



International Power



CHAPTER 15

Heritage

URS

Heritage – Summary of Key Outcomes

No Aboriginal or European sites were located on the proposed Parkes Peaking Power Plant site during the course of the field survey. There are no cultural heritage constraints to the peaking power plant development.

One possible Aboriginal scarred tree (P1) was located near the initially proposed natural gas pipeline easement route. The currently proposed route of the pipeline avoids the location of this tree and will not impact on any of its heritage values. As a consequence its location does not pose any heritage constraint to the proposed development.

One historic house site (P2) was located within the natural gas pipeline easement. The site does not fulfil any of the criteria for heritage listing and does not pose any heritage constraint to the proposed development.

Chapter 15

Heritage

15.1 Introduction

As part of this Environmental Assessment, an assessment of the cultural heritage was conducted by Navin Officer Heritage Consultants. This chapter provides a summary of the report which is presented in full in **Appendix F**. The assessment addressed the local and regional archaeology and Aboriginal and European cultural heritage.

The assessment has been prepared in accordance with the draft *Guidelines for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment and Community Consultation* (DECC 2005).

15.2 Methodology

The cultural heritage assessment encompassed the following:

- Literature and database review to determine if known Aboriginal and historical sites were located within the area under investigation, to facilitate site prediction on the basis of known regional and local site patterns, and to place the area within an archaeological and heritage management context;
- Fieldwork involved inspection of all areas of ground surface visibility within the study area; and
- Recording parameters identifying material evidence of Aboriginal occupation as revealed by surface artefacts and areas of archaeological potential unassociated with surface artefacts.

This background research was used to determine if known heritage sites were located within the area under investigation, to facilitate site prediction on the basis of known regional and local site patterns, and to place the area within an archaeological and heritage management context.

Field survey of the peaking power plant site was carried out on the 10 November, 2006, and survey of the natural gas pipeline easement was undertaken on 7 December 2006 and the 21st March 2007.

15.2.1 Consultation

The study area is situated within the tribal area of the Wiradjuri people. The study area falls within the boundaries of the Peak Hill Local Aboriginal Land Council (PHLALC).

Initial contact was made with the Peak Hill Land Council in writing to inform them of the project and to invite the Land Council to provide representatives to participate in the field survey for the project. Subsequent contact was made by telephone to confirm arrangements for the survey and discuss the cultural values of the study area.

Two site inspections were conducted for the Parkes project - the peaking power plant site was surveyed in November and the natural gas pipeline easement in early December and a small section revisited in March 2007. Representatives were unavailable to participate in the November survey, despite rescheduling of the survey dates. Arrangements were made to meet with a representative on site for the gas pipeline easement survey, however, the representative did not arrive on site as organised.

Cultural significance values for the area have been determined through phone discussions with the PHLALC and a written confirmation of these values has been requested though at the time of preparing this Environmental Assessment Report this had not been received.

15.3 Environmental Context

15.3.1 Geology and Topography

The Parkes Shire is located on the western edge of the Great Dividing Range within the Central West Region of NSW. The Central West consists of the Tablelands, and the Slopes and Plains regions. Parkes Shire covers an area of 5,919 square kilometres with the town of Parkes being the major urban centre, followed by Peak Hill. The other major centres are Bogan Gate, Trundle and Tullamore in the west of the Shire.

The topography in the shire can generally be described flat to gently undulating. The area forms part of the catchment for two main river systems, the Bogan and the Lachlan Rivers, which are major tributaries of the Murray-Darling Basin System. Most watercourses in the Shire are not permanent, being reduced to a series of waterholes for the majority of the year.

The Central West of New South Wales lies within a geological structure called the Lachlan Fold Belt. This is an area of ancient volcanic and sedimentary rocks that were folded and faulted during tectonic activity about 350 million years ago.

15.3.2 Previous Land Use and Disturbance

Land surfaces in the study area have been significantly transformed. Currently the majority of the study area has been cleared for agricultural (primarily wheat) production, which involves the ploughing and sowing of the topsoil layer.

The proposed natural gas pipeline easement route traverses approximately 10km of agricultural land to the outskirts of the current town of Parkes. The pipeline route crosses the historical mine workings of the *No Mistake* and *Deep Lead* gold reserves. These areas have been heavily disturbed as a result of mining activities, rail and road construction and housing developments. Tree cover is sparse, with the majority of the original vegetation now cleared.

15.4 Archaeological Context

15.4.1 Study Area

A reconstruction of clan boundaries indicates that the study area fell within the tribal boundaries of the Wiradjuri people.

A search of the DECC AHIMS indicates that no Aboriginal sites have been recorded as occurring within the study area or within a four kilometre area around the study area.

