Appendix B Heritage Impact Assessment

STATEMENT OF HERITAGE IMPACT

Proposed Development at

Prospect Reservoir

Prospect



Job No. 9659 January 2023



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Acknowledgement of Country

Heritage 21 wishes to acknowledge the Traditional Owners of country throughout Australia and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures; and to elders both past and present.

<u>Cover page</u>: Location of proposed new structure within the subject site within Prospect Reservoir, Prospect (Source: Heritage 21, 05.09.2022).

The following Table forms part of the quality management control undertaken by Heritage 21 regarding the monitoring of its intellectual property as issued.

Issue	Description	Date	Written by	Reviewed by	Issued by
1	Draft report (D1) issued for comment.	14.09.2022	TG	EM	EM
2	Draft report (D1) issued for comment.	10.10.2022	TG	EM	TG
3	Draft report (D2) issued for comment.	12.10.2022	TG	-	TG
4	Final report issued to Client (RI).	13.10.2022	TG	-	TG
5	Amended report (RI).	13.10.2022	TG	-	EM
6	Report update – following comments from Heritage NSW (RI2)	16.11.202	TG / Revised by EM	-	EM
7	Report update – following comments from Heritage NSW (RI3)	30.01.2023	TG / Revised by EM	-	EM



1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

This Statement of Heritage Impact ('SOHI' or 'report') has been prepared on behalf of EMM Consulting who have been engaged by Endeavour Energy to accompany an application made under Section 60 of the *Heritage Act* 1977, submitted to the Heritage Council of NSW for the relocation of Endeavour Energy's Huntingwood communication tower and associated equipment.

The communications tower is a critical component of Endeavour Energy's wide area network (WAN), which provides connectivity and redundancy for several depot sites which are vital to keep their power grid active and managed. Endeavour Energy's Huntingwood tower is being decommissioned and requires relocation and replacement. As such, the proposed relocation of this communications tower within the north-eastern part of Prospect Reservoir site is essential to provide connectivity to Endeavour Energy's field assets and substation which is directly connected to Endeavour Energy's Huntingwood site.

1.2 Site Identification

The subject site is located at William Lawson Drive, Prospect, which falls within the boundaries of the Blacktown Local Government Area (LGA), and it comprises Lot 304 Deposit Plan (DP) 1122291. As depicted in Figure 1 below, the site is located on the southern side of Reservoir Road and is part of the larger Prospect Reservoir site. The larger Prospect Reservoir site also encompasses the state listed Veteran Hall and Prospect Reservoir sites. This Statement of Heritage Impact report only pertains to the portion of land at the north-eastern part of the Prospect Reservoir site, along its eastern boundary. The setting and topography of the site will be more fully described in Section 3.0 below.





Figure 1. Aerial view of the larger Prospect Reservoir site, which is highlighted in yellow. The location of the proposed works has been indicated with the arrow (Source: NSW Land and Property Information, 'SIX Maps', accessed 7 September 2022 ttp://maps.six.nsw.gov.au/, annotated by Heritage 21).



Figure 2. Aerial view of the subject site, indicating the approximate locations of the proposed works, the Veteran Hall -House Remains site and the Prospect Reservoir Valve House (Source: NSW Land and Property Information, 'SIX Maps', accessed 7 September 2022, http://maps.six.nsw.gov.au/).

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1.3 Heritage Context

1.3.1 Heritage Listings

The subject site **is** located on land which forms part of two items as items of environmental heritage on the NSW State Heritage Register. It **is** also listed in the Sydney Water s.170 Register, under Schedule 5 of the Holroyd Local Environmental Plan 2013 ('HLEP'), and in the National Trust Register (NSW). The site **is** also listed on the Former Register of the National Estate as an indicative place. It **is not**, however, listed on the National Heritage List or the Commonwealth Heritage List.

The details of the listings follow:

Statutory List – Legislative Requirements			
State Heritage Register			
Item Name	Address	Significance	SHR No.
Prospect reservoir and surrounding area	Reservoir Road, Prospect, NSW	State	01370
Prospect Reservoir Valve House	East of Reservoir, Prospect	State	01371



Sydney Water S.170 Register			
Item Name	Address		Item No.
Prospect Hill Reservoir (Elevated)	Number 49, Prospect Reservoir, off Reservoir Road, Prospect		4575776
Holroyd Local Environmental Plan 2013			
Item Name	Address	Significance	Item No.
Prospect Reservoir and surrounding area	1 Picrite Close	State	101370
Non-Statutory List – Information Only			
National Trust Register - National Trust NSW			
Item Name/ Description			
Sydney water supply prospect reservoir			



Figure 3. State Heritage Register Map of Prospect Reservoir and surrounding area showing the boundary of the SHR listing (Source: Heritage NSW, accessed 7 September 2022)

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Figure 4. State Heritage Register Map of Prospect Reservoir Value House, and surrounding area showing the boundary of the SHR listing (Source: Heritage NSW, accessed 9 September 2022)





Figure 5. Detail form Heritage map HER_002. The location of the works is indicated with the red arrow, and heritage items are shaded brown (Source: NSW Legislation Online, https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/maps, annotated by Heritage 21, accessed 7 September 2022)

The subject site **is not** located within the boundaries of a Heritage Conservation Area under the HLEP 2013.

1.3.2 Heritage Items in the Vicinity

The subject site is situated within the general vicinity of a heritage item listed in the NSW State Heritage Registry under the *NSW Heritage Act* 1977. In addition, as shown in Figure 5 above, the site is not located in the vicinity of any heritage items listed under Schedule 5 of the HLEP 2013.

The details of the listings follow:

Item/HCA Name	Address	SHR Number
Veteran Hall – House Remains	Great Western Highway, Prospect	01351

The proposed works would be within the visual catchment of Veteran Hall – House Remains (Item 01351). However, we note that the site **is not** within the curtilage of the Veteran Hall – House Remains site (refer to Figure 6 and Figure 7 below). Accordingly, the discussion in Section 6.0 of this SOHI of the potential heritage impact of the proposal on heritage items in the vicinity includes Veteran Hall – House Remains (Item 01351).





Figure 6. State Heritage Register Map of Veteran Hall – House Remains, and surrounding area showing the boundary of the SHR listing (Source: Heritage NSW, accessed 9 September 2022)





Figure 7. Veteran Hall Site curtilage established by the Prospect Reservoir CMP is indicated in blue. Veteran Hall Site curtilage as defined by the National Trust listing is indicated in red. (Source: Sydney Water Corporation, CMP, 2005, annotated by Heritage 21)

1.4 Purpose

The subject site is a heritage item listed on the NSW State Heritage Register. Section 60 of the *Heritage Act 1977* (NSW) requires the NSW Heritage Council, as the approval body, to assess the potential impact of non-exempt works (such as those described in Section 5.0 of this report) on the heritage significance of the item. Heritage 21 has carried out an independent assessment of the proposed works, which is presented in Section 6.0 of this report. Accordingly, this report provides the Heritage Council, as the approval body, the information necessary to make an assessment of the proposal on heritage grounds.

1.5 Methodology

The methodology used in this SOHI is consistent with *Statements of Heritage Impact* (1996) and *Assessing Heritage Significance* (2001) and *Standard Exemptions from Works Requiring Heritage Council Approval* (2009), published by the Heritage Division of the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage and has been prepared in accordance with the principles contained in the most recent edition of *The Burra Charter: The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance* 2013 ('Burra Charter').

1.6 Authors

This Statement of Heritage Impact ('SOHI' or 'report') has been prepared by Tanith-Louise Granger, reviewed by Emily McSkimming, and overseen by Paul Rappoport, of Heritage 21, Heritage Consultants.



1.7 Limitations

- This SOHI is based upon an assessment of the heritage issues only and does not purport to have reviewed or in any way endorsed decisions or proposals of a planning or compliance nature. It is assumed that compliance with non-heritage aspects of Council's planning instruments, the BCA and any issues related to services, contamination, structural integrity, legal matters or any other non-heritage matter is assessed by others.
- This SOHI essentially relies on secondary sources. Primary research has not necessarily been included in this report, other than the general assessment of the physical evidence on site.
- It is beyond the scope of this report to address Indigenous associations with the subject site.
- It is beyond the scope of this report to locate or assess potential or known archaeological subsurface deposits on the subject site or elsewhere.
- It is beyond the scope of this report to assess items of movable heritage.
- Any specifics regarding views should be assessed by a view expert. Heritage 21 does not consider itself to be a view expert and any comments in this report are opinion based.
- Heritage 21 has only assessed aspects of the subject site that were visually apparent and not blocked or closed or to which access was not given or was barred, obstructed or unsafe on the day of the arranged inspection.

1.8 Copyright

Heritage 21 holds copyright for this report. Any reference to or copying of the report or information contained in it must be referenced and acknowledged, stating the full name and date of the report as well as Heritage 21's authorship.



2.0 HISTORICAL CONTEXT

2.1 Local History

The following historical development of Prospect has been sourced from the site's listing on the NSW State Heritage Register:¹

Aboriginal & European settler history: The area of Prospect Reservoir is an area of known Aboriginal occupation, with favourable camping locations along the Eastern Creek and Prospect Creek catchments, and in elevated landscapes to the south. There is also evidence to suggest that the occupation of these lands continued after European contact, through discovery of intermingled glass and stone flakes in archaeological surveys of the place. The area was settled by Europeans by 1789.

Prospect Hill, Sydney's largest body of igneous rock, lies centrally in the Cumberland Plain and dominates the landscape of the area (Ashton, 2000). Very early after first settlement, on 26 April 1788, an exploration party heading west led by Governor Phillip, climbed Prospect Hill. An account by Phillip states that the exploration party saw from Prospect Hill, 'for the first time since we landed Carmathen Hills (Blue Mountains) as likewise the hills to the southward'. Phillip's 'Bellevue' (Prospect Hill) acquired considerable significance for the new settlers. Prospect Hill provided a point from which distances could be meaningfully calculated and became a major reference point for other early explorers (Karskens 1991). When Watkin Tench made another official journey to the west in 1789, he began his journey with reference to Prospect Hill, which commanded a view of the great chain of mountains to the west. A runaway convict, George Bruce, used Prospect Hill as a hideaway from soldiers in the mid-1790's.

During the initial struggling years of European settlement in NSW, Governor Phillip began to settle time-expired convicts on the land as farmers, after the success of James Ruse at Rose Hill (Higginbotham 2000). On 18 July 1791 Phillip placed a number of men on the eastern and southern slopes of Prospect Hill, as the soils weathered from the basalt cap were richer than the sandstone derived soils of the Cumberland Plain. The grants, mostly 30 acres, encircled Prospect Hill (Ashton 2000). The settlers included William Butler, James Castle, Samuel Griffiths, John Herbert, George Lisk, Joseph Morley, John Nichols, William Parish and Edward Pugh (Higginbotham 2000).

The arrival of the first settlers prompted the first organised Aboriginal resistance to the spread of settlement, with the commencement of a violent frontier conflict in which Pemulwuy and his Bidjigal clan played a central role (Flynn 1997). On 1 May 1801 Governor King took drastic action, issuing a public order requiring that Aboriginal people around Parramatta, Prospect Hill and Georges River should be 'driven back from the settlers' habitations by firing at them'. Kings edicts appear to have encouraged a shoot-on-sight attitude whenever any Aboriginal men, women or children appeared (Flynn 1997).

With the death of Pemulwuy, the main resistance leader, in 1802, Aboriginal resistance gradually

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¹ Heritage NSW, "Prospect Reservoir and Surrounding Area," State Heritage Inventory, Heritage Item ID 5045336, accessed 12 September 2022, https://www.hms.heritage.nsw.gov.au/App/Item/ViewItem?itemId=5045336.

diminished near Parramatta, although outer areas were still subject to armed hostilities. Prompted by suggestions to the Reverend Marsden by local Prospect Aboriginal groups that a conference should take place 'with a view of opening the way to reconciliation', Marsden promptly organised a meeting near Prospect Hill. (ibid 1997). At the meeting, held on 3 May 1805, local Aboriginal representatives discussed with Marsden ways of ending the restrictions and indiscriminate reprisals inflicted on them by soldiers and settlers in response to atrocities committed by other Aboriginal clans (ibid 1997). The meeting was significant because a group of Aboriginal women and a young free settler at Prospect named John Kennedy acted as intermediaries. The conference led to the end of the conflict for the Aboriginal clans around Parramatta and Prospect (Karskens 1991). This conference at Prospect on Friday 3 May 1805 is a landmark in Aboriginal/European relations. Macquarie's 'Native Feasts' held at Parramatta from 1814 followed the precedent set in 1805. The Sydney Gazette report of the meeting is notable for the absence of the sneering tone that characterised its earlier coverage of Aboriginal matters (ibid 1997).

From its commencement in 1791 with the early settlement of the area, agricultural use of the land continued at Prospect Hill. Much of the land appears to have been cleared by the 1820s and pastoral use of the land was well established by then.

When Governor Macquarie paid a visit to the area in 1810, he was favourably impressed by the comfortable conditions that had been created (Pollon & Healy, 1988, 210).

Nelson Lawson, third son of explorer William Lawson (1774-1850), married Honoria Mary Dickinson and before 1837 built "Greystanes House" as their future family home on the western side of Prospect Hill. Lawson had received the land from his father, who had been granted 500 acres here by the illegal government that followed the overthrow of Governor Bligh in 1808.

Governor Macquarie confirmed the grant, where William Lawson had built a house, which he called "Veteran Hall", because he had a commission in the NSW Veterans Company. Lawson lived in the area for 40 years until his death at the age of 76 in 1850. The exact date of completion of the house is uncertain. A date prior to Lawson crossing the Blue Mountains in May 1813, and a date c.1821 have been variously proposed. Regardless, Veteran Hall underwent continuous restructuring over its century-long existence (SWC, 2005, 15) It was a substantial building by 1825. Its estimated size at this time was 65 sq.m., including around 8sq.m. of verandah. During the 50 years pre-1880s it was extended to around 110 sq.m., with more than 20 rooms and approximately 30 sq.m. of verandah. Structural modifications appear to have been made in 1895 to accommodate a residence/office. It was occupied by the Water Board's Engineer-in-Charge of Headworks, who was overseeing construction of the Prospect Reservoir until 1912. It is claimed that the house was then leased to the Commonwealth military authority until it abandoned the area. Veteran Hall became empty and fell into disrepair. It was judged uneconomical to restore and plans were made to demolish it. Despite citizen protests the building was demolished in 1929 and remnant contents such as fittings and stone quoins were handed over the Vaucluse House Trust, Lawson's descendants and/or historically minded supplicants. A memorial cairn was erected in the early 1970s and now marks the site of the homestead (SCW, 2005, 16-18). The site is now partly covered by the waters of Prospect Reservoir.



Greystanes was approached by a long drive lined with an avenue of English trees - elms (Ulmus procera), hawthorns (Crataegus sp.), holly (Ilex aquifolium), and woodbine (Clematis sp.) mingling with jacarandas (J.mimosifolia). It had a wide, semi-circular front verandah supported by 4 pillars. The foundations were of stone, the roof of slate, and the doors and architraves of heavy red cedar. It was richly furnished with articles of the best quality available and was the scene of many glittering soirees attended by the elite of the colony. Honoria Lawson died in 1845, Nelson remarried a year later, but died in 1849, and the property reverted to his father. Greystanes house was demolished in the 1940s (Pollon, 1988, 116, amended Read, S.,2006 - the house can't have been 'on the crest' of Prospect Hill as Pollon states, if its site was covered by the Reservoir).

By the 1870s, with the collapse of the production of cereal grains across the Cumberland Plain, the Prospect Hill area appears to have largely been devoted to livestock. The dwellings of the earliest settlers largely appear to have been removed by this stage. By the time that any mapping was undertaken in this vicinity, most of these structures had disappeared, making their locations difficult to pinpoint (Higginbotham 2000).



The land was farmed from 1806-1888 when the Prospect Reservoir was built. (Prospect).

Figure 8. 'Prospect 1839-1845' (Source: Drawing by Henry Curzon Allport from the collections of the State Library of NSW [PXD86/33], Dictionary of Sydney, https://dictionaryofsydney.org/media/4047)



2.2 Site Specific History

The following historical development of Prospect Reservoir has been sourced from the site's listing on the NSW State Heritage Register:

In 1867, the Governor of NSW appointed a Commission to recommend a scheme for Sydney's water supply, and by 1869 it was recommended that construction commence on the Upper Nepean Scheme. This consisted of two diversion weirs, located at Pheasant's Nest and Broughton's Pass, in the Upper Nepean River catchment, with water feeding into a series of tunnels, canals and aqueducts known as the Upper Canal. It was intended that water be fed by gravity from the catchment into a reservoir at Prospect. This scheme was to be Sydney's fourth water supply system, following the Tank Stream, Busby's Bore and the Botany (Lachlan) Swamps.

Designed and constructed by the Public Works Department of NSW, Prospect Reservoir was built during the 1880s and completed in 1888. Credit for the Upper Nepean Scheme is largely given to Edward Orpen Moriarty, the Engineer in Chief of the Habours and Rivers Branch of the Public Works Department from 1858-88 (B Cubed Sustainability, 2005, 7).

The quintessential feature of the scheme was the diversion of the Nepean River below its junction with the Avon and Cordeaux Rivers. The Peasant's Nest weir, near the township of Wilton, diverts the water through a 7km long tunnel to the Cataract River at Broughton's Pass, near the township of Appin, where a similar weir diverts the flow of the four rivers through a 58km system of tunnels, aqueducts and open channels to Prospect Creek upon which the earthen dam wall is located. When it was completed in 1888, Prospect reservoir provided the storage component of the scheme, as the weirs did not have the capacity to store water.

Between 1893 and 1916, extensive remedial works were carried out in order to correct slumps in the upstream face.

With completion of Warragamba Dam in 1960, Prospect Reservoir continued to play an important role in storing Sydney's water. A second pipeline linking Warragamba and Prospect was completed in 1966, significantly increasing the volume of water that could be transferred during peak demand periods. In 1979-80, a major strengthening programme on the reservoir wall was completed by increasing the volume of its downstream side. The upstream face was strengthened in 1997 (Sydney Water Corporation) (Caitlin Allen, Dept. of Commerce/Heritage Group, 2006).

With the commissioning of the Prospect Water Filtration Plant in 1996, raw water transferred from Warragamba and the Upper Nepean Dams was sent directly to the treatment facility, bypassing the Reservoir. However, the filtration plant can draw water directly from the Reservoir if needed. This is one of the largest such facilities in the world and it has changed the role of the Reservoir to that of a service reservoir and large off-line settling basin for the Warragamba & Upper Canal systems in the event of a water quality problem, covering daily fluctuations of demand in the distribution system. Since its construction, parts of the area surrounding the reservoir have formerly been used for passive community recreation, and consequently the Water Board provided numerous parks and picnic facilities, primarily on its eastern side (B Cubed Sustainability, 2007,3).



From 2006 a new raw water pumping station and associated infrastructure were built on the reservoir's south-eastern side, including pipeline, power supply and access road.

It was formerly the major distribution reservoir for Sydney's main water supply system until the commissioning of the Prospect Water Filtration Plant in 1996. The reservoir's role has since been changed to that of an off-line storage service reservoir, which covers daily fluctuations of demand in the distribution system. The reservoir can now be drawn on when needed to supplement the Warragamba Pipeline and Upper Canal inflows into the Filtration Plant. It remains an essential component of Sydney's water supply system and therefore is critical Government infrastructure.

Scour/Outlet System:

Prior to construction of the Prospect Water Filtration Plant, the water supply was delivered to the Lower Canal via the scour/outlet system, which consists of a number of components (including submerged inlet pipelines, outlet tower with access walkway, lower valve house with outlet to the Lower Canal, scour pipelines, various control and guard valves, brick-lined interconnecting tunnel between outlet valve and lower valve house, with ventilation shaft and access shaft/manhole, discharge pipelines under the Sydney Water Corporation-owned picnic area and an outlet structure.

The Outlet Tower is a small octagonal brick structure standing in the Reservoir waters with access by a small, riveted iron footbridge. The tower extends below water with three main platforms accessed by ladders. The interconnecting tunnel is routed in a large U running from the Outlet Tower, into the hillside, then curving back to skirt the end of the Reservoir wall.

The Lower Valve House is similar in style to the Outlet Tower and originally controlled water entering the Lower Canal. The Lower Canal was decommissioned in the 1980s, but the original equipment in the Lower Valve House remains largely intact. The tunnel extends a short distance beyond the Lower Valve House.

The Scour/Outlet system originally terminated at the end of the tunnel, with a simple brick headwall with wing-walls and iron grill gate. In the late 1970s the scour system was extended with twin concrete pipes and a new outlet structure constructed closer to Prospect Creek. At that time the area downstream and east of the Reservoir wall was re-shaped to form a public picnic area, burying the end of the tunnel and new concrete pipes.

Since decommissioning the Lower Canal, the sole purpose of the Scour/Outlet system is to allow scouring or draining of the Reservoir. This is critical to ensure dam safety and consequently the system must be adequately maintained. The primary control valves were imported from England in 1887 and are believed to be the last remaining examples of their type in the world. They are in poor condition and at high risk of failure if operated to drain the Reservoir. They are beyond their operational life and cannot be refurbished. Consequently, SCA can no longer test the system as required or safely dewater the Reservoir under emergency conditions (SCA, 2009, 1).²

² Ibid.

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Note – For additional information regarding the historical development of Prospect Reservoir, refer to the Conservation Management Plan prepared by Sydney Water Corporation in December 2005.



National Library of Australia

nla.pic-an2820617-v

Figure 9. 'The farmhouse of W Lawson Esqre, N S Wales c1826' (Source: Image by Augustus Earle, contributed by the National Library of Australia [nla.pic-an2820617], Dictionary of Sydney, https://dictionaryofsydney.org/media/3948)



Figure 10. 'Atlas of the Suburbs of Sydney – Prospect & Sherwood 1889-1894', showing Prospect & St John Parishes by Higinbotham & Robinson, 1889-1894 (Source: Contributed by City of Sydney Archives, Dictionary of Sydney, https://dictionaryofsydney.org/media/3925)





Figure 11. 'Sydney Water Supply Prospect Hill c1890' (Source: Photograph by Harold Arthur Blomfield, courtesy of Charles Blomfield, Wagga Wagga, Dictionary of Sydney, https://dictionaryofsydney.org/media/2612)



Figure 12. "Prospect Reservoir, Prospect, NSW," c.1900-1920 (Source: Photographed by William Henry Weston, part of the Weston Family Collection, Flickr, https://www.flickr.com/photos/98887654@N05/21892929272/)

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Figure 13. 'Prospect Reservoir, Prospect, NSW', c.1900-1920 (Source: Photographed by William Henry Weston, part of the Weston Family Collection, Flickr, https://www.flickr.com/photos/98887654@N05/21716844870/)



Figure 14. The Lower Valve House and Lower Canal Inlet (Source: Sydney Water Corporation, CMP, 2005)



3.0 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

3.1 The Setting

The site is located at William Lawson Drive, Prospect, on the southern side of Reservoir Road and is part of the larger Prospect Reservoir site. The suburb of Prospect is located 32 kilometres west of the Sydney Central Business District (CBD), and approximately 13 kilometres north-west of the Bankstown Airport. Reservoir Prospect itself is located within the Blacktown, Fairfield and Cumberland Council LGAs. The section of the site pertaining to this proposal is located to the eastern part of the larger Prospect Reservoir site and is mostly a vegetated area, consisting of a grassed area surrounded by mature trees, and with some structures visible in the distance. It has an undulating topography, sloping down towards the reservoir, to the west. This section of the site relevant to this report is part of the Cumberland Local Government Area.

3.2 Physical Description

The following physical description of the larger Prospect Reservoir Site has been sourced from the site's listing on the NSW State Heritage Register:³

Prospect Reservoir is Sydney's largest reservoir and stores water conveyed from Warragamba Dam, the Upper Nepean Dams (Cataract, Cordeaux, Avon and Nepean) and if necessary, from the Shoalhaven Scheme, for supplying the larger component of the water distribution system of the Sydney metropolis.

Located approximately 34kms west of Sydney, the reservoir is a zoned earth embankment dam, 26m high and approximately 2.2km long, with a storage capacity of 50,200 megalitres (SCA, 2009, 1) and an open capacity of 8,870 megalitres. With the completion of the main storage dams, the reservoir's function has changed from largely being a storage apparatus to the main service reservoir and sedimentation basin for the metropolitan system. Prospect is an earth dam 2210 metres long and consists essentially of a puddle clay core with shoulders of selected earth placed in layers 300mm thick. During construction these were compacted by rolling. It was completed in 1888, and in 1898 the crest level was raised by 0.5 meters.

The upstream slope of the wall is pitched with locally quarried diorite blocks 450 mm thick.

The curtilage includes the boundary of the grounds owned by Sydney Water Corporation and the components within it, namely:

- The reservoir itself.
- Side spillway and channel at the southern end of the wall.
- Drainage and monitoring installations at the toe on the downstream face of the wall.
- The access road along the toe of the downstream face of the wall.

³ Ibid.



- The outlet works which connect the stored water to the Lower Canal - consisting of outlet tower, pipelines, valve house and valve, scour lines and valves, and the other metering, screening and control installations. (Sydney Water Corporation)

The listing includes Prospect Reservoir, landscape elements and all associated structures, including pumping stations, to the property boundary. The environs of the reservoir and hence this listing also include a wide range of items, which relate to later amplification of water supply. These include examples of 1920s and 30s pumping stations, a residence, and the 72" (1,800 mm) main, constructed between the Upper Canal and Pipe Head in 1937. Later items associated with the Warragamba Supply Scheme and more modern developments include several more recent pumping stations, screening and boosting plants on the eastern and southern sides of the Reservoir, and the 84 inch (2,100 mm) water main from Prospect, to Pipe Head, completed in 1958.

Natural Heritage Values

The immediate catchment area of the reservoir is almost entirely vegetated. This vegetation, cleared during settlement, has recovered to be one of the finest examples of the native bushland left in the western suburbs of Sydney.

The bushland surrounding Prospect Reservoir is classified as Cumberland Plain Woodland (CPW). Less than 13% of CPW remains and a high proportion of this figure is heavily degraded through weed invasion, rubbish dumping, illegal vehicle use and overgrazing. In the protected catchment these degrading influences are largely absent and this is reflected in the excellent bushland condition.

Cumberland Plain Woodland is listed at state and federal levels as an endangered ecological community. Legislation at both levels provides a framework for the protection of ecological communities under threat.

Bushland condition is best in the northern section and decreases in the southern areas. A rapid flora survey of Prospect Reservoir (approximately 1km North from spoil site) revealed over fifty native species.

Prospect Reservoir is an important refuge for many fauna species in Western Sydney. Mammals such as wombats, echidnas and eastern grey kangaroos are listed as recent sightings in the National Park species atlas. Importantly, over 12 species of bats (including threatened species) have been recorded within the vicinity of the reservoir.

