

Project Number: HN000476-F



ABORIGINAL HERITAGE DUE DILIGENCE ASSESSMENT ADDENDUM REPORT – KARUAH EAST QUARRY PROPOSED MODIFICATION

FINAL 11 / 02 / 2026

REPORT TO: KARUAH EAST QUARRY PTY LTD
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Executive Summary

Heritage Now Pty Ltd was engaged by Karuah East Quarry Pty Limited (KEQPL) to provide an Aboriginal Heritage Due Diligence Assessment in support of a proposed modification to a State Significant Development approval for the Karuah East Quarry (Project Approval MP09_0175) under the provisions of S4.55(2) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. Specifically, this document relates to a proposed c.4,690m² extension to the approved disturbance area of the quarry (the Project Area). The nominal extension forms part of the Karuah Pit Consolidation Project.

The Project Area was inspected by Crystal Phillips of Heritage Now on 2 September 2024.

No Aboriginal sites or areas of archaeological sensitivity were identified during the inspection of the Project Area. The land is very steep, with shallow topsoils, and is unlikely to have been used as a place to camp or as a travel route.

There are no proposed impacts to Aboriginal sites, and no further archaeological investigation is required for the Project Area. Works may proceed in accordance with the recommendations below.

Recommendation 1

All on-site personnel are to be made aware of their obligations under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974, which includes protection of Aboriginal sites and the reporting of any new, or suspected, Aboriginal heritage sites. This may be done through an on-site induction or other suitable format.

Recommendation 2

In the unlikely event that Aboriginal, or suspected Aboriginal, archaeological material is uncovered during the development, then works in that area are to stop and the area is to be cordoned off. The KEQPL Environment and Development Manager is to contact the Heritage Consultant to make an assessment as to whether the material is classed as Aboriginal object/s under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NSW) and advise on the required management and mitigation measures. Works are not to recommence in the cordoned off area until heritage clearance is given and/or the required management and mitigation measures have been implemented.

Recommendation 3

In the very unlikely event that human remains, or suspected human remains, are uncovered during the development, then works in that area are to stop and the area is to be cordoned off. The KEQPL Quarry Manager is to contact the NSW Police to establish whether the area is a crime scene. If it is not a crime scene, and the remains are determined to be Aboriginal ancestral remains, then Heritage NSW is to be notified via the Environment Line on 131 555 and management measures are to be devised in consultation with the local Aboriginal community. Works are not to recommence in the area until the management measures have been implemented.

Recommendation 4

The Karuah East Quarry Heritage Management Plan must be updated to include the increase in disturbance footprint subject to the Modification proposal.

Acronyms and Definitions

Acronym/Term	Definition
Aboriginal object	Aboriginal object means any deposit, object or material evidence (not being a handcraft made for sale) relating to the Aboriginal habitation of the area that comprises New South Wales, being habitation before or concurrent with (or both) the occupation of that area by persons of non-Aboriginal extraction, and includes Aboriginal remains (as per the NPW Act 1974).
Aboriginal place	Any place declared to be an Aboriginal place under Section 84 of the NPW Act.
AHD	Australian Height Datum
AHIMS	Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (register for Aboriginal sites in NSW)
AHIP	Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (as per NPW Act 1974)
A Horizon	The top layer of mineral soil in a soil profile. It is usually broken into A ₁ and A ₂ soils, with the former tending to have a relatively high dark organic content, while the latter is paler.
B Horizon	The B horizon underlies the A horizon of a soil profile, and is generally a high-clay content soil.
DCS	NSW Department of Customer Service
DECCW	Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water, NSW (became the Office of Environment and Heritage in 2011, now under Heritage NSW).
DP	Deposited Plan
EP&A Act	Environmental Planning and Assessment Act (1979)
GDA	Geocentric Datum of Australia
GPS	Global Positioning System
HLRV	Historical Land Records Viewer (NSW Land Registry Services)
Holocene	Geological epoch (period) typically defined as the time period that commenced approximately 11,700 years ago and is the current period of geological time. This period is generally warmer and wetter than the preceding Pleistocene period.
KEQ	Karuah East Quarry
KEQPL	Karuah East Quarry Pty Limited
LALC	Local Aboriginal Land Council
LEP	Local Environmental Plan

Acronym/Term	Definition
LGA	Local Government Area
Non-perennial	In terms of waterways, it means a waterway that is usually partially or fully dry for part of the year.
NPW Act	National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974
NSW	New South Wales
OEH	Office of Environment and Heritage, NSW (Now Heritage NSW)
PAD	Potential Archaeological Deposit
Perennial	In terms of waterways, it means a waterway that has year-round water.
SCP	Spatial Collaboration Portal for delivery of NSW spatial datasets provided by DCS Spatial Services.
SSD	State Significant Development

Version Control

Version	Revision Description	Reviewed by	Date	Approved by	Date Approved
1	Preliminary Draft	Jenna Weston, Heritage Now Senior Heritage Consultant	10/09/2024	Tessa Boer-Mah, Heritage Now Principal Heritage Consultant	11/09/2024
2	Draft	Jenna Weston, Heritage Now Senior Heritage Consultant	13/09/2024	Tessa Boer-Mah, Heritage Now Principal Heritage Consultant	13/09/2024
3	Final	Crystal Phillips, Heritage Now Senior Heritage Consultant	13/10/2025	Jenna Weston, Heritage Now Principal Heritage Consultant	13/10/2025
4	Revised draft based on HNSW feedback	Crystal Phillips, Heritage Now Senior Heritage Consultant	7/11/2025	Jenna Weston, Heritage Now Principal Heritage Consultant	7/11/2025
5	Revised final based on HNSW and Aboriginal feedback	Jenna Weston, Heritage Now Principal Heritage Consultant	11/02/2026	Tessa Boer-Mah, Heritage Now Principal Heritage Consultant	11/02/2026

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1 Introduction

Heritage Now Pty Ltd (Heritage Now) was engaged by Karuah East Quarry Pty Limited (KEQPL) to provide an Aboriginal Heritage Due Diligence Assessment in support of a proposed modification to a State Significant Development (SSD) approval for the Karuah East Quarry (Project Approval MP09_0175) under the provisions of S4.55(2) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. Specifically, this document relates to a proposed c.4,690m² extension to the approved disturbance area of the quarry (the Project Area). The nominal extension forms part of the Karuah Pit Consolidation Project.

