

ARCHAEOLOGICAL
ASSESSMENT OF
LOT 211 DP 1044292
MOONEE BEACH
NSW

An amended report for

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BCA



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Executive Summary

Bonhomme Craib & Associates (BCA) and the Coffs Harbour Aboriginal Land Council (CHLALC) conducted a cultural heritage assessment at Lot 211 DP 1044292 Pacific Highway, Moonee Beach, NSW located approximately 12 km north of Coffs Harbour, in October 2005. At that time, the work was commissioned by Ian Mahr Town Planning on behalf of Thornton & O'Meara Engineers Pty Ltd. Geoff Smyth Consulting has now taken over as the Projects Proponent. The lot is to be developed as a residential subdivision of 35 lots, (as of 2008).

The development now falls under Part 3A of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. In accordance with the Department of Environment and Climate Change *Interim Community Consultation Requirements for Applicants* guidelines and as stipulated by the Director-General's Environmental Assessment Requirements, further consultation with Aboriginal community stakeholders has been undertaken (2009). This report has been amended to reflect Part 3A requirements and the further consultation conducted.

The initial work was conducted in compliance with the relevant legislation, specifically the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* administered by the Department of Environment and Conservation & Climate (DECC) and the *Heritage Act 1977*. A search of the DECC Aboriginal sites database was conducted. A variety of sites are recorded in the general area. None of the recorded sites are impacted by the proposed activity in Lot 211. Further consultation work was conducted in compliance with the DECC *Interim Community Consultation Requirements for Applicants* guidelines and the *Draft Guidelines for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment and Community Consultation* (29/4/09 to 25/5/09).

A ground inspection of the area was undertaken (10/10/05). Two members of the Coffs Harbour Local Aboriginal Land Council (CHLALC) participated in the survey (Appendix 4). The overall visibility was less than 10%.

No Indigenous sites were located during the survey. The CHLALC representatives were clear about where they either knew or expected sites to be present. These expected site locations were along the ridge crest which is to the north of the subdivision. They believed the study area would have overlooked an extensive wetland and would have provided a range of plant and other resources.

Results of the consultation 2009:

Consultation was undertaken to ensure that all relevant stakeholders have been given the opportunity to comment on the proposed development.

No comments on the draft report were received from any of the stakeholders. No responses to the newspaper advertisement were received.

The report recommendations are based on archaeological evidence which assesses the potential for the proposed activities to disturb archaeological material, the background research which indicates Gumbaynggirr occupation of the region and the previous and current consultation with the Aboriginal community.

The following recommendations are made:

1. No further archaeological work is required.
2. Should any cultural heritage material be located all work should cease at that location and advice regarding appropriate management procedures should be sought from the DECC, the Coffs Harbour Local Aboriginal Land Council and the archaeologist. An S87 or S90 permit application will be required to investigate, remove or disturb any material if identified.

A1. Introduction

Bonhomme Craib & Associates (BCA) and the Coffs Harbour Aboriginal Land Council (CHLALC) conducted a cultural heritage assessment at Lot 211 DP 1044292 Pacific Highway, Moonee Beach, NSW located approximately 12 km north of Coffs Harbour, in October 2005. The area is to be developed as a two stage community title residential subdivision comprising 35 lots and the erection of 32 dwellings, a collector road and associated infrastructure. The development will be accessed from Woodhouse Road on the eastern boundary by way of a new collector road that runs along the southern boundary of the lot.

At the time of initial reporting, the work was commissioned by Ian Mahr Town Planning on behalf of Thornton & O'Meara Engineers Pty. Ltd. Geoff Smyth Consulting has now taken over as the Project Proponent.

The development now falls under Part 3A of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. In accordance with the Department of Environment and Climate Change *Interim Community Consultation Requirements for Applicants* guidelines and as stipulated by the Director-General's Environmental Assessment Requirements, further consultation with Aboriginal community stakeholders has been undertaken. This report has been amended to reflect Part 3A requirements and the further consultation conducted.

A1.1 The Scope of Work

The cultural heritage assessment involved the following tasks:

- Review of relevant documentation;
- Database searches;
- Consultation with Indigenous stakeholders as per the *Draft Guidelines for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment and Community Consultation* (DECC 2005) and the *Interim Community Consultation Requirements for Applicants* (DECC 2004);
- Survey;
- A written report summarising the findings of the study and identifying Indigenous and Non-Indigenous management issues.

A1.2 Description of study area

Moonee Beach Village is located approximately 12 km north of Coffs Harbour on the Pacific Highway (Figure 1). Moonee Creek flows south from just west of Emerald Beach village and follows the beach dune system behind Moonee Beach. Skinners Creek drains from the west into Moonee Creek some 2.5 km north of the estuary mouth and Cunningham Creek enters Moonee Creek approximately 1km north of the estuary mouth.

The proposed residential development is located immediately west of Woodhouse Road and runs to the Pacific Highway Reserve. The lot is cut by a small watercourse running east west. The lot will be developed as 35 lots with a public reserve to the south of the development (Figure 2). The area is cleared and regrowth is occurring along the watercourse.

