

# Kyoto energypark



9. Heritage



## 9.0 HERITAGE

### 9.1 Indigenous Heritage

Myall Coast Archaeological Services undertook an extensive Aboriginal Heritage consultation and assessment for the Kyoto Energy Park proposal. The Aboriginal Assessment is attached as *Appendix H - Myall Coast Archaeological Services Pty Ltd – Aboriginal Heritage Assessment (16 September 2008)*.

Both Mountain Station and Middlebrook Station sites are located within the traditional country of the Woonarua people. During the assessment Myall Coast identified other Aboriginal stakeholders through advertisement and written letters. Extensive consultation was undertaken with the all identified stakeholders from the Aboriginal community throughout the assessment process. The development corridor was assessed by the identified stakeholders and their representatives who provided written comment regarding potential impact.

The Aboriginal Heritage Assessment was undertaken in four broad stages including:

- **Research and analysis** – Researching AHIMS databases and background information, analysis of known deposits and Aboriginal Heritage Values in the study area;
- **Consultation** - Identification of Aboriginal Stakeholders, advertisement in local newspaper to participate in assessment process (Scone Advocate), letter of invitation to take part in Cultural assessment, introduction and formal presentation of the Kyoto Energy Park to stakeholders;
- **Site Inspections and Detailed Survey** – A preliminary site visit and a separate detailed site inspection (GPS) undertaken by Aboriginal community members, stakeholders, Pamada representatives and Myall Coast representatives. A separate archaeological survey was undertaken by Myall Coast representatives for line route connection to the electricity grid.
- **Recommendations** made by stakeholders and Aboriginal Heritage consultant

The assessment has met the Director General requirements for Aboriginal Cultural Assessment.

### 9.2 Cultural Assessment methodology

In order to determine the appropriate knowledge holders within the community, the Department of Environment and Conservation (DECC) Guidelines, (NPWS Guidelines for Aboriginal Heritage Impact Assessment in the Exploration and Mining Industries 1997) were followed. As the project is to be assessed under Part 3A of the Environmental and Assessment Act 1979, the consent authority is the Minister for Planning.

The DECC Guidelines for identifying Aboriginal people who may be knowledge holders were also followed during the assessment. This was to ensure that the appropriate and relevant Aboriginal communities were not only consulted about the project but were included in assessing possible impact upon their culture.

The Director Generals Requirements (DGRs) also states that the Environmental Assessment must include an Archaeological Assessment, Methodology and Research Design for any proposed archaeological monitoring, in consultation with the NSW Heritage Office, Aboriginal Community and DECC. This is to be undertaken in accordance with the *Department of Environment and Conservation's draft Guidelines for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment and Community Consultation*.

The DGR basically defined the brief as preliminary assessment in conjunction with the Aboriginal community, identification of any impacts on Aboriginal Objects or Places and appropriate permits obtained for that impact or research. The DECC draft Guidelines for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment and Community Consultation, apply only when a research (monitoring) or destruction permit for an Aboriginal object or place is required, and was therefore not triggered in this assessment.

In summary, the process requires consultation with the Aboriginal community, determining potential impact of the project on Aboriginal heritage and identification of landscape that may have potential for containing Aboriginal Objects or archaeological evidence of Aboriginal occupation.

## 9.2.1 Background Research

Preliminary Desktop research was undertaken by Myall Archaeological Services and involving the review of existing primary and secondary written material, maps, plans, AHIMS database and other reports as well as discussion with Aboriginal Community representatives.

Analysis of the research was then completed to produce a model of potential archaeological deposits within the study area. All aspects of the subject 'corridor' were examined including Aboriginal heritage values, landscape and soils, geological features, existing archaeological records, previous studies, past land use, community consultation and identification of impacts of the proposed development on Aboriginal objects and archaeological potential.

The Aboriginal Cultural Assessment was undertaken by knowledge holders of country (The registered stakeholders) as identified.

## 9.2.2 Identification of Aboriginal Stakeholders

The Mountain Station and Middlebrook Station sites are fully contained within the Wannarua Local Aboriginal Land Council area. The Wannarua People have been recognised by the Native Title process and are registered Native Title Claimants.