The bushland near the filtration plant is less diverse and more degraded than in the immediately adjacent Sydney Catchment Authority land. A similar but much more restricted suite of native species can be found there. Exotic species including Chloris gayana (Rhodes grass), Setaria gracilis (pigeon grass) and Eragrostis curvula (African love grass) dominate. These species are indicators of significant soil disturbance. The vegetation condition varies from a young eucalypt canopy with a low diversity understorey to eucalypt regrowth in a largely exotic pasture. Other areas are exotic pastures with no native element present.



Despite the lower quality of bushland this site still has significant ecological importance. If rehabilitated, it would significantly improve ecological connectivity, especially between Prospect Reservoir and the riparian vegetation along Eastern Creek. (Greening Australia, 2006)

See listing for Veteran Hall for significance as part of the William Lawson Estate.

Modifications and dates:

Extensive modifications occurred during the period 1898-1916. It is substantially intact and is constantly maintained and monitored for indications of subsidence or other which could affect the longevity of the structure. Altered again in 1934.

Late 1950's and early 1960's - excavation along the southern shore to construct the Warragamba to Prospect Pipeline during the - a second pipeline linking Warragamba and Prospect was completed in 1966, significantly increasing the volume of water that could be transferred during peak demand periods.

1979-80, a major strengthening programme on the reservoir wall was completed by increasing the volume of its downstream side. The upstream face was strengthened in 1997.

1996 With the commissioning of the Prospect Water Filtration Plant in 1996, raw water transferred from Warragamba and the Upper Nepean Dams was sent directly to the treatment facility, by-passing Prospect Reservoir. However, the filtration plant at Prospect can draw water directly from the Reservoir if needed. The role of the reservoir has since changed to that of a service reservoir, which covers daily fluctuations of demand in the distribution system.

The following physical description of the Prospect Reservoir Valve House has been sourced from the site's listing on the NSW State Heritage Register:⁴

The Prospect Reservoir Valve House was a key element in the Upper Nepean Water Supply Scheme. The valve house has a high level of historic significance, as it has had a direct role in the supply and regulation of water to Sydney after the Scheme's inception in 1888. The building is representative of Board owned buildings designed in Free Classical style and is executed in such a way that allows aesthetic appreciation whilst being free of adornment or fussy decoration. The architectural expressions which imbue the building with significance at the local level include the classical parapet and lintel detail, symmetrical facade and unadorned wall surfaces. The valve house continues to be a central element of the Sydney water supply system.

Following the physical description of the larger Prospect Reservoir site and the Prospect Reservoir Valve House above, the section of the site pertaining to this proposal consists of a vegetated area, consisting of a grassed area, surrounded by mature trees, and with two elevated reservoirs visible to the north. There is a service, gravel road adjacent to the portion of land pertaining to the works. There are no existing built structures in this area, with the exception of an existing electricity pole and overhead electricity mains.



3.3 Views

The Prospect Reservoir site is a readily visible item within Prospect and the locality. The primary view lines to the site are made from Reservoir Road. However, the section of the site pertaining to this proposal would not be visible from this view line.

The proposed works would be in a relatively obscure location in the context of the Prospect Reservoir and Valve House. However, the proposed works would be visible from William Lawson Drive, an internal road in the subject site which is part of the Prospect Valve House curtilage and greater Prospect Reservoir curtilage.

3.4 Images

The following photographs have been taken by Heritage 21 at the site inspection undertaken on 5 September 2022, unless stated otherwise.



Figure 15. View to the proposed location of the relocation of the Huntingwood communications tower within the subject site (indicated with blue arrow), facing north-east



Figure 16. View from the proposed location of the new works, facing north-east towards two elevated reservoirs



Figure 17. View to the proposed location of the new works, facing north-west



Figure 18. View to the proposed location of the new works, facing south-west

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Figure 19. View to the proposed location of the new works, facing west



Figure 21. View from the proposed location of the new works, facing south-east



Figure 23. View from William Lawson Drive, facing east towards the location of the proposed works, indicated in blue. The tower would be visible from this location (Source: Heritage 21, 2 June 2022)



Figure 20. View to the proposed location of the new works, facing north-west



Figure 22. View from the proposed location of the new works, facing south-west



Figure 24. View from the southern lookout, facing north towards the location of the proposed works, indicated in blue (Source: Heritage 21, 2 June 2022)



4.0 HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

In order to assess the impact of the proposed works on the heritage significance of the subject site and heritage items in the vicinity of the site, it is necessary to first ascertain the heritage significance of these places. Accordingly, Statements of Significance for the subject site (refer to Section 4.1.1), and items 01371 and 01351 in the vicinity are provided below. The significance of these places will form part of our considerations in the assessment of heritage impact, undertaken in Section 6.0 below.

4.1 Established Significance

4.1.1 Prospect Reservoir and Surrounding Area (SHR 01370)

The following Statement of Significance is available for the Prospect Reservoir and Surrounding Area on the State Heritage Inventory:⁵

Prospect Reservoir is historically significant at the state level as it is a central element of the Sydney water supply system. As a part of the Upper Nepean Scheme, the Reservoir has continued to supply water to Sydney for over 120 years, and generally still operates in the same way as it was originally constructed. That it has continued to be used since its construction reflects the inventive and progressive way in which the reservoir was designed and built, and this contributes to its significance greatly.

The Reservoir reflects three significant changes in municipal life during the late 19th century; the development of water and general public utility services; the importance of ensuring an adequate and dependable centralised water supply; and the collective bureaucratic response to the delivery of capital works of this nature.

Built between 1882 and 1888, it was an outstanding achievement in civil engineering technology at the time, using innovative design and construction methods. It has a high level of historical engineering significance.

Prospect Reservoir is strongly associated with the Harbours and Rivers Branch of the NSW Public Works Department, particularly Edward Orpen Moriarty, Head of the branch at the time of the Reservoir's construction, and later with the Board of Water Supply and Sewerage (later the Metropolitan Water and Sewerage Board) and most recently, with the Sydney Catchment Authority.

The Reservoir area is aesthetically significant, as a picturesque site with a large expanse of water, parklands, landscaping and bush. The place is valuable for its recreational amenity for passive recreation, punctuating the monotony of the surrounding urban landscape. It has been used for recreation by the community for generations.

It continues to regulate the release of water from Prospect Reservoir to the Lower Canal and the Sydney Distribution system.

The place also contains examples of functional colonial architecture. (Sydney Water Corporation)(amended by BCubed Sustainability, 2006)



⁵ Heritage NSW, "Prospect Reservoir and Surrounding Area."

The listing includes Prospect Reservoir, landscape elements and all associated structures, including pumping stations, to the property boundary. The environs of the reservoir and hence this listing also include a wide range of items, which relate to later amplification of water supply. These include examples of 1920s and 30s pumping stations, a residence, and the 72" (1,800 mm) main, constructed between the Upper Canal and Pipe Head in 1937. Later items associated with the Warragamba Supply Scheme and more modern developments include several more recent pumping stations, screening and boosting plants on the eastern and southern sides of the Reservoir, and the 84-inch (2,100 mm) water main from Prospect, to Pipe Head, completed in 1958.

See listing for Veteran Hall for significance as part of the William Lawson Estate.

4.1.2 Prospect Reservoir Valve House (SHR 01371)

The following Statement of Significance for Prospect Reservoir Valve House is on the State Heritage Inventory:⁶

The Prospect Reservoir Valve House was a key element in the Upper Nepean Water Supply Scheme. The valve house has a high level of historic significance, as it has had a direct role in the supply and regulation of water to Sydney after the Scheme's inception in 1888. The building is representative of Board owned buildings designed in Free Classical style and is executed in such a way that allows aesthetic appreciation whilst being free of adornment or fussy decoration. The architectural expressions which imbue the building with significance at the local level include the classical parapet and lintel detail, symmetrical facade and unadorned wall surfaces. The valve house continues to be a central element of the Sydney water supply system.

4.2 Heritage items in the Vicinity

4.2.1 Veteran Hall – House Remains (SHR 01351)

The following Statement of Significance for Veteran Hall – House Remains – located in the vicinity of the subject site – is on the State Heritage Inventory:⁷

The Veteran Hall archaeological remains are associated with the explorer and statesman, William Lawson, who built the first substantial house on the site. The remains can potentially provide insights into settlement in the area and 19th century pastoralism, due to their intactness. The site has the potential to yield information about the second occupants of the site, the Metropolitan Water Supply Board, who occupied the site during the early phases of the Upper Nepean Scheme until the early years of the 20th century, when the Military took it over. The remains make a positive contribution to the landscape and relate harmoniously to the visual catchment of the Prospect Reservoir curtilage.



⁶ Heritage NSW, "Prospect Reservoir Valve House," State Heritage Inventory, accessed 10 September 2022, Heritage ID 5051479, https://www.hms.heritage.nsw.gov.au/App/Item/ViewItem?itemId=5051479.

⁷ Heritage NSW, "Veteran Hall – House Remains," State Heritage Inventory, accessed 10 September 2022, Heritage ID 5051453, https://www.hms.heritage.nsw.gov.au/App/Item/ViewItem?itemId=5051453.

5.0 WORKS PROPOSED

5.1 Proposal Description

The Endeavour Energy proposal includes the relocation and installation of a communications facility comprising:

- A 60m freestanding heavy duty lattice tower made from galvanised steel with matte finish including, self-supporting concrete footings.
- Medium intensity red obstacle light at the top of the tower.
- An equipment building (7.0 x 4.0m) on concrete footing foundations.
- An External ladder approximately 57.0m in height.
- A compound area 15.0m x 15.0m around the infrastructure, including a 2.8m high security fence with double access gates.
- A New pole with substation and overhead lines.
- Power supply works including underground cabling.

The following images are Waterboard Tower at Horsley Park (Figure 25 and Figure 26). This structure is of a similar design to the proposal and provides a visual representation. However, this tower is of a significantly greater height than the proposed tower. The other image below is of the existing Huntingwood Tower (Figure 27). The proposed design would be slenderer than this tower.



Figure 25. Aerial imagery of an existing tower (Waterboard Tower at Horsley Park) which is similar in design to the proposal. (Source: Image provided by Endeavour Energy, 9 November 2022)





Figure 26. Aerial imagery of an existing tower (Waterboard Tower at Horsley Park) which is similar in design to the proposal. (Source: Image provided by Endeavour Energy, 9 November 2022)



Figure 27. Aerial imagery of an existing tower (Huntingwood tower). (Source: Image provided by Endeavour Energy, 9 November 2022)



5.2 Drawings

Our assessment of the proposal is based on the following concept drawings by Endeavour Energy dated 6 July 2022 and received by Heritage 21 on 9 January 2023. The drawings are reproduced below for reference only.



Figure 28. Cover Sheet.





Figure 29. Overall Site Plan



Figure 30. Overall Sectional View





Figure 31. Overall Sectional View 2



Figure 32. Detailed Site Plan





Figure 33. Detailed Site Plan - Elevations



Figure 34. Site Plan – Cut & Fill





Figure 35. Established Pole Mounted Substation



Figure 36. Established Pole Mounted Substation





Figure 37. Established Pole Mounted Substation


6.0 ASSESSMENT OF HERITAGE IMPACT

6.1 Heritage Management Framework

Below we outline the heritage-related statutory and non-statutory constraints applicable to the subject site including the objectives, controls and considerations which are relevant to the proposed development as described in Section 5.0 above. These constraints and requirements form the basis of this Heritage Impact Assessment.

6.1.1 Heritage Act 1977 (NSW)

The subject site is listed on the NSW State Heritage Register. Listing on the state heritage register provides statutory heritage protection to the site under the *Heritage Act 1977* (NSW) ("the Act").

Listing on the State Heritage Register signifies that the site:

- Is of particular importance to the people of NSW and enriches the understanding of our history and identity.
- Is legally protected as a heritage item under the NSW Heritage Act; and
- Requires approval from the Heritage Council of NSW for major changes.

The proposed works are to be assessed under the provisions of Section 57(1) and Section 60 of the Act, which apply to non-exempt works at places listed on the NSW State Heritage Register. This Statement of Heritage Impact has been prepared by Heritage 21 in order to allow the Heritage Council of NSW to assess the potential heritage impact of the proposed works.

6.1.2 Prospect Reservoir Site Conservation Management Plan 2005

Our assessment of heritage impact also considers the relevant section of the Prospect Reservoir Conservation Management Plan (CMP), prepared by Sydney Water Corporation in December 2005, namely Section 7, "Conservation Policies."

6.1.3 NSW Office of Environment & Heritage guidelines

In its guidelines for the preparation of Statements of Heritage Impact, the NSW Office of Environment & Heritage provides a list of considerations in the form of questions aiming at directing and triggering heritage impact assessments. These are divided in sections to match the different types of proposals that may occur on a heritage item, item in a heritage conservation area or in the vicinity of heritage. Below are listed the considerations which are most relevant to the proposed development as outlined in Section 5.0 of this report.



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Major additions (see also major partial demolition)

- How is the impact of the addition on the heritage significance of the item to be minimised?
- Can the additional area be located within an existing structure? If not, why not?
- Will the additions tend to visually dominate the heritage item?
- Are the additions sited on any known, or potentially significant archaeological deposits? If so, have alternative positions for the additions been considered?
- Are the additions sympathetic to the heritage item? In what way (e.g. form, proportions, design)?

New services (e.g. air conditioning, plumbing)

- How has the impact of the new services on the heritage significance of the item been minimised?
- Are any of the existing services of heritage significance? In what way? Are they affected by the new work?
- Has the advice of a conservation consultant (e.g. architect) been sought? Has the consultant's advice been implemented?
- Are any known or potential archaeological deposits (underground and under floor) affected by the proposed new services?

6.1.4 State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021

Our assessment of heritage impact also considers the heritage-related sections of the State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure), 2021 ('TISEPP') that are pertinent to the subject site and proposed development. These include:

Part 2 General

Division 1 Consultation

2.11 Consultation with councils—development with impacts on local heritage.

6.1.5 Other Heritage Considerations

Other general heritage matters which may not have been addressed in heritage controls or requirements by the local Council or the NSW Office of Environment & Heritage are likely to include considerations as to whether:

- The historical use of the site would be maintained and if not if the proposed new use would be suitable to the heritage significance.
- The historical setbacks and boundaries of the site would be retained as existing.
- Any significant views to and from significant buildings or elements, or across significant areas would be impacted.



6.2 Heritage Impact Assessment

Below we assess the impact that the proposed development would have upon the subject site, and the heritage items in the vicinity. This assessment is based upon the Historical Context (refer to Section 2.0), the Physical Evidence (refer to Section 3.0), Heritage Significance (refer to Section 4.0) the Proposal (refer to Section 5.0), a review of the Heritage Management Framework (refer to Section 6.1) and the impact of the proposal on the relevant heritage item in the vicinity of the site (refer to Sections 1.3 and 1.3.2).

6.2.1 Summary

The proposal involves the installation of a 60m freestanding heavy duty lattice tower which would serve as a communication facility. As discussed in Sections 1.3 and 3.3 above, the proposed tower has been sited within the Prospect Reservoir and surrounding area (SHR 01370) and the Prospect Reservoir Valve House (SHR 01371), both items are of heritage significance listed under the NSW State *Heritage Act 1977*. The proposed location for the tower is also within the vicinity of Veteran Hall – House Remains (SHR 01351), although not within the curtilage of the item.

The proposal includes the relocation of communication services from Huntingwood and the construction of a tower with an adjacent equipment hut and a fence surrounding the new structure. We note that the new communications equipment would be considered an essential service to provide connectivity to Endeavour Energy's wide area network along with associated sites and vital to keep the power grid active and managed. Endeavour Energy have provided further context regarding the requirements for the tower, and why it is deemed to be essential, in their response to Heritage NSW, dated 14 November 2022.

As discussed in Section 3.0 above, the section of the site pertaining to this proposal does not contain any built fabric of significance but is predominately vegetated, consisting of a grassed area and surrounded by mature trees. As a result, the proposal to introduce a new communications structure within the site would not include the removal of any built fabric of significance and mature trees within the subject site. However, it is recognised that the significance of the Prospect Reservoir site is tied to its aesthetic qualities as a picturesque, landscaped area and to its natural heritage values considering the reservoir is one of the "finest examples of the native bushland left in the western suburbs of Sydney."⁸ As such, the impact of the proposed tower should also consider the visual impact to the area, and whether there is an impact to the natural heritage values of the place.

Heritage 21 acknowledges there would inevitably be some visual impact as a result of the proposed tower installation. The tower would be of a significant scale and height which, unfortunately, cannot be reduced without compromising operational requirements and regulations of the communications service. In order to mitigate this visual impact, the design of the tower would employ a range of measures including a slender design, lattice configuration to provide relief in the solid massing and a matte finish. A similar tower to the proposed design, located within a bushland setting, is presented at Figure 25 and 26. Communication infrastructure is commonly seen in the context of Greater Sydney,

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⁸ Heritage NSW, "Prospect Reservoir and Surrounding Area," State Heritage Inventory, Heritage Item ID 5045336, accessed 12 September 2022, https://www.hms.heritage.nsw.gov.au/App/Item/ViewItem?itemId=5045336.

and it is Heritage 21's opinion that the proposal at the subject site follows an established precedent in this regard. Whilst that hardly justifies ad hoc placement, the proposal has involved a considered siting process, involving stakeholder consultation with Sydney Water, to ensure the proposed tower has minimal impact to the Prospect Reservoir site, including its aesthetic and natural heritage values.

The Visual Impact Assessment, prepared by Endeavour, dated 24 January 2023, has aimed to capture a number of vantage points within the Prospect Reservoir site, including in the near vicinity and the wider curtilage. It was desirable to include a vantage point to the east of the Prospect Reservoir site, however this area was not publicly accessible. Due to the strategic siting of the tower along the eastern boundary of the site, it is obscured from many of these view lines. However, the Visual Impact Assessment does indicate that the tower would be visible from several locations, notably the industrial area to the east and the internal road, William Lawson Drive, within the reservoir site. In our opinion, the view lines to the Reservoir from the adjacent industrial area are not of high significance; however, the view lines from within the reservoir site should remain unaltered, where possible.

As identified in the Visual Impact Assessment, Viewpoint 1, the tower would be visible from William Lawson Drive. Heritage 21 notes that generally, it appears that views to the tower would be obscured and balanced by the existing vegetation in the foreground (including the mature Eucalyptus and Araucarias). From this viewpoint, we are of the opinion that the tower would remain in the background and would not directly obstruct any key view lines. It is also noted that telecommunications towers and service poles are not uncommon to the east of William Lawson Drive. To that end, the views of the surrounding area are already altered by existing services infrastructure, and the proposed tower would not impact a pristine landscape. As such, Heritage 21 is of the opinion that this visual impact acceptable despite a minor visual impact.

The impact to Viewpoint 2, 3, 4 and 6 has been assessed as having a negligible impact, as the tower would generally be obscured because of the topography and existing vegetation. These view lines have all been selected due to their significance and/or their public accessibility. Heritage 21 is of the opinion that the tower would have a neutral impact to these view lines. However, we do note that the tower would be visible from Viewpoint 5 which is a public picnic area. This public picnic area has key views over the reservoir, facing west. These would not be impacted by the proposed tower which would only be visible when facing north. The other views from this location, including to the industrial area to the east, are not considered to be significant. As such, Heritage 21 is of the opinion that this visual impact would be acceptable.

Viewpoint 7 has been selected due to its associations with indigenous significance and its visual relationship with the Prospect Reservoir Site. The key view line from this location is facing east towards Paramatta and Sydney – which would remain uninterrupted. The tower, however, would be partially visible when facing west towards the industrial zone. This is presently an altered view line, which contains a high quantity of infrastructure. As such, the tower would not detract from this view line and in our opinion, this visual impact would be acceptable.

The impact to the natural heritage values has also been addressed in the response made by Endeavour to Heritage NSW, dated 14 November 2022. It is noted that tower would not be sited within the Prospect Nature Reserve, which is located at the northern part of the site and would not include the



removal of any significant species or mature trees. The proposal would involve clearing of juvenile grass/weeds. This assessment provided by Endeavour does not indicate that there would be any impact to the natural heritage values of the place. Considering that no significant vegetation would be removed as part of this proposal, Heritage 21 is of the opinion that the proposed removal of juvenile grass/weeds is acceptable. Heritage 21 notes that there is potential to improve the immediate site of the tower through the implementation of a replantation strategy, including weed removal and replanting with endemic species.

The location of the proposed tower is critical to ensure that the operational and regulatory requirements continue to be met by Endeavour Energy. Whilst the siting of this tower within a state listed asset is not ideal, the location at the eastern boundary has been selected whilst also considering a reduced visual impact and preventing any impact to natural heritage. Ultimately, the proposed tower, due to its height and scale, would have a visual impact on the Prospect Reservoir site. However, this visual impact has been minimised through the design of the tower and also the proposed siting, which was chosen in collaboration with Sydney Water as the most appropriate location following an options analysis. In the opinion of Heritage 21, this visual impact would not significantly detract from the aesthetic qualities of the site it would be widely obscured from within the wider Prospect Reservoir site. We also note that where the tower would be visible, it would not be unique to the surrounding landscape, which contains numerous telecommunications system towers. As such, we are of the opinion that the tower would have a minimal albeit acceptable impact to the heritage significance of the Prospect Reservoir site.



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6.2.2 Impact Assessment Against the Prospect Reservoir Site Conservation Management Plan, 2005

7. Conservation Policies

7.2 Procedural Recommendations

7.2.1 Treatment of Fabric of Different Grades of Significance

Guidelines

7. Proposed changes to suit new use requirements should ideally be focused on areas or components with low significance. Where changes to more significant elements are unavoidable, they should be carefully designed to respect and retain the architectural and spatial features that contribute to the overall significance.

The proposed new communications tower and equipment which would allow Endeavour Energy to provide an essential service. The new tower and equipment would be introduced within a grassed area of the site which does not contain any built fabric. The proposed electrical conduits and cables would utilise existing overhead lines where possible with the new services to be introduced underground. As a result, the works would not include the removal of any built fabric of significance. This would ensure that the proposal would retain the architectural and spatial features that contribute to the overall significance of the site.

7.5 Built Environment

7.5.2 Conservation of Significant Built Fabric and Other Site Elements

Guidelines

All Areas Generally

2. All future work undertaken should be based on a respect for the original fabric, where it survives and should involve the least possible physical intervention.

3. No future work to the item should negatively impact the significant fabric elements, allowing exceptions in cases where technically feasible alternative do not exist.

The proposed works would not include the removal of any original built fabric. They would be concentrated to a small portion of the site consisting of a grassed area, ensuring the least possible physical intervention. The siting of the tower has been carefully considered to ensure that it is placed at a location which has a similar elevation to the existing Huntingwood tower (which is 86m AHD) to ensure regulatory requirements continue to be met. While the proposed new tower would be 60m high, it would be considered a necessary and essential service. In addition, it would be located in a vegetated area, be surrounded by mature trees, and would employ design features to minimise the visual impact. In order to mitigate its visual impact, the design of the tower would employ a range of measures including a slender design, a steel lattice configuration to provide relief in the solid massing, and a matte finish.

7.5.4 Installation of New Services and Upgrading to Suit Contemporary Use Guidelines

2. Before installation of any new services, an assessment of potential impact of the proposed works to the surviving significant fabric should be sought from the Sydney Water's Heritage Manager and Heritage Adviser.

This Statement of Heritage Impact report has been prepared to assess the impact of the proposed works on the surviving significant fabric of the site.



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7.10 Landscape, Cultural Plantings & Natural Heritage Guidelines

1. Maintain plantings to ensure they remain healthy. Contact a specialist if tree looks to be in decline.

3. Significant trees should only be removed if they pose a safety hazard or if all other options have been exhausted.

It is our understanding that the works would not include the removal of any mature trees. The impact to the natural environment has also been addressed in the response made by Endeavour to Heritage NSW, dated 14 November 2022.

7.14 Curtilage

Guidelines

2. New development within the minimum curtilage should only be considered if required for the essential operation of the site. Any such development should be sympathetic and comply with archaeological and natural heritage recommendations

The proposed location of the new tower would be outside the curtilage of the Veteran Hall – House Remains (SHR 01351). However, it would fall within the far eastern boundary of the Prospect Reservoir Valve House (SHR 01371) curtilage and also within the curtilage of the Prospect reservoir and surrounding area (SHR 01370). The proposed tower, due to its height and scale, would have a visual impact on the Prospect Reservoir site. However, this visual impact has been minimised through the design of the tower and also the proposed siting, which was chosen in collaboration with Sydney Water as the most appropriate location. The location of the proposed tower is critical to ensure that the operational and regulatory requirements continue to be met by Endeavour Energy.

Question	Assessment
Major additions (see also major partial dem	olition)
How is the impact of the addition on the heritage significance of the item to be minimised?	The proposal includes the relocation of communication services and the construction of a tower and equipment hut with a fence surrounding it. The proposed new tower would be appropriately sited in a grassed area of the site, surrounded by mature trees and, away from fabric of significance. Further, the works would not include the removal of any built fabric of significance, would retain mature trees within the site, with the recommended galvanised steel with matte finish for the tower. Such measures would ensure that the impact of the works on the heritage significance of the item would be
Can the additional area be located within an existing structure? If not, why not?	minimised. No, the new communications tower cannot be located within an existing structure due to its nature and height.
Will the additions tend to visually dominate the heritage item?	The proposed structure would likely be visually dominant to the heritage items and item in the vicinity due to its height and nature. The proposed works would not be considered subservient within the context of the surrounding natural context.

6.2.3 Impact Assessment Against the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage Guidelines



Question	Assessment
	However, considerations have been made within the proposal to mitigate this visual impact. This includes the existing topography, the nature of the site, the distance from the items, as well as through the incorporation of design features, the appropriate siting of the site in a landscaped area, and the distance of the new works from fabric of significance would ensure the impact of the works would be minimised. Due to the nature of the proposed communication tower, it would be considered an essential service for Endeavour Energy, their associated sites within the wide area network and maintaining an active power grid.
Are the additions sited on any known, or potentially significant archaeological deposits? If so, have alternative positions for the additions been considered?	It is beyond the scope of this report to assess subsurface deposits.
Are the additions sympathetic to the heritage item? In what way (e.g. form, proportions, design)?	These works present an opportunity for Endeavour Energy to provide an essential service to the general public. These towers, which are a relatively common feature within the architectural landscape, have been designed to minimise their visual impact. The design of the tower would employ a range of measures including a slender design, lattice configuration to provide relief in the solid massing, and a matte finish.
New services (e.g. air condition, plumbing)	
How has the impact of the new services on the heritage significance of the item been minimised?	The proposed services have been placed to the eastern side of the reservoir's surrounding landscape. No significant fabric would be modified to accommodate the new services. The new services would utilise existing cabling where possible to minimise the impact.
Are any of the existing services of heritage significance? In what way? Are they affected by the new work?	No, to our knowledge, the existing services are the electrical services of the Sydney Water main switchboard. As a result, they are not of heritage significance.
Has the advice of a conservation consultant (e.g. architect) been sought? Has the consultant's advice been implemented?	Heritage 21 has been involved with the project to provide advice and prepare this Statement of Heritage Impact.
Are any known or potential archaeological deposits (underground and under floor) affected by the proposed new services?	Archaeological subsurface deposits are not in the scope of this report.



