project Name: New England Solar Farm SSD-9255



## Care Agreement

AHIMS Site ID	Site Feature	Description of Objects	Number of Objects
21-4-0267	Isolated find	Isolated quartzite hammerstone identified on spur crest landform on exposure under living tree. Both ends of hammerstone show signs of crushing.	1
21-4-0268	Isolated find	Isolated silcrete flake identified on large sheetwash exposure on gentle hill slope.	1
21-4-0269	Isolated find	Isolated silcrete flake identified on vehicle track next to ploughed paddock.	1
21-4-0275	Artefact scatter	Two silcrete flakes identified on hill slope directly adjacent to drainage depression.	2
21-4-0281	Isolated find	Isolated quartzite core identified on recently ploughed hill slope beneath paddock tree.	1
21-4-0282	Isolated find	Isolated silcrete flake identified amongst outcropping granite and/or silcrete on hill slope.	1
21-4-0283	Isolated find	Isolated greywacke retouched cobble. Bifacial flaking evident at both ends of cobble suggesting initial stages of axe blank preparation.	1
21-4-0284	Isolated find	Isolated core on hill crest. Light grey silcrete but very homogenous with very few coarse inclusions, distinctively not the same material as the silcrete outcropping in the surrounding Saumarez soil landscape.	1
21-4-0285	Isolated find	Isolated silcrete flake identified on a hill slope in a vehicle track exposure.	1
21-4-0290	Isolated find	Single grey/brown silcrete flake identified in ploughed paddock. Recently exposed from ploughing event.	1
21-4-0291	Isolated find	Single grey/brown silcrete flake identified in ploughed paddock. Recently exposed from ploughing event.	1
Total number of objects is			53

# **APPENDIX F**

## **ABORIGINAL SITE AUDIT TEMPLATE**

## Visual condition assessment checklist for Aboriginal heritage sites

This checklist is to be used when conducting visual condition assessments of Aboriginal cultural heritage sites identified for avoidance or protection in accordance with the New England Solar Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan (AHMP).

The purpose of the checklist is to

1. Maintain the condition of heritage sites identified for avoidance or protection as much as practically possible
2. Record any changes in conditions
3. Identify and implement maintenance or corrective actions
4. Ensure avoidance or protection management activities are actively in place over the life of the project

Visual condition assessments may be undertaken at any time by an ACEN Australia representative and/or a Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP). ACEN Australia will maintain a record of completed visual condition assessments. Copies are to be provided to RAPs.

Photos of sites/items must be taken as part of the visual condition assessment and stored in this document.

### References

Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan

[https://newenglandsolar.com.au/documents/194/AHMP\\_August\\_2022.pdf](https://newenglandsolar.com.au/documents/194/AHMP_August_2022.pdf)

## Checklist

Section 1: Details	
Date and time:	
AHMP site number and name	<i>List the name/# applied to the site</i>
AHMP site type	<i>Select relevant AHMP site type</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Artefact Site <input type="checkbox"/> Grinding Groove Site <input type="checkbox"/> Scar Tree Site
AHMP significance rating:	<i>Select relevant AHMP rating</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate <input type="checkbox"/> High
Present at the visual condition assessment:	<i>List the full names of ACEN and RAP members present for the condition assessment</i>



Section 2: Condition assessment	
2.1: General (applies to all site types)	
<b>Site fencing condition</b>	<p>Select</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Good</b> (no management required)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Fair</b> (meets operational requirements but needs non-urgent minor repair or maintenance). <i>List action/s below.</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Poor</b> (requires repair or maintenance urgently). <i>List action/s below.</i></p> <p>Additional comments:</p>
	<p><b>Actions</b></p> <p><i>List any actions required, including frequency</i></p>
	<p><b>Photos</b></p> <p><i>Photos of site/item must be taken during the inspection. Refer to Section 3.</i></p>
	<p><b>Next assessment</b></p> <p><i>List the date for the next visual condition assessment</i></p>
<b>Native vegetation (to be retained within site boundary)</b>	<p>Select</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>None present</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Present</b> but requires no management</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Present</b> and requires management (e.g weeding or removal debris etc). <i>List action/s below.</i></p> <p>Additional comments:</p>
	<p><b>Actions</b></p> <p><i>List any actions required, including frequency</i></p>

	<b>Photos</b> <i>Photos of site/item must be taken during the inspection. Refer to Section 3.</i>	
	<b>Next assessment</b> <i>List the date for the next visual condition assessment</i>	
<b>Grass and weed condition</b>	<i>Select</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Good</b> (inspector can walk through site without hazard) <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Fair</b> (inspector can access site but it requires non-urgent grass and weed management). <i>List action/s below.</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Poor</b> (site is inaccessible and may present risk to integrity of archaeological site content, requires urgent management). <i>List action/s below.</i>  <i>Additional comments:</i>	
	<b>Actions</b> <i>List any actions required, including frequency</i>	
	<b>Photos</b> <i>Photos of site/item must be taken during the inspection. Refer to Section 3.</i>	
	<b>Next assessment</b> <i>List the date for the next visual condition assessment</i>	
<b>Rubbish</b>	Is there rubbish to be collected from site? <i>Select</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>	