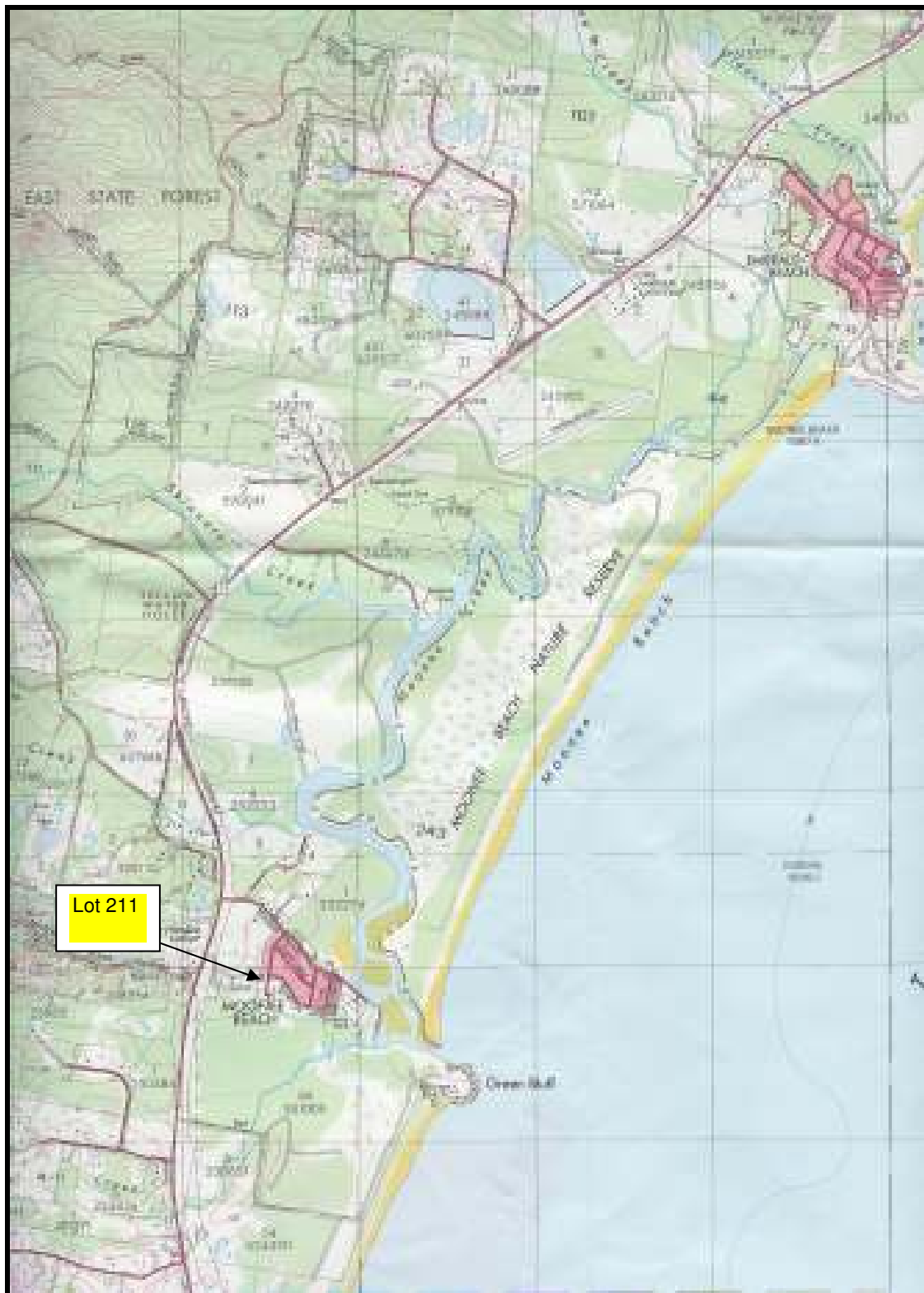


Figure 1 General Location of Lot 211 DP 1044292 (Moonee Beach 9537-4-S)