1.1 Project Area

The Project Area is c.4,690m² in size, located on the north-east boundary of the approved disturbance area of the quarry. The Project Area includes an existing electricity easement that has been subject to previous disturbance. The KEQ is located c.5.3km to the north-east of the centre of the village of Karuah (Figure 1-Figure 2). The Project Area is located on freehold lands subject to the Karuah East Quarry (KEQ) approval – specifically Lot 13 DP1024564 (143 Blue Rock Close, Karuah), located within the Mid Coast Local Government Area (LGA) and within the statutory boundaries of Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC).

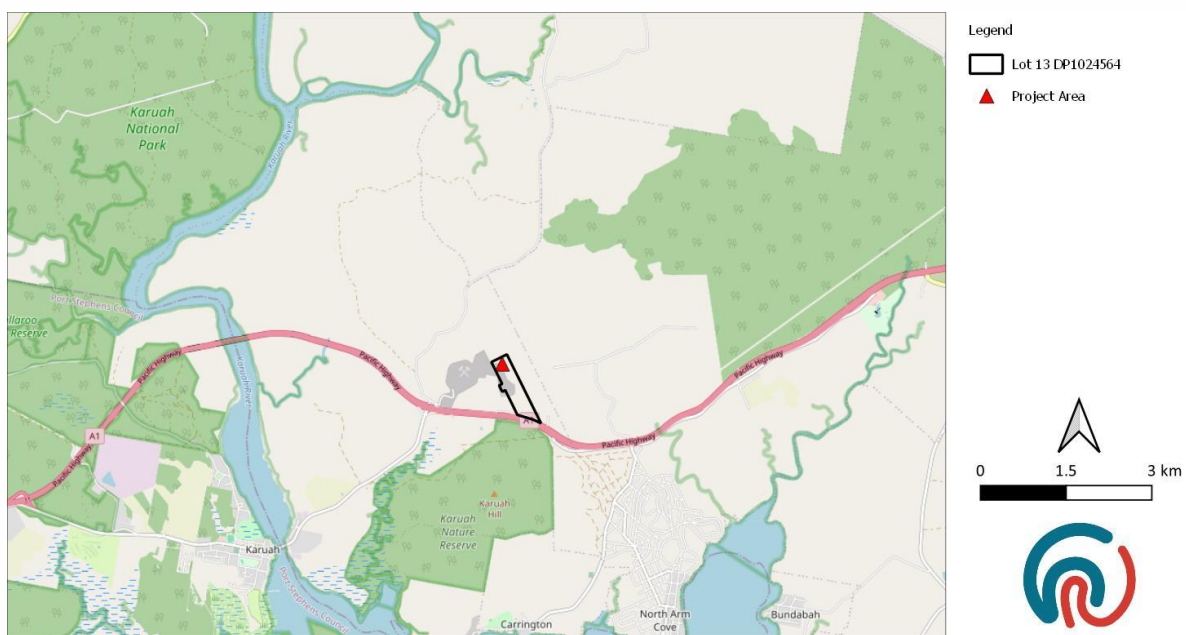


Figure 1. The Project Area in a regional context. (Source: Open Street Map with Heritage Now additions)



Legend

-  Project Area
-  Lot 13 DP1024564
-  KEQ

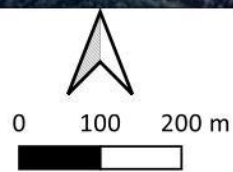


Figure 2. The Project Area. (Source: Google Satellite with Heritage Now additions)

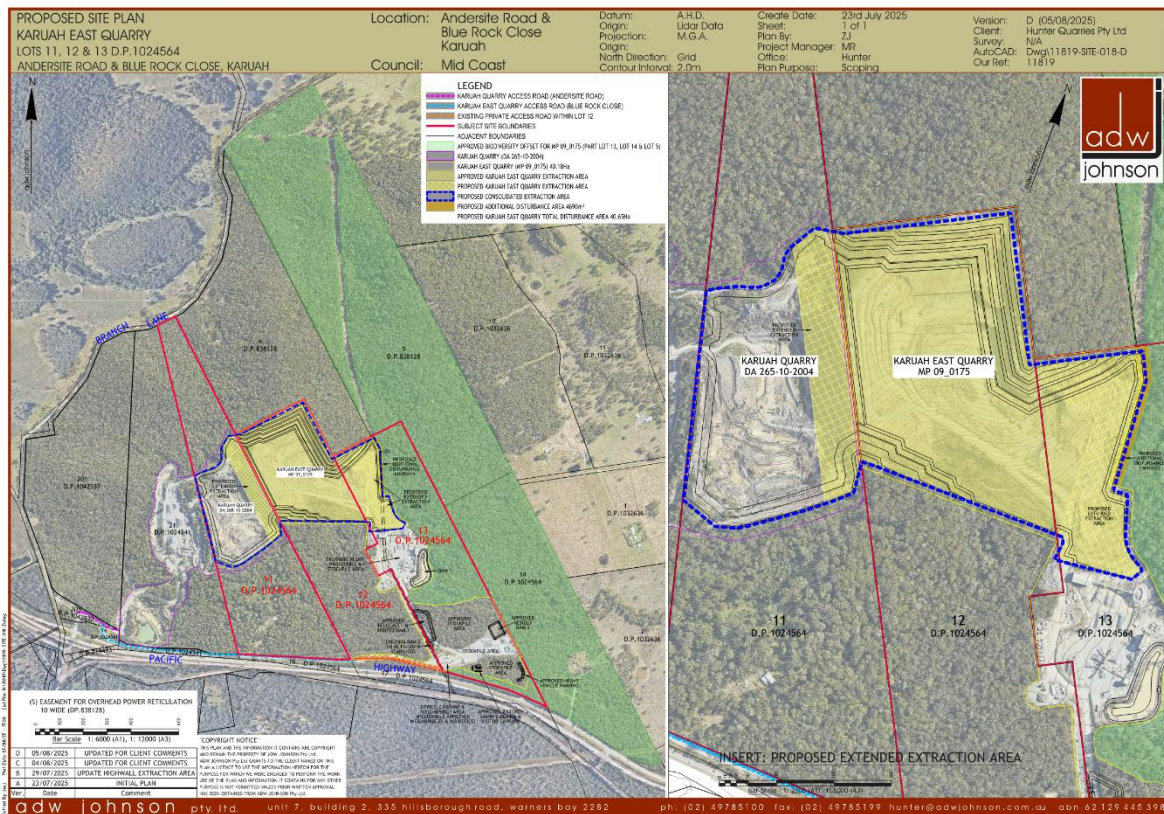


Figure 3. Proposed Site Plan Karuah East Quarry with Project Area in orange. (Source: ADW Johnson)

1.2 Overview of Project Proposal

The proposed Project which is the subject of this report represents a modification to the SSD approval for the KEQ (Project Approval MP09_0175) under the provisions of S4.55(2) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, and is so bound by conditions of this approval (Figure 3).

