



**AHMS**

**ARCHAEOLOGY & HERITAGE CONSULTANTS**

# **QUEENSLAND HUNTER GAS PIPELINE, NSW**

## **REVISED INFORMATION FOR ABORIGINAL HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF KNOWN SITES IN RELATION TO *REV-L* AND *LAT E***

Prepared by Archaeological & Heritage Management Solutions Pty Ltd  
(AHMS) for Manidis Roberts Pty Ltd

NOVEMBER 2008

## SUMMARY OF BRIEF REPORT

In November 2008 Manidis Roberts asked AHMS to undertake a brief addendum to their earlier technical report<sup>1</sup> designed to update known Aboriginal site information and individual site assessments for the revised route alignments known as 'Rev L' and 'Lat E'.

A search was undertaken for known Aboriginal sites in the Department of Environment and Climate Change's (DECC's) Aboriginal Heritage Management Inventory System (AHIMS) spatial database. The search area encompassed the 200 m wide Rev L study area and 1.5 km either side of the study area.<sup>2</sup> The AHIMS data used for the Lat E revision was drawn from a previous QHGP study area known as 'Lat D'<sup>3</sup>. Lat E largely overlaps Lat D, meaning most of the information was directly transferable. This data encompasses the Lat E 200 m wide proposed route alignment and 200 m to 1.5 km either side of the Lat E study area.

The limitations of the DECC AHIMS data, as noted in our Aboriginal Heritage technical report are still relevant to this addendum.<sup>4</sup> These limitations include an acknowledgement that the DECC site data for the study area is an incomplete record and there are issues with the spatial accuracy of some of the registered sites, which in some cases have been found to be several hundred metres in error.<sup>5</sup>

The sections below provide an updated and revised impact assessment and management recommendations for additional known Aboriginal sites that are within the 200 m QHGP Rev L and Lat E study areas.

This letter report was authored by Laura Matarese, Archaeologist and reviewed by Jim Wheeler, Archaeologist, AHMS.

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<sup>1</sup> AHMS (2008) Queensland Hunter Gas Pipeline NSW, Environmental Assessment: Aboriginal Heritage Assessment. Prepared for Manidis Roberts on behalf of QHGP.

<sup>2</sup> AHIMS data for Rev L was received from DECC via email on 13.11.2008

<sup>3</sup> AHIMS data for Lat D was received from DECC via email on 5.05.2008. A new search with DECC was unable to be conducted due to the short time frames provided.

<sup>4</sup> AHMS Queensland Hunter Gas Pipeline, NSW Environmental Assessment: Aboriginal Heritage Assessment, August 2008 on behalf of Manidis Roberts, pp.19.

<sup>5</sup> The AHIMS database is known to be incomplete, particularly in the Narrabri area where Aboriginal groups have not disclosed where their sites are located. The spatial accuracy of the registered sites can vary in quality due to recording methods, changes in spatial technology and changes in mapping datums over the last 30 years.

## IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The following impact evaluation includes a significance and impact evaluation of DECC AHIMS sites within the 200 m Rev L and Lat E study areas using the methods criteria outlined in the *AHMS Queensland Hunter Gas Pipeline, NSW Environmental Assessment: Aboriginal Heritage Assessment August 2008* technical report and reproduced below:

The type impact categorization is a combination of a significance assessment<sup>6</sup> and the level of potential impact to a site or a site's defined area of sensitivity. Potential impacts may be direct or indirect, defined as:

- **Direct Impact** - The actual development foot print of the pipeline construction which will impact a site or a site's defined area of sensitivity.
- **Indirect Impact** - Refers to impacts on visual cartilage and context of Aboriginal sites.

The following definitions are applied to the impact categories for Aboriginal heritage:

- **High Impact** - Direct or indirect development impact on a site, object or place that has a high level of scientific and/or cultural heritage significance. High impact sites would either have a high level or rarity, representativeness, archaeological research value or would have specific cultural value or importance to the local aboriginal community. Disturbance of High Impact sites would represent a scientific or cultural loss at a local, state or national level;
- **Moderate Impact**- Direct or indirect development impact on a site, object or place that has some (moderate) scientific and/or cultural heritage significance. Moderate impact sites would either have a limited or rarity, representativeness, archaeological research at a local level. Disturbance of Moderate Impact sites would represent only a limited scientific or cultural loss at a local level; and
- **Low Impact**- Indirect impact on a site that has some rarity, representativeness, archaeological research value or cultural value to the local Aboriginal community. Direct impact on a highly disturbed site or isolated find assessed to have negligible (low) scientific or cultural significance.

### Evaluation of sites within the proposed 200 m wide Rev L and Lat E study areas

There are 11 DECC AHIMS registered sites that are or may be directly within the Rev L and Lat E study areas.<sup>7</sup> There are 8 artefact scatters / isolated finds, 1 axe grinding groove complex and 2 modified trees. These are shown below on Table 1.

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<sup>6</sup> National Parks and Wildlife Services Standards & Guidelines Kit, 1998.

<sup>7</sup> Subject to the accuracy of the DECC AHIMS spatial data which is variable in quality.

