

# Points for your Submission

*You don't need to be a subject expert to make a submission - as someone who cares about the Hartley Valley, your views matter.*

*Remember, we recommend using your own words when making a submission so it counts as an individual response. Use the below points to help frame your submission.*

## 1. State why you're interested in the Project

Say why you are making a submission ie, tell them why you care. For example *"I am concerned that the unique heritage values of Hartley Valley will be irreversibly impacted by this project"* or *"I am a concerned local resident whose amenity will be impacted by the project."*

## 2. Tell them why the Hartley Valley has heritage value

The National Trust of Australia (NSW) recognised the Hartley Valley's heritage value 35 years ago and listed the Hartley Valley Landscape Conservation Area on the National Trust Register.

The Hartley Valley Landscape Conservation Area is a significant and important cultural landscape; its National Trust listing notes, amongst other things, its patterns of early settlement, the historic early mountain passes which provide access down the stunning escarpment and the existence of a range of rare and endangered plant and animals in the Valley.

It has maintained exceptional continuity in patterns of life and industry, and as a result has a cultural landscape of integrity and authenticity, enriched with a large number of places of exceptional heritage value from first settlement until now.

## 3. Point out the that REF has inadequately assessed the Hartley Valley's heritage value

- i. The REF has failed to assess the heritage value of the Hartley Valley as a cultural landscape, despite this value being recognised by the National Trust 35 years ago.
- ii. The REF fails to outline and assess the cumulative impact of the proposed motorway on the overall value of the Hartley Valley as a cultural landscape – despite the RTA's own Visual Impact Assessment Guidelines requiring that this be included.
- iii. Whilst the REF notes that the Hartley Valley as a landscape is of incredibly rich value to the traditional owners, it does not give this value adequate weight in its impact assessment and fails to properly protect this value, allowing for many sites to be directly impacted.

## 4. State that the proposed project will have an unacceptable level of impact on the Valley's heritage

The proposal for a fourteen kilometre Hartley Valley motorway upgrade will only save 2 minutes travel time. Yet it includes five bridges and overpasses in one six kilometre stretch, two rest areas in the valley each capable of accommodating thirteen or more B Double trucks and a similar number of other vehicles, and is likely to cost close to a billion dollars. The proposed upgrade will have a major impact on individual sites and species of significance, well as impacting the integrity and value of the overall Hartley Valley cultural landscape.

# Framing your Submission

Make sure your submission is given due weight by following these submission tips.

## 1. State why you're interested in the Project

Say why you are making a submission.

For example "*I am concerned that the unique heritage values of Hartley Valley will be irreversibly impacted by this project*" or "*I am a concerned local resident whose amenity will be impacted by the project.*"

## 2. Individualise your response

Template letters do not carry as much weight as customised submissions.

If you're using information from other submissions or websites, make sure you re-word or re-order it so that it holds weight as individual submission.

## 3. Use non-emotive language

Your words should be firm, strong and clear but avoid overly emotive language or rants.

Submissions that are sensible indicate that you have valid points that are worth consideration.

## 4. Focus your submission

Discuss fewer points rigorously in preference of skimming over too many issues.

Choose your *major concerns* and focus your submission on these. Less can be more!

Our tip sheet "*Points for your Submission*" and our blog post has more information on what points you could consider including in your submission.

## 5. Request accountability

Meaningful public consultation is a vital aspect of the project.

Request further opportunities for public comment and ask that all submissions are made public and their feedback is given due weight.