The proposed modification consists of:

1. Concurrent modification of the KEQ Project Approval (MP09_0175) and the adjoining KHRQ Development Consent (DA265-10-2004) to extract the known resource contained within already disturbed areas of Lot 11, Lot 12 and Lot 13, including the dividing highwall, within currently approved extraction depths of RL45 at KEQ and RL65 at KHRQ.
 Note – This document relates specifically to the proposed modification to the KEQ consent.
2. Minor extension to the KEQ disturbance area of approximately 4,690m² in the north eastern corner of the site. This area is highly degraded and comprised entirely of exotic and disturbed vegetation. It has been historically cleared and managed to support a now redundant powerline corridor (infrastructure has been previously removed).
3. Minor extension and overlap of extraction boundaries of the KEQ and adjoining KHRQ (to holistically encompass the highwall structure). No changes to approved disturbance boundaries are sought to facilitate this outcome.
4. Continued environmental management. Environmental safeguards incorporated into Management Plans in place for the KEQ will be reviewed and updated to accommodate the proposal.

5. Changes to approved blasting activity including a reduction in cumulative weekly blasts between both the KEQ and KHRQ (from three to two) and achieving consistent blasting hours between both the KEQ and KHRQ.
6. Revised final landform resulting in a free-draining landscape of the current extraction area, resulting in reduced geotechnical risks over the long-term and a landform with greater consistency with the existing surrounding environment.

This document relates specifically to point 2, the proposed increase in size of the project disturbance area. Further details are provided in Section 6.2.

1.3 Methodology

This assessment was written in accordance with the *Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in NSW* (DECCW 2010b), and was undertaken in accordance with the approved Karuah East Quarry Heritage Management Plan (Heritage Now 2023).

The five steps of the due diligence process, and where they are outlined within this report, are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Steps in the DECCW 2010 Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales, and corresponding report section.

Aboriginal Heritage Due Diligence Requirements	Report Section
Step 1— Project Proposal. Assess whether the activity will disturb the ground surface.	Section 1.2 and 6.1
Step 2a—Heritage Context. Search the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) database (and other relevant sources of information) to check whether any Aboriginal sites have been recorded in the area, or whether or not Aboriginal objects are likely to be in the present area.	Section 4.2.1
Step 2b—Environmental Context. Consider whether Aboriginal objects are likely to be in the area of the proposed activity based on landscape features, and whether the land is disturbed.	Section 3
Step 3—Impact Assessment. Assess whether you can avoid harm to the object or disturbance of the landscape feature.	Section 6.2
Step 4—Visual Inspection. Undertake desktop assessment and visual inspection.	Section 5 (and throughout report)
Step 5—Conclusions and Recommendations. Specify whether further investigations and a formal impact assessment is required.	Section 6.3 and 7

1.4 Authorship and Acknowledgements

This report was produced by the Heritage Now team. The report was written by Crystal Phillips (Heritage Consultant), Daniel Hounsell (Senior Heritage Consultant) and Tiffany Jones (Heritage Consultant), with input from Jacqueline Chua (Heritage Officer). Technical input and quality review was provided by Jenna Weston (Senior Heritage Consultant) and Tessa Boer-Mah, Principal Heritage Consultant at Heritage Now.

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1.5 Agency Consultation

This report was provided to Heritage NSW for comment (Attachment 1). The advice provided, and how this has been addressed, is outlined in Table 2.

Table 2. Response to Heritage NSW comments on the report.

Heritage NSW comment	Response
Address the <i>Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW</i> (OEH 2011)	Figure 1 of the Guide refers to using the <i>Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in NSW</i> (DECCW 2010b) to determine whether the proposed activity could harm Aboriginal objects or declared Aboriginal places, and whether further investigation is required. This report fulfills this requirement, and has determined that there are no proposed impacts to Aboriginal sites and no further investigation is required (see Section 7).
Address the <i>Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales</i> (DECCW 2010)	Section 2.1 of the Code refers to reviewing the landscape context (see Section 3) and previous archaeological work (see Section 4), and undertaking survey of the impact area (see Section 5).
Present the report as an Addendum to existing project assessments	Section 1 outlines details of the project approval and Section 4.2.2 outlines previous assessments under this approval. The report was prepared in accordance with the approved Karuah East Quarry Heritage Management Plan (Heritage Now 2023).
Consultation regarding the Modification should be undertaken with the established group of RAPs for the project, in the form of an update letter and provision of the Addendum report for comment	This report was provided for comment to the Aboriginal stakeholders identified in the approved Karuah East Quarry Heritage Management Plan (Heritage Now 2023) (Table 3, Attachment 2).

Table 3. Aboriginal stakeholders identified in the Heritage Management Plan (Heritage Now 2023:Table 3).

Organisation/Contact Name	Date report sent and details of any comments received
Mur-Roo-Ma Inc/Anthony Anderson	7 November 2025
Worimi LALC/Andrew Smith	7 November 2025
Garrigal Aboriginal Community Inc/Del Arnold	7 November 2025. A letter response dated 29 November 2025 was received by Heritage Now by mail on 30 January 2026. The response centred around general environmental concerns and the application of traditional law rather than any project-specific heritage-related matters. Due to the nature of the content of the letter and associated safety concerns, no further correspondence was provided regarding this matter. We note the MOD11 project will be subject to rigorous environmental assessment to appropriately consider the potential impacts to each environmental aspect.
Nur-Run-Gee Pty Ltd/Leanne Anderson	7 November 2025
Karuah LALC/Michael Rodgers	7 November 2025
Worimi Aboriginal Community Co-operative/Cheryl Hendry	7 November 2025
Maaiangal Aboriginal Heritage/Carol Ridgeway-Bissett	7 November 2025. Detailed feedback and Heritage Now response provided in Attachment 2; and incorporated into Section 3.2 of the report.
Forster LALC/Lorna Paulson	7 November 2025
Interim Worimi Knowledgeholders Council/Mick Leon	7 November 2025
Worimi Conservation Lands/Steve Larkin	7 November 2025

2 Legislative Context

This section provides an outline of the Acts, Regulations and guidelines under which this assessment was undertaken. It is for information purposes only and should not be taken as legal advice.