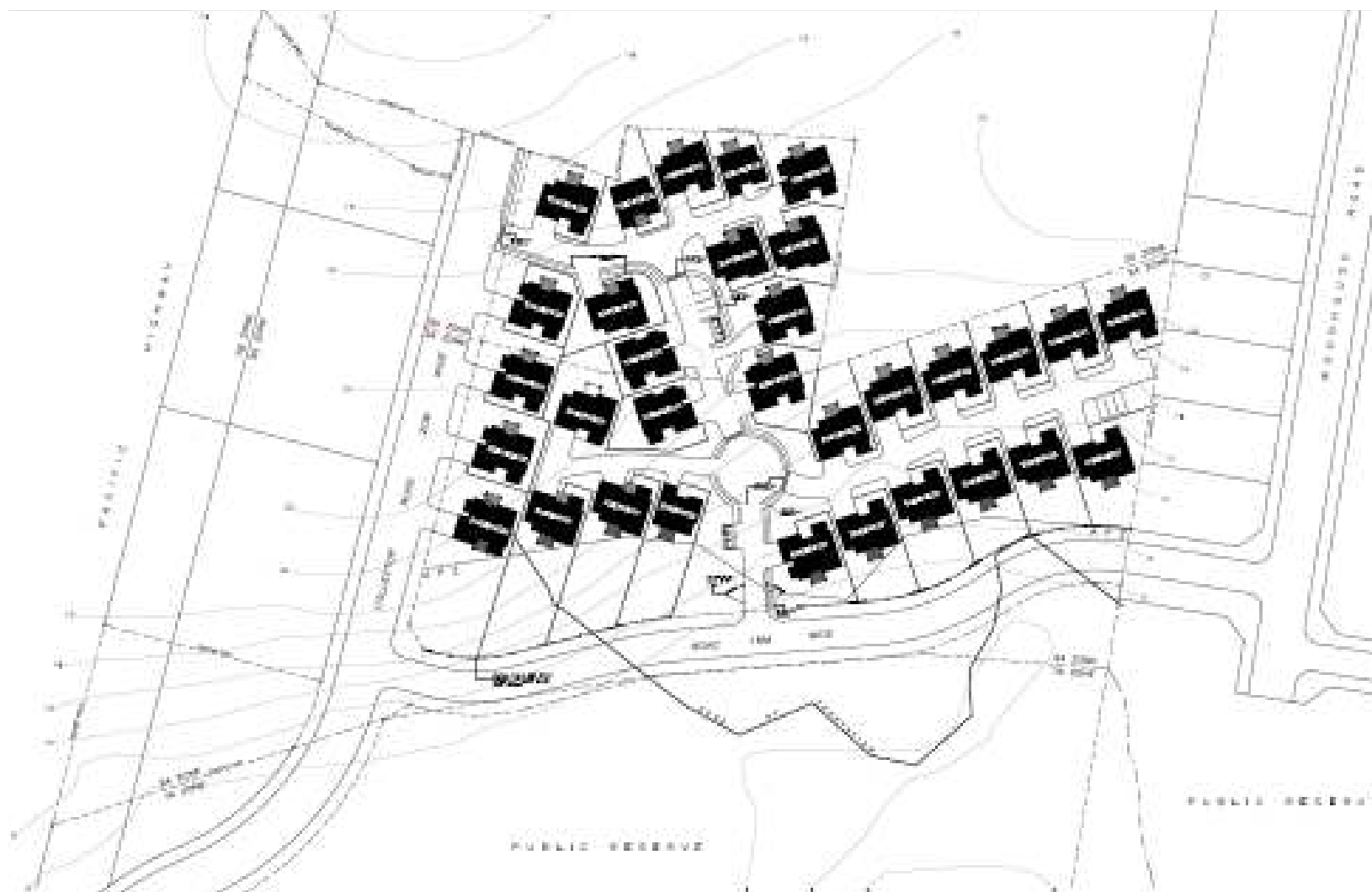


Figure 2 Proposed development plan of Lot 211 DP 1044292

A1.3 Consultation

2005 Consultation:

The Coffs Harbour Local Aboriginal Council was contacted in August 2005 with regard to the project.

Date	Type	Contact	Outcome
8/8/05	Telephone	Michael Rogers	Meeting arranged for 17/8/05
17/8/05	Meeting	M. Rogers, C. Spencer	Project details discussed; agreement to participate in survey. M Rogers stated that the CHLALC was the appropriate group to undertake the work.
7/9/05	Telephone	C. Spencer	Discussion to confirm rates and participation
26/9/05	Telephone	Michael Rogers	Confirmed field work for 10/10/10.
10/10/05	Survey	M Flanders	Survey completed.

Table 1 2005 consultation with the CHLALC.

No Indigenous sites were located during the survey. The CHLALC representatives were clear about where they either knew or expected sites to be present. These expected site locations were outside of the study area and were adjacent to the Moonee estuary and on the ridge crests further south. The CHLALC representatives believed that the study area would have been an extensive wetland and would have provided a range of plant and other resources.

2009 Consultation:

The development now falls under Part 3A of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. In accordance with the Department of Environment and Climate Change *Interim Community Consultation Requirements for Applicants* guidelines and as stipulated by the Director-General's Environmental Assessment Requirements, further consultation with Aboriginal community stakeholders has been undertaken (2009). This report has been amended to reflect Part 3A requirements and the further consultation conducted.

Further consultation was undertaken to ensure that all current relevant stakeholders have been given the opportunity to comment on the proposed development of Lot 5 DP252223, Moonee Beach. Stakeholders were identified from the list provided by DECC. The following table is a list of the consultation undertaken in 2009.

Date	Type	Contact	Outcome
29/4/09	Letter of invitation to register interest	Office of the Registrar	Response received 1/5/09
29/4/09	Letter of invitation to register interest	Native Title Services The Chief Executive Officer	No response
29/4/09	Letter of invitation to register interest	Coffs Harbour City Council	No response
29/4/09	Letter of invitation to register interest	Department of Environment, Conservation and Climate Change Coffs Harbour	No response
29/4/09	Letter of invitation to register interest	Department of Environment, Conservation and Climate Change Sydney	No response
29/4/09	Copy of report sent for comment. Closing date for comment 29/5/09.	Coffs Harbour and District Local Aboriginal Land Council	No response
29/4/09	Copy of report sent for comment. Closing date for comment 29/5/09.	Bagawa Birra Murri Aboriginal Corporation	No response
29/4/09	Copy of report sent for comment. Closing date for comment 29/5/09.	Gumbular-Julipi Elders Council	No response
29/4/09	Copy of report sent for comment. Closing date for comment 29/5/09.	Gumbaynggirr Warrior Elders of the Nambucca River	No response

Table 3 2009 consultation with the Aboriginal community stakeholders.