6.2.4 Impact Assessment Against the TISEPP

Part 2 General
Division 1 Consultation
2.11 Consultation with councils—development with impacts on local heritage.
(1) This section applies to development carried out by or on behalf of a public authority if the development —
(a) is likely to affect the heritage significance of a local heritage item, or of a heritage conservation
area, that is not also a State heritage item, in a way that is more than minor or inconsequential, and
(b) is development that this Chapter provides may be carried out without consent.
(2) A public authority, or a person acting on behalf of a public authority, must not carry out development to
which this section applies unless the authority, or the person has—
(a) had an assessment of the impact prepared, and
(b) given written notice of the intention to carry out the development, with a copy of the assessment
and a scope of works, to the council for the area in which the heritage item or heritage conservation
area (or the relevant part of such an area) is located, and
(c) taken into consideration any response to the notice that is received from the council within 21 days
after the notice is given.
Response: This Statement of Heritage Impact has been prepared to assess the impact of the proposed works to
Response: This Statement of Heritage Impact has been prepared to assess the impact of the proposed works to the heritage item and items located in the vicinity. As discussed above in Section 6.2.1, the proposal would not
Response: This Statement of Heritage Impact has been prepared to assess the impact of the proposed works to the heritage item and items located in the vicinity. As discussed above in Section 6.2.1, the proposal would not include the removal of any significant or original built fabric of the Prospect Reservoir site. The proposed
Response: This Statement of Heritage Impact has been prepared to assess the impact of the proposed works to the heritage item and items located in the vicinity. As discussed above in Section 6.2.1, the proposal would not include the removal of any significant or original built fabric of the Prospect Reservoir site. The proposed communications tower would provide an essential service for Endeavour Energy, and it would be sited on a
Response: This Statement of Heritage Impact has been prepared to assess the impact of the proposed works to the heritage item and items located in the vicinity. As discussed above in Section 6.2.1, the proposal would not include the removal of any significant or original built fabric of the Prospect Reservoir site. The proposed communications tower would provide an essential service for Endeavour Energy, and it would be sited on a grassed area, away from significant heritage fabric. The tower would be of a significant scale and height which,
Response: This Statement of Heritage Impact has been prepared to assess the impact of the proposed works to the heritage item and items located in the vicinity. As discussed above in Section 6.2.1, the proposal would not include the removal of any significant or original built fabric of the Prospect Reservoir site. The proposed communications tower would provide an essential service for Endeavour Energy, and it would be sited on a grassed area, away from significant heritage fabric. The tower would be of a significant scale and height which, unfortunately, cannot be reduced without compromising operational requirements and regulations of the
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It is our assessment that the proposed works are not likely to affect the heritage significance of the heritagelisted site in a way that would be more than minor. Consequently, Clause 11 of the TISEPP would not be triggered.



7.0 CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 Impact Summary

The NSW Office of Environment & Heritage's guidelines require the following aspects of the proposal to be summarised.⁹

7.1.1 Aspects of the proposal which respect or enhance heritage significance

In our view, the following aspects of the proposal would respect the heritage significance of the subject site and heritage items in the vicinity:

- The proposal does not include the demolition of any heritage-listed item listed in the State Heritage Register under the *NSW Heritage Act 1977*, or the HLEP 2013.
- The proposal does not include the removal of any built fabric of significance or elements of landscape value.
- The proposed communications tower would be critical in providing connectivity to the wide area network, including Endeavour Energy's associated sites, and would be vital to keep the power grid active and managed.
- The proposed tower, through a considered siting process, would be located to the eastern boundary of the site where it would be largely obscured from within the wider Prospect Reservoir site.
- The proposed design of the tower would employ a range of measures to minimise the visual impact including a slender design, lattice configuration to provide relief in the solid massing, and a matte finish.
- The proposal has been sited in an area dominated by grass and juvenile plantings to prevent any impact to the natural heritage values of the site.

7.1.2 Aspects of the proposal which could have detrimental impact on heritage significance

In our view, there are no aspects of the proposal which could be detrimental to the significance of the subject site and heritage items in the vicinity. The neutral impacts of the proposal have been addressed above in Section 7.1.1.

7.1.3 Sympathetic alternative solutions which have been considered

Heritage 21 provided heritage advice to the applicant which has been incorporated in the final proposal as described in Section 5.0. This advice included the following consideration:

• The proposal should incorporate a muted colour scheme, material or finish if permissible, to minimise the visual impact of the communications tower and have a neutral impact on the



⁹ NSW Office of Environment and Heritage, 'Statements of Heritage Impact' (Heritage Office and Department of Urban Affairs & Planning, 1996), http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/heritagebranch/heritage/hmstatementsofhi.pdf.

heritage items in the vicinity. This was considered and the visual assessment recommends the use of galvanised steel with a matte finish for the proposed tower.

No solutions of greater sympathy with the significance of the subject site or heritage items in the vicinity have been discounted to our knowledge.

7.2 Recommendations

In order to improve the immediate site and surroundings of the proposed tower, Heritage 21 recommends a replantation strategy which would involve the removal of weeds and involve replanting additional plants with locally endemic species.

7.3 General Conclusion

Heritage 21 is therefore confident that the proposed development complies with pertinent heritage controls and would engender a minimal impact on the heritage significance of the subject site, and heritage items in the vicinity. We therefore recommend that Heritage NSW view the application favourably on heritage grounds.



8.0 SOURCES

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 pdf.

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HMS Application ID: 1632



Ms Emily McSkimming Heritage 21 20-28 MADDOX ST ALEXANDRIA NSW 2015

By email: emily@heritage21.com.au

Dear Ms McSkimming

APPLICATION UNDER SECTION 60 OF THE HERITAGE ACT 1977 Prospect Reservoir and surrounding area STATE HERITAGE REGISTER Nº 01370

Address: Proposal: Reservoir Road, PROSPECT NSW 2148 The Endeavour Energy proposal includes the relocation and installation of a communications facility comprising: A 60m free-standing heavy duty lattice tower made from galvanised steel with matte finish including, self-supporting concrete footings.

Section 60 application no: HMS ID 1632, received 25/10/2022

As delegate of the Heritage Council of NSW (the Heritage Council), I have considered the above Section 60 application. Pursuant to section 63 of the *Heritage Act 1977*, approval is granted subject to the following conditions:

APPROVED DEVELOPMENT

- 1. All work shall comply with the information contained within:
 - a) Architectural drawings, prepared by Endeavour Energy as listed below:

Dwg No	Dwg Title	Date	Rev			
Project Nam	Project Name: Prospect Reservoir Communications Tower - 52856					
Sheet 1 of 7	Drawing Title and Location Plan	14/12/2022	А			
Sheet 2 of 7	Overall Site Plan	14/12/2022	А			
Sheet 3 of 7	Overall Sectional View 1	14/12/2022	A			
Sheet 4 of 7	Overall Sectional View 2	14/12/2022	А			
Sheet 5 of 7	Detailed Site Plan	14/12/2022	А			
Sheet 6 of 7	Detailed Site Plan - Elevations	14/12/2022	A			
Sheet 7 of 7	Site Plan – Cut and fill	14/12/2022	А			

Project Name: Pole Mounted Substation Site Plan – Cut and fill Huntington Comms Tower Relocation - 527137						
Sheet 1 of 3	Pole - Site Plan	19/10/2022	А			
Sheet 2 of 3	Pole - Cabling diagrams	19/10/2022	А			
Sheet 3 of 3	Pole - Plan and Elevation fill	19/10/2022	А			

- b) Report: Statement of Heritage Impact, prepared by Heritage 21, dated 1 January 2023
- c) Report: *Visual Impact Assessment*, prepared by EMM Consulting, dated 31 January 2023
- d) Report: Vegetation Management Plan, prepared by Gingra Ecological Surveys, dated 1 January 2023

EXCEPT AS AMENDED by the conditions of this approval:

SITE PROTECTION

2. Significant built and landscape elements are to be protected from potential damage during site preparation and during construction. Protection systems must ensure significant fabric, including landscape elements, is not damaged or removed. Individual tree protection requirements shall be determined through consultation between the Project Manager and the Project Arborist prior to installation.

Reason: To ensure significant fabric including vegetation is protected during construction.

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

3. The implementation of the recommendations at Section 5 of the Vegetation Management Plan listed in Schedule 1 are to be implemented to the satisfaction of the Lead Heritage Adviser at Sydney Water.

Reason: To mitigate the visual impact of the proposed tower on the cultural landscape.

PROJECT ARBORIST

4. A suitably qualified Project Arborist (AQF - Level 5) must be nominated for this project. The Project Arborist must provide input into tree protection measures, provide a detailed schedule of pruning, provide heritage information to be imparted to all arborists and tradespeople during site inductions, and oversee the works to minimise impacts to heritage values. During the site establishment stage the Project Arborist must provide a detailed assessment of the pruning requirements for work to significant trees.

Reason: So that appropriate advice is provided to support best practice conservation and ensure works are undertaken in accordance with this approval.

ARBORIST

5. All work to, or affecting, trees belonging to the significant Cumberland Woodland Community shall be carried out by suitably qualified tradespersons with practical experience in conservation and restoration of similar heritage structures, materials and construction methods.

Reason: So that the management of the significant landscape follows best heritage practice.

UNEXPECTED FINDS

6. The Applicant must ensure that if substantial intact archaeological deposits and/or State significant relics are discovered, work must cease in the affected area(s) and the Heritage Council of NSW must be notified. Additional assessment and approval may be required prior to works continuing in the affected area(s) based on the nature of the discovery.

Reason: All significant fabric within a State Heritage Register curtilage should be managed according to its significance. This is a standard condition to identify to the applicant how to

proceed if historical archaeological relics, or other unexpected buried discoveries such as works are identified during the approved project.

ABORIGINAL OBJECTS

7. Should any Aboriginal objects be uncovered by the work which is not covered by a valid Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit, excavation or disturbance of the area is to stop immediately and Heritage NSW is to be informed in accordance with the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. Works affecting Aboriginal objects on the site must not continue until Heritage NSW has been informed and the appropriate approvals are in place. Aboriginal objects must be managed in accordance with the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

Reason: This is a standard condition to identify to the applicant how to proceed if Aboriginal objects are unexpectedly identified during works.

COMPLIANCE

8. If requested, the applicant and any nominated heritage consultant may be required to participate in audits of Heritage Council of NSW approvals to confirm compliance with conditions of consent.

Reason: To ensure that the proposed works are completed as approved.

DURATION OF APPROVAL

9. This approval will lapse five years from the date of the consent unless the building works associated with the approval have physically commenced.

Reason: To ensure the timely completion of works

Advice

Section 148 of the *Heritage Act 1977* (the Act), allows people authorised by the Minister to enter and inspect, for the purposes of the Act, with respect to buildings, works, relics, moveable objects, places or items that is or contains an item of environmental heritage. Reasonable notice must be given for the inspection.

Right of Appeal

If you are dissatisfied with this determination appeal may be made to the Minister for Heritage under section 70 of the Act.

It should be noted that an approval under the Heritage Act is additional to that which may be required from other Local Government and State Government Authorities in order to undertake works.

Stamped documents

Any stamped documents (e.g. approved plans) for this application are available for the Applicant to download from the Heritage Management System at https://hms.heritage.nsw.gov.au under 'My Completed Applications.'

If you have any questions about this correspondence, please contact James Quoyle, Senior Assessments Officer, at Heritage NSW on 9873 8612 or James.Quoyle@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Michael Ellis Manager Assessments Heritage NSW Department of Planning and Environment <u>As Delegate of the Heritage Council of NSW</u> 21 February 2023

cc: Cumberland City Council: <u>council@cumberland.nsw.gov.au</u>

Sydney Water, Philip Bennett: philip.bennett@sydneywater.com.au

PROSPECT RESERVOIR - COMMUNICATIONS TOWER

DWG No.

DWG TITLE

SHEET 1	DRAWING TITLE AND LOCATION PLAN
SHEET 2	OVERALL SITE PLAN
SHEET 3	OVERALL SECTIONAL VIEW 1
SHEET 4	OVERALL SECTIONAL VIEW 2
SHEET 5	DETAILED SITE PLAN
SHEET 6	DETAILED SITE PLAN - ELEVATIONS
SHEET 7	SITE PLAN – CUT & FILL

HERITAGE ACT 1977 **APPLICATION UNDER SECTION 60** Application No: HMS 1632

Approved by: the Heritage Council of NSW Delegated Authority On: 21/02/2023

These plans should be read in conjunction with the decision notice

SHO (for) Delegate Heritage Council

 \triangleleft Civil version 3.0 LOCATION PLAN

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Visual Impact Assessment for Heritage Council of NSW

60 m Communications Tower, Prospect Reservoir 31/01/23







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Document Approval

To the best of the knowledge of the below signatories, this REF has been prepared to be neither false nor misleading and is in accordance with The Code of practice for Authorised Network Operators approved under section 171 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021.

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V1	Verity Blair, EMM Consulting Pty Ltd	16 December 2022	Roweena D Souza Endeavour Energy	Review comments to be addressed
V2	Verity Blair, EMM Consulting Pty Ltd	21 December 2022	Peter Oxnam Endeavour Energy	Approved
V3	Tadd Anderson	24 January 2023	Roweena D Souza Endeavour Energy	Final review
V4	Lia Zwolinski	31 January	Peter Oxnam Endeavor Energy	Final approval



1 Introduction

1.1 Background

Endeavour Energy (EE) is an electricity distribution system operator servicing over 2.5 million people living and working across Sydney's Greater West, the Blue Mountains, the Southern Highlands, Illawarra and the South Coast of New South Wales (NSW).

In March 2023 the main EE office in Sydney will move from its current location at Huntingwood to a new premises in Parramatta. EE have a communications tower within the Huntingwood site and it is a critical component of EE s wide area network (WAN). The tower provides connectivity and redundancy for several depots, including both EE s Information Technology and Operational Technology data centres as well as for Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) sites which are vital to keep EE s power grid active and managed. As a result of this move, the existing EE communications tower will no longer be accessible and there is a need for a new communications tower.

EE have considered various options for a practicable solution and the site adjacent to the Sydney Water tanks at Prospect Reservoir was deemed as a suitable location for this purpose in terms of microwave links, line of sight and coverage which can provide connectivity to 98 SCADA field assets and one substation that are currently directly connected to the Huntingwood site.

Key features of this proposal include installation of:

- a 60m free-standing heavy duty lattice tower with self-supporting concrete footings;
- an external ladder, approximately 57m in height;
- a new equipment shelter (6m by 3m) on concrete footing foundations;
- a new 600mm cable tray support system from the tower to the equipment hut and support posts;
- a compound area 15m by 15m around the tower and associated infrastructure, including a 2.8 m high security fence with 4.8m wide double access gate;
- a new 17m pole with substation and overhead lines; and
- power supply works and underground cabling.

No trees are required to be removed as part of this proposal.

The site is located on the southern side of Reservoir Road and is part of the larger Prospect Reservoir site. As the proposal is located on land that is within the curtilage of two items on the NSW State Heritage Register namely, Prospect reservoir and surrounding area and the Prospect Reservoir Valve House and in the general vicinity of the NSW State Heritage listed item namely Veteran Hall – House remains, section 60 of the NSW *Heritage Act 1977* is triggered and approval from Heritage Council of NSW (HNSW) is required. EE submitted a Statement of Heritage Impact (SOHI) to HNSW in October 2022 and an updated version in November 2022.

1.2 Purpose of this report

This Visual Impact Assessment (VIA) has been prepared by EMM on behalf of Endeavour Energy. The purpose of this report is to provide an assessment of the visual impact of the proposed tower on key heritage-listed items in response to the clarifications sought by HNSW:



The reservoir is identified as being of state significance as aesthetically significant as a picturesque site (SoS). The proposed erection of a 60m high electrical tower at a high point within the picturesque landscape will impact these values.

- The impact on the picturesque landscape identified in the SoS is not adequately addressed and requires more consideration, details and with options explored.
- A Visual Impact Assessment (VIA) of the proposed development is required. The views are to be located on a plan to indicate the location from which they were taken and why that location is significant.
- Include a photomontage of the proposed development as seen from significant locations.

1.3 Applicable environmental planning instruments and guidelines

The proposal requires assessment and approval under Division 5.1, section 5.5 of the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act).

Clause 171(2) of the NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021 requires consideration of environmental factors, including:

- d) Any reduction of the aesthetic, recreational, scientific or other environmental quality or value of a locality
- e) Any effect on a locality, place or building having aesthetic, anthropological, archaeological, architectural, cultural, historical, scientific or social significance or other special value for present or future generations

This report also considers the Guidelines for Division 5.1 assessments (DPE June 2022). These guidelines support the assessment of environmental effects noted in Clause 171(2) of the EP&A Regulation.



2 Methodology

The following is an overview of the methodology adopted for the visual assessment.

2.1 Existing visual environment

2.1.1 Desktop analysis

A review of key planning requirements, policies and guidance was undertaken in relation to the visual environment within the heritage curtilage. The review identified elements outlined in legislation, policy and planning documents relevant to the visual character of the area. Existing environment data and project information was gathered and reviewed, including:

- project design information and site photographs;
- topography, land use, and vegetation maps;
- Google Earth and Google Street View; and
- LiDAR (light detection and ranging) data.

Using this data, a preliminary assessment of the visual environment was undertaken to inform the site inspection.

2.1.2 Site Inspection

Site inspections were undertaken by an environmental specialist from EMM consulting on 12 August and 13 November 2022 and 23 January 2023. The purpose of the inspections was to:

- identify visual receiver locations;
- inspect the site and appreciate views to / from sensitive heritage items;
- inspect publicly accessible locations identified during the desktop analysis as likely to provide views of the proposal, including roads, footpaths, infrastructure, etc; and
- take photographs for preparation of photomontages.

2.1.3 Definition of existing visual environment

An assessment of existing visual conditions was undertaken to establish the key views, topography, vegetation and other visual features relevant to the proposal. Refer to Section 4 for an assessment of the existing visual environment.

2.1.4 Viewpoint selection

Visual receivers were considered in terms of the views they are likely to have of the proposal from within and outside the heritage curtilage including consideration of any key vantage points, such as picnic areas and lookouts.

Refer to Section 5 for viewpoint locations.



2.2 Impact assessment

2.2.1 Visual effects

The evaluation of potential impacts on the visual environment is based on the sensitivity of the viewpoint (and the visual receiver it represents) to change, and the magnitude of change that is likely to occur. The sensitivity of each viewpoint is considered to be dependent on:

- the importance of the view, its existing scenic qualities and the presence of other existing man-made elements in the view; and
- the type of visual receiver and their likely interest in the view.

The assessment considers the likely impacts of the project. To measure the visual sensitivity and the visual effect of the site, specific locations known as viewpoints are chosen as representative views. In this instance, the viewpoints have been chosen to demonstrate any visual impacts on the heritage. The effect on a view depends on factors such as the extent of visibility, degree of obstruction of existing features, degree of contrast with the existing view, angle of view, duration of view and distance from the project. The steps that were undertaken to assess the visual effects of the project included:

- identifying and mapping viewpoint locations close to key heritage items; and
- undertaking an assessment of visual effects, comprising:
 - o sensitivity of visual receivers to proposed change and value attached to views; and
 - magnitude of visual effect, based on: size or scale of change; geographical extent of effects, and duration and reversibility of effects.

An assessment was undertaken of the overall level of significance of the visual effects from the project in relation to the existing view.

2.3 Assumptions

This VIA has been prepared in response to comments from Heritage NSW and therefore only assesses the visual effects the proposal will have on heritage listed items including Prospect Reservoir and curtilage, the Valve House and former Veterans Hall (refer Figure 8) as agreed with Heritage NSW.

It is assumed that the visual sensitivity is high within the heritage curtilage, given the proximity of heritage items to the proposed tower. This high visual sensitivity triggers the need for this VIA in order to determine the level of visual impact of the proposed tower.

Further, it is noted that impacts associated with the construction of the proposed tower and associated infrastructure have not been as assessed as they are considered temporary in nature.



2.3.1 Photography

Photographs were taken from the seven viewpoints shown in Figure 7. Photomontages were prepared using WindPro, a program designed to accurately generate photomontages using digital terrain data, 3D models of the proposed tower and site photographs. In order to validate the photomontages, a program called Neara was used to create a similar looking tower and assess the location of the tower from the three viewpoints using LIDAR data.

3 Project Description

3.1 Location of the study area

The proposal site is located off William Lawson Dive, Prospect on the southern side of Reservoir Road and is part of the larger Prospect Reservoir site (refer Figures 1 and 2). The site is located on part of Prospect Hill in the vicinity of existing water tanks to its northeast and within Lot 304 Deposited Plan (DP) 1122291. It is noted that the larger Prospect Hill site takes in a larger area, including the former quarry and second summit to the east. For the purposes of this report, the site location is referred to as Prospect Hill and is defined as the western summit of the wider Prospect Hill site. Prospect Reservoir and surrounds is located across Cumberland, Fairfield and Blacktown Local Government Areas (LGAs), while the proposal site is located solely within Blacktown LGA (refer Figure 3). The proposal site is located at the top of Prospect Hill, on the second highest summit known as Water Tower Hill, which is located within the curtilage of the Prospect Reservoir. The reservoir and its surrounds, along with the Prospect Reservoir Valve House, are listed on the State Heritage Register. Water Tower Hill is not accessible to the public and access to the tower would be via an existing gated access track.



Figure 1: Aerial view of the Prospect reservoir site highlighted in yellow (source: sixmaps).



Sensitive visual receivers in the area include recreational users accessing the picnic, open space and lookout areas and Sydney Water staff working in the Sydney Water offices. There is only a relatively small area of the reservoir and surrounds, in the south-east corner, that is accessible to the public, due to access restrictions for Prospect Nature Reserve and some Sydney Water land.



Figure 2: Location of proposal within Blacktown LGA wherein LGA extent is shown by a black border (source: Blacktown City Council)

3.2 Site layout components

Key components that will need to be constructed and installed are listed below:

- a 60m free-standing heavy duty lattice tower with self-supporting concrete footings (constructed in matt galvanised steel to reduce reflectivity);
- an external ladder, approximately 57m in height;
- a new equipment shelter (6m by 3m) on concrete footing foundations;
- a new 600mm cable tray support system from the tower to the equipment hut and support posts;
- a compound area 15m by 15m around the tower and associated infrastructure, including a 2.8m high security fence with 4.8m wide double access gate;
- a new pole with substation and overhead lines; and



• power supply works and underground cabling.

The overall site plan in Figure 3 shows the location of the tower in relation to the existing water towers and quarry edge, while Figures 6 and 7 show detailed elevations of the tower and associated infrastructure.




Figure 3 - Overall Site Plan

4 Existing Visual Landscape

The area surrounding Prospect Reservoir is characterised by a number of land uses including Eastern Creek Raceway and Western Sydney Dragway to the north and Raging Waters theme park to the west. A former quarry now developed as an industrial park adjoins the east while Austral bricks and other various industrial development is located to the south (refer Figure 4). In addition, there are a number of guyed masts, towers and electricity pylons in the surrounding area.

It is noted that there are no permanent residential dwellings in close proximity to the site for the proposed tower.



Figure 4 - Overview of the key land uses in the vicinity of the proposal

Prospect Nature Reserve occupies the northern and western area immediately surrounding Prospect Reservoir. It is noted that this nature reserve is not publicly accessible and views into the site from the local road network and adjoining land are very limited given Prospect Nature Reserve and other existing vegetation that surrounds the reservoir. There are no views to the proposed tower location from publicly accessible area on the northern, western and south western edges of Prospect Reservoir.

Land within the Prospect Reservoir heritage curtilage is characterised by open grassed areas, with scattered picnic spots, stands of mature vegetation (primarily Cumberland Plain Woodland) and a number of State heritage-listed buildings associated with the reservoir including the Prospect Reservoir Valve House. There are also a few single-storey modern buildings that house Sydney Water site offices. The visual catchment of Prospect Reservoir is limited primarily to views from publicly accessible areas, including William Lawson Drive, picnic areas in the south-east corner of the Reservoir and picnic areas/lookouts on Prospect Hill.

The site for the proposed tower is a gently sloping grassed area surrounded by mature vegetation, predominantly comprised of Eucalyptus species, which are between 15m and 25m in height. There are a number of picnic areas and car parks at various levels on Prospect Hill and around the edge of the reservoir. George Maunders lookout affords views over the reservoir itself. It is noted that there are two large water tanks/reservoirs at the top of Prospect Hill, which are around 20m in height. Views of these tanks from within

Prospect Reservoir curtilage are very limited given the topography of the site and the mature vegetation along the ridgeline and further down Prospect Hill.

Views to the western side of Prospect Hill comprise a vegetated slope, with power lines visible. Views to the south of Prospect Hill are steeper, with vegetation above the wall of a disused quarry.

While the reservoir and northern vegetated areas provide a naturalistic landscape with remnant bushland, it sits within an urban context and this is demonstrated by visual elements including the rides and infrastructure of Raging Waters theme park and other communications towers that make up part of the general urban landscape.

There is one public lookout (George Maunder Lookout) located within the curtilage of Prospect Reservoir. Views from this lookout are predominantly over the reservoir towards the west and south-west whereas the proposed tower is towards the northeast of this lookout. In addition, the undulating landform character and tree cover surrounding the proposed tower, effectively screen views of the proposed tower, thereby preserving the scenic quality of views from the lookout.

In order to identify the visual character of the area, a number of photos were taken from various viewpoints (refer Figure 7) within the State Heritage item curtilage and from a highpoint on Prospect Hill Lookout, adjacent to the industrial park, looking towards the proposed tower location. The photos demonstrate that this location is characterised by open, grassy fields that are lined with trees that obscure distant views. These photos are provided in Attachment B.



5 Visual impact assessment

The proposed tower is located towards the high point within the landscape to maximise line of site and coverage. Given that the tower is 60 m in height, there is a potential for a visual impact on the surrounding area, including key heritage items within the heritage curtilage.

In order to address the effect of the proposed tower on the relevant heritage-listed items, an assessment of the visual effects the proposed tower will have, particularly on heritage-listed items, has been undertaken.

The predominant views of the tower will be from the adjoining industrial site to the northeast, with limited vegetation between the tower and the cliff edge above the industrial estate. Notwithstanding, the character of the industrial area, with large scale warehouses, means that the visual impacts from this viewpoint will not be significant or out of character.

It is noted that the key heritage viewpoints are located near the edge of the reservoir, at the toe of Prospect Hill. The sections provided in Figures 5 and 6 below (also included in Attachment A) show how the topography of the land and existing mature vegetation screen views of the tower when viewed from William Lawson Drive and the edge of the reservoir.



