

Work continues to protect Aboriginal cultural heritage

The area near an Aboriginal cultural heritage site next to the New England Solar project is being prepared for re-seeding under plans to help restore native vegetation and protect the significant site.

The site includes a meeting place at a small rocky outcrop that was identified as part of field surveys around five years ago for the solar and battery project assessment and approvals process.

It includes a significant grinding groove site where it is believed Aboriginal people gathered to learn, celebrate events and trade, as well as other significant items such as scar trees and stone artefacts.

A team from Iwatta Kyuna Management, which translates to Echidna Land Management, has been mowing grass, slashing and spraying weeds and shrubs to help control invasive weeds and protect the site from wildfires.

The maintenance work will prepare the area surrounding the site for seeding of native plants and help rejuvenate bush tucker and medicinal plants.



Iwatta Kyuna Management maintenance crew Robert Daley, Daphne Blair, Nathaniel Daley-Cutmore, Sammi-Li Blair and Patrick Smith



New England Solar trees bring new life to Peel River

A small number of paddock trees removed from the New England Solar project site will be used as tree snags in the Peel River, as part of an important environmental initiative designed to improve biodiversity and native fish breeding habitat.

About 50 hardwood trees will be installed along a 30-kilometre stretch of river downstream of Chaffey Dam towards Tamworth, as part of WaterNSW's Chaffey Dam pipeline biodiversity offset plan.

Each snag will be placed carefully in the river to reduce erosion by protecting riverbanks and support aquatic habitats.

Macroinvertebrates, or water bugs, graze on the wood and microbes that grow on the snags, which provide food and protection for native fish, frogs and birds.

Snags are a natural feature that accumulate over time as trees, branches and root masses fall into rivers due to flooding, bank erosion, wind or limb shedding.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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