2.2: Scar Tree sites (complete only if relevant)	
<b>Tree condition (for standing trees only)</b>	<p><i>Select</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Good</b> (tree is standing and does not appear to be at risk of collapse or limb loss)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Fair</b> (tree is standing but may be at risk of falling or limb loss. Eg trunk stabiliser roots are rotted/missing, limbs are cracked or highly degraded). Further assessment required. <i>List action/s below.</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Poor</b> (tree has fallen or experienced significant damage). Urgently consider options for salvage under AHMP. <i>List action/s below.</i></p> <p><i>Additional comments:</i></p>
	<p><b>Actions</b></p> <p><i>List any actions required, including frequency</i></p>
	<p><b>Photos</b></p> <p><i>Photos of site/item must be taken during the inspection. Refer to Section 3.</i></p>
	<p><b>Next assessment</b></p> <p><i>List the date for the next visual condition assessment</i></p>
<b>Scar condition</b>	<p><i>Select</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Good</b> (scar is visible and intact/same condition as originally identified)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Fair</b> (scar has degraded when compared to last inspection and may require management – non urgent). <i>List action/s below.</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Poor</b> (Scar is missing or severely degraded and requires urgent management considerations/potential salvage under AHMP). <i>List action/s below.</i></p> <p><i>Additional comments:</i></p>
	<p><b>Actions</b></p> <p><i>List any actions required, including frequency</i></p>



	<b>Photos</b> <i>Photos of site/item must be taken during the inspection. Refer to Section 3.</i>	
	<b>Next assessment</b> <i>List the date for the next visual condition assessment</i>	

2.3: Grinding Groove site (complete only if relevant)	
<b>Groove condition</b>	<p><i>Select</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Good</b> (grinding groove locations are clearly visible and accounted for, no visible damage)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Fair</b> (grinding groove locations are mostly visible, but weeding/grass management is required to better expose them – non-urgent). <i>List action/s below.</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Poor</b> (grinding groove locations are not determinable due to extensive grass/weed coverage, urgent grass and weed management needed to make further assessment). <i>List action/s below.</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Poor</b> (grinding grooves are damaged). <i>List action/s below.</i></p> <p><i>Additional comments:</i></p>
	<p><b>Actions</b></p> <p><i>List any actions required, including frequency</i></p>
	<p><b>Photos</b></p> <p><i>Photos of site/item must be taken during the inspection. Refer to Section 3.</i></p>
	<p><b>Next assessment</b></p> <p><i>List the date for the next visual condition assessment</i></p>

2.4: Artefact site	
Stone artefact condition	<p><i>Select</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Good</b> (artefacts are visible and site is in good condition)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Fair</b> (artefacts are not visible, but site is otherwise in good condition. Note that it is unlikely that stone artefacts will always be visible due to changing ground surface conditions. Inspector should assume artefacts are still within the site unless there is reason to believe otherwise (such as unauthorised site damage). <i>List action/s below.</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Poor</b> (site contents are damaged and require urgent management considerations.</p> <p><i>Additional Comments:</i></p>
	<p><b>Actions</b></p> <p><i>List any actions required, including frequency</i></p>
	<p><b>Photos</b></p> <p><i>Photos of site/item must be taken during the inspection. Refer to Section 3.</i></p>
	<p><b>Next assessment</b></p> <p><i>List the date for the next visual condition assessment</i></p>

## Section 3: Photos

Photos of sites/items must be taken as part of the visual condition assessment and stored in this document.

<b>AHMP site number and name</b>	<i>Insert photo here</i>
	<i>Provide a description of the photo here</i>
<b>AHMP site number and name</b>	<i>Insert photo here</i>
	<i>Provide a description of the photo here</i>
<i>To add more photos, copy and paste row above</i>	

# **APPENDIX G**

## **CULTURAL TOOLBOX SESSION**

### **REFERENCE MATERIAL**



# New England Solar Farm Operational Induction

Rev B – 28/08/2023

*We acknowledge the Anaiwan People as the Traditional Custodians of the land of the Anaiwan Nation on which the solar farm is located. We recognise their continuing connection to land and water of this region. We pay respect to Elders past and present, and emerging leaders in the community. The solar farm contains Aboriginal sites of high significance to the community, and we are committed to managing the sites with care and respect.”*

- Aboriginal and historical heritage sites have been identified across the project boundary and beyond.
- These sites are of high significance and importance to the Aboriginal community and must be treated with respect.
- Sites are protected by law, the development consent includes conditions allowing impacts to certain specified sites in accordance with the Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan and Historical Heritage Management Plan.
- Sites can be hard to recognize, therefore reference must be made to maps of sites in order to clearly identify them.
- Certain identified sites have been protected or salvaged by suitably qualified people. Notwithstanding, there are new find procedures which involve stopping work if suspected sites are identified.