2.1 Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)

The *Native Title Act 1993* recognises and protects the native title rights and interests of Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders. The Act established the National Native Title Tribunal as an independent body to administer native title claims. It also authorises the making and registration of Indigenous Land Use Agreements about the use and management of land or waters.

A search of the National Native Title Tribunal registers of native title information was undertaken on 14 May 2024. There are no relevant entries for the Project Area on the Register of Native Title Claims, National Native Title Register, or Register of Indigenous Land Use Agreements.

2.2 National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NSW)

The *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW Act) contains provisions for protecting Aboriginal objects and declared Aboriginal Places in NSW. An Aboriginal object is defined as:

...any deposit, object or material evidence (not being a handicraft made for sale) relating to the Aboriginal habitation of the area that comprises New South Wales, being habitation before or concurrent with (or both) the occupation of that area by persons of non-Aboriginal extraction, and includes Aboriginal remains.

An Aboriginal Place is an area of land that “is or was of special significance with respect to Aboriginal culture”, and is recognised by a declaration published in the Government Gazette by the Minister for Environment and Heritage.

Under Section 86 of the NPW Act, it is an offence to harm (destroy, deface or damage) or desecrate an Aboriginal object or an Aboriginal Place. The definition of harm includes moving an object from the land on which it is situated. The NPW Act sets out tiered strict liability offences and penalties for harming or desecrating Aboriginal objects or places.

Under Section 87, there are certain defences to the offence of harm. These include that harm was carried out under an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP); that due diligence was exercised to determine if an action would harm an Aboriginal object; or that an activity was prescribed by the *National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019* as being low impact.

Under Section 89A, an Aboriginal object must be reported to Heritage NSW within a reasonable timeframe unless they have previously been recorded and submitted to the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS).

2.2.1 National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019

This Regulation provides a framework for exercising due diligence and outlines codes of practice in respect to Aboriginal objects (Section 57), as well as defences for carrying out certain low-impact activities (Section 58). The Regulation also outlines requirements for Aboriginal consultation (Section 60), particularly in relation to an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit. Under the Regulation, the following codes of practice are recognised, amongst others:

- *Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in NSW* (DECCW 2010b)
- *NSW Minerals Industry Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects* (NSW Minerals Council 2010)
- *Operational Guidelines for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management - a Due Diligence Code of Practice* (Forestry Corporation of NSW 2021)
- *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW* (DECCW 2010b)

2.3 Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 (NSW)

The *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* provides land rights to Aboriginal people through the Local Aboriginal Land Councils. It details a process for claiming unused Crown land in NSW and for enabling land use. It also allows for agreements to permit traditional hunting, fishing and gathering. The Office of the Registrar, *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* (NSW) (ORALRA), registers land claims and maintains the Register of Aboriginal Land Claims and Register of Aboriginal Owners.

The Project Area is not Crown land and cannot be subject to a claim under this Act.

This Act also identifies the functions of Local Aboriginal Land Councils in relation to Aboriginal culture and heritage, including taking action to protect Aboriginal culture and heritage, and promoting awareness in the community of Aboriginal culture and heritage in the Council's area.

The Project Area is within the boundaries of Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council.

2.4 Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW)

The *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) provides triggers for undertaking environmental and heritage assessments as part of the wider land-use planning framework. Part 4 details how authorities are to determine development applications, as well as identifying whether projects require an Environmental Impact Statement. Part 9 outlines the implementation and enforcement of the EP&A Act.

The EP&A Act also allows for the making of State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPPs) that deal with matters of State or Regional planning significance, and Local Environmental Plans (LEPs) for the purpose of planning within a Local Government Area (LGA). Heritage items (which can include buildings, works, places, relics, trees, objects or archaeological sites) and heritage conservation areas (including associated fabric, settings and views) are identified in the environmental heritage schedule attached to a SEPP or LEP.

The Project Area is located within the Mid Coast LGA (formerly City of Greater Taree, Gloucester Shire and Great Lakes LGAs, now merged; the Project Area was located within the former Great Lakes LGA). Heritage items are described in Schedule 5 of the Great Lakes LEP 2014.

2.4.1 Great Lakes Local Environmental Plan 2014

The Great Lakes LEP 2014 requires development consent to demolish, disturb, excavate or develop land that is within an Aboriginal place of significance, or on which an Aboriginal object is known or is reasonably likely to be located.

Under Section 5.10, the consent authority must consider the effect of a proposal on the heritage significance of the place and any Aboriginal object and must notify the local Aboriginal communities

about the proposal where impacts to Aboriginal cultural heritage may occur and take into consideration any response received within 28 days after the notice is sent. There are no Aboriginal objects or Aboriginal places of heritage significance in the Project Area listed on the LEP.

2.4.2 Draft Mid Coast Local Environmental Plan

The draft Mid Coast LEP will consolidate three (3) separate LEPs that are currently administered by Mid Coast Council, including the Gloucester LEP 2010, the Greater Taree LEP 2010 and the Great Lakes LEP 2014. The draft LEP was exhibited until 14 July 2024.

Consistent with the current LEP provisions, the draft LEP will require development consent to demolish, disturb, excavate or develop land that is within an Aboriginal place of significance, or on which an Aboriginal object is known or is reasonably likely to be located.

Consistent with the current LEP provisions, under Section 5.10, the consent authority must consider the effect of a proposal on the heritage significance of the place and any Aboriginal object and must notify the local Aboriginal communities about the proposal where impacts to Aboriginal cultural heritage may occur and take into consideration any response received within 28 days after the notice is sent.

There are no Aboriginal objects or Aboriginal places of heritage significance in the Project Area listed in the draft LEP.

3 Environmental Context

This section provides the environmental context for the assessment of past Aboriginal occupation in the Project Area, focussing on whether there were any landscape features that were likely to indicate the presence of Aboriginal objects (DECCW 2010c, 10).

