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File:
Our Ref: A857453
Your Ref:

Ms Kristy Harvey
Roads and Maritime Services
Major Projects,
76 Victoria Street,
GRAFTON NSW 2460

Dear Ms Harvey

RE: MP 07_0112 – Pacific Highway Upgrade Warrell Creek to Urunga – Satisfaction of Condition B20 of the Approval

Reference is made to your original email dated 26 April 2012 and to a subsequent email dated 16 May 2012 in regard to the above project.

It is noted that consultation with the Heritage Branch is required under the Conditions of Approval for MP 07_0112. Condition B20 states:

B20. *Prior to the commencement of pre-construction and construction activities affecting the possible house site identified as Site 12 in Table 19-3 of the Environmental Assessment, the Proponent shall prepare an archaeological assessment in consultation with the OEH (Heritage Branch), and generally in accordance with the Departments Archaeological Assessments Guideline (1996), and submit the assessment for the Director General's approval.*

Any further archaeological work recommended on this site by the assessment shall be undertaken by the Proponent in consultation with the OEH (Heritage Branch) and reported to the Director General within six months of the completion of the work, unless otherwise agreed by the Director General.

The reports as supplied with your email of 16 May 2012 have now been reviewed by the Heritage Branch. Those reports were:

Warrell Creek to Urunga Pacific Highway Upgrade, Tyson's Flat House Site, Urunga, NSW ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT, Authors: Karen Murphy and Rebecca Andrews
Client: Roads and Maritime Services Report version: v 3.0 Completion date: 24 April 2012

Warrell Creek to Urunga Pacific Highway Upgrade, Tyson's Flat House Site, Urunga, NSW ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH DESIGN, Authors: Karen Murphy
Client: Roads and Maritime Services Report version: v 3.0 Completion date: 24 April 2012

The Archaeological Assessment report indicates that Tyson's Flat House Site is of local heritage significance for its historical and associative significance, its rarity, representativeness and research potential. The report advises that the site is situated between 20 m and 60 m outside the current project boundary and that any project-related impacts should be avoided. If a change were to be made to the project and the site was to be affected then the report recommends that an archaeological salvage excavation should be undertaken.

I advise you that the Heritage Branch concurs with the recommendations of the Archaeological Assessment report.

The Archaeological Research Design report was also reviewed by the Heritage Branch.

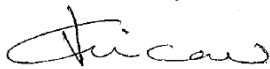
You are advised that the level of detail regarding proposed archaeological methodology and post-excavation analysis would not be sufficient to obtain an Excavation Permit for this site under the NSW Heritage Act, 1977. The report also contains errors in its discussion of the situation regarding the management of archaeological material in NSW, especially in Section 5.3. The curation and storage of archaeological material obtained through excavation is managed under the Conditions of Consent imposed on the Excavation Permits which are issued under the NSW Heritage Act.

The Heritage Branch notes that excavation of the Tyson's Flat site is not currently proposed. If an excavation were to occur in the future then the Branch would recommend that the work be conducted by a practitioner who has previously held Excavation Permits under the NSW Heritage Act to conduct open-area salvage excavation of Locally significant sites. Such a person would be able to demonstrate that they meet the NSW Heritage Council Endorsed Criteria for Excavation Directors.

As discussed with Siobhan Lavelle on 16 May 2012 please be advised that the Heritage Branch does not accept direct email submissions. Requests for comment should be made by letter and should include a CD or other document versions in order for the Branch to comment.

I trust that the above information will be of assistance to you. If you have any queries on this matter please contact Siobhan Lavelle using the contact details provided above.

Yours sincerely



22/05/2012

Vincent Sicari
Manager, Conservation Team
Heritage Branch
Office of Environment & Heritage
AS DELEGATE OF THE NSW HERITAGE COUNCIL