Figure 5 - Section showing proposed tower and existing water towers (refer Figure 3 for section location)



Figure 6 - Section showing proposed tower and William Lawson Drive (refer Figure 3 for section location)

In order to assess the visual impact on key heritage items within the curtilage of Prospect Reservoir, Endeavour Energy met with Heritage NSW on 19th January 2023 (meeting notes in Attachment C) and presented the Neara model and key viewpoints. This VIA captures all the viewpoints discussed at the meeting with the following exception/deviations:

- The areas west of the reservoir were heavily vegetated with limited access. Based on site inspections, there were no locations with views to Prospect Hill and the proposed tower along the western and northern sides of the reservoir. Therefore, there were no viewpoints chosen in these areas.
- 2) Prospect Lookout during the meeting the viewpoint discussed was within the north western end towards Clunie Ross Street on land to which the Plan of Management, Cumberland Council March 2019 applies. During the site visit to capture photos for the photomontage at this point, it was noticed that the dense vegetation, industrial area and the steep slope on the western side of a pathway from Clunie Ross St to the high point screened most of the views past the ridgeline. It was only at a specific point on the hilltop that had some view towards the proposed tower and this point is captured as Viewpoint 7 in this report.

Seven photomontages were prepared to demonstrate the visibility of the tower. These were based on selected viewpoints in discussion with HNSW, which are locations chosen to represent the view of a development from that area.

Five viewpoints illustrate views from within the heritage curtilage. These are views from locations with public views or from heritage items. The remaining two viewpoints were from further afield in the surrounding community. These were chosen due to their significance as a lookout location and accessibility to people. Figure 7 indicates the locations of the viewpoints.

The photomontages were prepared using WindPro, a specific visual impact modelling program and a 3D model of the proposed tower. In order to validate the photomontages, a program called Neara was used to create a similar looking tower and assess the location of the tower from three viewpoints using LIDAR data. Both the original photomontages and Neara validations are shown as part of the analysis for viewpoints 1-3 below.

As a tower structure is not available in Neara, a pole that represents the tower, and with dimensions similar to that of the proposed tower was used:

- pole base: 650 cm
- pole top: 150
- pole height: 60 m
- pole material (the aesthetic look): steel

For the LiDAR accuracy specs below are the contract accuracy requirements for the full network scan.

	Vertical accuracy 95% confidence	Horizontal accuracy 95% confidence
LiDAR surveys	+/- 0.15 m	+/- 0.20 m
	Relative	accuracy

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LiDAR surveys	+/- 0.05 m





GDA2020 MGA Zone 56

creating opportunities

Table 1 – Viewpoint 1 Photomontage



Criteria	Comments
Location	Located just outside the heritage curtilage on William Lawson Drive. It is approximately 400 m from the proposed tower and located just outside the heritage curtilage. This view south-east towards the proposed tower is representative of views to site users driving to the reservoir edge and picnic areas along William Lawson Drive.
Description of existing view	The existing view is characterised by open grassed areas on either side of William Lawson Drive, with mature vegetation on the slopes of Prospect Hill enhancing the natural quality of the view. The view is important as it forms part of the main public access to Prospect Reservoir however the presence of power-lines, chain wire fencing and Sydney water offices and vehicles (parked on the road edge) diminish the natural quality of the view. Given this, it is considered that this view has a low to medium value.
Anticipated change to view	The upper portion of the tower is visible from viewpoint 1, with existing vegetation and the slope of the land screening views to the lower part of the tower and associated infrastructure. While the view is scenic in nature, the proposed tower will not significantly impact any specific heritage items The anticipated change to viewpoint 1 would be negligible. While part of the proposed tower would be visible on the treed ridgeline, it does not impact any heritage items (the reservoir is not visible from this point, nor any of the other key heritage items), the proposed tower would be a distant feature and the natural quality of the landscape is already impacted by man-made infrastructure.
Validation of photomontage using Neara.	
Significance of impact	Given the location of viewpoint 1 outside the heritage curtilage and the interruption of the natural landscape by existing man-made infrastructure, it is not considered that this viewpoint is particularly sensitive to change.



The landscape plan (Figure 9) proposes planting native, fast growing trees with potential to bear
hollows in the future along the William Lawson Drive proposed planting area. This would assist
with quicker screening and also in the long term contribute to wildlife corridors and provide nabitat
for native fauna.
The plan also identifies a Bush Regeneration area in the vicinity of the proposed tower to remove exotic shrubs which are competing with the native tree species. This would assist in growth of the native trees improving overall vegetation quality and in further screening.



Criteria	Comments
Location	This photomontage is taken from just outside the gate near the existing submerged tower within the reservoir, at the base of the road up Prospect Hill looking north-east towards the proposed tower. The red arrow indicates the location of the top of the tower.
Description of existing view	This viewpoint is publicly accessible and while there are elements of modern infrastructure, such as power lines and road signs, the view incorporates heritage elements such as the former residential dwelling, post-and-rail fencing and palm trees along the road edge. The mature vegetation on the slopes of Prospect Hill lends a natural quality to the view.
Anticipated change to view	The anticipated change to this view is negligible as the topography of the land and existing vegetation mean that any views of the tower from this viewpoint are obscured.

Validation of photomontage using Neara.

Tower highlighted (for reference only) in green to indicate location





Tower is obscured by the vegetation and topography	
Significance of impact	The significance of change in this location, resulting from the proposed tower, is considered to be negligible, as views of the tower are screened by the vegetation and topography.
Mitigation measures	None required.





Anticipated change to view	The anticipated change to this view is negligible as the topography of the land and existing vegetation mean that any views of the tower from this viewpoint are obscured.
Validation of photom	iontage using Neara.
Tower highlighted in green (for readers reference only) to indicate location	
Tower is obscured by the vegetation and topography	
Significance of impacts	The significance of change in this location, resulting from the proposed tower, is considered to be negligible, as views of the tower are screened by the vegetation and topography.
Mitigation measures	None required.



Table 4 – Viewpoint 4 Photomontage



Criteria	Comments
Location	This view is from the picnic area at Walder Park. It is a popular area for picnicking and recreation use with the public. Prospect Dam rises to the west of this view. Views to the tower location are to the northeast, up the existing hill and past the Valve House.
	The red arrow indicates the location of the top of the tower.
Description of existing view	This viewpoint is publicly accessible. The view incorporates heritage elements such as the Valve House, former residential dwelling, post-and-rail fencing and palm trees along the road edge. The mature vegetation on the slopes of Prospect Hill lends a natural quality to the view.
Anticipated change to view	The anticipated change to this view is negligible as the topography of the land and existing vegetation mean that any views of the tower from this viewpoint are obscured.
Significance of impact	The significance of change in this location, resulting from the proposed tower, is considered to be negligible, as views of the tower are screened by the vegetation and topography.
Mitigation measures	None required.



Table 5 – Viewpoint 5 Photomontage

Criteria	Comments
Location	This view is from the George Maunder Lookout, which is located 350 m south of the tower location. There is significant, mature tree canopy within the picnic area and the parking lot.
Description of existing view	This area is publicly accessible, and even though this viewpoint is relatively close to the tower, the view focus is towards the west and south (as demonstrated in the image below) whereas the

proposed tower is towards the north.

The mature vegetation on the slopes of Prospect Hill lends a natural quality to the view. These trees along with trees in the parking area screen much of the view toward the tower.



	Photograph from Viewpoint 6 showing the dominant views to west (Reservoir) from the picnic area.
Anticipated change to view	The anticipated change to this view is negligible as the topography of the land and existing vegetation mean that any views of the tower from this viewpoint are obscured.
Significance of impact	The significance of the change to views from this location is low due to the existing tree canopy, and the main direction of views is away from the tower.
Mitigation measures	Although the significance of impact is low, Endeavour Energy propose to carry out tree planting within the gated area to further reduce the visual impact.



Table 6 – Viewpoint 6 Photomontage



Criteria	Comments
Location	This view is from Reservoir Road, approximately 1.4 km north of the tower location. Very few views of the tower are available near this location due to large expanses of bushland and roadside vegetation.
	The red arrow indicates the top of the tower.
Description of existing view	The tower is south of this viewing location. Bushland trees and roadside planting screen views of the tower site. Since this is a public road, viewing times would be short and fairly distant.
Anticipated change to view	The anticipated change to this view is negligible due to the trees that screen views toward the tower site, and the short time-frame any viewer would have to absorb the change.
Significance of impact	The significance of the change to views from this location is negligible due to the existing tree canopy and short duration of views.
Mitigation measures	None required.



Table 7 – Viewpoint 7 Photomontage



Criteria	Comments
Location	This view is from the highest point on Prospect Lookout, approximately 1.45 km northeast of the tower location. This site is known as an important Aboriginal site and is part of the Prospect Hill Plan of Management (Cumberland Council March 2019). It offers panoramic views across the landscape predominantly to the east and south (refer to image below).
	Views from Viewpoint 7 looking toward Parramatta and Sydney Access to this summit is from the Clunies Ross Street, although the gates have been closed
	since 2017. This location is situated atop a ridge that runs north-south, screening views of the tower from further east. The vegetation is characterised by a row of planted trees adjacent to boundary lines, scattered shrubs, weeds obscuring the views to the west and south-west and



	makes the western slope inaccessible. There is extensive pasture grassland on the north- eastern slope which is accessible.
Description of existing view	The tower is southwest of this viewing location. The view towards the tower is across planted vegetation, an industrial development that sits in an old quarry site and electrical infrastructure.
Anticipated change to view	The tower is predicted to be visible from this specific location where the photograph was taken. Moving away from this immediate location, views to the tower location are obscured by trees, vegetation, electricity poles, overhead mains, industrial buildings between the viewpoint and the proposed tower that screen the view. As indicated in the photomontage, the water tower is visible over the trees as is the tower from this viewpoint, however, it is only the elevated nature of this viewpoint that allow views to the tower. The land drops away steeply from this point and views quickly become obscured in the immediate vicinity of this location. The Plan of Management also identifies that the views to the west is impacted by the industrial area and existing infrastures and hence has measures to: <i>'retain and add to existing trees on Prospect Hill, consistent with the Prospect Hill Conservation Management Plan, thereby forming large stands of trees to provide a visual buffer to built form when viewed from the top of Prospect Hill.</i> Construct unobtrusive viewing areas at Prospect Hill, and south of the hill looking south-east using low maintenance materials. <i>Plant scattered trees and shrubs on the western boundary to screen industrial areas.</i>
Significance of impact	The significance of the change to views from this location is low due to the existing vegetation and industrial nature of the view towards the tower. This view is only available from the hilltop that is only accessible by foot. While the site is an important Aboriginal site, the key views are to the east and south, away from the tower location. Existing trees screen views to the tower location away from the location of this viewpoint.
Mitigation measures	None required.



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5.1 Mitigation measures

A range of visual impact mitigation methods are available to reduce the impact of a development. As a general rule, mitigation should aim first at reducing the visible changes to the landscape. Secondly, mitigation should screen new infrastructure introduced by the project to present a landscape that is as similar to the existing landscape as possible.

In order to reduce any visual impacts, it is proposed that the tower will be constructed using matt steel, to decrease reflectivity.

Endeavour Energy, in consultation with Sydney Water, will consider the option to undertake revegetation works to support the aesthetics of the visual landscape ensuring access and maintenance requirements met. Endeavour Energy have had a Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) prepared to assess and make recommendations for areas proposed as revegetation areas. Figure 8 (taken from the VMP) indicates locations proposed for infill planting and bush regeneration. This will extend the remnant bushland vegetation further around the reservoir and in doing so, create a visual screen that is consistent with the existing landscape character.

A second recommendation indicated on the landscape plan (refer Figure 8), is the continuation of the street tree planting along William Lawson Drive. This extends the roadside tree planting and will screen views of the tower as vehicles travel south on William Lawson Drive.





Figure 8: Vegetation Management Plan

6 Conclusion

This VIA has been undertaken to understand effect of the proposed tower on the visual amenity of the heritage listed items (Prospect Reservoir, including the Valve House and remains of the Veterans Hall) and respective curtilage, in addition to surrounding industrial and residential land uses, as shown in Figure 5. The proposal is located towards a high point on Prospect Hill, approximately 75 m southwest from the existing Sydney Water tanks. The site is surrounded by mature vegetation to its west, a picnic area to the south, an industrial area to the east and Sydney Water tanks to the north.

Five viewpoints (viewpoints 1 to 5) were chosen to assess the visual impact of the proposal on key heritage items and receivers within the heritage curtilage area. Visual receivers in the area include recreational users accessing the picnic areas, open space and lookout areas and Sydney Water staff working in the Sydney Water offices. Two viewpoints were chosen to assess the impacts onto road users and a recognised important Aboriginal site which may have a line of sight onto the heritage curtilage area, including viewpoints 6 and 7.

Based on the heritage viewpoints and surrounding visual receivers assessed the following outcomes were identified:

- Viewpoint 1 Given the location of viewpoint 1 outside the heritage curtilage and the interruption of the natural landscape by existing man-made infrastructure, it is not considered that this viewpoint is particularly sensitive to change.
- Viewpoint 2 The significance of change in this location, resulting from the proposed tower, is considered to be negligible, as views of the tower are screened by the vegetation and topography.
- Viewpoint 3 The significance of change in this location, resulting from the proposed tower, is considered negligible, as views of the tower are screened by the vegetation and topography.
- Viewpoint 4 The significance of change in this location, resulting from the proposed tower, is considered to be negligible, as views of the tower are screened by the vegetation and topography.
- Viewpoint 5 The significance of the change to views from this location is low due to the existing tree canopy, and the main direction of views is away from the tower.
- Viewpoint 6 The significance of the change to views from this location is negligible due to the existing tree canopy and short duration of views.
- Viewpoint 7 the significance of the change to views from this location is low due to the existing trees screening views and the industrial nature of the view toward the tower.

Overall, it is considered that the visual impact on Prospect Reservoir and key heritage items will be low to negligible.

Attachment A – Design Drawings

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PROSPECT RESERVOIR - COMMUNICATIONS TOWER

DWG No.

DWG TITLE

SHEET 1	DRAWING TITLE AND LOCATION PLAN
SHEET 2	OVERALL SITE PLAN
SHEET 3	OVERALL SECTIONAL VIEW 1
SHEET 4	OVERALL SECTIONAL VIEW 2
SHEET 5	DETAILED SITE PLAN
SHEET 6	DETAILED SITE PLAN - ELEVATIONS
SHEET 7	SITE PLAN – CUT & FILL

LOCATION PLAN







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OVERALL SITE PLAN SCALE 1:500		\bigcirc		C This drawing a therein is the pro Energy and may n reproduced, distr used without the Endeavour Energy	nd the copyright perty of Endeavour ot be copied, ibuted, loaned or written consent of r.	•••
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А	CONCRETE HEADWALL AND RIP RAP SECTION. AS PER AUSTRALIAN STANDARDS AND COUNCIL REQUIREMENTS	
В	2.8m HIGH CHAIN WIRE FENCE WITH STRANDS OF BARBED WIRE ON REINFORCED CONCRETE FILLED BLOCKWORK RETAINING WALL	
	UNDERGROUND CABLE ROUTE FROM NEW POLE TO	7000
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Attachment B – Photos of existing landscape



Photos depicting visual character of proposal site
















Photo G – view to proposed tower from Water NSW offices.	
Photo H – view to proposed tower from heritage information area on William Lawson Drive. View will be predominantly obscured by existing vegetation.	
Photo I – View from gateway adjacent submerged tower and in close proximity to Prospect Reservoir Valve House, looking up road to picnic areas and George Maunder Lookout on Prospect Hill.	
- View from Reservoir wall	















Photo P – view towards proposed tower from Dolerite Way in former quarry industrial park. Tower will be partially obscured by existing industrial buildings.	
Photo Q – View to proposed tower from Belleview Circuit in former quarry industrial park.	







Attachment C – Consultation with Heritage NSW



Lia Zwolinski

From:	James Quoyle <james.quoyle@environment.nsw.gov.au></james.quoyle@environment.nsw.gov.au>
Sent:	Thursday, 19 January 2023 10:51 AM
То:	Roweena Dsouza
Cc:	Michael Ellis
Subject:	RE: Comms Tower at Prospect (HMS1632)

Hi Roweena Thank you for meeting with HNSW today.

The demonstration of the data and modelling to verify the accuracy of the visual impact from key significant areas across the site and from the top of Prospect Hill to the east provided a fuller understanding of the terrain and was effective.

Also, the proposed mitigation measure to reduce the visual impact by improving and rehabilitating the vegetation in this area of the site has benefit and this needs to be part of the application and in a form that may be included in Schedule 1 – APPROVED DOCUMENTS.

Based on your presentation, HNSW are of the opinion that the proposed tower in that location is not likely to materially affect the aesthetic values of the item. Therefore, the application will not be exhibited by HNSW and the approval will be completed under delegation.

What is required:

- Updated VIA
- Updated SoHI
- Updated architectural drawings (extracted from the REF)
- Details of the vegetation rehabilitation plan.

I will initiate a task request in HMS and this will stop the clock to enable you the time to consult with Sydney Water and prepare a vegetation rehabilitation plan. Could you provide an estimate of the time required to finalise this component?

Regards James

James Quoyle (he/him) Senior Assessments Officer Heritage NSW Department of Planning and Environment

T 9873 8612 E james.quoyle@environment.nsw.gov.au

dpie.nsw.gov.au heritage.nsw.gov.au

4 Parramatta Square 12 Darcy Street Parramatta Locked Bag 5020 Parramatta 2124

Working days Monday to Thursday



I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land and pay respects to Elders past and present. I also acknowledge all the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff working with NSW Government at this time.

Please consider the environment before printing this email.

From: Roweena Dsouza <Roweena.Dsouza@endeavourenergy.com.au> Sent: Wednesday, 18 January 2023 4:14 PM To: James Quoyle <James.Quoyle@environment.nsw.gov.au> Subject: RE: Comms Tower at Prospect (HMS1632)

Hi James,

We are preparing a detailed response to answer your queries. In light of time, I would like to have a quick call with you today to explain what Im proposing and schedule a meeting to demonstrate visibility of the tower from all the viewpoints that have been suggested. This would really help your understanding of our proposal.

Please call me or let me know your thoughts.

Thanks Row

From: James Quoyle <James.Quoyle@environment.nsw.gov.au> Sent: Monday, 16 January 2023 11:26 AM To: Roweena Dsouza <Roweena.Dsouza@endeavourenergy.com.au> Subject: RE: Comms Tower at Prospect (HMS1632)

Hi Roweena Would you have some time today to go through the submission and address any immediate queries? Regards James

From: Roweena Dsouza <Roweena.Dsouza@endeavourenergy.com.au> Sent: Wednesday, 11 January 2023 3:56 PM To: James Quoyle <James.Quoyle@environment.nsw.gov.au> Subject: RE: Comms Tower at Prospect (HMS1632)

Hi James,

Sorry about that. I have resent the submission and if you have any issue downloading it, let me know. The combined file size is huge, but if there are particular documents you require, I can extract them from the submission and send them separately which would be easier to review.

In addition, as this project is at a critical stage for Endeavour Energy, I would appreciate if you have 10-15 minutes tomorrow so I can go through the submission with you and address any immediate queries that you may have?

Look forward to hearing from you.

Regards

Roweena D'Souza | Environmental Specialist

M 0447 919 365 51 Huntingwood Drive, Huntingwood NSW 2148.

Dharug Country

endeavourenergy.com.au 📶 🚯 💵 🔰



Endeavour Energy respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Custodians on whose lands we live, work, and operate and their Elders past, present and emerging.

From: James Quoyle <James.Quoyle@environment.nsw.gov.au> Sent: Wednesday, 11 January 2023 3:26 PM To: Roweena Dsouza <Roweena.Dsouza@endeavourenergy.com.au> Subject: RE: Comms Tower at Prospect (HMS1632)

Hello Roweena

Could you resend this document – I thought I had downloaded it but cannot retrieve it - and I did not save my password because I didn't think I would need it.

Sorry for the inconvenience. Regards James

James Quoyle (he/him) Senior Assessments Officer Heritage NSW Department of Planning and Environment

T 9873 8612 E james.quoyle@environment.nsw.gov.au

dpie.nsw.gov.au heritage.nsw.gov.au

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Please consider the environment before printing this email.

From: Roweena Dsouza <Roweena.Dsouza@endeavourenergy.com.au> Sent: Monday, 9 January 2023 10:38 AM To: James Quoyle <James.Quoyle@environment.nsw.gov.au> Subject: Comms Tower at Prospect (HMS1632)

Your files are ready for pickup

The following file(s) have been sent to you from Roweena.Dsouza@endeavourenergy.com.au:

EE Letter to HNSW _22122022.pdf 62.75 MB

Download Files

The secure message expires on 23/1/23 10:38:09 AM

If the link above does not open, please copy and paste the following URL into your browser: https://mft.endeavourenergy.com.au/register?token=c386b9e2-68b7-4044-8a9d-b61b983c306a

You have received secure links within this email sent via Endeavour Energy Managed File Transfer solution

This email is intended for the addressee(s) named and may contain confidential and/or privileged information. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender and then delete it immediately. Any views expressed in this email are those of the individual sender except where the sender expressly and with authority states them to be the views of the NSW Office of Environment, Energy and Science.

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PLEASE CONSIDER THE ENVIRONMENT BEFORE PRINTING THIS EMAIL

Lia Zwolinski

From:	Roweena Dsouza
Sent:	Thursday, 19 January 2023 10:51 AM
То:	Chris Maddocks; James Quoyle; Michael Ellis; Hooman Goodarznia; Tadd Andersen
Cc:	Emily@Heritage21; philip.bennett@sydneywater.com.au
Subject:	RE: Prospect Reservoir HMS 1632 Visualisation

Hi All,

Thank you for meeting this morning and running through the various viewpoints.

Key notes from today's meeting:

- Aim: To go through the various viewpoints in Neara to understand visual context of the proposed tower and validate the photomontages in the VIA submitted to HNSW on 23rd Dec 2022.
- Agenda:

Introductions – Row (5 minutes) Neara Model – setup – Chris (10 Minutes) Viewpoints – Chris and HNSW (20 minutes)

- Questions, conclusion, way forward ALL (10 minutes)
- Conclusion
 - HNSW are satisfied with the validity of the photomontages and do not require Endeavour Energy to further validate the photomontages i.e. no crane required onsite
 - o HNSW acknowledge the effort put into careful site selection to minimise visual and heritage impact
 - HNSW acknowledge that Endeavour Energy in discussions with Sydney Water propose to have a veg management plan or strategy that would benefit the aesthetic value of the site
 - Endeavour Energy will provide an updated VIA to include additional photomontages as discussed in the meeting today by Monday 23rd Jan
 - \circ $\;$ Endeavour Energy will provide an updated SOHI that will capture the updated VIA and design by Monday 23 $^{\rm rd}$ Jan
 - $\circ~$ Endeavour Energy are in the process of updating the REF and shall advertise it on their website when discussions with HNSW are satisfactorily completed
 - HNSW, in lieu of the above, will reconsider the potential impact of the proposal and will get back to Endeavour Energy if the proposal needs to go to advertisement

Please let me know if I have missed any item or if there are any corrections.

Else this can be considered as the Minutes of the Meeting.

Thanks Roweena

-----Original Appointment-----From: Roweena Dsouza

Sent: Wednesday, 18 January 2023 4:58 PM

To: Roweena Dsouza; Chris Maddocks; James Quoyle; Michael Ellis; Emily@Heritage21; Hooman Goodarznia; tandersen@emmconsulting.com.au; philip.bennett@sydneywater.com.au

Subject: Prospect Reservoir HMS 1632 Visualisation

When: Saturday, 21 January 2023 9:30 AM-10:15 AM (UTC+10:00) Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney. Where: Microsoft Teams Meeting

Hi All,

Setting up a meeting to run through Near and go through the various viewpoints at Prospect reservoir looking towards the proposed tower.

Regards



Endeavour Energy respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Custodians on whose lands we live, work, and operate and their Elders past, present and emerging.

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

Click here to join the meeting

Meeting ID: 435 066 600 262 Passcode: 9yBKjb Download Teams | Join on the web

Or call in (audio only)

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PROSPECT RESERVOIR - COMMUNICATIONS TOWER

DWG No.

DWG TITLE

SHEET 1	DRAWING TITLE AND LOCATION PLAN
SHEET 2	OVERALL SITE PLAN
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SHEET 5	DETAILED SITE PLAN
SHEET 6	DETAILED SITE PLAN - ELEVATIONS
SHEET 7	SITE PLAN – CUT & FILL

LOCATION PLAN







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VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

Prospect Reservoir Endeavour Energy Communications Tower

January 2023.

Prepared for Endeavour Energy by Roger Lembit B.Sc.Agr Gingra Ecological Surveys

> Gingra Ecological Surveys P.O. Box 1 Canterbury NSW 2193

1. INTRODUCTION

Endeavour Energy is planning construct a communications tower within the Prospect Reservoir precinct. The precinct has heritage significance, and a Visual Impact Assessment (VIA) has been completed in response to a submission by the NSW Heritage Council. Following consideration of the VIA the Heritage Council have requested the preparation of a Vegetation Rehabilitation Strategy. As this report identifies bush regeneration and tree planting options it was considered that titling it as a Vegetation Management Plan was more appropriate.

The VIA indicated that existing vegetation would mitigate the visual impact of tower construction to a large degree. Endeavour Energy now wish to develop a Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) to identify measures such as plantings or bush regeneration which can be undertaken to further reduce the visual impact of the proposal and to protect the heritage landscape.

The objectives of this VMP are:

- The establishment of an Asset Protection Zone (APZ) by the selective removal of vegetation components in a manner that is consistent with Rural Fire Service (RFS) requirements;
- Management of vegetation to allow for native trees in sightlines to mature and attain a height which will mitigate visual impact;
- Selective planting of appropriate tree species to reduce visual impact at key viewing locations, and;
- The retention of vegetation and trees that contribute to wildlife corridors and provide habitat for native fauna.

2. PLANNING CONTEXT

The proposal takes place at a site with a complex layer of interests. The land on which the tower is to be constructed is managed by Sydney Water which operate Prospect Reservoir. Management of land within the Prospect Reservoir precinct is subject to the Property Environmental Management Plan (PEMP) Prospect Reservoir, Reservoir Road WS0095 (Sydney Water 2001). The PEMP deals with the Reservoir lands in different sections. The sites discussed in this VMP include parts of the areas identified as the southern and eastern sides.

The following planning instruments are relevant to the subject area:

- Blacktown Local Environmental Plan 2015
- State Environmental Planning Policy (Western Sydney Employment Area) 2009 (SEPP (WSEA))
- State Environmental Planning Policy (Western Sydney Parklands) 2009 (SEPP (WSP))

Prospect Reservoir Site and associated works is one of the 59 assets owned by Sydney Water Corporation that is listed on the State Heritage Register. Sydney Water commissioned the preparation of a Conservation Management Plans (CMP) which was completed in 2005 and then approved by NSW Heritage in 2006 (Sydney Water Corporation 2005).

