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Christopher O'Brien
Town Planner
Murray River Council

Via email: cobrien@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au

Cc: Kane Henson (EMM Group) kane@emmgroupp.com.au
Damian Wall (Red-gum Consulting) damian.wall@red-gum.com.au
Andrew Fisher (DPIE) Andrew.Fisher@environment.nsw.gov.au

Re: DA 033/17 Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment

Dear Christopher,

I understand you need to get an update on progress with Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment in relation to DA 033/17 for proposed sand extraction by EMM Group at Rushy Road, Moama (Lot 97 DP 751140). I am the archaeologist working on the project and can assure you that the process – which is necessarily quite slow – is well underway and will ensure that the project meets all requirements under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act* (and consequently the EP&A Act in relation to Aboriginal heritage).

We are currently undertaking Aboriginal community consultation around the assessment methodology prior to obtaining an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) for test excavation. This will lead to a further Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment that will detail appropriate efforts to avoid, minimise or mitigate any harm to Aboriginal cultural heritage material. The assessment will be assessed by DPIE (formerly OEH) and sand extraction will only be able to proceed if either: a) no harm is likely; or b) it is found to be justifiably covered by an AHIP.

The previous work using ground penetrating radar (GPR) was intended to advise the test excavation methodology and our understanding of risk around potential harm to Aboriginal burials. The likelihood of burials – which would preclude sand extraction – was found to be low. Further excavation is intended to confirm this and provide an understanding of the presence, absence and/or distribution pattern of flaked stone artefacts so that decisions about where sand extraction should and should not occur can be made.

As you are probably aware, OEH can only assess an AHIP application if a DA or equivalent planning permission is in place. This suggests to me that the DA should ideally continue to progress in that direction, along with the process involving the JRRP. Please feel free to contact me with any queries.

Kind regards,

Oliver



Oliver Brown

ASSOCIATES
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