An advertisement as per the DECC (Part 6) guidelines was placed in the local Scone Advocate newspaper on the 28 June 2007 on Page 20. In addition letters were sent out to known Aboriginal stakeholders, individuals and organisations that had previously been identified through other assessments within the region.

Table 9.0 lists the Aboriginal Organisations/Individuals who responded and were registered as Aboriginal stakeholders for the Kyoto Energy Park project. These members were then consulted about all aspects of the project before producing an independent preliminary Aboriginal Cultural Assessment. Some organisations had several representatives attend various meetings.

*Table 9.0 – Kyoto Energy Park Aboriginal Stakeholders*

Aboriginal Stakeholder/Group/Organisation	Stakeholder Address
Hunter Valley Aboriginal Corporation	180-182 Bridge Street Muswellbrook 2333
Hunter Valley Cultural Consultants	
Upper Hunter Heritage Consultants	160 Sydney Street Muswellbrook 2333
Giwiirr Consultants	8 Fitzgerald Ave, Muswellbrook 2333
Aboriginal Native Title Consultants	69 Toobruk Ave, Muswellbrook 2333
Ungooroo Cultural and Community Services	8 Blaxland Ave Singleton 2330
Wannarua Local Aboriginal Land Council	17-19 Maitland St Muswellbrook NSW 2333
Tracey Skene	7 Crawford place Millfield, 2325
Wannarua People	PO Box 3043 Singleton 2330

### 9.2.3 Consultation with Aboriginal Stakeholders and Community

#### Presentation of the project to Aboriginal Stakeholders (30 July 2007)

All Aboriginal Stakeholders identified in the project were invited to attend a presentation of the Kyoto Energy Park project which was held on 30 July 2007 at the Wannarua Land Council in Muswellbrook. Presentation of material was made by Len Roberts of Myall Coast Archaeological Services who outlined the statutory framework and considerations for attendees relevant to the project. A presentation of the project proposal was made by Pamada (the proponent) as an explanation of the project and technology involved prior to a preliminary site inspection.

The presentation by the proponent outlined:

- General introduction and Project location;
- Introduction to Renewable Energy technology and components proposed;
- Ancillary facilities proposed;
- Background studies completed;
- Environmental Considerations and progress.

#### Preliminary Site Inspection (August 2007)

A preliminary inspection of the project sites was undertaken by Aboriginal Stakeholders, Pamada and Myall Coast Archaeologists on 13 August 2007. The purpose of the preliminary inspection was to gain an overall understanding of the size and location of the project as well as determining the terms of reference for the field survey.

An inspection of both sites and a field survey and examination of each location of proposed facility and its surrounds was undertaken by those nominated representatives in attendance. Senior Myall Coast Archaeologists and Pamada representatives provided expertise and experience in site assessment. Detailed maps and project plans were distributed and used as a basis for discussion.

#### Detailed Site Inspection (August 2007)

Following the preliminary site inspection, a final Aboriginal site inspection and survey was undertaken at the both sites with representatives of the Aboriginal Stakeholders, Myall Coast Archaeologists and Pamada representatives on the 30<sup>th</sup> August 2007. A detailed inspection of the proposed location of all facilities and inspection of each site was accessed by 4WD vehicles and inspected on foot.

Positions of turbines and locations of other proposed facilities were marked with a GPS instrument. Survey markers were used to identify locations of all facilities in preparation for visual inspections. Attendees were driven to each location by 4WDs and inspections on foot were carried out under supervision by Pamada representatives and Myall Coast Archaeologists.

During the inspection the locations of the proposed facilities and surrounding areas were inspected. These areas included:

- Wind turbine locations on Mountain and Middlebrook Station
- Location of propose Solar PV Plant on Mt Moobi, Mountain Station
- Visitor's and Education Centre, Mt Moobi
- Manager's residence
- Maintenance Shed
- Site Substation.
- Site Access Tracks for access to Wind Turbine Structures
- Proposed Transmission line routes internal to the sites
- Locations for proposed construction facilities including, Site offices and Concrete Batching Plant near the Mountain Station site entry.

Detailed maps were provided to all attendees of proposed locations of facilities and transmission line routes (including external routes to grid connection points). Transmission line routes internal to the sites were inspected by Aboriginal Stakeholders. Explanations of all works were described and presented to attendees. No inspection of external transmission line routes to grid connection points were made or recommended by Myall Coast representatives.