As indicated above NSW Heritage have expressed concerns relating to the visual impact of the proposed 60 m high communications tower. Endeavour Energy responded to this by commissioning a Visual Impact Assessment (EMM 2022).

This VMP seeks to ensure any proposed vegetation management is consistent with the PEMP and to ensure any planting scheme has regard to the CMP and additional elements of heritage significance such as historic plantings which are associated with key themes identified in the CMP. A meeting was held with Sydney Water staff during the preparation of this VMP and elements of the meeting discussion have been incorporated in the approach adopted in this report.

3. SITE DESCRIPTION

The site for construction of the communications tower is on a high ridge near the top of Prospect Hill and close to the eastern boundary of the Prospect Reservoir lands. The site is to the south of existing water reservoirs. To the east is the former quarry, now being redeveloped. Access to the site is via William Lawson Drive, which is also the access road for Sydney Water staff and members of the public using facilities provided with the Prospect Reservoir lands including picnic areas and lookouts.

The land is gently inclined along the ridge crest, dropping more steeply to the west towards William Lawson Drive.

The eastern side of the Prospect Hill ridge drains into Girraween Creek, a tributary of Toongabbie Creek and the Parramatta River. Western Slopes are in the catchment of Prospect Reservoir, an artificial impoundment in the head catchment of Prospect Creek ,a tributary of the Georges River.

Whilst the majority of the Prospect Reservoir lands are within the Blacktown soil landscape, Prospect Hill is mapped as being within the Volcanic soil landscape (Hazelton, Bannerman & Tillie 1989). The Volcanic soil landscape features red podzolic soils associated with the Jurassic dolerite intrusion found at Prospect (Australian Museum 2018).

Whilst the primary function of the Prospect Reservoir lands is as an intermediate water storage fed by pipes and canals from Warragamba Dam and the Metropolitan catchments, the lands also serve as a workplace and recreational site.

The areas of land subject to this VMP fall within the Blacktown local government area. The land lies within the Central Coast botanical subdivision.

3.1 Existing Vegetation and Habitat

Vegetation patterns across the Prospect Reservoir lands have been mapped by Total Earth Care (2018).

The vicinity of the tower location includes areas classed as Native/Exotic Grassland and Exotic Shrubland. These vegetation classes appear to also include stands of native trees with a disturbed understorey. Tree species include Forest Red Gum (*Eucalyptus tereticornis*), Coastal Grey Box (*E. moluccana*) and Narrow-leaved Ironbark (*E. crebra*). The dominant exotic shrubs are Large-leaved Privet (*Ligustrum lucidum*), African Olive (*Olea europaea* subsp. *cuspidata*) and Lantana (*Lantana camara*).

The PEMP divides the Prospect Reservoir lands into a set of management zones. The vicinity of the communications tower is classed as Zone W Weed Management as is the entrance precinct along William Lawson Drive.

4. VEGETATION MANAGEMENT OPTIONS

The strategy for reduced visual impact of the communications tower is to provide conditions conducive to the growth and survival of native trees in the vicinity of the tower in order that they increase in height, together with selective plantings to screen the tower from viewing points.

A number of viewing points were assessed to allow consideration of vegetation management options which would address visual impact. These included the entrance along William Lawson Drive, the tower location itself and the Prospect Hill ridgeline, William Lawson Drive near the Sydney Water Offices, the Valve House and Maunder Lookout and the associated picnic area. Options for vegetation management are discussed below. A plan identifying preferred locations is included as Figure 1.



Tower Location

The vegetation in this area includes native tree species and exotic shrubs and grasses.

The preferred management of this area is implementation of bush regeneration works to remove exotic shrubs which are competing with the native tree species.

This management approach is consistent with the PEMP.

A separate bushfire management report is recommending the creation of a 10 m radius Asset Protection Zone (APZ) around the edge of the fenced tower footprint. Achievement of this APZ is possible through selective removal of exotic shrubs. Lopping of branches of native trees may also be necessary to achieve crown separation. A small dead eucalypt tree to the south-west of the tower is recommended for removal. The tree should be laid on the ground across not down the slope to provide habitat.

Sightline from South

Figure 2 shows that there is a gap in tree cover when viewing the tower location from the south.



Lookout car park

This gap can be filled by planting of up to 10 trees in the somewhat more clear area seen in the centre of Figure 2. The tree species to be used would be Forest Red Gum (E. tereticornis) and Coastal Grey Box (E. moluccana). Stock in 15 to 20 cm pots is recommended as these are likely to have a higher survival rate than advanced stock.

Supplementary planting of up to 50 Cumberland Plain Woodland Shrubs is recommended in this area. The shrub species to be used are Hop Bush (Dodonaea viscosa subsp. cuneata), Native Indigo (Indigofera australis) and Sickle Wattle (Acacia falcata).

These plantings would need protection to prevent damage from browsing animals. It is also recommended the area around the plantings be periodically mown or slashed to reduce competition. The plantings should be maintained for five years.

Sightlines from West

Consideration was given to potential for screening of the tower from the area around the Sydney Water offices along William Lawson Drive (see Figure 3). Such an approach was not considered appropriate as the lower area has historically been cleared and there are utilities in the area including water pipelines and electricity supply lines.



Figure 3. View of tower location from vicinity of Sydney Water offices

Another potential viewing point assessed was the Valve House area. It was determined that existing vegetation and the intervening landform provided effective screening from this location (Figure 4).



Figure 4. View towards tower location from Valve House

William Lawson Drive

Whilst views of the tower from William Lawson Drive in the vicinity of Andrew Campbell Reserve are not likely to be of high impact planting along the eastern side of the Drive is proposed. Consideration was given to an extension to the existing Hoop Pine avenue, consistent with the historic nature of the avenue. An aerial photograph from January 1956 shows that the avenue then extended to a point north-east of a house on the western side of William Lawson Drive (Figure 5). It is not considered appropriate to extend planting of Hoop Pine beyond the limit seen in the historic evidence, but replacement of trees which have died along the historic section could be undertaken.


Figure 5. Northern end, William Lawson Drive 1/1/1956

Figure 5 shows additional plantings along William Lawson Drive to a point opposite Prospect History Cottage, including what is now a large Lemon-scented Gum (*E. citriodora*). In the early 1980s secondary plants occurring to the east of the Drive in two rows using species including Hoop Pine and Monterey Pine (Figure 6). Some of the Monterey Pines have now died, possibly due to the 2018-19 drought. Hoop Pine saplings have now established as a tertiary tree layer along the rows in the north.

It is proposed to undertake infill planting along the two rows of trees, avoiding infrastructure such as a water main. electricity supply line, fencing and an access way to the paddock. The area may be prone to saturated soil profiles during wet conditions so careful tree species selection may be required.

Suitable local native tree species would include Spotted Gum (*Corymbia maculata*), Forest Red Gum (*E. tereticornis*) and Cabbage Gum. Additional planting of Lemon-scented Gum is not recommended as this species seeds readily and has the potential to become a future management problem.



5. RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT

This section includes a summary of the management actions proposed for this Vegetation Management Plan. Action and timing seeks to align with actions in Table 4-1 of the PEMP. Works may be undertaken by Endeavour Energy or outsourced and incorporated in a site wide vegetation management plan subject to agreement with Sydney Water and subject to the discussion and recommended actions in this Plan.

Location	Action	Timing
	Establishment of APZ	Within 3 months of tower
Vicinity of Tower		construction
vienney of Tower	Bush regeneration ¹	5 years from construction
		completion
	Tree planting & protection	Spring 2023
Ridgeline to south of Tower	Mowing/slashing	Monthly from September –
		March 2023-2028
William Lawson Drive ²	Infill tree planting	Spring 2023, annual assessment
		of planting success in spring

NOTES

2 Section between Andrew Campbell Reserve and Prospect Heritage Cottage (eastern side)

¹ Contribute to Sydney Water bush regeneration works subject to agreement between Endeavour Energy & Sydney Water

REFERENCES

- Australian Museum (2018) *The Sydney Basin. Igneous Activity.* website <u>https://australian.museum/learn/minerals/shaping-earth/the-sydney-basin/</u> accessed 26/01/2023.
- EMM Consulting (2022) *Visual Impact Assessment for Heritage Council of NSW*. 60m Communications Tower, Prospect Reservoir. Endeavour Energy, Minchinbury.

Rural Fire Service (2019) Planning for Bushfire Protection.

Sydney Water Corporation (2005) Prospect Reservoir Site. Conservation Management Plan.

Sydney Water, Sydney.

Sydney Water (2021) Property Environmental Management Plan (PEMP) Prospect Reservoir, Reservoir Road WS0095. Sydney Water, Sydney.

Total Earth Care (2018) *Biodiversity Assessment – Prospect Reservoir*. Total Earth Care, Warriewood.

Roweena Dsouza

From:	Rhonda Tang <rhonda.tang@sydneywater.com.au></rhonda.tang@sydneywater.com.au>
Sent:	Monday, 30 January 2023 2:47 PM
То:	Phil Bennett; Roweena Dsouza; Nick Stroinovsky
Cc:	gingra@ozemail.com.au
Subject:	RE: [External] RE: Bush regeneration at Prospect Reservoir, re Endeavour Energy
	Proposed comms tower

Hi Roweena

I also have no issues with the proposal from the property environmental management perspective. I am satisfied that your plans have taken into account the environmental and heritage values discussed with Nick and Phil. I suggest that you note in your VMP that the plantings may be "outsourced" and incorporated in a site wide vegetation management plan, but will be in keeping with your main objectives.

We still need to consult with SW Property Leasing about impacts to the access of the grassed area (opposite the cottage), which they have been known to lease out. From our experience, it's unlikely to be a big issue, they may ask for plantings to be excluded from a small corridor or from the tops of unmarked pipes.

SW Property Management will also need to be consulted to discuss with you on APZ issues. Hence I've made some corrections to the dot point on:

 APZ maintenance – Similarly, SW have an APZ management area that they are required to maintain. Rhonda will consult SW Property Management on the proposed towers APZ, to understand the interaction of Lease areas with SW APZ. SW to clarify extent and maintenance and get back to Endeavour for discussion.

Other corrections:

- Planting near eastern edge of William Lawson Drive:
- EE recommended planting of Hoop Pine in the gap between the Pine trees as shown in the image. SW advices that we need to demarcate Heritage trees from the new plantings. SW advice to plant native, fast growing trees with potential to bear hollows/become habitat trees in the future along the William Lawson Drive proposed planting area. This would assist with quicker screening for the visual aspect and also in the long term contribute to wildlife corridors and provide habitat for native fauna.
- The plantings should be placed more than 5 m away from the roadside, and avoid infrastructure such as a water main, fencing and any access gates

I don't think any of these comments will affect your submission, if you think otherwise, or would like further clarification feel free to call me.

Regards **Rhonda Tang** Project Manager – Property Environmental Management Plans (PEMP) Program Property Services, Asset Lifecycle

Mobile 0438 687 681 <u>Rhonda.Tang@sydneywater.com.au</u> *"If I had more time, I would have written a shorter letter."*



Level 10, 1 Smith Street Parramatta NSW 2150





Sydney Water respectfully acknowled of the land and waters on which we w respect to Elders past and present



From: Phil Bennett <PHIL.BENNETT@sydneywater.com.au>
Sent: Monday, 30 January 2023 1:10 PM
To: Roweena Dsouza <Roweena.Dsouza@endeavourenergy.com.au>; Rhonda Tang
<RHONDA.TANG@sydneywater.com.au>; Nick Stroinovsky <Nick.Stroinovsky@sydneywater.com.au>
Cc: gingra@ozemail.com.au
Subject: RE: [External] RE: Bush regeneration at Prospect Reservoir, re Endeavour Energy Proposed comms tower

Hi Rowena

I am happy with the landscape outcomes.

No other comments.

Accepted.

Thanks

Phil Bennett Lead Heritage Adviser Environment & Heritage

0407 455 937 philip.bennett@sydneywater.com.au

From: Roweena Dsouza <<u>Roweena.Dsouza@endeavourenergy.com.au</u>>

Sent: Monday, 30 January 2023 12:28 PM

To: Rhonda Tang <<u>RHONDA.TANG@sydneywater.com.au</u>>; Phil Bennett <<u>PHIL.BENNETT@sydneywater.com.au</u>>; Nick Stroinovsky <<u>Nick.Stroinovsky@sydneywater.com.au</u>>

Cc: Phil Bennett < PHIL.BENNETT@sydneywater.com.au >; gingra@ozemail.com.au

Subject: RE: [External] RE: Bush regeneration at Prospect Reservoir, re Endeavour Energy Proposed comms tower

Hi,

@'Rhonda Tang', thanks for your quick response and initial comment.

Rhonda and Phil,

Could you let me know if there are any further comments/clarifications that you would like us to address? If not, Roger can send through the final version for your review and approval and I shall notify Nick once you both have approved (I understand he is on leave today).

Once HNSW give their approval, I shall organise a meeting between key stakeholders from Endeavour and Sydney Water so we can nut out the commercial aspects and the arrangements to carry out the works.

Regards Row

From: gingra@ozemail.com.au <gingra@ozemail.com.au>
Sent: Monday, 30 January 2023 10:38 AM
To: 'Rhonda Tang' <<u>RHONDA.TANG@sydneywater.com.au</u>>; Roweena Dsouza
<<u>Roweena.Dsouza@endeavourenergy.com.au</u>>; 'Phil Bennett' <<u>PHIL.BENNETT@sydneywater.com.au</u>>; 'Nick
Stroinovsky' <<u>Nick.Stroinovsky@sydneywater.com.au</u>>
Cc: 'Phil Bennett' <<u>PHIL.BENNETT@sydneywater.com.au</u>>
Subject: RE: [External] RE: Bush regeneration at Prospect Reservoir, re Endeavour Energy Proposed comms tower

Hi,

The implication is infill of the 1980s treelines, rather than new planting. There is no need to worry about access, as access to the paddock is provided by Gate 2, and you just need to locate plantings away from this line. Tree spacing in the existing lines is about 9 m, for the Hoop Pines its about 11 m, was probably 12 yards.

Just a change in wording.

Regards, Roger.

Roger Lembit B.Sc.Agr Principal Ecologist Gingra Ecological Surveys P.O. Box 1 Canterbury NSW 2193 gingra@ozemail.com.au 0427 779925

From: Rhonda Tang <<u>RHONDA.TANG@sydneywater.com.au</u>>
Sent: Monday, 30 January 2023 10:32 AM
To: gingra@ozemail.com.au; 'Roweena Dsouza' <<u>Roweena.Dsouza@endeavourenergy.com.au</u>>; Phil Bennett
<<u>PHIL.BENNETT@sydneywater.com.au</u>>; Nick Stroinovsky <<u>Nick.Stroinovsky@sydneywater.com.au</u>>;
Cc: Phil Bennett <<u>PHIL.BENNETT@sydneywater.com.au</u>>
Subject: RE: [External] RE: Bush regeneration at Prospect Reservoir, re Endeavour Energy Proposed comms tower

I hope you all had a great weekend =)

Thanks for sharing your insights Roger, and I also enjoy getting information from a good aerial.

Do you think there might be any changes to the approach forward, compared to what we had discussed last week?

Regards

Rhonda Tang

Asset Lifecycle Sydney Water, 1 Smith Street, Parramatta NSW 2150



Mobile 0438 687 681 rhonda.tang@sydneywater.com.au

Sydney Water acknowledges the traditional custodians of the waters and land on which we work, live and learn.



From: gingra@ozemail.com.au <gingra@ozemail.com.au>

Sent: Monday, 30 January 2023 8:02 AM

To: 'Roweena Dsouza' <<u>Roweena.Dsouza@endeavourenergy.com.au</u>>; Phil Bennett

<<u>PHIL.BENNETT@sydneywater.com.au</u>>; Nick Stroinovsky <<u>Nick.Stroinovsky@sydneywater.com.au</u>>; Rhonda Tang <<u>RHONDA.TANG@sydneywater.com.au</u>>

Cc: Phil Bennett < PHIL.BENNETT@sydneywater.com.au>

Subject: [External] RE: Bush regeneration at Prospect Reservoir, re Endeavour Energy Proposed comms tower

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi,

I've done some further work over the weekend I thought I should share.

I had a look at the area along William Lawson Drive, from the Hoop Pine avenue southwards.

Many of the trees beyond (east) of the fence are plantings in a double row. There are also younger trees which have regenerated more recently. The main plantings appear to be Radiata Pine and Hoop Pine. There are also sapling Lemon-scented Gum and a number of Spotted Gum trees.

Lemon-scented Gum were commonly planted in western Sydney in the 1970s, examples are at St Marys and Mawson Park at Campbelltown.

The attached aerial photograph from the NSW Government Historical Imagery webpages seems to be the first in the time sequence which shows planting in this area.

I will be amending the wording relevant to this area to reflect this.

Regards, Roger.

Roger Lembit B.Sc.Agr Principal Ecologist Gingra Ecological Surveys P.O. Box 1 From: Roweena Dsouza <<u>Roweena.Dsouza@endeavourenergy.com.au</u>>

Sent: Friday, 27 January 2023 4:45 PM

To: <u>PHILIP.BENNETT@sydneywater.com.au</u>; <u>gingra@ozemail.com.au</u>; <u>nick.stroinovsky@sydneywater.com.au</u>; Rhonda Tang <<u>RHONDA.TANG@sydneywater.com.au</u>>

Cc: Phil Bennett < PHIL.BENNETT@sydneywater.com.au>

Subject: RE: Bush regeneration at Prospect Reservoir, re Endeavour Energy Proposed comms tower

Hi All,

Thank you for meeting with us on the 24th January.

Key notes from the meeting:

Aim: To discuss the draft Veg Management Plan at Prospect Reservoir with Sydney Water and determine their requirements and address any concerns.

Attendees:

- o Roweena D'Souza Environmental Specialist, Endeavour Energy
- Roger Lembit Ecologist, Gingra Ecological Surveys
- Rhonda Tang Project Manager Property Environmental Management Plans (PEMP) Program, Sydney Water
- Philip Bennett Heritage Advisor, Sydney Water
- o Nikolai Stroïnovsky Lead Environmental Advisor, Customer Delivery, Sydney Water

Notes and action items:

- Endeavour Energy discussed the draft Veg Mgmnt Plan with Sydney Water (SW) and advised that this plan was developed to compliment SW PEMP and the CMP.
- Planting near eastern edge of William Lawson Drive:

EE recommended planting of Hoop Pine in the gap between the Pine trees as shown in the image. SW advices that we need to demarcate Heritage trees from the new plantings. SW advice to plant native, fast growing trees with potential to bear hollows in the future along the William Lawson Drive proposed planting area. This would assist with quicker screening for the visual aspect and also in the long term contribute to wildlife corridors and provide habitat for native fauna.

- The plantings should be placed more than 5 m away from the roadside to avoid infrastructure such as a water main, fencing and any access gates
- Endeavour Energy advised that they might need to create an Asset Protection Zone for bushfire protection. This would involve clearing 10m ground cover around the proposed Telco infrastructure (which is composed of weeds such as African Olives, Privet, Lantana), lopping of branches of native trees to achieve crown separation and the removal of a small dead eucalypt tree to the south-west of the tower. SW advise they have no objection as long as they trees are not hollow bearing and the dead tree is laid on the ground across not down the slope to provide habitat.
- Sightline from South there is a gap in tree cover when viewing the tower location from the south. EE advise that this gap can be filled by planting a few trees in a clear area and away from the overhead main easement. These plantings would need protection to prevent damage from browsing animals. It is also recommended the area around the plantings be mown or slashed to reduce competition. The plantings should be maintained for five years. SW agree and recommend planting native trees in this area.
- Maintenance –EE proposed that they could pay SW a \$/m2 area requiring weed management until the plants establish themselves or as will be captured in the Veg Mgmnt Plan. SW agreed that this could be a better option considering the contractors need to meet specific requirements and they have existing contractors that maintain the site on a regular basis. EE and SW agree to separately discuss maintenance of the above areas.
- APZ maintenance Similarly, SW have an APZ management area that they are required to maintain. SW will look into updating this map as it doesn't include the SW water reservoirs that need APZ maintenance. It is

likely that proposed towers APZ will be a subset of the overall SW APZ. SW to clarify extent and maintenance and get back to Endeavour.

- Endeavour to clarify if it's a lease or licence and send SW a copy of the extent.
- Endeavour advise that the submission to HNSW is scheduled for 31st Jan and will submit a draft for SW review on 27th Jan.

Please let me know if I have missed any item or if there are any corrections.

Else this can be considered as the Minutes of the Meeting.

Thanks Roweena

Post meeting -

- Endeavour have obtained an easement and will send over the documents on Monday 30th Jan.
- Endeavour submits the draft Veg Management Plan with this email for SW review.

-----Original Appointment-----From: Roweena Dsouza Sent: Tuesday, 24 January 2023 4:16 PM To: Roweena Dsouza; philip.bennett@sydneywater.com.au; gingra@ozemail.com.au; nick.stroinovsky@sydneywater.com.au; Rhonda Tang Cc: Phil Bennett Subject: Bush regeneration at Prospect Reservoir, re Endeavour Energy Proposed comms tower When: Wednesday, 25 January 2023 3:30 PM-4:15 PM (UTC+10:00) Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney.

Hi All,

Rescheduling to meet Rhondas availability.

Where: Microsoft Teams Meeting

Also, I have attached the proposed strategy below that we will discuss at the meeting.



Hi All,

Could we meet to discuss EE's proposal re the Veg Rehab Plan at Prospect Reservoir and its alignment with Sydney Water management plans.

Thanks Row

Roweena D'Souza | Environmental Specialist

M 0447 919 365 51 Huntingwood Drive, Huntingwood NSW 2148.

Dharug Country

endeavourenergy.com.au 🔚 🚱 💟



Endeavour Energy respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Custodians on whose lands we live, work, and operate and their Elders past, present and emerging.

Microsoft Teams meeting

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Visual Impact Assessment for Heritage Council of NSW

60 m Communications Tower, Prospect Reservoir 31/01/23







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Document Approval

To the best of the knowledge of the below signatories, this REF has been prepared to be neither false nor misleading and is in accordance with The Code of practice for Authorised Network Operators approved under section 171 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021.

Prepared by	Verity Blair and Tadd Andersen, EMM Consulting
Signed	B. Tadusen
Date	21/12/ 2022, 24/01/23
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Date	24/1/2023
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Approved By	Peter Oxnam
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Date	31/01/2023
Title	Environmental Services Manager, Endeavour Energy

Document Control

Revision	Prepared by and Company Name	Date	Reviewed by and Company Name	Comments
V1	Verity Blair, EMM Consulting Pty Ltd	16 December 2022	Roweena D Souza Endeavour Energy	Review comments to be addressed
V2	Verity Blair, EMM Consulting Pty Ltd	21 December 2022	Peter Oxnam Endeavour Energy	Approved
V3	Tadd Anderson	24 January 2023	Roweena D Souza Endeavour Energy	Final review
V4	Lia Zwolinski	31 January	Peter Oxnam Endeavor Energy	Final approval



1 Introduction

1.1 Background

Endeavour Energy (EE) is an electricity distribution system operator servicing over 2.5 million people living and working across Sydney's Greater West, the Blue Mountains, the Southern Highlands, Illawarra and the South Coast of New South Wales (NSW).

In March 2023 the main EE office in Sydney will move from its current location at Huntingwood to a new premises in Parramatta. EE have a communications tower within the Huntingwood site and it is a critical component of EE s wide area network (WAN). The tower provides connectivity and redundancy for several depots, including both EE s Information Technology and Operational Technology data centres as well as for Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) sites which are vital to keep EE s power grid active and managed. As a result of this move, the existing EE communications tower will no longer be accessible and there is a need for a new communications tower.

EE have considered various options for a practicable solution and the site adjacent to the Sydney Water tanks at Prospect Reservoir was deemed as a suitable location for this purpose in terms of microwave links, line of sight and coverage which can provide connectivity to 98 SCADA field assets and one substation that are currently directly connected to the Huntingwood site.

Key features of this proposal include installation of:

- a 60m free-standing heavy duty lattice tower with self-supporting concrete footings;
- an external ladder, approximately 57m in height;
- a new equipment shelter (6m by 3m) on concrete footing foundations;
- a new 600mm cable tray support system from the tower to the equipment hut and support posts;
- a compound area 15m by 15m around the tower and associated infrastructure, including a 2.8 m high security fence with 4.8m wide double access gate;
- a new 17m pole with substation and overhead lines; and
- power supply works and underground cabling.

No trees are required to be removed as part of this proposal.

The site is located on the southern side of Reservoir Road and is part of the larger Prospect Reservoir site. As the proposal is located on land that is within the curtilage of two items on the NSW State Heritage Register namely, Prospect reservoir and surrounding area and the Prospect Reservoir Valve House and in the general vicinity of the NSW State Heritage listed item namely Veteran Hall – House remains, section 60 of the NSW *Heritage Act 1977* is triggered and approval from Heritage Council of NSW (HNSW) is required. EE submitted a Statement of Heritage Impact (SOHI) to HNSW in October 2022 and an updated version in November 2022.

1.2 Purpose of this report

This Visual Impact Assessment (VIA) has been prepared by EMM on behalf of Endeavour Energy. The purpose of this report is to provide an assessment of the visual impact of the proposed tower on key heritage-listed items in response to the clarifications sought by HNSW:



The reservoir is identified as being of state significance as aesthetically significant as a picturesque site (SoS). The proposed erection of a 60m high electrical tower at a high point within the picturesque landscape will impact these values.

- The impact on the picturesque landscape identified in the SoS is not adequately addressed and requires more consideration, details and with options explored.
- A Visual Impact Assessment (VIA) of the proposed development is required. The views are to be located on a plan to indicate the location from which they were taken and why that location is significant.
- Include a photomontage of the proposed development as seen from significant locations.

1.3 Applicable environmental planning instruments and guidelines

The proposal requires assessment and approval under Division 5.1, section 5.5 of the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act).

Clause 171(2) of the NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021 requires consideration of environmental factors, including:

- d) Any reduction of the aesthetic, recreational, scientific or other environmental quality or value of a locality
- e) Any effect on a locality, place or building having aesthetic, anthropological, archaeological, architectural, cultural, historical, scientific or social significance or other special value for present or future generations

This report also considers the Guidelines for Division 5.1 assessments (DPE June 2022). These guidelines support the assessment of environmental effects noted in Clause 171(2) of the EP&A Regulation.



2 Methodology

The following is an overview of the methodology adopted for the visual assessment.

2.1 Existing visual environment

2.1.1 Desktop analysis

A review of key planning requirements, policies and guidance was undertaken in relation to the visual environment within the heritage curtilage. The review identified elements outlined in legislation, policy and planning documents relevant to the visual character of the area. Existing environment data and project information was gathered and reviewed, including:

- project design information and site photographs;
- topography, land use, and vegetation maps;
- Google Earth and Google Street View; and
- LiDAR (light detection and ranging) data.