29/4/09	Copy of report sent for comment. Closing date for comment 29/5/09.	Gumbaynggirr Native Title Group and Gumbaynggirr Nation	No response
29/4/09	Copy of report sent for comment. Closing date for comment 29/5/09.	Gumbaynggirr Elders	No response
29/4/09	Copy of report sent for comment. Closing date for comment 29/5/09.	Mudjay Elders	No response
29/4/09	Copy of report sent for comment. Closing date for comment 29/5/09.	Kulai Pre School Aboriginal Corporation	No response
29/4/09	Copy of report sent for comment. Closing date for comment 29/5/09.	Stuart Island Local Aboriginal Land Council	No response
29/4/09	Copy of report sent for comment. Closing date for comment 29/5/09.	Garby Elders Group/Yarrawarra Aboriginal Corporation	No response
2/5/09	Advertisement	Advertisement placed in the Coffs Coast Independent	No response
25/5/09	Search request	AHIMS search requested online 25/5/09	No response at 9/6/09.

Table 3 (continued) 2009 consultation with the Aboriginal community stakeholders

A1.4 AHIMS search

An AHIMS search was conducted (1/9/05) and again on the 25th May 2009. The DECC issues qualifications regarding the completeness of their records. The database only includes sites where information has been provided to DECC. Large areas of NSW have not been the subject of systematic surveys and existing recordings are from a variety of sources, therefore accuracy is not guaranteed.

A variety of sites are recorded in the general area. These have been recorded during work at Moonee Beach and work further west in the hinterland. Sites include middens, artefact scatters and isolated artefacts. None of the recorded sites are impacted by the proposed activity in Lot 211.

A1.5 Legislation

Cultural Heritage legislation exists at both the State and Federal level and provides the basis for cultural heritage management. In addition to this legislation, there are some bodies which are responsible for the protection and management of cultural heritage. These bodies however, have limited power as they do not operate under legislation. The relevant State and Federal legislation and cultural heritage management bodies are listed below.

The *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* provides for the conservation of nature, the conservation of objects, places or features of cultural value within the landscape, the fostering of public appreciation, understanding and enjoyment of nature, cultural heritage and their conservation and provides management of land reserved under the NPWS Act 1974.

Specifically, with regard to this project, the NPWS Act 1974 seeks to conserve places, objects and features of significance to Aboriginal people and places of historic, architectural or scientific significance. Part 6 Section 90 of the NPWS Act 1974 stipulates that a person who knowingly destroys, defaces or damages or knowingly causes or permits the destruction or defacement of or damage to, an Aboriginal object or Aboriginal place without first obtaining the written consent of the Director-General, is guilty of an offence against the NPWS Act 1974.

The *Heritage Act 1977* is an Act to conserve the environmental heritage of the State. It seeks to protect the States natural and cultural heritage including archaeological remains. The Heritage Council of New South Wales operates under this legislation and if a site or place is of local or State heritage significance the Heritage Council may list it on the State Heritage Inventory.

The *Burra Charter* provides guidance for the conservation and management of places of cultural significance and defines the basic principles and procedures to be followed in the conservation of heritage places and has been adopted as the standard for best practices. The *Burra Charter* was adopted by the Australian ICOMOS (the Australian National Committee of ICOMOS) on 19 August 1979. Revisions were adopted on 23 February 1981, 23 April 1988 and 26 November 1999.

The *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Heritage Protection Act 1984* seeks to preserve and protect places and objects of particular significance to Aboriginals.

The purposes of this Act are the preservation and protection from injury or desecration of areas and objects in Australia and in Australian waters, being areas and objects that are of particular significance to Aboriginals in accordance with Aboriginal tradition.

The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) protects the environment, particularly matters of national environmental significance. The EPBC Act came into force on 17 July 2000. The Australian Government Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA) administers the EPBC Act.

The objectives of the EPBC Act are to;

- Provide for the protection of the environment, especially matters of national environmental significance;
- Conserve Australian biodiversity;
- Provide a streamlined national environmental assessment and approvals process;
- Enhance the protection and management of important natural and cultural places; and
- Promote ecologically sustainable development through the conservation and ecologically sustainable use of natural resources.

The *Environment and Heritage Legislation Act (No 1) 2003* amends the EPBC Act to include national heritage as a new matter of national environmental significance and establishes the National and Commonwealth Heritage Lists.

The National Heritage list records the natural, Indigenous and historic places with outstanding heritage value to our nation. Places on the National Heritage List are protected under the EPBC Act.

The Commonwealth Heritage List comprises natural, Indigenous and historic heritage places on Commonwealth lands and waters or under Australian Government control. It provides a legal framework to protect and manage nationally and internationally important flora, fauna, ecological communities and heritage places – defined in the EPBC Act as matters of national environmental significance.

