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24 March 2026

Holly Andree

Graduate Environmental Consultant

Entura

4 Elizabeth Street

Hobart 7000

Dear Holly,

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Re: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Due Diligence Assessment: Proposed Frasers Solar Farm Battery Energy Storage System (Allotment 125B Parish of Toongabbie South)

I have examined the Victorian *Aboriginal Heritage Act* 2006 and its regulations, the *Aboriginal Heritage Regulations* 2018, and conclude that the proposed construction of a battery energy storage system (BESS) at 1205 Traralgon-Maffra Road, Glengarry North (Allotment 125B Parish of Toongabbie South), does not require a mandatory Aboriginal cultural heritage management plan under section 46 of the Act.

I am qualified to comment on these matters as I meet the requirements of a 'heritage advisor' under s. 189 of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act* 2006 (<https://www.firstpeoplesrelations.vic.gov.au/heritage-advisor-list?q=Cupper>), and have high level qualifications in both archaeology and the earth sciences (see Attachment 1 for my CV). I have particular expertise in understanding the formation of archaeological sites and Quaternary environments and have published extensively on these topics in high-profile, peer-reviewed scientific journals. I was lead author for the Quaternary chapter of the *Geology of Victoria* (Cupper *et al.* 2003), the current, premier reference to Victoria's geology. I am currently a Research Fellow in the School of Geography, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences at The University of Melbourne (www.findanexpert.unimelb.edu.au/display/person20521).

The Victorian *Aboriginal Heritage Regulations* 2018 (r.7) require an Aboriginal cultural heritage management plan for a proposed activity, if: (a) all or part of the activity area for the activity is an area of cultural heritage sensitivity (not subject to significant ground disturbance); and, (b) all or part of the activity is a high impact activity.



I conclude the second limb (part [b]) of regulation 7 is met for the proposed activity. Construction of utility installation that results in significant ground disturbance of an area greater than 25 m² is a high impact activity (see r.46[1][b][[xxvii][D])).

However, with reference to the first limb (part [a]) of regulation 7, my review of relevant background information, including inspection of recent aerial and site photographs of the activity area (e.g. Figures 1-3), shows the activity area is not located within an area of cultural heritage sensitivity as defined by Division 3 of the Victorian *Aboriginal Heritage Regulations* 2018 (see <https://achris.vic.gov.au/#/onlinemap>). Specifically, the activity area is not within 50 metres of a registered Aboriginal place (r.25[2]), 200 metres of a waterway (r.26[1]), prior waterway (r.27[1]), ancient lake (r.28[1]), declared Ramsar wetland (r.29[1]), coastal crown land (r.30 [1]) or coastal land (r.31[1]), a park (r.32[1]), the High Plains (r.33[1]), the Koo Wee Rup Plain (r.34[1]), a greenstone outcrop (r.35[1]), a stony rise (r.36[1]), a volcanic cone (r.37[1]), a cave (r.38), a lunette (r.39[1]), a dune (r.40[1]) or a sand sheet (r.41[1]).

Therefore, a mandatory Aboriginal cultural heritage management plan under section 46 of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act* 2006 is not required for the proposed BESS. (A sponsor of an activity nevertheless has the option of voluntarily preparing an Aboriginal cultural heritage management plan under section 45 of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act* 2006).

Additionally, the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register lists no previously identified Aboriginal cultural heritage places within the activity area.

Moreover, the risk of harm to Aboriginal cultural heritage places or items by the activities is predicted to be low given past land clearing, leveling and ploughed cultivation.

Notwithstanding, in the unlikely event that any Aboriginal cultural heritage places or items are encountered during the course of the proposed activity, all activities likely to harm the material must cease immediately and a Heritage Advisor or First Peoples - State Relations (tel: 1800 762 003) consulted about an appropriate course of action. Works must not recommence until relevant management actions are completed.

Please feel free to contact me if you require any clarification of the above matters.

Kind regards,

Dr Matt Cupper
Principal Archaeologist

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References:

Cupper, M.L., White, S. and Neilson, J.L. (2003). Quaternary. In *Geology of Victoria*. (Ed. Birch, W.D.), Geological Society of Australia, pp. 337-360.

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Figure 1. Activity area for the proposed BESS



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Figure 2. Activity area for the proposed BESS



Figure 3. Activity area for the proposed BESS



Attachment 1.
CV: Dr Matt Cupper.

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Dr Matt Cupper - Principal Archaeologist

Skills: Aboriginal and Historical Archaeology, Geomorphology

Qualifications: Doctor of Philosophy (Archaeology/Geology) The University of Melbourne 2003
Bachelor of Arts (Archaeology/Classical History) The University of Melbourne 1999
Bachelor of Science with Honours (1st Class) (Botany) The University of Melbourne 1999

Affiliations: Research Fellow, School of Earth Sciences, The University of Melbourne
Honorary Research Associate, School of Geography and the Environment, University of Oxford
Visiting Researcher, Research School of Earth Sciences, Australian National University



Experience: Dr Matt Cupper has 20+ years' experience in cultural and natural heritage management and an academic background in archaeology, geology and botany, including a PhD in the palaeoecology and early Aboriginal occupation of the Lower Darling River. As a consultant archaeologist and geomorphologist he has been engaged in a range of management and research-oriented studies throughout southeastern Australia for industry and government clients.