The relative coordinates of proposed site facilities (as marked) were recorded by Myall Coast Archaeologists, using a hand held GPS unit. GPS coordinates of all facilities inspected during the day are listed in *Appendix H - Myall Coast Archaeological Services Pty Ltd – Aboriginal Heritage Assessment (16 September 2008)*. Site conditions, soil and landscape variables, and findings for each area, were also recorded on site for each location. The weather was conducive to inspection and the overall visibility was good.

During the site inspection and site survey no Aboriginal objects were found on both the Mountain and Middlebrook Station sites. Furthermore Aboriginal Stakeholders stated that it was certain that the project was not going to impact upon known Aboriginal objects and places.

### **Archaeological Assessment of Transmission Lines (September 2007)**

An inspection of the proposed transmission line route options external to the sites was undertaken by the Myall Coast Archaeologists in September 2007. All four (4) route options were investigated for archaeological significance. All routes were found to traverse disturbed ground or consisted of works requiring the upgrading of existing lines within road reserves. No Aboriginal artefacts or objects were observed within the proposed transmission line corridors. The potential for Aboriginal objects or artefacts to occur along these routes were assessed to be unlikely considered the level of disturbance along the routes or within the road reserves.

Following the survey undertaken by Myall Coast Archaeologists discussions and recommendations were made to the Aboriginal Stakeholders.

### **Final Consultation with Stakeholders (September 2007)**

Following the initial Aboriginal consultation process and subsequent site inspection and survey investigations, a meeting was held on the 18<sup>th</sup> September 2007 at the Wannarua Land Council in Muswellbrook to discuss findings and potential outcomes. Aboriginal stakeholders and Myall Coast representatives were in attendance.

Outcomes of the meeting included:

- Summary of previous discussions
- Discussion regarding the outcomes of site inspections and surveys and cultural significance of the corridor;
- Potential impacts to cultural significance of the corridor from the proposal;
- Archaeological significance of transmission line route options for connection to the grid, and recommendations from the Aboriginal Stakeholders;
- Conclusion and final recommendations from Aboriginal Stakeholders.
- Preparation of a Certificate from Aboriginal Stakeholders describing outcomes.

Recommendations from the meeting are described in *Appendix H - Myall Coast Archaeological Services Pty Ltd – Aboriginal Heritage Assessment (16 September 2008)*, and summarised in Section 9.2.5.

### **Community Presentation and Feedback (30 July 2007)**

Myall Coast Archaeological attended the Community Information Day held on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2008. Representatives from Myall Coast were in attendance to answer questions from residents and gain feedback.

Information on the Aboriginal Heritage Assessment was presented and displayed on the day including a presentation and display on the Aboriginal Heritage within the area, the assessment methodology, outcomes and findings.

### **9.2.5 Recommendations from Indigenous Stakeholders**

The Aboriginal Cultural Assessment was undertaken in close consultation with the Aboriginal knowledge holders of the land (identified Aboriginal stakeholders) to identify impacts of the project on the corridor and other areas of sensitivity. Whilst there was found to be no impact to Aboriginal objects, artefacts or

Cultural heritage, the project would nonetheless alter the traditional Aboriginal landscape however this will be minor.

Following consultation with the stakeholders Myall Coast recommended that Pamada enters into a binding agreement with the registered Aboriginal communities prior to construction regarding Aboriginal Cultural heritage and enhancement of Aboriginal Cultural value in the area.

The parameters of the agreement have not been finalised and will be further discussed with Aboriginal Stakeholders subject to approval for the project. Taking the above into account, the assessment advised that the proposal meets the Director General's requirements for Aboriginal Cultural assessment.

### 9.2.6 Conclusions

The building of the infrastructure and development of the project will not alter the geological or cultural landscape. There is no intention to irrevocably destroy the existing country side. There may be impact upon the study area as a backdrop from the valley floor some distance away, however such an impact is not one that will destroy deface or damage an Aboriginal Object or place.

The process for this assessment enabled known objects and culturally sensitive landscape to be identified. Extensive consultation with the Aboriginal stakeholders was held and more importantly the development corridor was assessed by the Aboriginal community who provided written comments regarding the impact.