The *Australian Heritage Council Act 2003* established a new heritage advisory body - the Australian Heritage Council – who are required under section 21 to keep the Register of the National Estate.

The *Australian Heritage Council (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Act 2003*, which repeals the *Australian Heritage Commission Act 1979*, amends various Acts as a consequence of this repeal and allows for the transition to the new heritage system.

The Commonwealth *Native Title Act 1993* recognises and protects native title and seeks to;

- Provide for the recognition and protection of native title; and
- Establish ways in which future dealing affecting native title may proceed and to set standards for those dealings; and
- Establish a mechanism for determining claims to native title; and
- Provide for, or permit, the validation of past acts, and intermediate period acts, invalidated because of the existence of native title.

The *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* is an Act to institute a system of environmental planning and assessment for the State of New South Wales. Developments which fall under Part 3A of this Act are subject to section 75F environmental assessment required for approval and are notified of the Director-General's Environmental Assessment Requirements for the proposed development. Heritage and archaeology are one of the key issues that must be addressed as part of the Director-General's Environmental Assessment Requirements. Aboriginal community consultation in accordance with the DECC's Interim Community Consultation Requirements for Applicants must be undertaken as part of the assessment requirements.

A2. Land use context

A2.1 Aboriginal use of the landscape

Everything in the Traditional Aboriginal physical world was classified and had meaning. Few locations were just utilitarian; rather they were imbued with significance and connected to the ideology that supported Aboriginal life (Bonhomme 1998). Local informants are still able to identify a range of plants used for food, medicine, fire, shelter, tool and basket making. 'The beaches has (sic) pigface, fan flower flax lily and nyum nyum fruits. The rainforest remnants contain lillipillis, figs, grapes and cherries. The freshwater area has bulrushes and waterlilies and the grassland has jam tarts and podolepis' (Yarrowarra Place Stories Book 2 2000:30).

Plants used for medicine include *Ficus coronata*, *Ipomoea* sp., *Clematis aristata* and broad leaf paperbark (*Melaleuca quinquenervia*). Trees identified as 'good bark trees' include *Lophostemon* sp., Swamp turpentine, and Eucalyptus sp. including Swamp Mahogany, Red Mahogany, Tallowood, White mahogany and Common blackbutt. 'The Swamp Turpentine (*Lophostemon suaveolens*) also known as the Swamp Mahogany is the favourite local bark tree. It grows on the edge of the paperbark wetland. Many of these trees show scars from bark removal (Yarrowarra Place Stories Book 2 2000:31).

Resources associated with the coastal lakes and estuaries were abundant. These included bream, ducks, swamp hen, pipis, prawns, turtle, whiting, flathead, eels, trevally, mudcrabs, and mullet (Yarrowarra Place Stories Book 2 2000:21). Flying fox was also captured and eaten, as was goanna, porcupine and possum. The Sclerophyll forests are known to provide the most productive habitat for large to medium sized mammals (Mitchell 1978:152). The animal foods of the forest margins include the red-necked pademelon (*Thylogale thetis*) and the brush turkey (*Alectura lathami*). Ethnographic evidence suggests that only pademelons, which favour the rainforest margins, were caught in large numbers (Byrne 1987:44). It is likely that macropods would have been attracted by the open grasslands and it is possible that Aboriginal burning practices increased the grasslands and hence the numbers of animals found there.

A variety of items were used in artefact manufacture. Unfortunately, little of that technology survives archaeologically. However, the diversity is evident from existing museum collections of Aboriginal implements and ethnographic descriptions. Raw material procurement was not a casual affair. Many of the resources were limited, in either time or space; they were gathered as they were found. They were often the stuff of survival and were not considered incidental.

Research and documentation being undertaken by the Yarrowarra Cultural Centre and local Elders have demonstrated the variety of material evidence of Aboriginal use of the region, which still remains. The oral histories which have been undertaken have identified stories and recollections of life in the 20th century that are relevant to identifying places of contemporary significance to local people.

A2.1.1 Gumbaynggirr occupation of the region

At the time of the first European settlement the study area was occupied by Gumbaynggirr speaking people whose traditional territory extended over a wide area from the Clarence River to at least as far south as Nambucca (Gumbaynggirr Language and Culture group 1992). The groups shared resources, trading and ceremonial occasions and intermarried. They distinguished themselves from neighbours by their language (MacDonald and Collins 1999:37-38). As McDougall (1900:116) stated 'each tribe kept its own belt of country and separated into small camps and only collected together on special occasions'.

The margins of the different vegetation complexes across Gumbaynggirr country were known to be rich in animal and plant resources some of which were staples allowing large numbers of people to be supported for long periods of time. Resource exploitation was undertaken by family groups and away from the immediate coast shifting camp appeared to have been frequent. Base camps were established in areas protected from the elements by dense vegetation (McFarlane 1934-5). During the early contact years Aboriginal occupation was mostly on the coast and along the major river corridors. The largest camps are said to have been situated at Bagawa near the confluence of Bucca Bucca Creek and the Orara River (Holder 1984: 20) but substantial coastal camps were also located at Moonee and Woolgoolga.

