

## eia NTEPA

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**From:** Dianne Bensley  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 14 June 2022 4:30 PM  
**To:** eia NTEPA  
**Subject:** FW: Invitation to comment on draft EIS - Australia-Asia PowerLink Project

Good afternoon,

I have reviewed the Draft EIS - Australia-Asia PowerLink Project and provide the following Heritage Comments:

- Heritage Branch has been in regular contact directly with the archaeological consultants for this project and have been monitoring the progress made in terms of archaeological and other cultural heritage surveys. So far, the archaeological consultants have consulted with traditional owners and custodians for all areas that have been surveyed and that will continue for other areas that are yet to be surveyed, for various reasons.
- Chapter 14 – Culture and Heritage from the Australia-Asia PowerLink Environmental Impact Statement is very comprehensive and has been informed by the AAPowerLink Heritage Impact Assessment Reports (HIAs). All of the Appendices from V- X (HIAs) are very thorough and detailed and Heritage Branch has no concerns with any of the content at this point.
- Each of the Cultural HIAs includes details of processes to disturb sites, the monitoring of significant features during the life of the project, and site specific mitigation measures for all sites that will be determined in consultation with site custodians and Heritage Branch. Heritage Branch approves of these factors.
- The archaeological consultants have also included the correct protocol in the event that human skeletal remains (burial/ancestral remains) are unearthed during construction activities.
- There are a number of ‘Cultural Heritage Risk Areas’ that have been identified in parts of the proposal footprint that will require further definition and which will be surveyed prior to commencement of works and site protection measures will also be included in the Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP). Heritage Branch approves of the recommendation to implement a CHMP, and it is noted that Sun Cable have agreed to the implementation of a Cultural Heritage Management Plan.
- I understand that the maritime surveys as part of the proposed subsea cable route are to commence in June/July 2022, and that there is some flexibility in the final route selection to avoid direct impact to any subsea heritage features that may be discovered during surveys.

These are the main points of interest for Heritage Branch in relation to this project, for the time being. We await further information in the form of reports about maritime surveys and other areas that have yet to be completed. We are satisfied that all heritage and archaeological issues are being addressed.

Regards,  
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