

Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water & Environment
NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE DIVISION

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24 December 2020

Tasmanian Planning Commission
GPO Box 1691
HOBART TAS 7001

**TPC Notification Letter - exhibition of draft planning criteria - North West
Transmission Upgrades Project - 7 December 2020**

Thank you for the notification of the major infrastructure development - North West Transmission Upgrades Project.

The *Explanatory Document - Draft Planning Criteria for the Major Infrastructure Development (North West Transmission Upgrades Project) Order 2020* provides for the standards against which the major infrastructure project use and development will be assessed. I note the standards specifically exclude consideration of matters subject to the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975*.

The Aboriginal Heritage Act provides for the protection and management of Aboriginal cultural heritage and requires a permit for impacts to Aboriginal cultural heritage. The requirements of this Act apply separately and in addition to the State Planning Provisions.

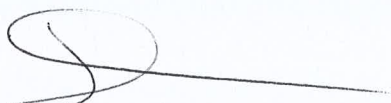
It is my view, that the draft planning criteria should establish a level of integration with the Aboriginal heritage assessment and approval process, and at a minimum provide for synchronisation of approval processes in order to avoid potential constraints on the Minister in relation to consideration of Aboriginal heritage under the Aboriginal Heritage Act.

I further note that numerous State projects subject to Project Specific Development Proposal and Environmental Management Plan Guidelines under the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994* include consideration of Aboriginal heritage.

As you may be aware, Aboriginal heritage surveys for the North West Transmission Upgrades Project are currently being undertaken by the proponent, in parallel to consideration of other environmental factors.

I would appreciate a written response to this representation, explaining why Aboriginal heritage was excluded from the draft planning criteria and how the Commission intends to address the issues raised here.

Should you wish to discuss this submission further, please contact Brett Noble, A/Director AHT at brett.noble@heritage.tas.gov.au or by phone on 0409 804 743.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'D' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Deidre Wilson
ACTING SECRETARY