Oral evidence suggests that groups travelling inland between Moonee Beach and Bucca Bucca Creek used the ridgelines now followed by Bucca Road (Collins 1994a:14). The association between low gradient ridgelines and Aboriginal transit routes is likely to have been typical wherever exposed ridgelines support a drier and more open form of forest cover. Frequent movement along transit lines was well documented. People from Woolgoolga visited the upper Bellinger Valley and the Macleay and the Clarence River people gathered for a tribal conflict with others at Mylestom in the late 1900s (Braithwaite and Beard 1978:82).

Holder (1984) asserted that a seasonal land use pattern was adopted whereby autumn and winter were spent on the coast fishing and in summer the Orara Valley was used for hunting. The main winter camps were established on low hills and rises e.g. the spur occupied by the Coffs Harbour Gun Club where artefacts were recorded (AHIMS site #22-1-138).

Early European settlement modified Aboriginal land use patterns. By 1885 a road had been built from Coffs Harbour to Grafton, timber mills and banana and sugar cane plantations established, local schools set up and gold mining was underway in the Orara Valley (Goulding 2001). By the late 1890s the group of Aborigines who had frequented Moonee Beach during the autumn and winter months failed to return and no Aboriginal people remained at Woolgoolga.

Despite the disruption to traditional life, information relating to things such as travelling routes, resource use and relationship to the land has been handed down through the generations. Forested areas have always been important. Aboriginal people continued to occupy bush camps well into the 20th century and many people can remember camps from the 1940s to the 1960s.

A2.2 Archaeological Studies in the region

A series of studies by McBryde (1978) along the Clarence River showed that Aboriginal groups at contact with Europeans used estuarine resources extensively on a seasonal basis. The humid coastal zone, which is about 50 km wide, contained estuarine, coastal, riverine and land resources, which supported a high population density. The Clarence River estuary built up rapidly over the last 10,000 years and shell middens occur on the old coastline some 15 km inland as well as adjacent to the present coastline. The Stuarts Point site, which shows the exploitation of mud flat resources over time, has been dated to over 3000 years before the present (BP).

Several Aboriginal sites have been recorded in the Corindi Beach/Red Rock area. In a survey of the Corindi Park Estate, Appleton (1995) reported the Aboriginal significance of the Women's Widow Tree (AHIMS site #22-1-82) and an Aboriginal burial associated with the tree. Appleton also located 5 open campsites (AHIMS sites #22-1-97, 99, 100, 101, 102). One site (AHIMS site #22-1-99) was located on a creek in the north east part of the Corindi Estate and contained 21 artefacts.

Four spiritual places are associated with the Corindi Beach Recreation Reserve and included initiation grounds, sacred stones and the home of a spirit protector. Appleton (1995) surveyed an area 2.5 km west of Corindi Beach. During this study burials were reported. The Red Rock Reserve Midden 1 (AHIMS site #13-4-0093) is located 1.2 km from the beach on Corindi Creek. The midden was dated between 2000 and 3800 BP (Smith 1998, 2000). Ochre is found at Red Rock and a massacre site is also reported. The Corindi Lake 1 (AHIMS site #22-1-87) relates to historical Aboriginal settlement. Stone artefacts and historical materials were found.

The Corindi Beach South 1 midden (AHIMS site #22-1-23) provided dates from the late Holocene 800-1200 BP and contained shell fish and animal bones. Coarse grained 'greywacke' which is available on the beach as pebbles dominated the stone artefact assemblage and had not been heavily reduced. Fine grained materials were present as was red and yellow ochre. Estuarine shell, marsupial, fish and bird bone were present. An historical birthing place, 'The Old Farm' (AHIMS site #13-4-0076), is located in the study area.

Bonhomme Craib & Associates undertook a survey of a proposed residential development area that encompassed the 'Old Farm' area and other historical Aboriginal places. The survey relocated previously recorded scarred trees and sites and identified other scarred tree locations (BCA 2004a).

Archaeological work between Woolgoolga and Sandy Beach has been in association with road projects and consists of linear surveys (e.g. Macdonald & Collins 1999; Collins 2000). Appleton (1995) surveyed an area north of Fiddaman's Creek, between the coast and the Pacific Highway and conducted an investigation at Diggers Point Headland at Emerald Beach (Appleton 1995). Appleton located six midden exposures on the headland which are believed to be part of a much larger midden. Lilley (1983) has conducted a survey around Hearn's Lake.

The Gumbaynggirr Elders have identified Arrawarra as a meeting place. The place name comes from the Gumbaynggirr words *Yee Warra* meaning meeting place.

There is also a rainmaking site on the headland, a fish trap at the southern end of the beach, and a midden near the estuary. The Arrawarra midden which is located in a coastal foredune north of Woolgoolga (AHIMS site #22-1-21) was dated to 1300 years ago and contains fishbone, shellfish and land animal remains (Smith 1998).

In 1999 artefacts were found during monitoring of the Arrawarra recreation area and additional material was exposed in 2001 (Murphy 2001). Arrawarra has a stone feature, the Arrawarra Fish Traps. Appleton undertook excavations at the Arrawarra Beach Recreation Reserve though no material was located (Appleton 2003).

South of Coffs Harbour at Bonville and Lyons Road, Sawtell, Bonhomme Craib & Associates undertook investigation of proposed residential development areas located on ridge and hill slopes in the hinterland. No sites were located in either survey (BCA 2004a & b). Later excavation (BCA 2006) showed a low scatter of artefacts occurred along the watercourse.