The two sites (Middlebrook and Mountain Station) were examined for cultural sensitivity and significance based on natural landscape, known artefact distribution and predictive modelling.

The assessment included extensive consultation and site surveys with Aboriginal Stakeholders and knowledge holders as identified in the area. Aboriginal stakeholders and interested parties were invited to comment on the proposal and attend a formal presentation of the project at Muswellbrook. Following this all respondents were invited to attend a guided site inspection for familiarisation of the site and the scope of the proposal. Following this a further detailed site survey of the sites was undertaken and inspections made at the locations of each component and facility.

The study concluded that the study area was likely in the pre-colonial past by the Aboriginal community. The assessment report indicates that the probable use of the area was based on the views and connectivity it provided including the possible use for song trails, connectivity to special and ceremonial places and as a lookout and signalling area.

No Aboriginal objects were found on site during site inspections and detailed surveys of works areas. Aboriginal Stakeholders also stated that the project was unlikely to impact upon known Aboriginal objects and places and that no further assessment or inspections were required.

Areas which were likely to contain evidence of habitation were not identified. The assessment level of sensitivity was based on landscape, known artefact distribution and predictive modelling and discussion with aboriginal stakeholders.

The report concluded that the development will not impact on known Aboriginal objects and places. The Aboriginal Community recommended that there would be no impact to Aboriginal objects and places within the development. Some impact may occur on the study area as a backdrop from the valley floor some distance away, however, this impact will not destroy, deface or damage an Aboriginal object or place.

## 9.3 European Heritage

Myall Coast Archaeological Services were engaged to undertake a European Heritage assessment for the Kyoto Energy Park proposal. The European Heritage Assessment is attached *Appendix I- Myall Coast Archaeological Services Pty Ltd – European Heritage Assessment (15 September 2008)*.

### 9.3.1 Study methodology

The European Heritage assessment was undertaken using a two fold approach. Firstly, the Middlebrook and Mountain Station sites were assessed for heritage characteristics and secondly, “Known Items” (existing or potential heritage object or property) were assessed for impact by the proposal. This was particularly relevant for the transmission line infrastructure as it may pass known heritage items.

The study methodology was based on data research, field survey of the site and report compilation. Data research included maps and plans, historic and scientific literature, consultation with local government officers, consultation with the Local Historical Society and analysis of Heritage lists.

The potential for heritage value of the sites was undertaken by Myall Coast Archaeologists in accordance with the assessment criteria specified in the Heritage Manual 2000. Myall Coast Archaeology also undertook a field inspection of study sites prior to completing the assessment and recommendations.

### 9.3.2 Site History

The first European settler to the area was Henry Danger who gave a favourable report of the area which led to further European settlement. The subject site was subdivided, consolidated, cleared and subdivided over time. Further details of the history of the Scone area are available in the European Heritage Assessment – Appendix I.

The current property was part of the original land grant in 1825 of Invermien and Satur. The properties underwent changes, subdivision and amalgamations. In 1929 the property was sold to Isabella Henderson family of the current owners.

The subject sites are currently in single ownership and are two distinct adjacent properties of approximately 2000 hectares each. There are several buildings on the properties, none of which have any local state of federal heritage significance or are located on any heritage registers.

### 9.3.3 Site Heritage Impacts

The sites are neither adjacent to nor likely to affect any known heritage items. A site inspection of the existing properties and discussion with the Local Historical Society did not reveal any likely heritage items that may be impacted upon by the proposal.

Middlebrook Station is adjacent to and overlooks the Castle Rock formation (located 1.3 km from the closest turbine on Middlebrook Station), however there will not be any physical affect to Castle Rock from the development. The proposal will not cause overshadowing, loss of sunlight or pollution issues on any heritage item.

The heritage investigation areas considered potential impacts arising from all components of the development, including the transmission lines.

### 9.3.4 Impact on European Heritage from Transmission Lines

Overhead transmission line infrastructure will be upgraded along existing transmission corridors and new corridors for connection to the local electricity grid. As assessment of the impacts of the proposed transmission line upgrade to known items of heritage has been assessed with recommendations in Section 19.4.3 of this report.





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