15.4.2 Predictive Statements

The type of sites known to occur in the region and the potential for their presence within the study area are listed as follows:

- **open scatters of stone artefacts** are most likely to occur on level, well-drained ground adjacent to sources of freshwater (creeks or swamps), particularly minor water courses. Considering the distance to water, campsites are not expected to occur within the study area.

Chapter 15

Heritage

- **isolated finds** occur as single artefacts. It is possible that isolated finds may occur within the study area.
- **burial sites** are generally found in landforms characterised by a relatively deep soil profile of soft sediments such as aeolian sand and alluvium. The probability of detecting burials during surface field surveys is extremely low and not expected within the study area.
- **Ceremonial sites (Bora grounds)** are generally located away from campsites on level areas. These site types may occur within the study area.
- **potential archaeological deposit (PAD)** Most open artefact scatters in the Tablelands are associated with only shallow deposit, although some stratified sites are known. Considering the topography of the study area it is unlikely that PADs will occur.
- **scarred trees** may occur in areas of remnant vegetation which contain trees of sufficient age. Carved trees associated with burial grounds and other ceremonial places have been recorded in the wider region. Most trees have been cleared from the study area but some stands of remnant trees remain thus making the presence of scarred trees possible within the study area. Scarred trees are a common class of heritage item in the region and it is likely that scarred trees may occur in the study area.

15.5 Historical Context

15.5.1 Parkes Region and Study Area

The Parkes district contains some of the most productive agricultural and grazing land in NSW. Today the community represents a diversity of rural agricultural businesses but the original growth of the district was a direct result of the finding of gold in the area.

The pastoral leases in the Parkes region were first gazetted in 1848. This gazettal shows the area of the power plant site as having been part of the pastoral lease of *Nelungaloo* station a holding of 66,000 acres. *Nelungaloo* (substation Brogan) was bounded on the north by *Gunningbland* (70685 acres) and to the east by *West Billabong* (10555 acres) (Unger 1977). The proposed gas pipeline runs along the boundary between *Nelungaloo* and *Gunningbland* and then enters into *Gunningbland*.

The earliest available Parish Map of Currajong dates from 1901 and show land across the study area having been granted previously into agricultural holdings. It is highly probable that land was cleared for agriculture from the time of the initial grants. Later parish maps show that land boundaries remained static with no further subdivisions occurring.

15.6 Assessment of Potential Impacts

15.6.1 Aboriginal Sites

No areas of archaeological sensitivity or potential were identified in the study area.

One possible Aboriginal site, a scarred tree, was identified in the course of the field survey (refer to **Figure 15-1**):

- Possible Aboriginal Scarred Tree (P1)

AGD 603525.6336275 Parkes Topographic Map 8531-1 &1V 1:50 000 1st edition

Site P1 consists of a Eucalypt tree which carries two scars on its main trunk. This tree has rough bark persistent to the upper branches and may be a Box Eucalypt. It is located within a belt of trees on a flat plain adjacent to creekline to the north of Condobolin Road, approximately 2-3 m from the fence line within the Sheridan property.

The tree is in good health, but retains some dead branches. The condition of the original cambium layer is good, and well preserved.

The scars are considered 'possible' on a scale of possible/probable/definite. The provenance of the scars is uncertain and they may well have a natural or European origin. Some of the attributes of the scars (and tree) do conform to the criteria for an Aboriginal origin. The ambivalence of the identification of the scars on the tree results from the uncertainty relating to the age of the tree, the age of scars and the morphology of the scars – as they are irregular in shape.

As this tree is only possibly Aboriginal in origin it is assessed as not fulfilling the criteria for archaeological or scientific significance. The cultural significance of the tree can only be determined by the local Aboriginal community.

The currently proposed route of the natural gas pipeline easement avoids the location of this tree and would not impact on any of its heritage values. As a consequence, its location does not pose any heritage constraint to the proposed development.

15.6.2 European Heritage Sites

One European site was located in the course of the field survey:

- Historic House Site (P2)

AGD 608318:6335493 (hand held GPS)

A historic site consisting of a levelled house platform, scattered broken red clay bricks and a semi-circular planting of trees was located to the south of Goldrush Road near the junction of Goldrush and Stock Roads at the end of the alignment and in the vicinity of the proposed compound.