3.1 Geology, Topography and Soils

Geological mapping indicates that the Project Area is located on the Nerong Volcanics formation of the Gilmore Volcanics Group (Figure 4). This is a carboniferous, siliceous, volcanic flow consisting of toscanite (also known as rhyodacite), dacite, andesite, ignimbrite, agglomerate, conglomerate, sandstone and siltstone (Matson and Chesnut 1975).

The Project Area lies on a steep slope of a large hill, on the Gan Gan Soil Landscape (Figure 5). This is a colluvial soil landscape typically located on Nerong Volcanics geology. The topography of this soil landscape is characterised by steep to very steep cone-shaped hills, with steep, uneven, and boulder strewn slopes. Soils are discontinuous on crests, and are often only found in small depressions or in rock crevices. When they occur, they are generally shallow (total depth of <30cm); with topsoil of up to 10cm of stony brownish black sandy loam (A₁ horizon), overlying rock or shallow subsoil of up to 10cm of bleached stony hard setting sandy clay loam (A₂ horizon). On side slopes, there is generally up to 5cm of the A₁ horizon and 5-40cm of the A₂ horizon, which may overlies pockets of up to 75cm of yellowish brown well-structured light clay (B horizon). However, often the A₁ horizon is absent. Total soil depth varies, from no cover in areas with rock outcrop, to <80cm on rock joints and crevices (DPIE 2020).

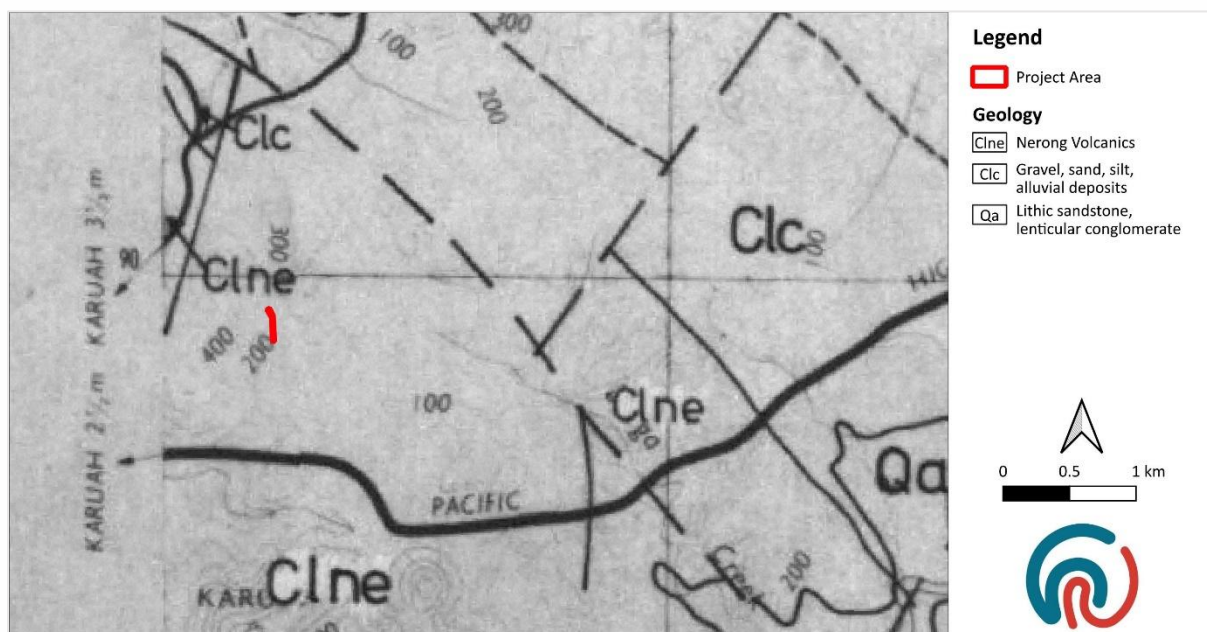


Figure 4. Geological formations of the Project Area and surrounding area (Source: Matson & Chesnut, with Heritage Now additions)

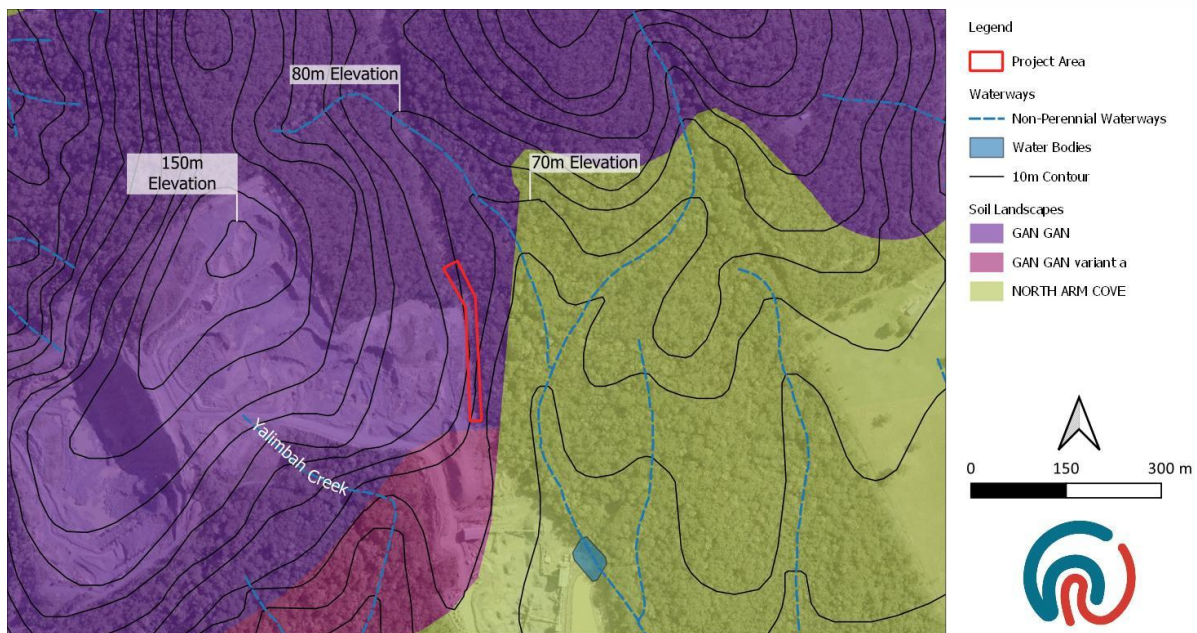


Figure 5. Soil landscapes, topography and hydrology of the Project Area and surrounding region. (Source: Soil Landscapes based on State Government of NSW and Department of Planning and Environment 2023, SCP with Heritage Now additions)

3.2 Hydrology

The Project Area is located within the Karuah catchment, which drains towards Port Stephens. The Karuah River is located approximately 4.3km to the west, and together with its tributaries forms one of the three major river systems in the Karuah River Basin (NSW Department of Industry 2018).

