



## ACT Heritage Council

Phone: 6207 7379  
Fax: 6207 2316  
File ref: Majura Block 707  
Contact Officer: Daisy Chaston

Natalie Broughton  
National Capital Authority  
Treasury Building  
King Edward Terrace  
Parkes ACT 2600

CC: Edwina Nelson (NCA); Angus Gemmell (Solar Choice)

Dear Ms Broughton

### **Heritage Requirements Majura Solar Farm**

I refer to Heritage Council advice dated 21 June 2013, concerning the Works Approval Application for the Majura Solar Farm. In this advice, the Council recommended the completion of a cultural heritage assessment (CHA), and the fulfilment of any Council approved recommendations made at the completion of the study.

The proponent, Solar Fields, commissioned the CHA, resulting in the recommendation for further sub-surface investigations of two Potential Archaeological Deposits (PADs). The Council approved this recommendation (see Attachment 1).

Subsequently, Solar Fields contacted the Council with a development proposal that reduced surface and sub-surface impacts across the PADs. Specifically, the proposal recommended insertion of ground screws into the PADs, with no topsoil scraping or use of concrete. It was suggested that service easements would also avoid the PADs.

Members of the Aboriginal Taskforce subset of the Council attended a site visit with the developer in February 2014. While Taskforce was satisfied that archaeological impacts would be minimised to less than three percent ground disturbance of the PADs, cultural impacts would need to be ascertained after further consultation with the Representative Aboriginal Organisations (RAOs – see Attachment 2).

The developer consulted with the RAOs between Thursday 3 April and Sunday 6 April 2014. The groups were satisfied that the ground surface would not be scraped, and did not express concern over use of ground screws as the method of construction.

In light of discussions, the Council advises that further heritage investigations will not be necessary to inform the Solar Farm. However, the developer is strongly urged to maintain contact with the RAOs, to ensure the groups are fully informed of the development methodology, which is better illustrated in practice than in principle.

Yours sincerely



Anna Gurnhill  
A/g Secretary (as delegate for)  
ACT HERITAGE COUNCIL

. 14 April, 2014



ACT Heritage Council

## HERITAGE ADVICE

Under Section 76 (2) (iv) of the *Heritage Act 2004*

Approval to disturb an Aboriginal Place or Object

Contact Officer: Daisy Chaston

File Number: Majura B707

Date: 31 Jan 2014

To: Cultural Heritage Management Australia  
PO Box 9463  
Deakin ACT 2600

Location: Majura Blocks 707 and 708

Description of Works: Construction of new solar farm

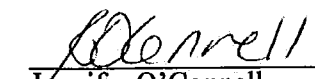
Report Details: Mount Majura Solar Farm: Rural Blocks 707 and 708, Cultural Heritage Assessment CMP

**Background:** This report documents the results of a cultural heritage assessment completed across the proposed development envelope of a solar farm proposed at Block 707 and Block 708, District of Majura. The report includes a Conservation Management Plan outlining a hand testing methodology for exploration of test-pits across three potential archaeological deposits, and salvage collection of surface and sub-surface artefacts. The Representative Aboriginal Organisations are in agreement with the proposed methodology.

The archaeological assessment resulted in the discovery of a large number of previously unrecorded stone artefacts within the boundary of the Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD) defined for (previously identified) site MV167 and PAD, causing the boundary of this site to be extended. The boundary for (previously identified site) SP1 and PAD was also defined during the current investigations, along with the identification of an additional PAD (MV PAD 6). A small, low-density artefact scatter was also found (MV197).

No historic sites were discovered, with the exception of a number of pieces of historic debris found amidst the Aboriginal artefacts in the northernmost portion of Block 708, as part of MV167 and PAD.

**Advice:** The conservation management plan included at section 10 of the report is approved by the Heritage Council for the purposes of exceptions under Section 76 (2) (iv) of the *Heritage Act 2004*. The Council notes that the area encompassing site MV167 will not be impacted by construction of the solar farm, and as such, test-pitting will not occur in that location in the foreseeable future. A copy of the report shall be provided to Fulton Hogan and Roads ACT, who are completing works associated with the adjacent Majura Parkway concurrently.

  
Jennifer O'Connell  
A/g Secretary (as delegate for),  
ACT Heritage Council

3 February 2014



ACT Heritage Council

Phone: 6207 7379  
File ref: 2012/3718  
Contact Officer: Daisy Chaston

Mr Angus Gemmell  
Solar Choice  
Martin Place  
Sydney NSW 2000

CC: Stephan Jarnason (Solar Fields)

Dear Mr Gemmell

### **Solar Farm Blocks 707 and 708 Majura ACT**

Thank you for arranging an inspection of the site on 24 February 2014 and for your electronic correspondence dated 19 March 2014, detailing the proposal for impact mitigation across two Potential Archaeological Deposits (PADs) identified within the development envelope for the Majura Solar Farm.

The Aboriginal Taskforce of ACT Heritage Council met on 20 March 2014 to discuss the proposal.

The Taskforce considers that consultation with the ACT Representative Aboriginal Organisations (RAOs) is necessary before any final advice can be formulated. It suggests that Solar Choice arrange consultation with the four RAOs on-site to discuss impacts to the PADs, and proposed mitigation techniques. The Aboriginal Liaison Officer of the Heritage Unit is willing to facilitate this meeting, and a representative of Council will attend the on-site consultation.

Yours sincerely

  
Anna Gurnhill  
Acting Secretary (as delegate for),  
ACT HERITAGE COUNCIL

24 March 2014