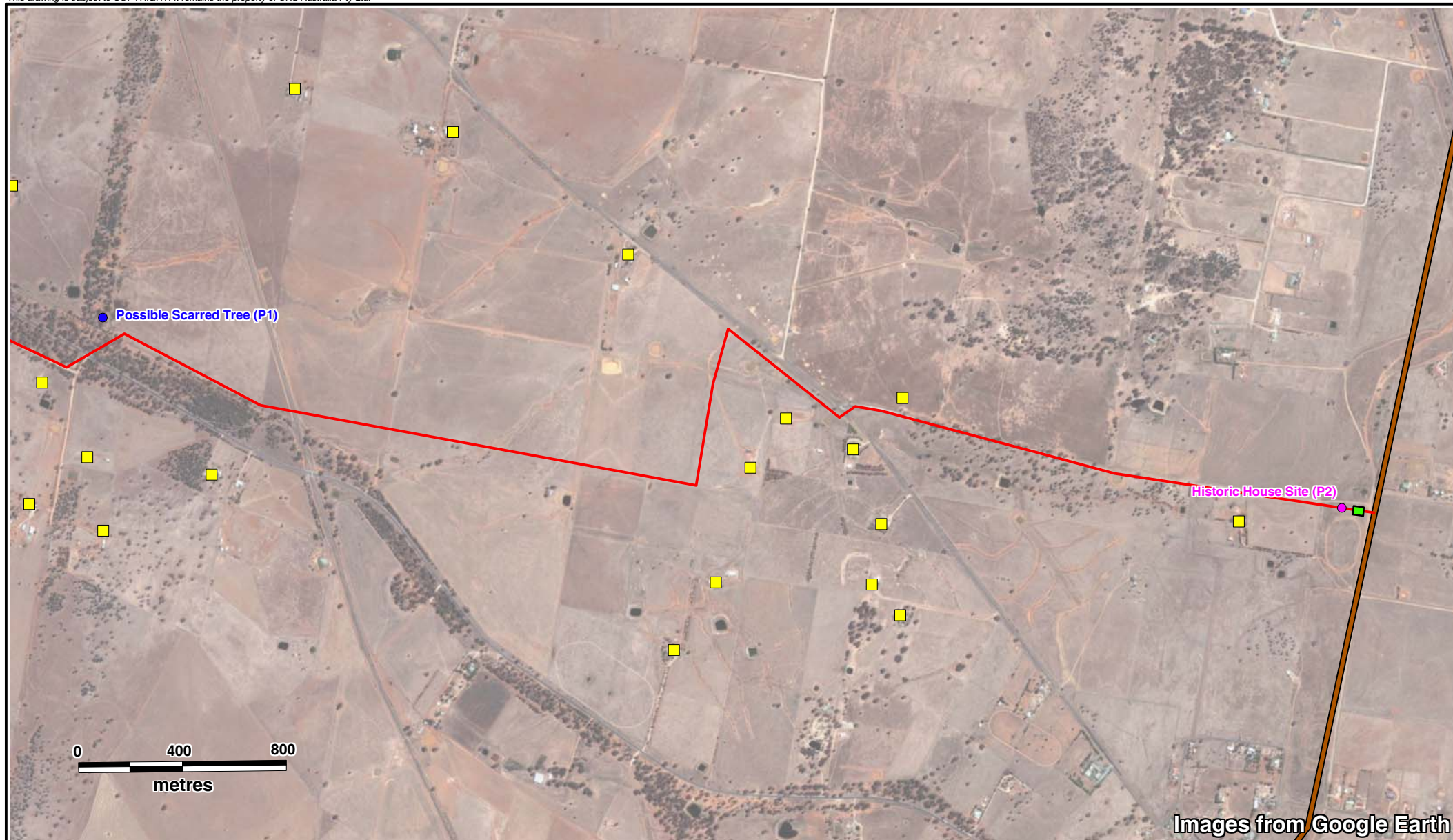
This site does not meet any of the criteria for heritage listing or protection and poses no constraints on the proposed natural gas pipeline.

15.6.3 Conclusion

No Aboriginal or European sites were located with the proposed Parkes Peaking Power Plant Project site during the course of the field survey. There are no cultural heritage constraints to the power plant development.

One possible Aboriginal scarred tree (P1) was located within the natural gas pipeline easement. The currently proposed route of the gas pipeline easement avoids the location of this tree and would not impact on any of its heritage values. As a consequence, its location does not pose any heritage constraint to the proposed development.

One historic house site (P2) was located within the proposed natural gas pipeline easement. The site does not fulfil any of the criteria for heritage listing and does not pose any heritage constraint to the proposed development.



Legend Proposed Gas Pipeline Route Existing Gas Pipeline Gas Pipeline Take-off Point Houses	Client INTERNATIONAL POWER (AUSTRALIA) PTY LTD	Project ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT - PARKES PEAKING POWER PLANT		Title RESULTS OF CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT
		Drawn: AJW Job No: 43177456	Approved: CJ Date: 21/03/2007 File No: 43177456.030.wor	Figure: 15-1

15.7 Mitigation Measures

Table 15-1 summarises the mitigation measures relating to the heritage assessment.

Table 15-1 Summary of Mitigation Measures

Mitigation Measures	Implementation of mitigation measures		
	Design	Construction	Operation
The Construction Environmental Management Plan would be developed and implemented addressing heritage issues. The CEMP would detail the management strategies to be followed in the event that an Aboriginal object or non Aboriginal archaeological relic is uncovered during construction.	✓	✓	