The area around the Karuah River and Port Stephens is known to have been a rich source of terrestrial and estuarine resources for Aboriginal people in the past, including into the historic period. The Karuah Aboriginal Reserve at Sawyers Point (also known as the Karuah mission) was established in 1898 and operated until 1923 (Thinee and Bradford 1998, 358). Stories of life in the region indicate that members of the community from the mission were involved in the timber and fishing industries; employed in cutting timber and timber getting, boat building, furniture making, fishing, oystering and net making (Schilling 2014, iii). Fish was an important source of food including flathead (Schilling 2014, 25), and shellfish including oysters were collected from the rocks of the Karuah River (Schilling 2014, 24, 30, 40). Carol Ridgeway-Bissett (Maaingal Aboriginal Heritage), who provided a feedback on the report, also raised that mullet was important, and the flowering of a particular wattle signified the start of the mullet run, with an Aboriginal lookout posted on one of the trees overlooking the main waterways; and fish hooks were made from certain plant parts. Carol also emphasised that water is used for a number of purposes: drinking, cooking, washing and ceremony.

The Project Area is approximately 195m north-east of Yalimbah Creek (Figure 5), a small (first order, non-perennial) tidal channel which flows in a southerly direction towards Number One Cove, and then into the Karuah River. The creek is surrounded by mixed mangrove and salt marsh at the upstream end, and mangrove forest in the intertidal regions at the downstream end (Davies 2016).

A similar (first order, non-perennial) unnamed creek also lies c.100m north-east of the Project Area. This flows in a generally south-easterly direction into Bulga Creek and onwards into the Karuah River via North Arm Cove.

3.3 Flora and Fauna

This section is intended to give a general overview of the flora and fauna that may have been used by Aboriginal people in the past. The information is supplied for understanding the past Aboriginal use of the landscape and is not intended for ecological assessment purposes.

Past Aboriginal people are likely to have encountered native vegetation similar to Northern Hinterland Wet Sclerophyll Forests, one of the classes in the Wet sclerophyll forests (grassy sub-formation) formation (Keith 2006, 70–71). These forests are characterised by an open canopy dominated by straight-trunked Eucalypts (including blue gums, mahoganies, peppermints and green-leaved ashes), and a mesophyllous (soft-leaved) understorey of shrubs, fern and herbs (NSW Environment, Energy and Science 2022).

Hard wood Eucalypts were used by Aboriginal people to create tools and weapons such as clubs, shields, spears and digging sticks (Brayshaw 1987). The forests could have also provided habitat to a variety of species that could have been food resources to Aboriginal people including possums, gliders, potoroos and pademelons (NSW Environment, Energy and Science 2022).

3.4 Land-Use

Land is considered disturbed if it has been the subject of human activity that has changed the land's surface, being changes that remain clear and observable. Examples include ploughing, construction of rural infrastructure, roads, trails and tracks, vegetation clearance, construction of buildings, structures and utilities and other impacts involving earthworks (DECCW 2010b, 18).

The Project Area is within the original extent of the Australian Agricultural Company's (AACo.) one-million-acre Crown Grant in the Port Stephens area. It is located approximately 4km north-west of Carrington, which was established as the AAcO. head settlement in 1826 (Benson 2012, 5); and 1km north of the former No.1 Farm on the flats at the head of Yalimbah Creek, the AAcO.'s first (unsuccessful) agricultural venture in New South Wales (Benson 2012).

On an 1826 map by AAcO. surveyor George Eld Darby, land within the Port Stephens Grant was represented as: good, of middling quality, or bad. The Project Area was within part of the grant considered to be "bad land" (Darby 1826); that is, it did not offer the characteristics thought necessary for farming at the time. An 1828 plan of the AAcO. grant indicates that it was located between the No.1 Farm and 'high rocky ranges' to the south; and 'inferior country' to the north (Figure 6).

In 1849, after 20 years of cultivation and grazing operations in the region, it was realised that much of the grant was unsuitable for grazing merino sheep (State Library of NSW 2016). The AAcO. decided to offer 500,000 acres for sale or lease, and issued a prospectus for "The Port Stephens Colony" (Harris 1849, 2–3).

An analysis of historical aerial imagery from 1958-2023 suggests that the Project Area remained forested into the 20th century, with clearing for an electricity infrastructure easement throughout the Project Area from 2001 (Figure 7-Figure 12). The Karuah Quarry was approved to operate from Lot 21 DP1024341 (formerly part Lot 222) in 1997 and approval was obtained to expand the Karuah Quarry to the east (Stage 2) across Lot 11 DP1024564 in June 2005 (DA 265-10-2004). The separate Karuah East Quarry, located on Lots 12 and 13 DP1024564 was approved in June 2014 (MP09_0175), and was constructed in 2016. It has been operational since late 2017. The electricity easement is located adjacent to the north-western boundary of the KEQ, and KEQPL have identified that it is