Using this data, a preliminary assessment of the visual environment was undertaken to inform the site inspection.

2.1.2 Site Inspection

Site inspections were undertaken by an environmental specialist from EMM consulting on 12 August and 13 November 2022 and 23 January 2023. The purpose of the inspections was to:

- identify visual receiver locations;
- inspect the site and appreciate views to / from sensitive heritage items;
- inspect publicly accessible locations identified during the desktop analysis as likely to provide views of the proposal, including roads, footpaths, infrastructure, etc; and
- take photographs for preparation of photomontages.

2.1.3 Definition of existing visual environment

An assessment of existing visual conditions was undertaken to establish the key views, topography, vegetation and other visual features relevant to the proposal. Refer to Section 4 for an assessment of the existing visual environment.

2.1.4 Viewpoint selection

Visual receivers were considered in terms of the views they are likely to have of the proposal from within and outside the heritage curtilage including consideration of any key vantage points, such as picnic areas and lookouts.

Refer to Section 5 for viewpoint locations.



2.2 Impact assessment

2.2.1 Visual effects

The evaluation of potential impacts on the visual environment is based on the sensitivity of the viewpoint (and the visual receiver it represents) to change, and the magnitude of change that is likely to occur. The sensitivity of each viewpoint is considered to be dependent on:

- the importance of the view, its existing scenic qualities and the presence of other existing man-made elements in the view; and
- the type of visual receiver and their likely interest in the view.

The assessment considers the likely impacts of the project. To measure the visual sensitivity and the visual effect of the site, specific locations known as viewpoints are chosen as representative views. In this instance, the viewpoints have been chosen to demonstrate any visual impacts on the heritage. The effect on a view depends on factors such as the extent of visibility, degree of obstruction of existing features, degree of contrast with the existing view, angle of view, duration of view and distance from the project. The steps that were undertaken to assess the visual effects of the project included:

- identifying and mapping viewpoint locations close to key heritage items; and
- undertaking an assessment of visual effects, comprising:
 - o sensitivity of visual receivers to proposed change and value attached to views; and
 - magnitude of visual effect, based on: size or scale of change; geographical extent of effects, and duration and reversibility of effects.

An assessment was undertaken of the overall level of significance of the visual effects from the project in relation to the existing view.

2.3 Assumptions

This VIA has been prepared in response to comments from Heritage NSW and therefore only assesses the visual effects the proposal will have on heritage listed items including Prospect Reservoir and curtilage, the Valve House and former Veterans Hall (refer Figure 8) as agreed with Heritage NSW.

It is assumed that the visual sensitivity is high within the heritage curtilage, given the proximity of heritage items to the proposed tower. This high visual sensitivity triggers the need for this VIA in order to determine the level of visual impact of the proposed tower.

Further, it is noted that impacts associated with the construction of the proposed tower and associated infrastructure have not been as assessed as they are considered temporary in nature.



2.3.1 Photography

Photographs were taken from the seven viewpoints shown in Figure 7. Photomontages were prepared using WindPro, a program designed to accurately generate photomontages using digital terrain data, 3D models of the proposed tower and site photographs. In order to validate the photomontages, a program called Neara was used to create a similar looking tower and assess the location of the tower from the three viewpoints using LIDAR data.

3 Project Description

3.1 Location of the study area

The proposal site is located off William Lawson Dive, Prospect on the southern side of Reservoir Road and is part of the larger Prospect Reservoir site (refer Figures 1 and 2). The site is located on part of Prospect Hill in the vicinity of existing water tanks to its northeast and within Lot 304 Deposited Plan (DP) 1122291. It is noted that the larger Prospect Hill site takes in a larger area, including the former quarry and second summit to the east. For the purposes of this report, the site location is referred to as Prospect Hill and is defined as the western summit of the wider Prospect Hill site. Prospect Reservoir and surrounds is located across Cumberland, Fairfield and Blacktown Local Government Areas (LGAs), while the proposal site is located solely within Blacktown LGA (refer Figure 3). The proposal site is located at the top of Prospect Hill, on the second highest summit known as Water Tower Hill, which is located within the curtilage of the Prospect Reservoir. The reservoir and its surrounds, along with the Prospect Reservoir Valve House, are listed on the State Heritage Register. Water Tower Hill is not accessible to the public and access to the tower would be via an existing gated access track.



Figure 1: Aerial view of the Prospect reservoir site highlighted in yellow (source: sixmaps).



Sensitive visual receivers in the area include recreational users accessing the picnic, open space and lookout areas and Sydney Water staff working in the Sydney Water offices. There is only a relatively small area of the reservoir and surrounds, in the south-east corner, that is accessible to the public, due to access restrictions for Prospect Nature Reserve and some Sydney Water land.



Figure 2: Location of proposal within Blacktown LGA wherein LGA extent is shown by a black border (source: Blacktown City Council)

3.2 Site layout components

Key components that will need to be constructed and installed are listed below:

- a 60m free-standing heavy duty lattice tower with self-supporting concrete footings (constructed in matt galvanised steel to reduce reflectivity);
- an external ladder, approximately 57m in height;
- a new equipment shelter (6m by 3m) on concrete footing foundations;
- a new 600mm cable tray support system from the tower to the equipment hut and support posts;
- a compound area 15m by 15m around the tower and associated infrastructure, including a 2.8m high security fence with 4.8m wide double access gate;
- a new pole with substation and overhead lines; and



• power supply works and underground cabling.

The overall site plan in Figure 3 shows the location of the tower in relation to the existing water towers and quarry edge, while Figures 6 and 7 show detailed elevations of the tower and associated infrastructure.





Figure 3 - Overall Site Plan

4 Existing Visual Landscape

The area surrounding Prospect Reservoir is characterised by a number of land uses including Eastern Creek Raceway and Western Sydney Dragway to the north and Raging Waters theme park to the west. A former quarry now developed as an industrial park adjoins the east while Austral bricks and other various industrial development is located to the south (refer Figure 4). In addition, there are a number of guyed masts, towers and electricity pylons in the surrounding area.

It is noted that there are no permanent residential dwellings in close proximity to the site for the proposed tower.



Figure 4 - Overview of the key land uses in the vicinity of the proposal

Prospect Nature Reserve occupies the northern and western area immediately surrounding Prospect Reservoir. It is noted that this nature reserve is not publicly accessible and views into the site from the local road network and adjoining land are very limited given Prospect Nature Reserve and other existing vegetation that surrounds the reservoir. There are no views to the proposed tower location from publicly accessible area on the northern, western and south western edges of Prospect Reservoir.

Land within the Prospect Reservoir heritage curtilage is characterised by open grassed areas, with scattered picnic spots, stands of mature vegetation (primarily Cumberland Plain Woodland) and a number of State heritage-listed buildings associated with the reservoir including the Prospect Reservoir Valve House. There are also a few single-storey modern buildings that house Sydney Water site offices. The visual catchment of Prospect Reservoir is limited primarily to views from publicly accessible areas, including William Lawson Drive, picnic areas in the south-east corner of the Reservoir and picnic areas/lookouts on Prospect Hill.

The site for the proposed tower is a gently sloping grassed area surrounded by mature vegetation, predominantly comprised of Eucalyptus species, which are between 15m and 25m in height. There are a number of picnic areas and car parks at various levels on Prospect Hill and around the edge of the reservoir. George Maunders lookout affords views over the reservoir itself. It is noted that there are two large water tanks/reservoirs at the top of Prospect Hill, which are around 20m in height. Views of these tanks from within

Prospect Reservoir curtilage are very limited given the topography of the site and the mature vegetation along the ridgeline and further down Prospect Hill.

Views to the western side of Prospect Hill comprise a vegetated slope, with power lines visible. Views to the south of Prospect Hill are steeper, with vegetation above the wall of a disused quarry.

While the reservoir and northern vegetated areas provide a naturalistic landscape with remnant bushland, it sits within an urban context and this is demonstrated by visual elements including the rides and infrastructure of Raging Waters theme park and other communications towers that make up part of the general urban landscape.

There is one public lookout (George Maunder Lookout) located within the curtilage of Prospect Reservoir. Views from this lookout are predominantly over the reservoir towards the west and south-west whereas the proposed tower is towards the northeast of this lookout. In addition, the undulating landform character and tree cover surrounding the proposed tower, effectively screen views of the proposed tower, thereby preserving the scenic quality of views from the lookout.

In order to identify the visual character of the area, a number of photos were taken from various viewpoints (refer Figure 7) within the State Heritage item curtilage and from a highpoint on Prospect Hill Lookout, adjacent to the industrial park, looking towards the proposed tower location. The photos demonstrate that this location is characterised by open, grassy fields that are lined with trees that obscure distant views. These photos are provided in Attachment B.



5 Visual impact assessment

The proposed tower is located towards the high point within the landscape to maximise line of site and coverage. Given that the tower is 60 m in height, there is a potential for a visual impact on the surrounding area, including key heritage items within the heritage curtilage.

In order to address the effect of the proposed tower on the relevant heritage-listed items, an assessment of the visual effects the proposed tower will have, particularly on heritage-listed items, has been undertaken.

The predominant views of the tower will be from the adjoining industrial site to the northeast, with limited vegetation between the tower and the cliff edge above the industrial estate. Notwithstanding, the character of the industrial area, with large scale warehouses, means that the visual impacts from this viewpoint will not be significant or out of character.

It is noted that the key heritage viewpoints are located near the edge of the reservoir, at the toe of Prospect Hill. The sections provided in Figures 5 and 6 below (also included in Attachment A) show how the topography of the land and existing mature vegetation screen views of the tower when viewed from William Lawson Drive and the edge of the reservoir.



Figure 5 - Section showing proposed tower and existing water towers (refer Figure 3 for section location)



Figure 6 - Section showing proposed tower and William Lawson Drive (refer Figure 3 for section location)

In order to assess the visual impact on key heritage items within the curtilage of Prospect Reservoir, Endeavour Energy met with Heritage NSW on 19th January 2023 (meeting notes in Attachment C) and presented the Neara model and key viewpoints. This VIA captures all the viewpoints discussed at the meeting with the following exception/deviations:

- The areas west of the reservoir were heavily vegetated with limited access. Based on site inspections, there were no locations with views to Prospect Hill and the proposed tower along the western and northern sides of the reservoir. Therefore, there were no viewpoints chosen in these areas.
- 2) Prospect Lookout during the meeting the viewpoint discussed was within the north western end towards Clunie Ross Street on land to which the Plan of Management, Cumberland Council March 2019 applies. During the site visit to capture photos for the photomontage at this point, it was noticed that the dense vegetation, industrial area and the steep slope on the western side of a pathway from Clunie Ross St to the high point screened most of the views past the ridgeline. It was only at a specific point on the hilltop that had some view towards the proposed tower and this point is captured as Viewpoint 7 in this report.

Seven photomontages were prepared to demonstrate the visibility of the tower. These were based on selected viewpoints in discussion with HNSW, which are locations chosen to represent the view of a development from that area.

Five viewpoints illustrate views from within the heritage curtilage. These are views from locations with public views or from heritage items. The remaining two viewpoints were from further afield in the surrounding community. These were chosen due to their significance as a lookout location and accessibility to people. Figure 7 indicates the locations of the viewpoints.

The photomontages were prepared using WindPro, a specific visual impact modelling program and a 3D model of the proposed tower. In order to validate the photomontages, a program called Neara was used to create a similar looking tower and assess the location of the tower from three viewpoints using LIDAR data. Both the original photomontages and Neara validations are shown as part of the analysis for viewpoints 1-3 below.

As a tower structure is not available in Neara, a pole that represents the tower, and with dimensions similar to that of the proposed tower was used:

- pole base: 650 cm
- pole top: 150
- pole height: 60 m
- pole material (the aesthetic look): steel

For the LiDAR accuracy specs below are the contract accuracy requirements for the full network scan.

	Vertical accuracy 95% confidence	Horizontal accuracy 95% confidence	
LiDAR surveys	+/- 0.15 m	+/- 0.20 m	
	Relative	accuracy	

	A CONTRACTOR AND A CONTRACTOR
LiDAR surveys	+/- 0.05 m





GDA2020 MGA Zone 56

creating opportunities

Table 1 – Viewpoint 1 Photomontage



Criteria	Comments
Location	Located just outside the heritage curtilage on William Lawson Drive. It is approximately 400 m from the proposed tower and located just outside the heritage curtilage. This view south-east towards the proposed tower is representative of views to site users driving to the reservoir edge and picnic areas along William Lawson Drive.
Description of existing view	The existing view is characterised by open grassed areas on either side of William Lawson Drive, with mature vegetation on the slopes of Prospect Hill enhancing the natural quality of the view. The view is important as it forms part of the main public access to Prospect Reservoir however the presence of power-lines, chain wire fencing and Sydney water offices and vehicles (parked on the road edge) diminish the natural quality of the view. Given this, it is considered that this view has a low to medium value.
Anticipated change to view	The upper portion of the tower is visible from viewpoint 1, with existing vegetation and the slope of the land screening views to the lower part of the tower and associated infrastructure. While the view is scenic in nature, the proposed tower will not significantly impact any specific heritage items The anticipated change to viewpoint 1 would be negligible. While part of the proposed tower would be visible on the treed ridgeline, it does not impact any heritage items (the reservoir is not visible from this point, nor any of the other key heritage items), the proposed tower would be a distant feature and the natural quality of the landscape is already impacted by man-made infrastructure.
Validation of photomontage using Neara.	
Significance of impact	Given the location of viewpoint 1 outside the heritage curtilage and the interruption of the natural landscape by existing man-made infrastructure, it is not considered that this viewpoint is particularly sensitive to change.



The landscape plan (Figure 9) proposes planting native, fast growing trees with potential to bear
hollows in the future along the William Lawson Drive proposed planting area. This would assist
with quicker screening and also in the long term contribute to wildlife corridors and provide nabitat
for native fauna.
The plan also identifies a Bush Regeneration area in the vicinity of the proposed tower to remove exotic shrubs which are competing with the native tree species. This would assist in growth of the native trees improving overall vegetation quality and in further screening.



Criteria	Comments
Location	This photomontage is taken from just outside the gate near the existing submerged tower within the reservoir, at the base of the road up Prospect Hill looking north-east towards the proposed tower. The red arrow indicates the location of the top of the tower.
Description of existing view	This viewpoint is publicly accessible and while there are elements of modern infrastructure, such as power lines and road signs, the view incorporates heritage elements such as the former residential dwelling, post-and-rail fencing and palm trees along the road edge. The mature vegetation on the slopes of Prospect Hill lends a natural quality to the view.
Anticipated change to view	The anticipated change to this view is negligible as the topography of the land and existing vegetation mean that any views of the tower from this viewpoint are obscured.

Validation of photomontage using Neara.

Tower highlighted (for reference only) in green to indicate location





Tower is obscured by the vegetation and topography	
Significance of impact	The significance of change in this location, resulting from the proposed tower, is considered to be negligible, as views of the tower are screened by the vegetation and topography.
Mitigation measures	None required.





Anticipated change to view	The anticipated change to this view is negligible as the topography of the land and existing vegetation mean that any views of the tower from this viewpoint are obscured.
Validation of photom	iontage using Neara.
Tower highlighted in green (for readers reference only) to indicate location	
Tower is obscured by the vegetation and topography	
Significance of impacts	The significance of change in this location, resulting from the proposed tower, is considered to be negligible, as views of the tower are screened by the vegetation and topography.
Mitigation measures	None required.


Table 4 – Viewpoint 4 Photomontage



Criteria	Comments
Location	This view is from the picnic area at Walder Park. It is a popular area for picnicking and recreation use with the public. Prospect Dam rises to the west of this view. Views to the tower location are to the northeast, up the existing hill and past the Valve House.
	The red arrow indicates the location of the top of the tower.
Description of existing view	This viewpoint is publicly accessible. The view incorporates heritage elements such as the Valve House, former residential dwelling, post-and-rail fencing and palm trees along the road edge. The mature vegetation on the slopes of Prospect Hill lends a natural quality to the view.
Anticipated change to view	The anticipated change to this view is negligible as the topography of the land and existing vegetation mean that any views of the tower from this viewpoint are obscured.
Significance of impact	The significance of change in this location, resulting from the proposed tower, is considered to be negligible, as views of the tower are screened by the vegetation and topography.
Mitigation measures	None required.



Table 5 – Viewpoint 5 Photomontage

Criteria	Comments
Location	This view is from the George Maunder Lookout, which is located 350 m south of the tower location. There is significant, mature tree canopy within the picnic area and the parking lot.
Description of existing view	This area is publicly accessible, and even though this viewpoint is relatively close to the tower, the view focus is towards the west and south (as demonstrated in the image below) whereas the

proposed tower is towards the north.

The mature vegetation on the slopes of Prospect Hill lends a natural quality to the view. These trees along with trees in the parking area screen much of the view toward the tower.



	Photograph from Viewpoint 6 showing the dominant views to west (Reservoir) from the picnic area.
Anticipated change to view	The anticipated change to this view is negligible as the topography of the land and existing vegetation mean that any views of the tower from this viewpoint are obscured.
Significance of impact	The significance of the change to views from this location is low due to the existing tree canopy, and the main direction of views is away from the tower.
Mitigation measures	Although the significance of impact is low, Endeavour Energy propose to carry out tree planting within the gated area to further reduce the visual impact.



Table 6 – Viewpoint 6 Photomontage



Criteria	Comments
Location	This view is from Reservoir Road, approximately 1.4 km north of the tower location. Very few views of the tower are available near this location due to large expanses of bushland and roadside vegetation.
	The red arrow indicates the top of the tower.
Description of existing view	The tower is south of this viewing location. Bushland trees and roadside planting screen views of the tower site. Since this is a public road, viewing times would be short and fairly distant.
Anticipated change to view	The anticipated change to this view is negligible due to the trees that screen views toward the tower site, and the short time-frame any viewer would have to absorb the change.
Significance of impact	The significance of the change to views from this location is negligible due to the existing tree canopy and short duration of views.
Mitigation measures	None required.



Table 7 – Viewpoint 7 Photomontage



Criteria	Comments
Location	This view is from the highest point on Prospect Lookout, approximately 1.45 km northeast of the tower location. This site is known as an important Aboriginal site and is part of the Prospect Hill Plan of Management (Cumberland Council March 2019). It offers panoramic views across the landscape predominantly to the east and south (refer to image below).
	Views from Viewpoint 7 looking toward Parramatta and Sydney Access to this summit is from the Clunies Ross Street, although the gates have been closed
	since 2017. This location is situated atop a ridge that runs north-south, screening views of the tower from further east. The vegetation is characterised by a row of planted trees adjacent to boundary lines, scattered shrubs, weeds obscuring the views to the west and south-west and



	makes the western slope inaccessible. There is extensive pasture grassland on the north- eastern slope which is accessible.
Description of existing view	The tower is southwest of this viewing location. The view towards the tower is across planted vegetation, an industrial development that sits in an old quarry site and electrical infrastructure.
Anticipated change to view	The tower is predicted to be visible from this specific location where the photograph was taken. Moving away from this immediate location, views to the tower location are obscured by trees, vegetation, electricity poles, overhead mains, industrial buildings between the viewpoint and the proposed tower that screen the view. As indicated in the photomontage, the water tower is visible over the trees as is the tower from this viewpoint, however, it is only the elevated nature of this viewpoint that allow views to the tower. The land drops away steeply from this point and views quickly become obscured in the immediate vicinity of this location. The Plan of Management also identifies that the views to the west is impacted by the industrial area and existing infrastures and hence has measures to: <i>'retain and add to existing trees on Prospect Hill, consistent with the Prospect Hill Conservation Management Plan, thereby forming large stands of trees to provide a visual buffer to built form when viewed from the top of Prospect Hill.</i> Construct unobtrusive viewing areas at Prospect Hill, and south of the hill looking south-east using low maintenance materials. <i>Plant scattered trees and shrubs on the western boundary to screen industrial areas.</i>
Significance of impact	The significance of the change to views from this location is low due to the existing vegetation and industrial nature of the view towards the tower. This view is only available from the hilltop that is only accessible by foot. While the site is an important Aboriginal site, the key views are to the east and south, away from the tower location. Existing trees screen views to the tower location away from the location of this viewpoint.
Mitigation measures	None required.



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5.1 Mitigation measures

A range of visual impact mitigation methods are available to reduce the impact of a development. As a general rule, mitigation should aim first at reducing the visible changes to the landscape. Secondly, mitigation should screen new infrastructure introduced by the project to present a landscape that is as similar to the existing landscape as possible.

In order to reduce any visual impacts, it is proposed that the tower will be constructed using matt steel, to decrease reflectivity.

Endeavour Energy, in consultation with Sydney Water, will consider the option to undertake revegetation works to support the aesthetics of the visual landscape ensuring access and maintenance requirements met. Endeavour Energy have had a Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) prepared to assess and make recommendations for areas proposed as revegetation areas. Figure 8 (taken from the VMP) indicates locations proposed for infill planting and bush regeneration. This will extend the remnant bushland vegetation further around the reservoir and in doing so, create a visual screen that is consistent with the existing landscape character.

A second recommendation indicated on the landscape plan (refer Figure 8), is the continuation of the street tree planting along William Lawson Drive. This extends the roadside tree planting and will screen views of the tower as vehicles travel south on William Lawson Drive.





Figure 8: Vegetation Management Plan

6 Conclusion

This VIA has been undertaken to understand effect of the proposed tower on the visual amenity of the heritage listed items (Prospect Reservoir, including the Valve House and remains of the Veterans Hall) and respective curtilage, in addition to surrounding industrial and residential land uses, as shown in Figure 5. The proposal is located towards a high point on Prospect Hill, approximately 75 m southwest from the existing Sydney Water tanks. The site is surrounded by mature vegetation to its west, a picnic area to the south, an industrial area to the east and Sydney Water tanks to the north.

Five viewpoints (viewpoints 1 to 5) were chosen to assess the visual impact of the proposal on key heritage items and receivers within the heritage curtilage area. Visual receivers in the area include recreational users accessing the picnic areas, open space and lookout areas and Sydney Water staff working in the Sydney Water offices. Two viewpoints were chosen to assess the impacts onto road users and a recognised important Aboriginal site which may have a line of sight onto the heritage curtilage area, including viewpoints 6 and 7.

Based on the heritage viewpoints and surrounding visual receivers assessed the following outcomes were identified:

- Viewpoint 1 Given the location of viewpoint 1 outside the heritage curtilage and the interruption of the natural landscape by existing man-made infrastructure, it is not considered that this viewpoint is particularly sensitive to change.
- Viewpoint 2 The significance of change in this location, resulting from the proposed tower, is considered to be negligible, as views of the tower are screened by the vegetation and topography.
- Viewpoint 3 The significance of change in this location, resulting from the proposed tower, is considered negligible, as views of the tower are screened by the vegetation and topography.
- Viewpoint 4 The significance of change in this location, resulting from the proposed tower, is considered to be negligible, as views of the tower are screened by the vegetation and topography.
- Viewpoint 5 The significance of the change to views from this location is low due to the existing tree canopy, and the main direction of views is away from the tower.
- Viewpoint 6 The significance of the change to views from this location is negligible due to the existing tree canopy and short duration of views.
- Viewpoint 7 the significance of the change to views from this location is low due to the existing trees screening views and the industrial nature of the view toward the tower.

Overall, it is considered that the visual impact on Prospect Reservoir and key heritage items will be low to negligible.

Attachment A – Design Drawings

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PROSPECT RESERVOIR - COMMUNICATIONS TOWER

DWG No.

DWG TITLE

SHEET 1	DRAWING TITLE AND LOCATION PLAN
SHEET 2	OVERALL SITE PLAN
SHEET 3	OVERALL SECTIONAL VIEW 1
SHEET 4	OVERALL SECTIONAL VIEW 2
SHEET 5	DETAILED SITE PLAN
SHEET 6	DETAILED SITE PLAN - ELEVATIONS
SHEET 7	SITE PLAN - CUT & FILL

LOCATION PLAN







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В	2.8m HIGH CHAIN WIRE FENCE WITH STRANDS OF BARBED WIRE ON REINFORCED CONCRETE FILLED BLOCKWORK RETAINING WALL	
	UNDERGROUND CABLE ROUTE FROM NEW POLE TO	7000
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Attachment B – Photos of existing landscape



Photos depicting visual character of proposal site

















Photo G – view to proposed tower from Water NSW offices.	
Photo H – view to proposed tower from heritage information area on William Lawson Drive. View will be predominantly obscured by existing vegetation.	
Photo I – View from gateway adjacent submerged tower and in close proximity to Prospect Reservoir Valve House, looking up road to picnic areas and George Maunder Lookout on Prospect Hill.	
- View from Reservoir wall	















Photo P – view towards proposed tower from Dolerite Way in former quarry industrial park. Tower will be partially obscured by existing industrial buildings.	
Photo Q – View to proposed tower from Belleview Circuit in former quarry industrial park.	







Attachment C – Consultation with Heritage NSW



Lia Zwolinski

From:	James Quoyle <james.quoyle@environment.nsw.gov.au></james.quoyle@environment.nsw.gov.au>
Sent:	Thursday, 19 January 2023 10:51 AM
То:	Roweena Dsouza
Cc:	Michael Ellis
Subject:	RE: Comms Tower at Prospect (HMS1632)

Hi Roweena Thank you for meeting with HNSW today.

The demonstration of the data and modelling to verify the accuracy of the visual impact from key significant areas across the site and from the top of Prospect Hill to the east provided a fuller understanding of the terrain and was effective.

Also, the proposed mitigation measure to reduce the visual impact by improving and rehabilitating the vegetation in this area of the site has benefit and this needs to be part of the application and in a form that may be included in Schedule 1 – APPROVED DOCUMENTS.

Based on your presentation, HNSW are of the opinion that the proposed tower in that location is not likely to materially affect the aesthetic values of the item. Therefore, the application will not be exhibited by HNSW and the approval will be completed under delegation.

What is required:

- Updated VIA
- Updated SoHI
- Updated architectural drawings (extracted from the REF)
- Details of the vegetation rehabilitation plan.

I will initiate a task request in HMS and this will stop the clock to enable you the time to consult with Sydney Water and prepare a vegetation rehabilitation plan. Could you provide an estimate of the time required to finalise this component?

Regards James

James Quoyle (he/him) Senior Assessments Officer Heritage NSW Department of Planning and Environment

T 9873 8612 E james.quoyle@environment.nsw.gov.au

dpie.nsw.gov.au heritage.nsw.gov.au

4 Parramatta Square 12 Darcy Street Parramatta Locked Bag 5020 Parramatta 2124

Working days Monday to Thursday



I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land and pay respects to Elders past and present. I also acknowledge all the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff working with NSW Government at this time.

Please consider the environment before printing this email.