Publications: Chapters in books:

1. Clark, D., McPherson, A., **Cupper, M.**, Collins, C., Nelson, G. (2015). The Cadell Fault: a record of temporally clustered morphogenic seismicity in a low-strain intraplate region, south-eastern Australia. In: *Seismicity, Fault Rupture and Earthquake Hazards in Slowly Deforming Regions* (Eds. Landgraf, A., Stein, S. Hintersbergen, E.). (The Geological Society of London, Special Publication 432).
2. Clark, D., **Cupper, M.**, Sandiford, M., Kiernan, K. (2011). Style and timing of late Quaternary faulting on the Lake Edgar Fault, southwest Tasmania, Australia. In: *Geological criteria for evaluating seismicity revisited*. (Geological Society of America SP 479).
3. **Cupper, M.**, White, S., Neilson, J.L. (2003). Quaternary. In *Geology of Victoria*. (Ed. Birch, W.D.). pp. 337-360.

Refereed publications:

1. Lipar, M., Webb, J., **Cupper, M.**, Wang, N. (2017). Aeolianite, calcrete/microbialite and karst in southwestern Australia as indicators of Middle to Late Quaternary palaeoclimates. *Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology* 470, 11-29.
2. Dortch, J., **Cupper, M.**, Grun, R., Harpley, B., Lee, K. Field, J. (2016). The timing and cause of megafauna mass deaths at Lancefield Swamp, south-eastern Australia. *Quaternary Science Reviews* 145, 161-182.
3. Swift, J., **Cupper, M.**, Greig, A., Westaway, M., Carter, C., Santoro, C., Wood, R., Jacobsen, G., Bertuch, F. (2015). Skeletal arsenic of the pre-Columbian population of Caleta Vitor, northern Chile. *Journal of Archaeological Science* 58, 31-45.
4. Horne, D., Lees, B., **Cupper, M.**, Fitzsimmons, K. (2015). Revisiting the development of the Princess Charlotte Bay chenier plain: results and broader implications for chenier plain studies. *Marine Geology* 365, 12-20.
5. McPherson, A., Clark, D., Macphail, M., **Cupper, M.** (2014). Episodic post-rift deformation in the south-eastern Australian passive margin: evidence from the Lapstone Structural Complex. *Earth Surface Processes and Landforms* 39, 1449-1466.
6. Westaway, M.C., **Cupper, M.**, Johnston, H., Graham, I. (2013). The Willandra Fossil Trackway: Assessment of ground penetrating radar survey results and additional OSL dating at a unique Australian site. *Australian Archaeology* 76, 85-90.
7. Gardner, T., Fisher, D., Morell, K., **Cupper, M.** (2013). Upper plate deformation in response to flat slab subduction inboard of the aseismic Cocos Ridge, Osa Peninsula, Costa Rica. *Lithosphere* 5, 247-264.
8. Prendergast, A., **Cupper, M.**, Jankaew, K., Sawai, Y. (2012). Indian Ocean tsunami recurrence from optical dating of tsunami sand sheets in Thailand. *Marine Geology* 295-298, 20-27.
9. Carey, S., Camens, A., **Cupper, M.**, Grün, R., Hellstrom, J., McKnight, S., MacLennan, I., Pickering, D., Trusler, P. (2011). A diverse Pleistocene marsupial trackway assemblage from the Victorian Volcanic Plains, Australia. *Quaternary Science Reviews* 30, 591-610.
10. Mooney, S., Harrison, S., Bartlein, P., Danilau, A., Stevenson, J., Brownlie, K., Buckman, S., **Cupper, M.**, Luly, J., Black, M., Colhoun, E., Dodson, J., Haberle, S. (2011). Late Quaternary fire regimes of Australasia. *Quaternary Science Reviews* 30, 28-46.
11. Quigley, M., Horton, T., Hellstrom, J., **Cupper, M.**, Sandiford, M. (2010). Holocene climate change in arid Australia from speleothem and alluvial records. *The Holocene* 20, 1093-1104.
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13. Prendergast, A., Bowler, J., **Cupper, M.** (2009). Late Quaternary environments and human occupation in the Murray River Valley of northwestern Victoria. *Terra Australis* 24, 55-74.
14. Smith, M., Williams, A., Turney, C., **Cupper, M.** (2008). Human-environment interactions in Australian drylands: exploratory time-series analysis of archaeological records. *The Holocene* 18, 389-401.
15. Quigley, M., Sandiford, M., **Cupper, M.** (2007). Distinguishing tectonic from climatic controls on range-front sedimentation. *Basin Research* 19, 491-505.
16. Prideaux, G., Long, J., Ayliffe, L., Hellstrom, J., Pillans, B., Boles, W., Hutchinson, M., Roberts, R., **Cupper, M.**, Arnold, L., Devine, P., Warburton, N. (2007). An arid-adapted middle Pleistocene vertebrate fauna from south-central Australia. *Nature* 445, 422-425.
17. **Cupper, M.**, Duncan, J. (2006). Last glacial megafaunal death assemblage and early human occupation at Lake Menindee, southeastern Australia. *Quaternary Research* 66, 332-341.
18. **Cupper, M.** (2006). Luminescence and radiocarbon chronologies of playa sedimentation in the Murray Basin, southeastern Australia. *Quaternary Science Reviews* 25, 2594-2607.
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