

Our Ref: 1522.500

17 December 2021

Mr Rory McManus
Hexham Wind Farm Pty Ltd
PO Box 110
Fitzroy VIC 3065

Re: A Summary of Aboriginal and Historic Heritage Matters at Hexham Wind Farm

Dear Rory,

Tardis Archaeology Pty Ltd (formerly Archaeology At Tardis Pty Ltd) have been engaged to carry out the cultural heritage investigations for the Hexham Wind Farm project in relation to both Aboriginal and historic cultural heritage. The following information has been compiled taking into consideration the form *Referral of a Project for a Decision on the need for Assessment under the Environment Effects Act 1978* (Version 7: March 2020).

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

Cultural Heritage Investigations

Investigations commenced in 2011 with the preparation of a preliminary cultural heritage review (Murphy & Morris 2011) which included a desktop assessment and site visit. The known heritage values were identified and a site prediction model formulated which identified areas of archaeological potential. The report determined that a mandatory Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) was required.

CHMP 16327 was commenced on 21 January 2019. The desktop assessment identified 112 registered Aboriginal places in the project area on the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register (VAHR) including mounds, artefacts scatters and a soil deposit. Two historical references were also identified. A site prediction model was formulated and areas of archaeological potential were identified. A standard assessment was conducted on an older infrastructure layout. No tangible evidence of the Aboriginal places was found. The

standard assessment identified registered Aboriginal places, waterways and stony rises as areas of Aboriginal cultural heritage sensitivity. Historical references may have intangible Aboriginal cultural heritage sensitivity to Indigenous organisations. The methodology for the desktop and standard assessment complied with the standards in the *Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018*, relevant Guidelines, approved forms and Practice Notes.

Traditional Owner Group and First Peoples – State Relations Engagement

Engagement on the project commenced during the preparation of the preliminary cultural heritage review (Murphy & Morris 2011). At that time, there was no Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) with responsibility for the majority of the project except for a small portion of which was under the area of the former RAP, Martang Pty Ltd. Other Traditional Owner Groups included the Kuuyang Maar Aboriginal Corporation (KMAC), the Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation (GMTOAC) and the Ella Maar Aboriginal Corporation (EMAC). Consultation was conducted with all groups.

At CHMP inception there was no Registered Aboriginal Party with responsibility for the project apart from Martang Pty Ltd. First Peoples – State Relations (FPSR) advised that the relevant TOGs were the Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation (EMAC) and GMTOAC. A draft desktop assessment component for CHMP 16327 was provided to FPSR on 4 April 2019. A CHMP project inception meeting was held on 12 April 2019 with FPSR and GMTOAC. EMAC was invited but was unable to attend. A standard assessment (ground surface survey) was conducted from 24 June to 18 July 2019 with the participation of GMTOAC and EMAC. Subsequently, EMAC was appointed the RAP with responsibility for the project. Consultation with EMAC and FPSR will be on-going during the CHMP preparation. Consultation will include assessment methodology, participation in fieldwork, assessment of the significance of tangible Aboriginal cultural heritage, and the identification, recording and significance assessment of any intangible Aboriginal cultural heritage.

Mitigation of Potential Cultural Heritage Impacts

The project layout has been designed to take into account the areas of cultural heritage sensitivity mapped on the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register. All Aboriginal places and intangible Aboriginal cultural heritage in the project area will be managed in compliance with the conditions in the approved CHMP. These conditions will be formulated after consultation with FPSR and EMAC. Under Section 61 matters, consideration will be given to avoid, minimise or manage harm to Aboriginal places.

Historic Cultural Heritage

Cultural Heritage Investigations

Investigations commenced in 2011 with the preparation of a preliminary cultural heritage review (Murphy & Morris 2011) which included a desktop assessment and site visit. Known historic heritage values were identified. There are two historic places on the Heritage Register:

- H1856 [Bridge Over Burchett Creek]

- H1700 [Stone Mileposts] (near the corner of Warrnambool-Caramut Road & Keillors Road)

No historic places are on the Heritage Inventory. A site prediction model was formulated which identified areas of archaeological potential. It was recommended that a stand-alone historic heritage assessment be prepared which would conduct a survey for historic sites in the infrastructure zone and avoid harm to any historic site if possible. A survey for historic heritage was conducted concurrently with the standard assessment for CHMP 16327. No new historic heritage places were recorded.

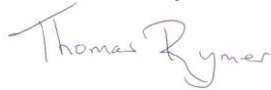
Heritage Victoria Engagement

Heritage Victoria will be consulted if any historic heritage places in the project area require management.

Mitigation of Potential Cultural Heritage Impacts

All historic heritage in the project area will be managed in compliance with the recommendations in the historic heritage assessment. These recommendations will be formulated after consultation with Heritage Victoria. Consideration will be given to avoid, minimise or manage harm to historic places.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Tom Rymer
Archaeologist

REFERENCES

Andrea Murphy and Andrew Morris. 26 September 2011
Hexham Wind Farm: Preliminary Cultural Heritage Review. A report prepared by
Archaeology At Tardis for Wind Prospect WA Pty Ltd.