Moonee Beach has a long history of archaeological investigation (McBryde 1978). McBryde investigated a midden and axe factory (AHIMS site #22-1-19) located at the northern end of the beach. Piper (1986) undertook a survey of two areas in the Moonee Beach vicinity. One area was located west of the Pacific Highway and the other was west of Look-At-Me-Now headland. No sites were found. The Moonee Beach Midden (AHIMS site #22-1-51) was recorded in 1991 by NPWS staff and was located on Stingray Creek near the mouth of the estuary. A canoe tree (AHIMS site #22-1-53) was located in the Kumbaingeri Animal Park (Navin 1991).

A survey of a residential subdivision located west of the Pacific Highway 3 km from Moonee Beach found two stone artefact scatters on a ridgeline (Collins 1994a). In 1994 an assessment was undertaken of a proposed 12 lot subdivision (Collins 1994b). Two scarred trees and 6 locations containing a total of 29 stone artefacts were found along Skinners Creek. Collins' survey represented a 10 % sample but demonstrated that sites were most common along the creek margin. Sites consisted of two scarred Blackbutt trees on the creek margin and isolated artefacts and small scatters of stone artefacts.

A detailed excavation was undertaken at the Moonee Beach Workshop Site (AHIMS site #22-1-83) (Hill & Murphy 2000) during monitoring of the Emerald Moonee Sewerage Reticulation Scheme. The proposed pipeline, which triggered the investigative work, was in a landscape which contained Aboriginal features, such as the stone artefact scatter/open campsite (AHIMS site #22-1-83) and shells and food remains (AHIMS site #22-1-51 - midden).

A survey was undertaken in 2004 on a developed lot (Pet Lodge) approximately 1 km south of the study area. According to the CHALC representative four stone artefacts were located on the lot (CHALC pers comm).

A2.2.1 Site types in the region

Middens: these are coast and estuarine sites that have accumulations of food refuse, primarily shell; occasionally stone artefacts are present. Middens have been found adjacent to Moonee Beach and along Skinners Creek.

Scarred trees: these are trees that have evidence of purposeful removal of bark. The bark was used for a variety of implements including canoes, shields, housing and bowls. A bark canoe formed from a Honeysuckle Banksia was found in Corindi Lake in 1985. It is on display at the Yarrawarra Cultural Centre.

Bora ground/ceremonial ground: are areas where initiation ceremonies and other social gatherings were held. A corroboree area is reported to have been located near Woolgoolga Lake; another is reported near the Coffs Harbour Gun Club. A ceremonial area is also reported at Red Rock.

Pathways: Although the forest and scrub of the coast and the hinterland was largely impenetrable to European settlers, the Aborigines had well defined centuries-old paths and tracks, which connected tribal areas. The ridgeline now occupied by Bucca Road is documented as a transit route between Moonee Beach and Bucca Bucca Creek.

Artefact scatters: open, surface scatters of stone artefacts. Open campsites containing stone artefact scatters have been recorded on ridgelines west of Woolgoolga Lake, and west of Green Bluff headland at Moonee Beach; artefacts were also found along Skinners Creek as isolated items and with shell scatters (Collins 1994b).

Burials/burial grounds: These sites may contain a single individual or may be extensive burial grounds, which were used for long periods of time, with evidence of complicated mortuary practices. Coastal burials in the local Gumbaynggirr area have been found in middens, at the 'Axe factory' and Bare Bluff, Sandy Creek (Hill and Murphy 2000).

Rockshelters: Shelters have been recorded and excavated in the hinterland and they can be the location of a number of activities, including occupation, art, burials and ceremonial activities. Seelands Rockshelter on the Clarence River is dated to about 6400 years old (McBryde 1974).

Mythological and Traditional sites: These are places of traditional significance to Aboriginal people. Such sites hold particularly cultural significance to Aboriginal people. A natural sacred site is located about 1 km west of Moonee Creek. Ceremonial increase sites are known in the Moonee Estuary area and Creation stories are connected with features such as Look-At-Me-Now Headland (Hill and Murphy 2000).

Aboriginal Historical sites: As European development began to encroach on the coast, local people were gradually restricted in the areas they could camp. At Corindi Beach for example an area known as 'no man's land' was established in the 1880's behind a fence (Yarrawarra Place Stores Book 2:5). An historical camp is located west of Woolgoolga and west near the Coffs Harbour Gun Club west of Look-At-Me-Now Headland. Despite the disruption to Traditional life information relating to such things such as travelling routes, resource use and relationship to the land has been handed down through the generations. Aboriginal people continued to occupy bush camps well into the 20th century.

European historical sites: Early European settlement modified Aboriginal land use patterns. By 1885 a road had been built from Coffs Harbour to Grafton, timber mills and banana and sugar cane plantations established, local schools set up and gold mining was underway in the Orara Valley (Goulding 2001). The Moonee Beach area is a modified landscape resulting from intensive European use of the area.