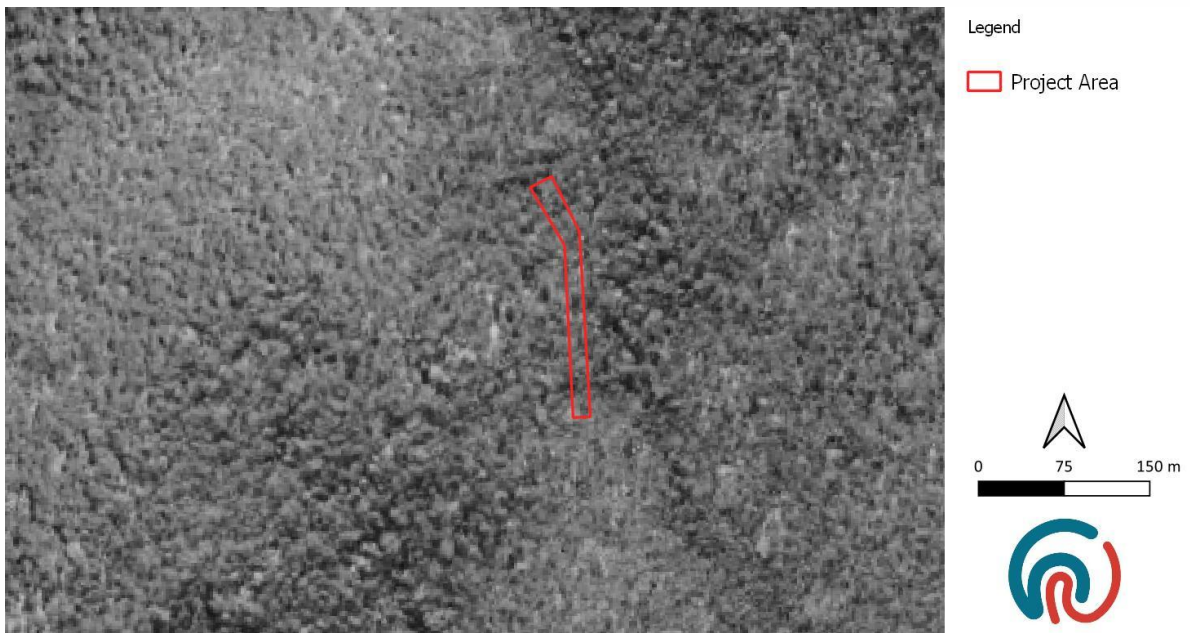


Figure 8. The Project Area in 1974. (Source: Spatial Services Historical Imagery Viewer)



Figure 9. The Project Area in 1993. (Source: Spatial Services Historical Imagery Viewer)



Figure 10. The Project Area in 2001. (Source: Spatial Services Historical Imagery Viewer)

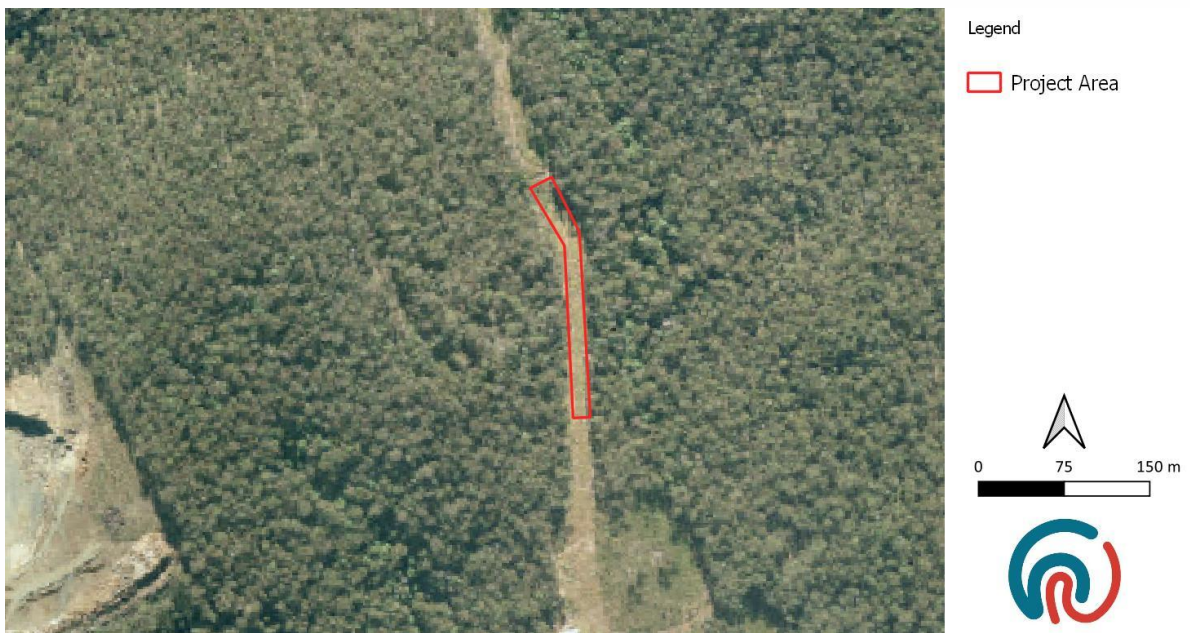


Figure 11. The Project Area in 2006. (Source: Spatial Services Historical Imagery Viewer)



Figure 12. The Project Area in 2023. (Source: Spatial Services Historical Imagery Viewer)

3.5 Synthesis

The Project Area lies within 200m of two minor creeks which may have provided a source of fresh water for Aboriginal people in the past, although locations closer to the resource rich Karuah River and Port Stephens estuary would most likely have been more suitable for resource gathering and long-term habitation. Further, given the steepness of the Project Area, it is considered unlikely that it would have been used as a place to camp or as a travel route by past Aboriginal people.

The land-use analysis suggests that the Project Area has been disturbed by vegetation clearance and creation of an electricity infrastructure easement in the early 2000s, and the ongoing use and maintenance of the easement. The degree of disturbance was further examined during the visual inspection (Section 5).

4 Heritage Context

This section outlines the Aboriginal heritage context of the Project Area. It includes a general outline of Aboriginal occupation in Australia and the region, an analysis of search results from the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS), as well as summaries of relevant heritage studies.

4.1 Historic Records of Aboriginal Occupation (Ethnohistory)

The traditional custodians of the Karuah area are the Worimi people of the Kattang language group (Enright 1932). The southern boundary of Worimi Country is thought to begin on the northern side of the Hunter River (near Newcastle) and west towards Maitland. The northern boundary was Forster, and then inland their territory extended to Gresford, Glendon Brook, Dungog and the upper Myall Creek (Tindale 1974). Oral histories passed down by Elders record that their territory was bound by four rivers, these being the Hunter River in the south, the Manning River in the north and the Allyn and Patterson Rivers in the west (Worimi Conservation Lands, n.d.). Worimi people use the term *ngurra* to identify groups living within their territory, and Elders record that there were eighteen different *ngurra*, although these were generally categorized in four distinct groups, with Maiangal and Gamaipingal being saltwater groups, and Garuagal and Buraigal being inland groups (Worimi Conservation Lands, n.d.).

