

Technical Report 3 – Cultural Heritage Assessment and Consultation

**ERM Power Pty Ltd
Young to Wellington Gas Pipeline**

Cultural Heritage Assessment and Consultation

22 April 2010

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Yurrugaidgurai near Nanima mission

Executive Summary

ERM Power Pty Ltd has engaged CNC Project Management to carry out an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for its proposed Young to Wellington Gas Pipeline Project. This Assessment is being conducted in accordance with the consultation procedures outlined in the draft *Guidelines for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment and Community Consultation* (DEC 2005) and the *Interim Community Consultation Requirements for Applicants* (DEC 2004) as well as the *Draft Community Consultation Requirements for Proponents* (DECC May, 2009) and taking account of *Ask First; A Guide to Respecting Indigenous Heritage Places and Values* (AHC 2002).

The Study Area falls within a region known as Wiradjuri country based on the shared language spoken by people who define themselves as 'people of the three rivers', these rivers being the Macquarie (or Wambool) the Lachlan (or Kalare) and the Murrumbidgee (or Murrumbidjeri).

There are four Local Aboriginal Land Councils along the proposed pipeline route. There are 33 stakeholder groups and individuals who have registered their interest.

The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment follows the principles and guidelines of the Burra Charter (Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance 1999). Best practice is followed in all parts of this assessment, relying on the appropriate Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW) legislation and guidelines.

The Desktop Study fulfils due diligence obligations. It details consultation and addresses background environmental, historical and archaeological knowledge relevant to the pipeline alignment and its broader context.

A search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System database (AHIMS) shows no existing recorded sites within 200m of the proposed pipeline alignment. There are 129 sites within 3km of the proposed pipeline. The greater proportion of these is culturally modified trees, which together with stone artefacts [either isolated objects or stone artefact concentrations] account for most sites [83%].

The field survey formed an important part of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment. It provided employment opportunities for Aboriginal people and added to the knowledge base of Aboriginal Heritage in the area. The ground survey was carried out during February and March 2010, over 21 working days. There were 23 Aboriginal representatives representing 7 organizations.

A total of 18 sites were recorded and registered with DECCW. Five were open sites consisting of concentrations of lithic items. Thirteen sites were culturally modified trees. All sites are to be avoided.

Strategies to avoid or minimise harm to Aboriginal Heritage included:

- Extensive consultation;
- A ground survey to determine the nature and location of sites and places of cultural importance along the pipeline route;
- Survey in conditions of maximum visibility following harvest;
- An assessment of significance to Aboriginal people;
- Input to final alignment design to avoid sites;
- Avoidance of all culturally modified trees;
- Contingency Measures for unexpected events.



West of Canowindra

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