Activities associated with the pastoral era and subsequent development of towns, roads and infrastructure that followed from closer settlement resulted in a variety of historical structures and features. These include farm houses, yards, fences, early tracks and roads, blazed trees resulting from surveying of roads and properties and infrastructure associated with industry (e.g. saw mills, quarrying, mining, extraction).

Evidence of historical activity was found on Lot 5 which is less than 1 km north of the study area. Two wooden bridges which were constructed during the use of the area for grazing in the early 1900s were identified (BCA 2008). A third bridge, constructed possibly in the 1970s, was used to transport gravels which were used in the construction of the Pacific Highway upgrade in the 1970s (Les Richardson, 2005 pers. comm.).

Much of the physical evidence of historical activity in the area has been destroyed although the history of the area is well documented.

A2.2.2 Predictive Models

The following general predictive model for the potential and location of Aboriginal sites was based on the local landforms, disturbance or impacts history and known Aboriginal sites in the study area.

The area is located approximately 1 km west of the open beach. Thus, at this location, a variety of resources - beach/ocean, estuarine and lake, coastal dune barrier and forest margins - would be immediately available. Large middens characterised by high artefact densities and a defined stratigraphy have been documented along the Moonee Beach foreshore.

The study area is steeply sloping to the north and would have been wooded prior to clearing. Because known campsites are usually found at lower elevations along the estuary it is not expected that large campsites would occur on the ridge. If the ridge area was used by small, mobile groups the material cultural expected should be characterised by isolated artefacts or open scatters with low artefact densities. The near proximity of camps along the Moonee Beach estuary and creek margin suggests that major camp sites would not be located on the ridge. Scarred trees may have been present but the Lot is now cleared and regrowth is occurring.

A2.2.3 Summary

Aboriginal people consider all sites to be of high cultural/social significance. In their understanding, the artefacts and middens whether *in situ*, disturbed or displaced, reflect generations of use by their forebears and all form an integral part of the cultural landscape, which is considered worthy of protection and preservation.

The following comments can be made regarding the possibility of sites being discovered in the study area.

- ❑ Visibility across the study area is low.
- ❑ Past land use practices have potentially disturbed surface archaeological material to an unknown extent.
- ❑ The area has been cleared in the past and much of the vegetation which is found on site today is considered recent regrowth.
- ❑ The subdivision area consists of steep slopes to the north overlooking the floodplain.
- ❑ The hill crest in the adjacent Lot 18 had been surveyed previously (Dallas 2004). Four artefacts were collected and placed at the base of a tree at 514508E 6658184N by members of the CHLALC.
- ❑ The results of this study indicate the ridge crest may have contained isolated artefacts. The ridge crest has been disturbed through previous grazing and later construction of residences, sheds and driveways.
- ❑ The possibility that sites have survived sub surface within the development parcel is considered low.
- ❑ The general area has well documented significance for Aboriginal people. A natural sacred site is located about 1 km west of Moonee Creek but the proposed development has not been identified as having a particular cultural significance. The area was identified as part of a broad reserve area which would have been accessed from campsites on the estuary (CHLALC representative comments 2005).

A2.3 Survey

A ground inspection of the area was undertaken 10/10/05. Two members of the CHLALC participated in the survey with the archaeologist (BCA).

The study area consists of floodplain in the southern portion with a small watercourse which trends east west and a steep slope which rises to the north. The boundary fence for the lot is located on the edge of the ridge crest. The ridge crest is fully within the adjacent lot which will remain undeveloped.

The area was entirely grassed and visibility was <10%. Earth disturbance and stockpiling of soil had occurred on the northern boundary on the limited flat ground at the hilltop adjacent to the pet lodge.

Evidence of historical activities at the site consisted of decaying fence posts.

The lot was walked and particularly attention was paid to the ridge crest.

A2.3.1 Results

No Indigenous sites were located during the survey and given the landforms and past disturbance, it is probable that the likely occurrence of material will be low.

The lot is immediately south of Lot 18 which had been previously surveyed. Four isolated artefacts were found during survey (in 2004) and placed on the ridge crest at 0514508E 6658184N by members of the CHLALC. These artefacts will not be impacted by the proposed development.

The CHLALC representatives were clear about where they either knew or expected sites to be present. These expected site locations were along the ridge crest which is to the north of the subdivision. They believed the study area would have overlooked an extensive wetland and would have provided a range of plant and other resources.

No significant historical items or areas were found in the study area. The area was formerly used for grazing and has been cleared.

A3. Recommendations

These recommendations have been based on;

- ❑ discussions on site with the CHLALC representatives (2005).
- ❑ results of the survey where no Indigenous archaeological sites were located during the survey.
- ❑ the information provided by the client that no activity associated with the proposed development is proposed for Lot 18 where artefacts have been recorded previously.
- ❑ results of further Indigenous consultation (2009).

It is recommended that;

1. No further archaeological work is required.
2. Should any cultural heritage material be located all work should cease at that location and advice regarding appropriate management procedures should be sought from the DECC, the Coffs Harbour Local Aboriginal Land Council and the archaeologist. An S87 or S90 permit application will be required to investigate, remove or disturb any material if identified.

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Appendix 3

**Coffs Harbour &
District Local
Aboriginal Land
Council cultural
heritage inspection
letter.**



(Note that signature has not scanned).