

## **APPENDIX D UPDATED ABORIGINAL CONSULTATION**

**Additional consultation undertaken for proposed changes Log**

Organisation	Action	Date Sent	Reply Date	Replied by	Response
<b>Project updated letter</b>					
Binjang Wellington Wiradjuri heritage Survey	letter update re Project sent via email	1/10/2020			
Wellington LALC	letter update re Project sent via email	1/10/2020			
Wellington Valley Wiradjuri Aboriginal Corporation	letter update re Project sent via email	1/10/2020			
Gallangabang Aboriginal Corporation	letter update re Project sent via email	1/10/2020			
<b>Email follow re comments on Project update</b>					
Binjang Wellington Wiradjuri heritage Survey	Follow up for any comment via email	22/10/2020			
Wellington LALC	Follow up for any comment via email	22/10/2020			
Wellington Valley Wiradjuri Aboriginal Corporation	Follow up for any comment via email	22/10/2020			
Gallangabang Aboriginal Corporation	Follow up for any comment via email	22/10/2020			

**Letter to RAPs regarding proposed changes**

1 October 2020



Dear [REDACTED]

**Re: Wellington North Solar Plant Notice of Project Update**

I am writing to you in your capacity as a Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) for the Wellington North Solar Plant project that is currently being assessed as a State Significant Development (SSD), pending approval. The proposed Wellington North Solar Plant would be located about 3.5 km north-east of Wellington in the Dubbo Regional Local Government Area (LGA) directly adjacent to the northern boundary of the Wellington Solar Farm which is currently being constructed (owned by Lightsource BP).

This letter is to provide a project update and inform you that earlier this year Lightsource BP purchased the Wellington North Solar Plant from the former Proponent, Wellington North Solar Farm Pty Limited, a subsidiary of AGL Energy Limited. Given this change any reference to the Proponent in the existing assessments undertaken for this project now refers to Lightsource BP.

As a result of the changed ownership, Lightsource BP have proposed four changes to the development that was originally presented to you in the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Wellington North Solar Plant (NGH 2018) and Addendum to the ACHA Wellington North Solar Plant (NGH 2019). The proposed changes are as follows:

- Amendment to the transmission line route;
- Alternative construction and operational site access;
- Amended transport route; and
- Alternative construction compound location.

These proposed development changes have been made following further detailed design following the public exhibition of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Amendment Report (AR) for the Wellington North Solar Plant, of which the ACHA and addendum ACHA were a component. Each of these four changes and their potential to impact upon Aboriginal cultural heritage are addressed below.

The proposed alteration to the transmission line easement is considered a more appropriate option for the project than the two transmission line options originally presented within the EIS. The previously proposed eastern transmission line is not considered cost effective. The new eastern transmission line option would



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connect the solar plant to the existing Wellington Substation and may be overhead or underground. From the solar plant site, the transmission line would cross Goolma Road, approximately 400 m north of the Soil Conservation Service site access. It would continue east for approximately 1.1 km to the eastern side of the Wellington Correction Centre, before heading south to Twelve Mile Road for approximately 2 km. It would cross Twelve Mile Road and enter the Wellington Substation from the east (see Figure below). The alignment of the new transmission route has been previously surveyed by NGH and Aboriginal Community representatives on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of November 2018 with the survey results reported on in the Addendum ACHA (NGH 2019). No further work is considered necessary for this proposed design alteration as it has been sufficiently assessed in the prior assessment undertaken for Aboriginal Heritage for the project (NGH 2018 and NGH 2019). The proposed alignment will not change any of the previous recommendations in the ACHA or Addendum ACHA. The AHIMS site shown in the proposed works area in the Figure below is invalid and was incorrectly submitted by NGH. This error has been rectified with AHIMS with the site listed as invalid/not a site however it is unable to be removed from the AHIMS database despite this data error.

Three access options were originally described and assessed as part of the EIS. Lightsource BP has now committed to all construction site access occurring via Goolma Road at Access 3 (see new access point in Figure below for access location). As part of this an intersection upgrade is required to allow heavy vehicle access. This will require the upgrade of the intersection for 50 metres either side of the access point to allow for basic left hand turns and basic right hand turns. There has been previous heritage survey in the property adjacent to this area and the proposed works are to occur within an extensively disturbed road corridor. NGH undertook an additional extensive AHIMS search of the area on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2020 (AHIMS ID 539763) and no additional AHIMS sites were noted to occur in the area. Consequently, NGH does not believe that an additional site inspection is warranted, due to the proximity of previous survey, disturbed nature of the area and a lack of sensitive landforms or previously recorded sites. NGH believed that the proposed works are unlikely to impact upon any *in situ* Aboriginal cultural heritage and consequently have advised that the proposed works may proceed with caution.

As a result of this access point change, the originally proposed haulage route has also been amended. There are no proposed works associated with this change and consequently there is no potential for impact on Aboriginal cultural heritage and no further assessment is needed.

Additionally, the location of the proposed laydown area has also been changed. The laydown area was originally proposed to be located at the entrance off Access 1 however Lightsource BP now propose it being located at the entrance of the new Goolma Road Access as shown in the Figure below. This area has been previously surveyed for Aboriginal cultural heritage as part of the original ACHA survey by NGH and Aboriginal Community representatives between the 19<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of February 2018 and will not impact upon any additional Aboriginal cultural heritage sites. This proposed design alteration has been sufficiently assessed in the prior assessment undertaken for Aboriginal Heritage for the project (NGH 2018 and NGH 2019). Consequently, NGH considers that no further assessment is required.

Despite these four amendments to the proposed development plans, NGH considered that there is limited potential for these changes to impact upon Aboriginal cultural heritage and as a result no further survey or changes to the recommendations of the ACHA or Addendum ACHA (NGH 2018 and NGH 2019) are required. The heritage assessment as outlined above will be written as a chapter/ letter style report as part of the Amendment report to the EIS.

If you have any questions or concerns about the proposed development changes outlines above please do not hesitate to get in touch with me

Yours sincerely,



**Kirsten Bradley**  
Senior Heritage Consultant



## References

NGH 2018 Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Wellington North Solar Plant. Unpublished report for Wellington North Solar Farm Pty Limited.

NGH 2019 Addendum to the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Wellington North Solar Plant. Unpublished report for Wellington North Solar Farm Pty Limited.