Table 1: AHIMS sites within the proposed Rev L and Lat E 200 m wide study areas

DECC Site Number	Site Type	Site Name	Rarity/ Representativeness	Arch Research Value	Cultural Value (if known)	Impact Category	Bioregion	Closest KP
38-4-0713	Artefact	Heritage green 23/G	Low	Low	Some	Low	Sydney Basin	9
29-1-0043	Artefact	DTG/OC37 - Mooki River 3	Low	Low	Some	Low	Brigalow Belt South	566
29-1-0042	Artefact	DTG/IF15 - Mooki River 5	Low	Low	Some	Low	Brigalow Belt South	568
37-2-2027	Artefact	Halcombe Hill 1 IF	Low	Low	Unknown	Low	Sydney Basin	696
37-2-1502	Artefact	Abt 10; Aberdeen Abattoir	Low	Low	Some	Low	Sydney Basin	702
37-2-1843	Artefact	MW-OS-4	Low	Mod	Some	Mod-Low	Sydney Basin	705
37-2-1842	Artefact	MW/S- 2	Low	Low	Unknown	Low	Sydney Basin	706
37-3-0049	Artefact	Cedar Creek: Cedar Creek 3	Low	Mod-Low	Unknown	Mod-Low	NSW North Coast	723

37-3-0040	Grinding Groove	Bowmans Creek	Mod-Low	Mod	Unknown	Mod	NSW North Coast	729
10-3-0066	Modified Tree	Gil Gil Creek Scarred Tree	Mod- High	Mod	High	High	Darling Riverine Plains	290
10-3-0010	Modified Tree	Watervale Yards Moree	Mod	Mod	Some	Mod	Darling Riverine Plains	306

## MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The level of impact (High, Moderate and Low) is used as the basis for making management recommendations that are appropriately suited to the type of site, its level of cultural and archaeological significance and nature of potential impact.

Our management recommendations for sites with impact can be divided into High Impact sites and Moderate- Low Impact sites.

**High Impact sites** require specific management procedures to minimize and avoid impact. Specific management measures are established on an individual site-by-site basis and tailored to the nature of the impact and the type of site.

**Moderate-Low Impact sites** would be managed with application of standardised investigative and management approaches. These generalised management approaches include programme of archaeological research, monitoring, avoidance within the 200 m study area and avoidance required for sites High impact sites. Further details of the management approaches are described in detail in Chapter 11 of the *AHMS QHGP, NSW- Environmental Assessment: Aboriginal Heritage Assessment, August 2008* technical report. Table 2 outlines the specific management recommendations for the known DECC AHIMS sites within the proposed Rev L and Lat E 200 m wide study areas.

Table 2: Management Recommendation for sites in the Rev L and Lat E study areas.

DECC Site Number	Site Type	Site Name	Impact Category	Bioregion	Closest KP	Management Recommendations
38-4-0713	Artefact	Heritage green 23/G	Low	Sydney Basin	9	Mitigate by undertaking archaeological research programme.
29-1-0043	Artefact	DTG/OC37 - Mooki River 3	Low	Brigalow Belt South	566	Mitigate by undertaking archaeological research programme.
29-1-0042	Artefact	DTG/IF15 - Mooki River 5	Low	Brigalow Belt South	568	Mitigate by undertaking archaeological research programme.
37-2-2027	Artefact	Halcombe Hill 1 IF	Low	Sydney Basin	696	Mitigate by undertaking archaeological research programme.
37-2-1502	Artefact	Abt 10; Aberdeen Abattoir	Low	Sydney Basin	702	Mitigate by undertaking archaeological research programme.
37-2-1843	Artefact	MW-OS-4	Mod-Low	Sydney Basin	705	Mitigate by undertaking archaeological research programme.
37-2-1842	Artefact	MW/S- 2	Low	Sydney Basin	706	Mitigate by undertaking archaeological research programme.
37-3-0049	Artefact	Cedar Creek: Cedar Creek 3	Mod-Low	NSW North Coast	723	Mitigate by undertaking archaeological research programme.
37-3-0040	Grinding Groove	Bowmans Creek	Mod	NSW North	729	Avoid the axe grinding groove within the 200 m wide study area.

10-3-0010	Modified Tree	Watervale Yards Moree	Mod	Coast	306	<p>Survey to identify and accurately record the site location.</p> <p>Avoid within the 200 m study area.</p> <p>Survey to identify and accurately record the site location.</p>
10-3-0066	Modified Tree	Gil Gil Creek Scarred Tree	High	Darling Riverine Plains	290	<p>Avoidance required, within the 200m study area if possible.</p> <p>Archaeological survey with Aboriginal knowledge holders to define an appropriate curtilage around the tree and to identify whether there are any other cultural or archaeological features associated with the site (and to ensure they are also avoided). The survey would identify and accurately record the site location and its appropriate curtilage.</p> <p>Prior to development, the site will need to be flagged and the curtilage demarcated with temporary fencing to ensure no disturbance or damage occurs.</p> <p>Monitoring required to ensure these management protections are implemented and adhered to during development works.</p>