From: Roweena Dsouza <Roweena.Dsouza@endeavourenergy.com.au> Sent: Wednesday, 18 January 2023 4:14 PM To: James Quoyle <James.Quoyle@environment.nsw.gov.au> Subject: RE: Comms Tower at Prospect (HMS1632)

Hi James,

We are preparing a detailed response to answer your queries. In light of time, I would like to have a quick call with you today to explain what Im proposing and schedule a meeting to demonstrate visibility of the tower from all the viewpoints that have been suggested. This would really help your understanding of our proposal.

Please call me or let me know your thoughts.

Thanks Row

From: James Quoyle <James.Quoyle@environment.nsw.gov.au> Sent: Monday, 16 January 2023 11:26 AM To: Roweena Dsouza <Roweena.Dsouza@endeavourenergy.com.au> Subject: RE: Comms Tower at Prospect (HMS1632)

Hi Roweena Would you have some time today to go through the submission and address any immediate queries? Regards James

From: Roweena Dsouza <Roweena.Dsouza@endeavourenergy.com.au> Sent: Wednesday, 11 January 2023 3:56 PM To: James Quoyle <James.Quoyle@environment.nsw.gov.au> Subject: RE: Comms Tower at Prospect (HMS1632)

Hi James,

Sorry about that. I have resent the submission and if you have any issue downloading it, let me know. The combined file size is huge, but if there are particular documents you require, I can extract them from the submission and send them separately which would be easier to review.

In addition, as this project is at a critical stage for Endeavour Energy, I would appreciate if you have 10-15 minutes tomorrow so I can go through the submission with you and address any immediate queries that you may have?

Look forward to hearing from you.

Regards

Roweena D'Souza | Environmental Specialist

M 0447 919 365 51 Huntingwood Drive, Huntingwood NSW 2148.

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endeavourenergy.com.au 📶 🚯 💵 🔰



Endeavour Energy respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Custodians on whose lands we live, work, and operate and their Elders past, present and emerging.

From: James Quoyle <James.Quoyle@environment.nsw.gov.au> Sent: Wednesday, 11 January 2023 3:26 PM To: Roweena Dsouza <Roweena.Dsouza@endeavourenergy.com.au> Subject: RE: Comms Tower at Prospect (HMS1632)

Hello Roweena

Could you resend this document – I thought I had downloaded it but cannot retrieve it - and I did not save my password because I didn't think I would need it.

Sorry for the inconvenience. Regards James

James Quoyle (he/him) Senior Assessments Officer Heritage NSW Department of Planning and Environment

T 9873 8612 E james.quoyle@environment.nsw.gov.au

dpie.nsw.gov.au heritage.nsw.gov.au

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Working days Monday to Thursday



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Please consider the environment before printing this email.

From: Roweena Dsouza <Roweena.Dsouza@endeavourenergy.com.au> Sent: Monday, 9 January 2023 10:38 AM To: James Quoyle <James.Quoyle@environment.nsw.gov.au> Subject: Comms Tower at Prospect (HMS1632)

Your files are ready for pickup

The following file(s) have been sent to you from Roweena.Dsouza@endeavourenergy.com.au:

EE Letter to HNSW _22122022.pdf 62.75 MB

Download Files

The secure message expires on 23/1/23 10:38:09 AM

If the link above does not open, please copy and paste the following URL into your browser: https://mft.endeavourenergy.com.au/register?token=c386b9e2-68b7-4044-8a9d-b61b983c306a

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PLEASE CONSIDER THE ENVIRONMENT BEFORE PRINTING THIS EMAIL

Lia Zwolinski

From:	Roweena Dsouza
Sent:	Thursday, 19 January 2023 10:51 AM
То:	Chris Maddocks; James Quoyle; Michael Ellis; Hooman Goodarznia; Tadd Andersen
Cc:	Emily@Heritage21; philip.bennett@sydneywater.com.au
Subject:	RE: Prospect Reservoir HMS 1632 Visualisation

Hi All,

Thank you for meeting this morning and running through the various viewpoints.

Key notes from today's meeting:

- Aim: To go through the various viewpoints in Neara to understand visual context of the proposed tower and validate the photomontages in the VIA submitted to HNSW on 23rd Dec 2022.
- Agenda:

Introductions – Row (5 minutes) Neara Model – setup – Chris (10 Minutes) Viewpoints – Chris and HNSW (20 minutes)

- Questions, conclusion, way forward ALL (10 minutes)
- Conclusion
 - HNSW are satisfied with the validity of the photomontages and do not require Endeavour Energy to further validate the photomontages i.e. no crane required onsite
 - o HNSW acknowledge the effort put into careful site selection to minimise visual and heritage impact
 - HNSW acknowledge that Endeavour Energy in discussions with Sydney Water propose to have a veg management plan or strategy that would benefit the aesthetic value of the site
 - Endeavour Energy will provide an updated VIA to include additional photomontages as discussed in the meeting today by Monday 23rd Jan
 - \circ $\;$ Endeavour Energy will provide an updated SOHI that will capture the updated VIA and design by Monday 23 $^{\rm rd}$ Jan
 - Endeavour Energy are in the process of updating the REF and shall advertise it on their website when discussions with HNSW are satisfactorily completed
 - HNSW, in lieu of the above, will reconsider the potential impact of the proposal and will get back to Endeavour Energy if the proposal needs to go to advertisement

Please let me know if I have missed any item or if there are any corrections.

Else this can be considered as the Minutes of the Meeting.

Thanks Roweena

-----Original Appointment-----From: Roweena Dsouza

Sent: Wednesday, 18 January 2023 4:58 PM

To: Roweena Dsouza; Chris Maddocks; James Quoyle; Michael Ellis; Emily@Heritage21; Hooman Goodarznia; tandersen@emmconsulting.com.au; philip.bennett@sydneywater.com.au

Subject: Prospect Reservoir HMS 1632 Visualisation

When: Saturday, 21 January 2023 9:30 AM-10:15 AM (UTC+10:00) Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney. Where: Microsoft Teams Meeting

Hi All,

Setting up a meeting to run through Near and go through the various viewpoints at Prospect reservoir looking towards the proposed tower.

Regards



Endeavour Energy respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Custodians on whose lands we live, work, and operate and their Elders past, present and emerging.

Microsoft Teams meeting

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Click here to join the meeting

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PROSPECT RESERVOIR - COMMUNICATIONS TOWER

DWG No.

DWG TITLE

SHEET 1	DRAWING TITLE AND LOCATION PLAN
SHEET 2	OVERALL SITE PLAN
SHEET 3	OVERALL SECTIONAL VIEW 1
SHEET 4	OVERALL SECTIONAL VIEW 2
SHEET 5	DETAILED SITE PLAN
SHEET 6	DETAILED SITE PLAN - ELEVATIONS
SHEET 7	SITE PLAN – CUT & FILL

LOCATION PLAN







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VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

Prospect Reservoir Endeavour Energy Communications Tower

January 2023.

Prepared for Endeavour Energy by Roger Lembit B.Sc.Agr Gingra Ecological Surveys

> Gingra Ecological Surveys P.O. Box 1 Canterbury NSW 2193

1. INTRODUCTION

Endeavour Energy is planning construct a communications tower within the Prospect Reservoir precinct. The precinct has heritage significance, and a Visual Impact Assessment (VIA) has been completed in response to a submission by the NSW Heritage Council. Following consideration of the VIA the Heritage Council have requested the preparation of a Vegetation Rehabilitation Strategy. As this report identifies bush regeneration and tree planting options it was considered that titling it as a Vegetation Management Plan was more appropriate.

The VIA indicated that existing vegetation would mitigate the visual impact of tower construction to a large degree. Endeavour Energy now wish to develop a Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) to identify measures such as plantings or bush regeneration which can be undertaken to further reduce the visual impact of the proposal and to protect the heritage landscape.

The objectives of this VMP are:

- The establishment of an Asset Protection Zone (APZ) by the selective removal of vegetation components in a manner that is consistent with Rural Fire Service (RFS) requirements;
- Management of vegetation to allow for native trees in sightlines to mature and attain a height which will mitigate visual impact;
- Selective planting of appropriate tree species to reduce visual impact at key viewing locations, and;
- The retention of vegetation and trees that contribute to wildlife corridors and provide habitat for native fauna.

2. PLANNING CONTEXT

The proposal takes place at a site with a complex layer of interests. The land on which the tower is to be constructed is managed by Sydney Water which operate Prospect Reservoir. Management of land within the Prospect Reservoir precinct is subject to the Property Environmental Management Plan (PEMP) Prospect Reservoir, Reservoir Road WS0095 (Sydney Water 2001). The PEMP deals with the Reservoir lands in different sections. The sites discussed in this VMP include parts of the areas identified as the southern and eastern sides.

The following planning instruments are relevant to the subject area:

- Blacktown Local Environmental Plan 2015
- State Environmental Planning Policy (Western Sydney Employment Area) 2009 (SEPP (WSEA))
- State Environmental Planning Policy (Western Sydney Parklands) 2009 (SEPP (WSP))

Prospect Reservoir Site and associated works is one of the 59 assets owned by Sydney Water Corporation that is listed on the State Heritage Register. Sydney Water commissioned the preparation of a Conservation Management Plans (CMP) which was completed in 2005 and then approved by NSW Heritage in 2006 (Sydney Water Corporation 2005).

As indicated above NSW Heritage have expressed concerns relating to the visual impact of the proposed 60 m high communications tower. Endeavour Energy responded to this by commissioning a Visual Impact Assessment (EMM 2022).

This VMP seeks to ensure any proposed vegetation management is consistent with the PEMP and to ensure any planting scheme has regard to the CMP and additional elements of heritage significance such as historic plantings which are associated with key themes identified in the CMP. A meeting was held with Sydney Water staff during the preparation of this VMP and elements of the meeting discussion have been incorporated in the approach adopted in this report.

3. SITE DESCRIPTION

The site for construction of the communications tower is on a high ridge near the top of Prospect Hill and close to the eastern boundary of the Prospect Reservoir lands. The site is to the south of existing water reservoirs. To the east is the former quarry, now being redeveloped. Access to the site is via William Lawson Drive, which is also the access road for Sydney Water staff and members of the public using facilities provided with the Prospect Reservoir lands including picnic areas and lookouts.

The land is gently inclined along the ridge crest, dropping more steeply to the west towards William Lawson Drive.

The eastern side of the Prospect Hill ridge drains into Girraween Creek, a tributary of Toongabbie Creek and the Parramatta River. Western Slopes are in the catchment of Prospect Reservoir, an artificial impoundment in the head catchment of Prospect Creek ,a tributary of the Georges River.

Whilst the majority of the Prospect Reservoir lands are within the Blacktown soil landscape, Prospect Hill is mapped as being within the Volcanic soil landscape (Hazelton, Bannerman & Tillie 1989). The Volcanic soil landscape features red podzolic soils associated with the Jurassic dolerite intrusion found at Prospect (Australian Museum 2018).

Whilst the primary function of the Prospect Reservoir lands is as an intermediate water storage fed by pipes and canals from Warragamba Dam and the Metropolitan catchments, the lands also serve as a workplace and recreational site.

The areas of land subject to this VMP fall within the Blacktown local government area. The land lies within the Central Coast botanical subdivision.

3.1 Existing Vegetation and Habitat

Vegetation patterns across the Prospect Reservoir lands have been mapped by Total Earth Care (2018).

The vicinity of the tower location includes areas classed as Native/Exotic Grassland and Exotic Shrubland. These vegetation classes appear to also include stands of native trees with a disturbed understorey. Tree species include Forest Red Gum (*Eucalyptus tereticornis*), Coastal Grey Box (*E. moluccana*) and Narrow-leaved Ironbark (*E. crebra*). The dominant exotic shrubs are Large-leaved Privet (*Ligustrum lucidum*), African Olive (*Olea europaea* subsp. *cuspidata*) and Lantana (*Lantana camara*).

The PEMP divides the Prospect Reservoir lands into a set of management zones. The vicinity of the communications tower is classed as Zone W Weed Management as is the entrance precinct along William Lawson Drive.

4. VEGETATION MANAGEMENT OPTIONS

The strategy for reduced visual impact of the communications tower is to provide conditions conducive to the growth and survival of native trees in the vicinity of the tower in order that they increase in height, together with selective plantings to screen the tower from viewing points.

A number of viewing points were assessed to allow consideration of vegetation management options which would address visual impact. These included the entrance along William Lawson Drive, the tower location itself and the Prospect Hill ridgeline, William Lawson Drive near the Sydney Water Offices, the Valve House and Maunder Lookout and the associated picnic area. Options for vegetation management are discussed below. A plan identifying preferred locations is included as Figure 1.



Figure 1. Vegetation Management locations

Tower Location

The vegetation in this area includes native tree species and exotic shrubs and grasses.

The preferred management of this area is implementation of bush regeneration works to remove exotic shrubs which are competing with the native tree species.

This management approach is consistent with the PEMP.

A separate bushfire management report is recommending the creation of a 10 m radius Asset Protection Zone (APZ) around the edge of the fenced tower footprint. Achievement of this APZ is possible through selective removal of exotic shrubs. Lopping of branches of native trees may also be necessary to achieve crown separation. A small dead eucalypt tree to the south-west of the tower is recommended for removal. The tree should be laid on the ground across not down the slope to provide habitat.

Sightline from South

Figure 2 shows that there is a gap in tree cover when viewing the tower location from the south.



Lookout car park

This gap can be filled by planting of up to 10 trees in the somewhat more clear area seen in the centre of Figure 2. The tree species to be used would be Forest Red Gum (*E. tereticornis*) and Coastal Grey Box (*E. moluccana*). Stock in 15 to 20 cm pots is recommended as these are likely to have a higher survival rate than advanced stock.

Supplementary planting of up to 50 Cumberland Plain Woodland Shrubs is recommended in this area. The shrub species to be used are Hop Bush (*Dodonaea viscosa* subsp. *cuneata*), Native Indigo (*Indigofera australis*) and Sickle Wattle (*Acacia falcata*).

These plantings would need protection to prevent damage from browsing animals. It is also recommended the area around the plantings be periodically mown or slashed to reduce competition. The plantings should be maintained for five years.

Sightlines from West

Consideration was given to potential for screening of the tower from the area around the Sydney Water offices along William Lawson Drive (see Figure 3). Such an approach was not considered appropriate as the lower area has historically been cleared and there are utilities in the area including water pipelines and electricity supply lines.



Figure 3. View of tower location from vicinity of Sydney Water offices

Another potential viewing point assessed was the Valve House area. It was determined that existing vegetation and the intervening landform provided effective screening from this location (Figure 4).



Figure 4. View towards tower location from Valve House

William Lawson Drive

Whilst views of the tower from William Lawson Drive in the vicinity of Andrew Campbell Reserve are not likely to be of high impact planting along the eastern side of the Drive is proposed. Consideration was given to an extension to the existing Hoop Pine avenue, consistent with the historic nature of the avenue. An aerial photograph from January 1956 shows that the avenue then extended to a point north-east of a house on the western side of William Lawson Drive (Figure 5). It is not considered appropriate to extend planting of Hoop Pine beyond the limit seen in the historic evidence, but replacement of trees which have died along the historic section could be undertaken.



Figure 5. Northern end, William Lawson Drive 1/1/1956

Figure 5 shows additional plantings along William Lawson Drive to a point opposite Prospect History Cottage, including what is now a large Lemon-scented Gum (*E. citriodora*). In the early 1980s secondary plants occurring to the east of the Drive in two rows using species including Hoop Pine and Monterey Pine (Figure 6). Some of the Monterey Pines have now died, possibly due to the 2018-19 drought. Hoop Pine saplings have now established as a tertiary tree layer along the rows in the north.

It is proposed to undertake infill planting along the two rows of trees, avoiding infrastructure such as a water main. electricity supply line, fencing and an access way to the paddock. The area may be prone to saturated soil profiles during wet conditions so careful tree species selection may be required.

Suitable local native tree species would include Spotted Gum (*Corymbia maculata*), Forest Red Gum (*E. tereticornis*) and Cabbage Gum. Additional planting of Lemon-scented Gum is not recommended as this species seeds readily and has the potential to become a future management problem.



5. RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT

This section includes a summary of the management actions proposed for this Vegetation Management Plan. Action and timing seeks to align with actions in Table 4-1 of the PEMP. Works may be undertaken by Endeavour Energy or outsourced and incorporated in a site wide vegetation management plan subject to agreement with Sydney Water and subject to the discussion and recommended actions in this Plan.

Location	Action	Timing		
	Establishment of APZ	Within 3 months of tower		
Vicinity of Tower		construction		
vienney of Tower	Bush regeneration ¹	5 years from construction		
		completion		
	Tree planting & protection	Spring 2023		
Ridgeline to south of Tower	Mowing/slashing	Monthly from September –		
		March 2023-2028		
William Lawson Drive ²	Infill tree planting	Spring 2023, annual assessment		
		of planting success in spring		

NOTES

2 Section between Andrew Campbell Reserve and Prospect Heritage Cottage (eastern side)

¹ Contribute to Sydney Water bush regeneration works subject to agreement between Endeavour Energy & Sydney Water

REFERENCES

- Australian Museum (2018) *The Sydney Basin. Igneous Activity.* website <u>https://australian.museum/learn/minerals/shaping-earth/the-sydney-basin/</u> accessed 26/01/2023.
- EMM Consulting (2022) *Visual Impact Assessment for Heritage Council of NSW*. 60m Communications Tower, Prospect Reservoir. Endeavour Energy, Minchinbury.

Rural Fire Service (2019) Planning for Bushfire Protection.

Sydney Water Corporation (2005) Prospect Reservoir Site. Conservation Management Plan.

Sydney Water, Sydney.

Sydney Water (2021) Property Environmental Management Plan (PEMP) Prospect Reservoir, Reservoir Road WS0095. Sydney Water, Sydney.

Total Earth Care (2018) *Biodiversity Assessment – Prospect Reservoir*. Total Earth Care, Warriewood.

Roweena Dsouza

From:	Rhonda Tang <rhonda.tang@sydneywater.com.au></rhonda.tang@sydneywater.com.au>
Sent:	Monday, 30 January 2023 2:47 PM
То:	Phil Bennett; Roweena Dsouza; Nick Stroinovsky
Cc:	gingra@ozemail.com.au
Subject:	RE: [External] RE: Bush regeneration at Prospect Reservoir, re Endeavour Energy
	Proposed comms tower

Hi Roweena

I also have no issues with the proposal from the property environmental management perspective. I am satisfied that your plans have taken into account the environmental and heritage values discussed with Nick and Phil. I suggest that you note in your VMP that the plantings may be "outsourced" and incorporated in a site wide vegetation management plan, but will be in keeping with your main objectives.

We still need to consult with SW Property Leasing about impacts to the access of the grassed area (opposite the cottage), which they have been known to lease out. From our experience, it's unlikely to be a big issue, they may ask for plantings to be excluded from a small corridor or from the tops of unmarked pipes.

SW Property Management will also need to be consulted to discuss with you on APZ issues. Hence I've made some corrections to the dot point on:

 APZ maintenance – Similarly, SW have an APZ management area that they are required to maintain. Rhonda will consult SW Property Management on the proposed towers APZ, to understand the interaction of Lease areas with SW APZ. SW to clarify extent and maintenance and get back to Endeavour for discussion.

Other corrections:

- Planting near eastern edge of William Lawson Drive:
- EE recommended planting of Hoop Pine in the gap between the Pine trees as shown in the image. SW advices that we need to demarcate Heritage trees from the new plantings. SW advice to plant native, fast growing trees with potential to bear hollows/become habitat trees in the future along the William Lawson Drive proposed planting area. This would assist with quicker screening for the visual aspect and also in the long term contribute to wildlife corridors and provide habitat for native fauna.
- The plantings should be placed more than 5 m away from the roadside, and avoid infrastructure such as a water main, fencing and any access gates

I don't think any of these comments will affect your submission, if you think otherwise, or would like further clarification feel free to call me.

Regards **Rhonda Tang** Project Manager – Property Environmental Management Plans (PEMP) Program Property Services, Asset Lifecycle

Mobile 0438 687 681 <u>Rhonda.Tang@sydneywater.com.au</u> *"If I had more time, I would have written a shorter letter."*



Level 10, 1 Smith Street Parramatta NSW 2150





Sydney Water respectfully acknowled of the land and waters on which we w respect to Elders past and present



From: Phil Bennett <PHIL.BENNETT@sydneywater.com.au>
Sent: Monday, 30 January 2023 1:10 PM
To: Roweena Dsouza <Roweena.Dsouza@endeavourenergy.com.au>; Rhonda Tang
<RHONDA.TANG@sydneywater.com.au>; Nick Stroinovsky <Nick.Stroinovsky@sydneywater.com.au>
Cc: gingra@ozemail.com.au
Subject: RE: [External] RE: Bush regeneration at Prospect Reservoir, re Endeavour Energy Proposed comms tower

Hi Rowena

I am happy with the landscape outcomes.

No other comments.

Accepted.

Thanks

Phil Bennett Lead Heritage Adviser Environment & Heritage

0407 455 937 philip.bennett@sydneywater.com.au

From: Roweena Dsouza <<u>Roweena.Dsouza@endeavourenergy.com.au</u>>

Sent: Monday, 30 January 2023 12:28 PM

To: Rhonda Tang <<u>RHONDA.TANG@sydneywater.com.au</u>>; Phil Bennett <<u>PHIL.BENNETT@sydneywater.com.au</u>>; Nick Stroinovsky <<u>Nick.Stroinovsky@sydneywater.com.au</u>>

Cc: Phil Bennett < PHIL.BENNETT@sydneywater.com.au >; gingra@ozemail.com.au

Subject: RE: [External] RE: Bush regeneration at Prospect Reservoir, re Endeavour Energy Proposed comms tower

Hi,

@'Rhonda Tang', thanks for your quick response and initial comment.

Rhonda and Phil,

Could you let me know if there are any further comments/clarifications that you would like us to address? If not, Roger can send through the final version for your review and approval and I shall notify Nick once you both have approved (I understand he is on leave today).

Once HNSW give their approval, I shall organise a meeting between key stakeholders from Endeavour and Sydney Water so we can nut out the commercial aspects and the arrangements to carry out the works.

Regards Row

From: gingra@ozemail.com.au <gingra@ozemail.com.au>
Sent: Monday, 30 January 2023 10:38 AM
To: 'Rhonda Tang' <<u>RHONDA.TANG@sydneywater.com.au</u>>; Roweena Dsouza
<<u>Roweena.Dsouza@endeavourenergy.com.au</u>>; 'Phil Bennett' <<u>PHIL.BENNETT@sydneywater.com.au</u>>; 'Nick
Stroinovsky' <<u>Nick.Stroinovsky@sydneywater.com.au</u>>
Cc: 'Phil Bennett' <<u>PHIL.BENNETT@sydneywater.com.au</u>>
Subject: RE: [External] RE: Bush regeneration at Prospect Reservoir, re Endeavour Energy Proposed comms tower

Hi,

The implication is infill of the 1980s treelines, rather than new planting. There is no need to worry about access, as access to the paddock is provided by Gate 2, and you just need to locate plantings away from this line. Tree spacing in the existing lines is about 9 m, for the Hoop Pines its about 11 m, was probably 12 yards.

Just a change in wording.

Regards, Roger.

Roger Lembit B.Sc.Agr Principal Ecologist Gingra Ecological Surveys P.O. Box 1 Canterbury NSW 2193 gingra@ozemail.com.au 0427 779925

From: Rhonda Tang <<u>RHONDA.TANG@sydneywater.com.au</u>>
Sent: Monday, 30 January 2023 10:32 AM
To: gingra@ozemail.com.au; 'Roweena Dsouza' <<u>Roweena.Dsouza@endeavourenergy.com.au</u>>; Phil Bennett
<<u>PHIL.BENNETT@sydneywater.com.au</u>>; Nick Stroinovsky <<u>Nick.Stroinovsky@sydneywater.com.au</u>>;
Cc: Phil Bennett <<u>PHIL.BENNETT@sydneywater.com.au</u>>
Subject: RE: [External] RE: Bush regeneration at Prospect Reservoir, re Endeavour Energy Proposed comms tower

I hope you all had a great weekend =)

Thanks for sharing your insights Roger, and I also enjoy getting information from a good aerial.

Do you think there might be any changes to the approach forward, compared to what we had discussed last week?

Regards

Rhonda Tang

Asset Lifecycle Sydney Water, 1 Smith Street, Parramatta NSW 2150



Mobile 0438 687 681 rhonda.tang@sydneywater.com.au

Sydney Water acknowledges the traditional custodians of the waters and land on which we work, live and learn.



From: gingra@ozemail.com.au <gingra@ozemail.com.au>

Sent: Monday, 30 January 2023 8:02 AM

To: 'Roweena Dsouza' <<u>Roweena.Dsouza@endeavourenergy.com.au</u>>; Phil Bennett

<<u>PHIL.BENNETT@sydneywater.com.au</u>>; Nick Stroinovsky <<u>Nick.Stroinovsky@sydneywater.com.au</u>>; Rhonda Tang <<u>RHONDA.TANG@sydneywater.com.au</u>>

Cc: Phil Bennett < PHIL.BENNETT@sydneywater.com.au>

Subject: [External] RE: Bush regeneration at Prospect Reservoir, re Endeavour Energy Proposed comms tower

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi,

I've done some further work over the weekend I thought I should share.

I had a look at the area along William Lawson Drive, from the Hoop Pine avenue southwards.

Many of the trees beyond (east) of the fence are plantings in a double row. There are also younger trees which have regenerated more recently. The main plantings appear to be Radiata Pine and Hoop Pine. There are also sapling Lemon-scented Gum and a number of Spotted Gum trees.

Lemon-scented Gum were commonly planted in western Sydney in the 1970s, examples are at St Marys and Mawson Park at Campbelltown.

The attached aerial photograph from the NSW Government Historical Imagery webpages seems to be the first in the time sequence which shows planting in this area.

I will be amending the wording relevant to this area to reflect this.

Regards, Roger.

Roger Lembit B.Sc.Agr Principal Ecologist Gingra Ecological Surveys P.O. Box 1 From: Roweena Dsouza <<u>Roweena.Dsouza@endeavourenergy.com.au</u>>

Sent: Friday, 27 January 2023 4:45 PM

To: <u>PHILIP.BENNETT@sydneywater.com.au</u>; <u>gingra@ozemail.com.au</u>; <u>nick.stroinovsky@sydneywater.com.au</u>; Rhonda Tang <<u>RHONDA.TANG@sydneywater.com.au</u>>

Cc: Phil Bennett <<u>PHIL.BENNETT@sydneywater.com.au</u>>

Subject: RE: Bush regeneration at Prospect Reservoir, re Endeavour Energy Proposed comms tower

Hi All,

Thank you for meeting with us on the 24th January.

Key notes from the meeting:

Aim: To discuss the draft Veg Management Plan at Prospect Reservoir with Sydney Water and determine their requirements and address any concerns.