# Environmental Controls – Heritage

- Aboriginal heritage sites within Zones A, B, and D have been actively protected using signed fencing. Do not enter these areas without permission.
- Historical heritage sites, and some Aboriginal heritages sites outside the solar farm have not been fenced. To avoid damaging these sites, do not cross the perimeter fence except in an emergency.



Aboriginal heritage site fencing  
– do not enter



Plate 3.2 Scar tree NE97 close-up

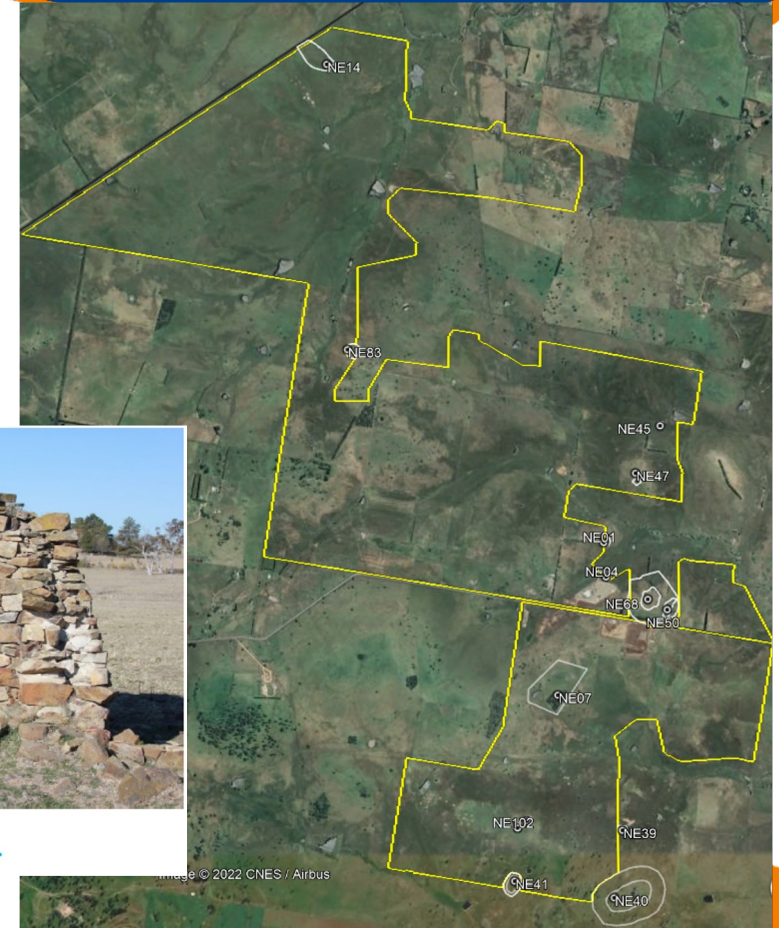
Aboriginal heritage site



Plate C.8

HNE36: The main hut ruin.

Historical heritage site



## New find procedures:

- If you suspect you have discovered an Aboriginal or historical heritage item or site, immediately stop work in the area (minimum 10 m buffer) and report to the work supervisor.
- Temporary fencing will be erected and ACEN will implement the remainder of the new find procedure in accordance with the relevant management plan.
- Suitably qualified personnel (such as archaeologists and/or Aboriginal party representatives) will determine if the site is important.
- Work is not to recommence in the area until the new find procedure is completed.



Plate 3.6 Silcrete flake NE98



Plate 3.7 Silcrete flake NE99



# **APPENDIX H SECRETARY'S APPROVAL OF THIS PLAN**

Sarah Donnan  
Project Manager - NES  
ACEN Australia  
96b Bridge Street  
Uralla, NSW, 2358

30/11/2023

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Subject: New England Solar – Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan for Stage 1b, Stage 2a and Stage 3a

Dear Mrs Donnan,

I refer to your submission requesting approval of the Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan for Stage 1b, Stage 2a and Stage 3a (Revision 9 dated 24 November 2023). I also acknowledge your response to the Department's review comments and request for additional information.

The Department has carefully reviewed the document and is satisfied that it meets the requirements of the relevant conditions in consent (SSD-9255 as modified).

As nominee of the Planning Secretary, I approve the Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan for Stage 1b, Stage 2a and Stage 3a (Revision 9 dated 24 November 2023).

Please ensure you make the document publicly available on the project website at the earliest convenience.

If you wish to discuss the matter further, please contact Katie Weekes on (02) 4927 3223 or via email at [katie.weekes@dpie.nsw.gov.au](mailto:katie.weekes@dpie.nsw.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



Iwan Davies  
Director  
Energy Assessments

As nominee of the Planning Secretary

