
Appendix N

Non Indigenous Heritage Assessment

JACKS GULLY ALTERNATIVE WASTE TREATMENT FACILITY, NARELLAN: HERITAGE REPORT

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JACKS GULLY ALTERNATIVE WASTE TREATMENT FACILITY
HERITAGE REPORT**

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HERITAGE IMPACT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Jacks Gully WMC is located in the Nepean River basin west of Mount Annan near Camden. The area was occupied by pastoralists who displaced the original Aboriginal settlers from the early nineteenth century. These settlers left a legacy of a significant colonial rural landscape which is still very intact and complemented by the early nineteenth century homesteads Camden Park, on the west side of the river, and Glenlee, on the east side, with significant views between them. Both homesteads are of State significance and are set in a cultural landscape of great significance.

The Jacks Gully WMC, which was established in the 1970s, lies within an enclosed gully into which external views are limited. The proposed Jacks Gully Alternative Waste Treatment Facility is to be located on the southern side of the upper part of the gully – an area that has previously been heavily disturbed by excavation. There are no heritage impacts within the site but it is recommended that it be ensured that any possible views of the facility from the Nepean River and Camden Park be effectively screened by existing or introduced vegetation.

HERITAGE IMPACT REPORT

This report examines the impact of the proposed Jacks Gully Alternative Waste Treatment Facility on the heritage qualities of its environment and on any European cultural heritage items nearby. The report follows the standard NSW Heritage Office methodology of examining site history and physical evidence, establishing significance and making recommendations for the mitigation of adverse impacts on heritage significance.

(a) Location and Setting

The Jacks Gully WMC, which was established in the 1970s, lies within an enclosed gully into which external views are limited. The proposed Jacks Gully Alternative Waste Treatment Facility is to be located on the southern side of the upper part of the gully – an area that has previously been heavily disturbed by excavation.

(b) Site History

The area is part of an alluvial floodplain, with shale deposits at Mount Annan resulting in a unique vegetation community. The D'harawal (or Tharawal) Aboriginal people were the occupants until the Europeans arrived and they recorded, in a sandstone shelter nearby, the cattle that had escaped from the first British settlement in 1788 and established themselves on the good grazing ground in the Menangle-Camden district. When the first squatters arrived in the district after 1800 there was no initial conflict, but the acceleration of the process of land grants produced increasing tension between the settlers and Aboriginal people, culminating in the Appin Massacre of 1816. Gradually thereafter the number of Aborigines diminished

through disease and alienation of their traditional hunting grounds.¹ (Aboriginal heritage is covered in a separate study.)

Following the lead of the original wild cattle, the earliest use of the Mount Annan district by farmers was for cattle grazing. By 1810 John Macarthur held 7000 acres at Camden Park, on the west side of the Nepean River and in 1818 Governor Macquarie granted 3000 acres on the eastern side of the river to William Howe, a Scottish free settler. By 1820 Howe had expanded his property to over 7000 acres and was shipping wool to London. By 1824 Howe had occupied Glenlee House (still extant and located east of the Main Southern Railway) which he had built to a design by the architect Henry Kitchen.

Howe died in 1855 and his wife sold the property to James Fitzpatrick and it remained in Fitzpatrick's family (with various subdivisions to members of the family) until 1968 when it was purchased by the State Planning Authority (part of the estate near the house being gazetted it as a place of historic interest in 1973).² The whole estate was designated a Scenic Protection Zone in 1975 and part of it was set aside for development of a botanic garden in 1984. In 1988 the Mount Annan Botanic Garden, administered by the Royal Botanic Garden as Australia's largest botanic garden devoted entirely to native flora, was opened.³

Until the 1950s the Glenlee and Camden Park estates comprised an uninterrupted rural landscape spanning the Nepean River. However, increasing production of coal from the Burragorang/Nattai River mines to the south-west, and the need to transport it to the export loading plant at Balmain in Sydney, led to construction of a washery and rail transshipment facility at Glenlee, between Mount Annan and the river, in the 1950s. This is immediately to the south of Jacks Gully but separated by a ridge.

The Jacks Gully area, located on a bend of the Nepean River where it turns downstream to the west, was part of the rural lands of the Glenlee estate until the purchase by the State Planning Authority in 1968. After this, it is understood that the land within Jacks Gully was sold to Clutha Development Pty. Ltd. who quarried the land for sand and shale. In April 1975, the Metropolitan Waste Disposal Authority commenced operation of the Jacks Gully Waste Management Centre (WMC) at the site, following several years of negotiations with Camden Council. The Centre's land was leased from Clutha until 1995 when it was purchased by the Authority's successor, the Waste Recycling and Processing Corporation (Waste Service NSW).⁴ In recent years the former Glenlee estate lands to the north of Jacks Gully have become urban release areas and are becoming covered by urban housing.