Attendees:

- o Roweena D'Souza Environmental Specialist, Endeavour Energy
- Roger Lembit Ecologist, Gingra Ecological Surveys
- Rhonda Tang Project Manager Property Environmental Management Plans (PEMP) Program, Sydney Water
- Philip Bennett Heritage Advisor, Sydney Water
- o Nikolai Stroïnovsky Lead Environmental Advisor, Customer Delivery, Sydney Water

Notes and action items:

- Endeavour Energy discussed the draft Veg Mgmnt Plan with Sydney Water (SW) and advised that this plan was developed to compliment SW PEMP and the CMP.
- Planting near eastern edge of William Lawson Drive:

EE recommended planting of Hoop Pine in the gap between the Pine trees as shown in the image. SW advices that we need to demarcate Heritage trees from the new plantings. SW advice to plant native, fast growing trees with potential to bear hollows in the future along the William Lawson Drive proposed planting area. This would assist with quicker screening for the visual aspect and also in the long term contribute to wildlife corridors and provide habitat for native fauna.

- The plantings should be placed more than 5 m away from the roadside to avoid infrastructure such as a water main, fencing and any access gates
- Endeavour Energy advised that they might need to create an Asset Protection Zone for bushfire protection. This would involve clearing 10m ground cover around the proposed Telco infrastructure (which is composed of weeds such as African Olives, Privet, Lantana), lopping of branches of native trees to achieve crown separation and the removal of a small dead eucalypt tree to the south-west of the tower. SW advise they have no objection as long as they trees are not hollow bearing and the dead tree is laid on the ground across not down the slope to provide habitat.
- Sightline from South there is a gap in tree cover when viewing the tower location from the south. EE advise that this gap can be filled by planting a few trees in a clear area and away from the overhead main easement. These plantings would need protection to prevent damage from browsing animals. It is also recommended the area around the plantings be mown or slashed to reduce competition. The plantings should be maintained for five years. SW agree and recommend planting native trees in this area.
- Maintenance –EE proposed that they could pay SW a \$/m2 area requiring weed management until the plants establish themselves or as will be captured in the Veg Mgmnt Plan. SW agreed that this could be a better option considering the contractors need to meet specific requirements and they have existing contractors that maintain the site on a regular basis. EE and SW agree to separately discuss maintenance of the above areas.
- APZ maintenance Similarly, SW have an APZ management area that they are required to maintain. SW will look into updating this map as it doesn't include the SW water reservoirs that need APZ maintenance. It is

likely that proposed towers APZ will be a subset of the overall SW APZ. SW to clarify extent and maintenance and get back to Endeavour.

- Endeavour to clarify if it's a lease or licence and send SW a copy of the extent.
- Endeavour advise that the submission to HNSW is scheduled for 31st Jan and will submit a draft for SW review on 27th Jan.

Please let me know if I have missed any item or if there are any corrections.

Else this can be considered as the Minutes of the Meeting.

Thanks Roweena

Post meeting -

- Endeavour have obtained an easement and will send over the documents on Monday 30th Jan.
- Endeavour submits the draft Veg Management Plan with this email for SW review.

-----Original Appointment-----From: Roweena Dsouza Sent: Tuesday, 24 January 2023 4:16 PM To: Roweena Dsouza; philip.bennett@sydneywater.com.au; gingra@ozemail.com.au; nick.stroinovsky@sydneywater.com.au; Rhonda Tang Cc: Phil Bennett Subject: Bush regeneration at Prospect Reservoir, re Endeavour Energy Proposed comms tower When: Wednesday, 25 January 2023 3:30 PM-4:15 PM (UTC+10:00) Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney.

Hi All,

Rescheduling to meet Rhondas availability.

Where: Microsoft Teams Meeting

Also, I have attached the proposed strategy below that we will discuss at the meeting.



Hi All,

Could we meet to discuss EE's proposal re the Veg Rehab Plan at Prospect Reservoir and its alignment with Sydney Water management plans.

Thanks Row

Roweena D'Souza | Environmental Specialist

M 0447 919 365 51 Huntingwood Drive, Huntingwood NSW 2148.

Dharug Country

endeavourenergy.com.au 🔚 😭 💌 🔰



Endeavour Energy respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Custodians on whose lands we live, work, and operate and their Elders past, present and emerging.

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

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VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

Prospect Reservoir Endeavour Energy Communications Tower

January 2023.

Prepared for Endeavour Energy by Roger Lembit B.Sc.Agr Gingra Ecological Surveys

> Gingra Ecological Surveys P.O. Box 1 Canterbury NSW 2193

1. INTRODUCTION

Endeavour Energy is planning construct a communications tower within the Prospect Reservoir precinct. The precinct has heritage significance, and a Visual Impact Assessment (VIA) has been completed in response to a submission by the NSW Heritage Council. Following consideration of the VIA the Heritage Council have requested the preparation of a Vegetation Rehabilitation Strategy. As this report identifies bush regeneration and tree planting options it was considered that titling it as a Vegetation Management Plan was more appropriate.

The VIA indicated that existing vegetation would mitigate the visual impact of tower construction to a large degree. Endeavour Energy now wish to develop a Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) to identify measures such as plantings or bush regeneration which can be undertaken to further reduce the visual impact of the proposal and to protect the heritage landscape.

The objectives of this VMP are:

- The establishment of an Asset Protection Zone (APZ) by the selective removal of vegetation components in a manner that is consistent with Rural Fire Service (RFS) requirements;
- Management of vegetation to allow for native trees in sightlines to mature and attain a height which will mitigate visual impact;
- Selective planting of appropriate tree species to reduce visual impact at key viewing locations, and;
- The retention of vegetation and trees that contribute to wildlife corridors and provide habitat for native fauna.

2. PLANNING CONTEXT

The proposal takes place at a site with a complex layer of interests. The land on which the tower is to be constructed is managed by Sydney Water which operate Prospect Reservoir. Management of land within the Prospect Reservoir precinct is subject to the Property Environmental Management Plan (PEMP) Prospect Reservoir, Reservoir Road WS0095 (Sydney Water 2001). The PEMP deals with the Reservoir lands in different sections. The sites discussed in this VMP include parts of the areas identified as the southern and eastern sides.

The following planning instruments are relevant to the subject area:

- Blacktown Local Environmental Plan 2015
- State Environmental Planning Policy (Western Sydney Employment Area) 2009 (SEPP (WSEA))
- State Environmental Planning Policy (Western Sydney Parklands) 2009 (SEPP (WSP))

Prospect Reservoir Site and associated works is one of the 59 assets owned by Sydney Water Corporation that is listed on the State Heritage Register. Sydney Water commissioned the preparation of a Conservation Management Plans (CMP) which was completed in 2005 and then approved by NSW Heritage in 2006 (Sydney Water Corporation 2005).

As indicated above NSW Heritage have expressed concerns relating to the visual impact of the proposed 60 m high communications tower. Endeavour Energy responded to this by commissioning a Visual Impact Assessment (EMM 2022).

This VMP seeks to ensure any proposed vegetation management is consistent with the PEMP and to ensure any planting scheme has regard to the CMP and additional elements of heritage significance such as historic plantings which are associated with key themes identified in the CMP. A meeting was held with Sydney Water staff during the preparation of this VMP and elements of the meeting discussion have been incorporated in the approach adopted in this report.

3. SITE DESCRIPTION

The site for construction of the communications tower is on a high ridge near the top of Prospect Hill and close to the eastern boundary of the Prospect Reservoir lands. The site is to the south of existing water reservoirs. To the east is the former quarry, now being redeveloped. Access to the site is via William Lawson Drive, which is also the access road for Sydney Water staff and members of the public using facilities provided with the Prospect Reservoir lands including picnic areas and lookouts.

The land is gently inclined along the ridge crest, dropping more steeply to the west towards William Lawson Drive.

The eastern side of the Prospect Hill ridge drains into Girraween Creek, a tributary of Toongabbie Creek and the Parramatta River. Western Slopes are in the catchment of Prospect Reservoir, an artificial impoundment in the head catchment of Prospect Creek ,a tributary of the Georges River.

Whilst the majority of the Prospect Reservoir lands are within the Blacktown soil landscape, Prospect Hill is mapped as being within the Volcanic soil landscape (Hazelton, Bannerman & Tillie 1989). The Volcanic soil landscape features red podzolic soils associated with the Jurassic dolerite intrusion found at Prospect (Australian Museum 2018).

Whilst the primary function of the Prospect Reservoir lands is as an intermediate water storage fed by pipes and canals from Warragamba Dam and the Metropolitan catchments, the lands also serve as a workplace and recreational site.

The areas of land subject to this VMP fall within the Blacktown local government area. The land lies within the Central Coast botanical subdivision.

3.1 Existing Vegetation and Habitat

Vegetation patterns across the Prospect Reservoir lands have been mapped by Total Earth Care (2018).

The vicinity of the tower location includes areas classed as Native/Exotic Grassland and Exotic Shrubland. These vegetation classes appear to also include stands of native trees with a disturbed understorey. Tree species include Forest Red Gum (*Eucalyptus tereticornis*), Coastal Grey Box (*E. moluccana*) and Narrow-leaved Ironbark (*E. crebra*). The dominant exotic shrubs are Large-leaved Privet (*Ligustrum lucidum*), African Olive (*Olea europaea* subsp. *cuspidata*) and Lantana (*Lantana camara*).

The PEMP divides the Prospect Reservoir lands into a set of management zones. The vicinity of the communications tower is classed as Zone W Weed Management as is the entrance precinct along William Lawson Drive.

4. VEGETATION MANAGEMENT OPTIONS

The strategy for reduced visual impact of the communications tower is to provide conditions conducive to the growth and survival of native trees in the vicinity of the tower in order that they increase in height, together with selective plantings to screen the tower from viewing points.

A number of viewing points were assessed to allow consideration of vegetation management options which would address visual impact. These included the entrance along William Lawson Drive, the tower location itself and the Prospect Hill ridgeline, William Lawson Drive near the Sydney Water Offices, the Valve House and Maunder Lookout and the associated picnic area. Options for vegetation management are discussed below. A plan identifying preferred locations is included as Figure 1.



Figure 1. Vegetation Management locations

Tower Location

The vegetation in this area includes native tree species and exotic shrubs and grasses.

The preferred management of this area is implementation of bush regeneration works to remove exotic shrubs which are competing with the native tree species.

This management approach is consistent with the PEMP.

A separate bushfire management report is recommending the creation of a 10 m radius Asset Protection Zone (APZ) around the edge of the fenced tower footprint. Achievement of this APZ is possible through selective removal of exotic shrubs. Lopping of branches of native trees may also be necessary to achieve crown separation. A small dead eucalypt tree to the south-west of the tower is recommended for removal. The tree should be laid on the ground across not down the slope to provide habitat.

Sightline from South

Figure 2 shows that there is a gap in tree cover when viewing the tower location from the south.



Lookout car park

This gap can be filled by planting of up to 10 trees in the somewhat more clear area seen in the centre of Figure 2. The tree species to be used would be Forest Red Gum (*E. tereticornis*) and Coastal Grey Box (*E. moluccana*). Stock in 15 to 20 cm pots is recommended as these are likely to have a higher survival rate than advanced stock.

Supplementary planting of up to 50 Cumberland Plain Woodland Shrubs is recommended in this area. The shrub species to be used are Hop Bush (*Dodonaea viscosa* subsp. *cuneata*), Native Indigo (*Indigofera australis*) and Sickle Wattle (*Acacia falcata*).

These plantings would need protection to prevent damage from browsing animals. It is also recommended the area around the plantings be periodically mown or slashed to reduce competition. The plantings should be maintained for five years.

Sightlines from West

Consideration was given to potential for screening of the tower from the area around the Sydney Water offices along William Lawson Drive (see Figure 3). Such an approach was not considered appropriate as the lower area has historically been cleared and there are utilities in the area including water pipelines and electricity supply lines.



Figure 3. View of tower location from vicinity of Sydney Water offices

Another potential viewing point assessed was the Valve House area. It was determined that existing vegetation and the intervening landform provided effective screening from this location (Figure 4).



Figure 4. View towards tower location from Valve House

William Lawson Drive

Whilst views of the tower from William Lawson Drive in the vicinity of Andrew Campbell Reserve are not likely to be of high impact planting along the eastern side of the Drive is proposed. Consideration was given to an extension to the existing Hoop Pine avenue, consistent with the historic nature of the avenue. An aerial photograph from January 1956 shows that the avenue then extended to a point north-east of a house on the western side of William Lawson Drive (Figure 5). It is not considered appropriate to extend planting of Hoop Pine beyond the limit seen in the historic evidence, but replacement of trees which have died along the historic section could be undertaken.



Figure 5. Northern end, William Lawson Drive 1/1/1956

Figure 5 shows additional plantings along William Lawson Drive to a point opposite Prospect History Cottage, including what is now a large Lemon-scented Gum (*E. citriodora*). In the early 1980s secondary plants occurring to the east of the Drive in two rows using species including Hoop Pine and Monterey Pine (Figure 6). Some of the Monterey Pines have now died, possibly due to the 2018-19 drought. Hoop Pine saplings have now established as a tertiary tree layer along the rows in the north.

It is proposed to undertake infill planting along the two rows of trees, avoiding infrastructure such as a water main. electricity supply line, fencing and an access way to the paddock. The area may be prone to saturated soil profiles during wet conditions so careful tree species selection may be required.

Suitable local native tree species would include Spotted Gum (*Corymbia maculata*), Forest Red Gum (*E. tereticornis*) and Cabbage Gum. Additional planting of Lemon-scented Gum is not recommended as this species seeds readily and has the potential to become a future management problem.



5. RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT

This section includes a summary of the management actions proposed for this Vegetation Management Plan. Action and timing seeks to align with actions in Table 4-1 of the PEMP. Works may be undertaken by Endeavour Energy or outsourced and incorporated in a site wide vegetation management plan subject to agreement with Sydney Water and subject to the discussion and recommended actions in this Plan.

Location	Action	Timing
Vicinity of Tower	Establishment of APZ	Within 3 months of tower
		construction
	Bush regeneration ¹	5 years from construction
		completion
Ridgeline to south of Tower	Tree planting & protection	Spring 2023
	Mowing/slashing	Monthly from September –
		March 2023-2028
William Lawson Drive ²	Infill tree planting	Spring 2023, annual assessment
		of planting success in spring

NOTES

2 Section between Andrew Campbell Reserve and Prospect Heritage Cottage (eastern side)

¹ Contribute to Sydney Water bush regeneration works subject to agreement between Endeavour Energy & Sydney Water

REFERENCES

- Australian Museum (2018) *The Sydney Basin. Igneous Activity.* website <u>https://australian.museum/learn/minerals/shaping-earth/the-sydney-basin/</u> accessed 26/01/2023.
- EMM Consulting (2022) Visual Impact Assessment for Heritage Council of NSW. 60m Communications Tower, Prospect Reservoir. Endeavour Energy, Minchinbury.

Rural Fire Service (2019) Planning for Bushfire Protection.

Sydney Water Corporation (2005) Prospect Reservoir Site. Conservation Management Plan.

Sydney Water, Sydney.

Sydney Water (2021) Property Environmental Management Plan (PEMP) Prospect Reservoir, Reservoir Road WS0095. Sydney Water, Sydney.

Total Earth Care (2018) *Biodiversity Assessment – Prospect Reservoir*. Total Earth Care, Warriewood.

Roweena Dsouza

From:	Rhonda Tang <rhonda.tang@sydneywater.com.au></rhonda.tang@sydneywater.com.au>	
Sent:	Monday, 30 January 2023 2:47 PM	
То:	Phil Bennett; Roweena Dsouza; Nick Stroinovsky	
Cc:	gingra@ozemail.com.au	
Subject:	RE: [External] RE: Bush regeneration at Prospect Reservoir, re Endeavour Energy	
	Proposed comms tower	

Hi Roweena

I also have no issues with the proposal from the property environmental management perspective. I am satisfied that your plans have taken into account the environmental and heritage values discussed with Nick and Phil. I suggest that you note in your VMP that the plantings may be "outsourced" and incorporated in a site wide vegetation management plan, but will be in keeping with your main objectives.

We still need to consult with SW Property Leasing about impacts to the access of the grassed area (opposite the cottage), which they have been known to lease out. From our experience, it's unlikely to be a big issue, they may ask for plantings to be excluded from a small corridor or from the tops of unmarked pipes.

SW Property Management will also need to be consulted to discuss with you on APZ issues. Hence I've made some corrections to the dot point on:

 APZ maintenance – Similarly, SW have an APZ management area that they are required to maintain. Rhonda will consult SW Property Management on the proposed towers APZ, to understand the interaction of Lease areas with SW APZ. SW to clarify extent and maintenance and get back to Endeavour for discussion.

Other corrections:

- Planting near eastern edge of William Lawson Drive:
- EE recommended planting of Hoop Pine in the gap between the Pine trees as shown in the image. SW advices that we need to demarcate Heritage trees from the new plantings. SW advice to plant native, fast growing trees with potential to bear hollows/become habitat trees in the future along the William Lawson Drive proposed planting area. This would assist with quicker screening for the visual aspect and also in the long term contribute to wildlife corridors and provide habitat for native fauna.
- The plantings should be placed more than 5 m away from the roadside, and avoid infrastructure such as a water main, fencing and any access gates

I don't think any of these comments will affect your submission, if you think otherwise, or would like further clarification feel free to call me.

Regards **Rhonda Tang** Project Manager – Property Environmental Management Plans (PEMP) Program Property Services, Asset Lifecycle

Mobile 0438 687 681 <u>Rhonda.Tang@sydneywater.com.au</u> *"If I had more time, I would have written a shorter letter."*



Level 10, 1 Smith Street Parramatta NSW 2150





Sydney Water respectfully acknowled of the land and waters on which we w respect to Elders past and present



From: Phil Bennett <PHIL.BENNETT@sydneywater.com.au>
Sent: Monday, 30 January 2023 1:10 PM
To: Roweena Dsouza <Roweena.Dsouza@endeavourenergy.com.au>; Rhonda Tang
<RHONDA.TANG@sydneywater.com.au>; Nick Stroinovsky <Nick.Stroinovsky@sydneywater.com.au>
Cc: gingra@ozemail.com.au
Subject: RE: [External] RE: Bush regeneration at Prospect Reservoir, re Endeavour Energy Proposed comms tower

Hi Rowena

I am happy with the landscape outcomes.

No other comments.

Accepted.

Thanks

Phil Bennett Lead Heritage Adviser Environment & Heritage

0407 455 937 philip.bennett@sydneywater.com.au

From: Roweena Dsouza <<u>Roweena.Dsouza@endeavourenergy.com.au</u>>

Sent: Monday, 30 January 2023 12:28 PM

To: Rhonda Tang <<u>RHONDA.TANG@sydneywater.com.au</u>>; Phil Bennett <<u>PHIL.BENNETT@sydneywater.com.au</u>>; Nick Stroinovsky <<u>Nick.Stroinovsky@sydneywater.com.au</u>>

Cc: Phil Bennett <<u>PHIL.BENNETT@sydneywater.com.au</u>>; gingra@ozemail.com.au

Subject: RE: [External] RE: Bush regeneration at Prospect Reservoir, re Endeavour Energy Proposed comms tower

Hi,

@'Rhonda Tang', thanks for your quick response and initial comment.

Rhonda and Phil,

Could you let me know if there are any further comments/clarifications that you would like us to address? If not, Roger can send through the final version for your review and approval and I shall notify Nick once you both have approved (I understand he is on leave today).

Once HNSW give their approval, I shall organise a meeting between key stakeholders from Endeavour and Sydney Water so we can nut out the commercial aspects and the arrangements to carry out the works.

Regards Row

From: gingra@ozemail.com.au <gingra@ozemail.com.au>
Sent: Monday, 30 January 2023 10:38 AM
To: 'Rhonda Tang' <<u>RHONDA.TANG@sydneywater.com.au</u>>; Roweena Dsouza
<<u>Roweena.Dsouza@endeavourenergy.com.au</u>>; 'Phil Bennett' <<u>PHIL.BENNETT@sydneywater.com.au</u>>; 'Nick
Stroinovsky' <<u>Nick.Stroinovsky@sydneywater.com.au</u>>
Cc: 'Phil Bennett' <<u>PHIL.BENNETT@sydneywater.com.au</u>>
Subject: RE: [External] RE: Bush regeneration at Prospect Reservoir, re Endeavour Energy Proposed comms tower

Hi,

The implication is infill of the 1980s treelines, rather than new planting. There is no need to worry about access, as access to the paddock is provided by Gate 2, and you just need to locate plantings away from this line. Tree spacing in the existing lines is about 9 m, for the Hoop Pines its about 11 m, was probably 12 yards.

Just a change in wording.

Regards, Roger.

Roger Lembit B.Sc.Agr Principal Ecologist Gingra Ecological Surveys P.O. Box 1 Canterbury NSW 2193 gingra@ozemail.com.au 0427 779925

From: Rhonda Tang <<u>RHONDA.TANG@sydneywater.com.au</u>>
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I hope you all had a great weekend =)

Thanks for sharing your insights Roger, and I also enjoy getting information from a good aerial.

Do you think there might be any changes to the approach forward, compared to what we had discussed last week?

Regards

Rhonda Tang

Asset Lifecycle Sydney Water, 1 Smith Street, Parramatta NSW 2150



Mobile 0438 687 681 rhonda.tang@sydneywater.com.au

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Cc: Phil Bennett < PHIL.BENNETT@sydneywater.com.au>

Subject: [External] RE: Bush regeneration at Prospect Reservoir, re Endeavour Energy Proposed comms tower

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Many of the trees beyond (east) of the fence are plantings in a double row. There are also younger trees which have regenerated more recently. The main plantings appear to be Radiata Pine and Hoop Pine. There are also sapling Lemon-scented Gum and a number of Spotted Gum trees.

Lemon-scented Gum were commonly planted in western Sydney in the 1970s, examples are at St Marys and Mawson Park at Campbelltown.

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Regards, Roger.

Roger Lembit B.Sc.Agr Principal Ecologist Gingra Ecological Surveys P.O. Box 1 From: Roweena Dsouza <<u>Roweena.Dsouza@endeavourenergy.com.au</u>>

Sent: Friday, 27 January 2023 4:45 PM

To: <u>PHILIP.BENNETT@sydneywater.com.au</u>; <u>gingra@ozemail.com.au</u>; <u>nick.stroinovsky@sydneywater.com.au</u>; Rhonda Tang <<u>RHONDA.TANG@sydneywater.com.au</u>>

Cc: Phil Bennett <<u>PHIL.BENNETT@sydneywater.com.au</u>>

Subject: RE: Bush regeneration at Prospect Reservoir, re Endeavour Energy Proposed comms tower

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Thank you for meeting with us on the 24th January.

Key notes from the meeting:

Aim: To discuss the draft Veg Management Plan at Prospect Reservoir with Sydney Water and determine their requirements and address any concerns.

Attendees:

- o Roweena D'Souza Environmental Specialist, Endeavour Energy
- Roger Lembit Ecologist, Gingra Ecological Surveys
- Rhonda Tang Project Manager Property Environmental Management Plans (PEMP) Program, Sydney Water
- Philip Bennett Heritage Advisor, Sydney Water
- o Nikolai Stroïnovsky Lead Environmental Advisor, Customer Delivery, Sydney Water

Notes and action items:

- Endeavour Energy discussed the draft Veg Mgmnt Plan with Sydney Water (SW) and advised that this plan was developed to compliment SW PEMP and the CMP.
- Planting near eastern edge of William Lawson Drive:

EE recommended planting of Hoop Pine in the gap between the Pine trees as shown in the image. SW advices that we need to demarcate Heritage trees from the new plantings. SW advice to plant native, fast growing trees with potential to bear hollows in the future along the William Lawson Drive proposed planting area. This would assist with quicker screening for the visual aspect and also in the long term contribute to wildlife corridors and provide habitat for native fauna.

- The plantings should be placed more than 5 m away from the roadside to avoid infrastructure such as a water main, fencing and any access gates
- Endeavour Energy advised that they might need to create an Asset Protection Zone for bushfire protection. This would involve clearing 10m ground cover around the proposed Telco infrastructure (which is composed of weeds such as African Olives, Privet, Lantana), lopping of branches of native trees to achieve crown separation and the removal of a small dead eucalypt tree to the south-west of the tower. SW advise they have no objection as long as they trees are not hollow bearing and the dead tree is laid on the ground across not down the slope to provide habitat.
- Sightline from South there is a gap in tree cover when viewing the tower location from the south. EE advise that this gap can be filled by planting a few trees in a clear area and away from the overhead main easement. These plantings would need protection to prevent damage from browsing animals. It is also recommended the area around the plantings be mown or slashed to reduce competition. The plantings should be maintained for five years. SW agree and recommend planting native trees in this area.
- Maintenance –EE proposed that they could pay SW a \$/m2 area requiring weed management until the plants establish themselves or as will be captured in the Veg Mgmnt Plan. SW agreed that this could be a better option considering the contractors need to meet specific requirements and they have existing contractors that maintain the site on a regular basis. EE and SW agree to separately discuss maintenance of the above areas.
- APZ maintenance Similarly, SW have an APZ management area that they are required to maintain. SW will look into updating this map as it doesn't include the SW water reservoirs that need APZ maintenance. It is

likely that proposed towers APZ will be a subset of the overall SW APZ. SW to clarify extent and maintenance and get back to Endeavour.

- Endeavour to clarify if it's a lease or licence and send SW a copy of the extent.
- Endeavour advise that the submission to HNSW is scheduled for 31st Jan and will submit a draft for SW review on 27th Jan.

Please let me know if I have missed any item or if there are any corrections.

Else this can be considered as the Minutes of the Meeting.

Thanks Roweena

Post meeting -

- Endeavour have obtained an easement and will send over the documents on Monday 30th Jan.
- Endeavour submits the draft Veg Management Plan with this email for SW review.

-----Original Appointment-----From: Roweena Dsouza Sent: Tuesday, 24 January 2023 4:16 PM To: Roweena Dsouza; <u>philip.bennett@sydneywater.com.au</u>; <u>gingra@ozemail.com.au</u>; <u>nick.stroinovsky@sydneywater.com.au</u>; Rhonda Tang Cc: Phil Bennett Subject: Bush regeneration at Prospect Reservoir, re Endeavour Energy Proposed comms tower When: Wednesday, 25 January 2023 3:30 PM-4:15 PM (UTC+10:00) Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney.

Hi All,

Rescheduling to meet Rhondas availability.

Where: Microsoft Teams Meeting

Also, I have attached the proposed strategy below that we will discuss at the meeting.



Hi All,

Could we meet to discuss EE's proposal re the Veg Rehab Plan at Prospect Reservoir and its alignment with Sydney Water management plans.

Thanks Row

Roweena D'Souza | Environmental Specialist

M 0447 919 365 51 Huntingwood Drive, Huntingwood NSW 2148.

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Endeavour Energy respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Custodians on whose lands we live, work, and operate and their Elders past, present and emerging.

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