(c) Physical Environment

Jacks Gully, as its name suggests, is a steep natural gully (modified at its upper reaches by quarrying and excavation) that feeds into the Nepean River. Much natural vegetation remains in the lower part of the gully, while the upper part is (partly due to

¹ Spackman and Mossop, *Mount Annan Botanic Garden Site Master Plan*, 2000. Vol. 1, pp. 13-19.

² Andrea Humphreys (Architectural History Services), *Heritage Report* from Spackman and Mossop, *op. cit.*

³ Humphreys, *op. cit.*

⁴ Information supplied by Waste Service NSW.

quarrying) a wide amphitheatre. Aerial photography in 1970⁵ indicates that the gully was relatively undisturbed, with some early signs of quarrying. The surrounding landscape was entirely rural, apart from the Glenlee Coal Washery.

In a wider context, the remnant Glenlee estate, combined with the river basin linking it with Camden Park, still forms a significant colonial rural landscape which the dedication of Mount Annan as a Botanic Garden helps preserve. Both Glenlee House and Camden Park House are fine examples of Regency colonial homesteads, the heritage value of which is augmented by their setting in a cultural landscape which is still very much intact. The view of this landscape is best appreciated from the ridges of Glenlee Road or Mount Annan. In fact the only significant visual intrusion by modern development into this landscape is the artificial 'plateau' of the coal washery site which is visible at the foot of Mounts Annan and Nadungamba.

In this setting, Jacks Gully is a hidden element, as the landscape analysis in the 1999 EIS for the Jacks Gully WMC indicates.⁶ This study found that, except for the views from the urban release areas to the north and north-west, the gully is visually hidden from all aspects (including Camden Park Estate and Mount Annan). Its visibility in the context of the Glenlee-Camden Park cultural landscape is effectively nil.

It should be noted that the facility site is highly disturbed and would have virtually no European archaeological potential.

(d) Significance

The relatively undisturbed and visually intact cultural landscapes associated with the Glenlee and Camden Park estates give the area a considerable underlying heritage significance. Because of the screening effect of the intact vegetation in the lower part of the gully, Jacks Gully is a visual component of that significance. Apart from this cultural landscape and the homesteads at Camden Park and Glenlee, there are no items of European heritage in the immediate vicinity of the Jacks Gully WMC identified on the NSW Heritage Office's State Heritage Inventory or the Register of the National Estate.

It is thus concluded that Jacks Gully does not have individual heritage significance but at its lower, vegetated areas (generally below and to the south of the WMC) is a component of a cultural and natural landscape of exceptional significance and which also includes association with early influential settlers and the exceptional compositions of the architecture and settings of Glenlee House and Camden Park House.⁷

(e) Heritage Impact

⁵ Spackman and Mossop, *op.cit.* Vol. 1, p. 22. (cf. 1999 view at p. 11.)

⁶ Woodward-Clyde, Environmental Impact Statement for Jacks Gully WMC upgrade, 1999. Part D, section 15, pp. 15-3 to 15-4.

⁷ Humphreys, *op. cit.* State Heritage Register and Register of the National Estate listings for Glenlee House. Colleen Morris and Geoffrey Britton, *Colonial Landscapes of the Cumberland Plain and Camden, NSW*. Draft final report for the National Trust (NSW), 2000. Criteria used are those for the NSW State Heritage Inventory.

Given the enclosed nature of Jacks Gully and the lack of site-specific heritage qualities within the WMC it is concluded that the proposal will have no adverse heritage impact on the site itself. Vegetation in the lower part of the gully would generally screen the proposed work from the Glenlee-Camden Park cultural landscape.

(f) Recommendations to Mitigate Impact

It is recommended that it be ensured that any possible views of the facility from the Nepean River and Camden Park be effectively screened by existing or introduced vegetation.

REFERENCE LIST

Morris, Colleen and Britton, Geoffrey, *Colonial Landscapes of the Cumberland Plain and Camden*, NSW. Draft final report for the National Trust (NSW), 2000.

Spackman and Mossop, *Mount Annan Botanic Garden Site Master Plan*, 2000.

Woodward-Clyde, *Environmental Impact Statement for Jacks Gully WMC Upgrade*, 1999.