During the early period of colonisation, Port Stephens became a popular haven for escaped convicts, so a garrison of soldiers was established in 1820. In 1826, the AACo. acquired one million acres in Port Stephens, including the current Project Area. The AACo. Commissioner, Robert Dawson, set up camp near the shoreline of Port Stephens at Carrington. He described the Worimi people more favourably than other groups he had encountered, and apparently did his best to protect them from the violence of cedar cutters and convicts. Unfortunately, the presence of colonists had profound effects on the local Aboriginal people, displacing them from the land and resources, and disrupting their way of life. Dawson noted that during his period of residence, Aboriginal people discarded their traditional tools, replacing them with European iron tomahawks and iron fishhooks. He also makes note of how the actions of the local Aboriginal people aided in the success of the settlement by providing food (such as kangaroo, warrigal greens, lobsters, crabs and oysters), cutting bark for building shelters (Dawson 1830, 19), carrying water, helping to store and preserve supplies, and acting as guides (Dawson 1830, 28). He also describes how many Aboriginal people were “employed” by the AACo. (in return for food and clothing), with jobs including carrying water, collecting and chopping wood, catching fish, sawing planks, rowing boats, burning shells into lime, washing clothes and caring for the settlers’ children (Dawson 1830).

4.2 Archaeological Background

Australia and New Guinea were connected as a single continental landmass called Sahul and have been occupied by humans for at least 65,000 years (Clarkson et al. 2017). Eastern NSW has been occupied from at least 50,000 years ago (Williams et al. 2017). The earliest archaeological evidence of occupation from the Port Stephens area is 14,000 years (Baker 1994). This date comes from the Moffats Swamp Dune approximately 15km south-west of the Project Area.

There are many types of evidence of past Aboriginal occupation which form the archaeological record of a region. Places which show evidence of Aboriginal occupation of an area in the past are

described as archaeological sites. These sites contain numerous site features, as defined in Table 4. Some archaeological sites contain more than one of these features.

Table 4. Aboriginal site features description, as per OEH 2012 unless otherwise referenced.

Site Features	OEH 2012 Description
Aboriginal Ceremony and Dreaming	Previously referred to as mythological sites these are spiritual/story places where no physical evidence of previous use of the place may occur, e.g., natural unmodified landscape features, ceremonial or spiritual areas, men's/women's sites, dreaming (creation) tracks, marriage places etc.
Aboriginal Resource and Gathering	Related to everyday activities such as food gathering, hunting, or collection and manufacture of materials and goods for use or trade.
Artefact	Objects such as stone tools, and associated flaked material, spears, manuports, grindstones, discarded stone flakes, modified glass or shell demonstrating evidence of use of the area by Aboriginal people.
Burial	A traditional or contemporary (post-contact) burial of an Aboriginal person, which may occur outside designated cemeteries and may not be marked, e.g., in caves, marked by stone cairns, in sand areas, along creek banks etc.
Conflict	Previously referred to as massacre sites where confrontations occurred between (1) Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people, or (2) between different Aboriginal groups.
Earth Mound	A mounded deposit of round to oval shape containing baked clay lumps, ash, charcoal and, usually, black or dark grey sediment. The deposit may be compacted or loose and ashy. Mounds may contain various economic remains such as mussel shell and bone as well as stone artefacts. Occasionally they contain burials.
Modified Tree	Trees which show the marks of modification as a result of cutting of bark from the trunk for use in the production of shields, canoes, boomerangs, burials shrouds, for medicinal purposes, foot holds etc, or alternately intentional carving of the heartwood of the tree to form a permanent marker to indicate ceremonial use/significance of a nearby area, again these carvings may also act as territorial or burial markers.
Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD)	An area where sub-surface stone artefacts and/or other cultural materials are likely to occur' (DECCW 2010a, 38).
Shell	An accumulation or deposit of shellfish from beach, estuarine, lacustrine or riverine species resulting from Aboriginal gathering and consumption. Usually found in deposits previously referred to as shell middens. Must be found in association with other objects like stone tools, fish bones, charcoal, fireplaces/hearths, and burials. Will vary greatly in size and components.
Stone Arrangement	Human produced arrangements of stone usually associated with ceremonial activities, or used as markers for territorial limits or to mark/protect burials.

Most details of known Aboriginal archaeology in the region are contained in the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS), which is discussed below.

4.2.1 Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS)

Aboriginal sites recorded in NSW are registered with geographic co-ordinates in the AHIMS and are protected under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. Data in AHIMS can provide information on Aboriginal site patterning as well as showing if Aboriginal sites occur in the Project Area.

The AHIMS was searched on 9 October 2025, from Eastings 401030 - 411030 to Northings 6384776 - 6394776. The search produced a result of 72 sites (Table 5, Attachment 3), most of which are located north, west and south of the Project Area along the Port Stephens foreshore and in the vicinity of the Karuah River banks and foreshore (Figure 13). No Aboriginal sites or declared Aboriginal places are recorded within the Project Area.

Almost 42% of the total number of sites contain stone artefacts, with a further 25% containing artefacts and shell (clustered along the shores of the Karuah River, where shellfish were available). Stone artefacts and shell often dominate the archaeological record because they are preserved well in comparison to other materials such as bone implements, clothing, ornamentation, medicinal supplies, woven goods, and wooden weapons used by Aboriginal people. Modified trees, Aboriginal ceremony and Dreaming and resource and gathering sites, a potential archaeological deposit, stone arrangement site, conflict site, earth mound and burial site were also recorded in the region (Table 5).

Table 5. AHIMS site types.

Context	Site Types	Count	Per cent
Open Sites	Artefact	29	40.28%
	Artefact + Shell	18	25.00%
	Modified Tree	9	12.50%
	Aboriginal Resource and Gathering	7	9.78%
	Aboriginal Ceremony and Dreaming	2	2.78%
	Aboriginal Resource and Gathering + Aboriginal Ceremony and Dreaming + Modified Tree	1	1.39%
	Stone Arrangement	1	1.39%
	PAD	1	1.39%
	Conflict	1	1.39%
	Earth Mound	1	1.39%
	Burial	1	1.39%
	Aboriginal Ceremony and Dreaming + Artefact	1	1.39%
Grand Total		72	100%

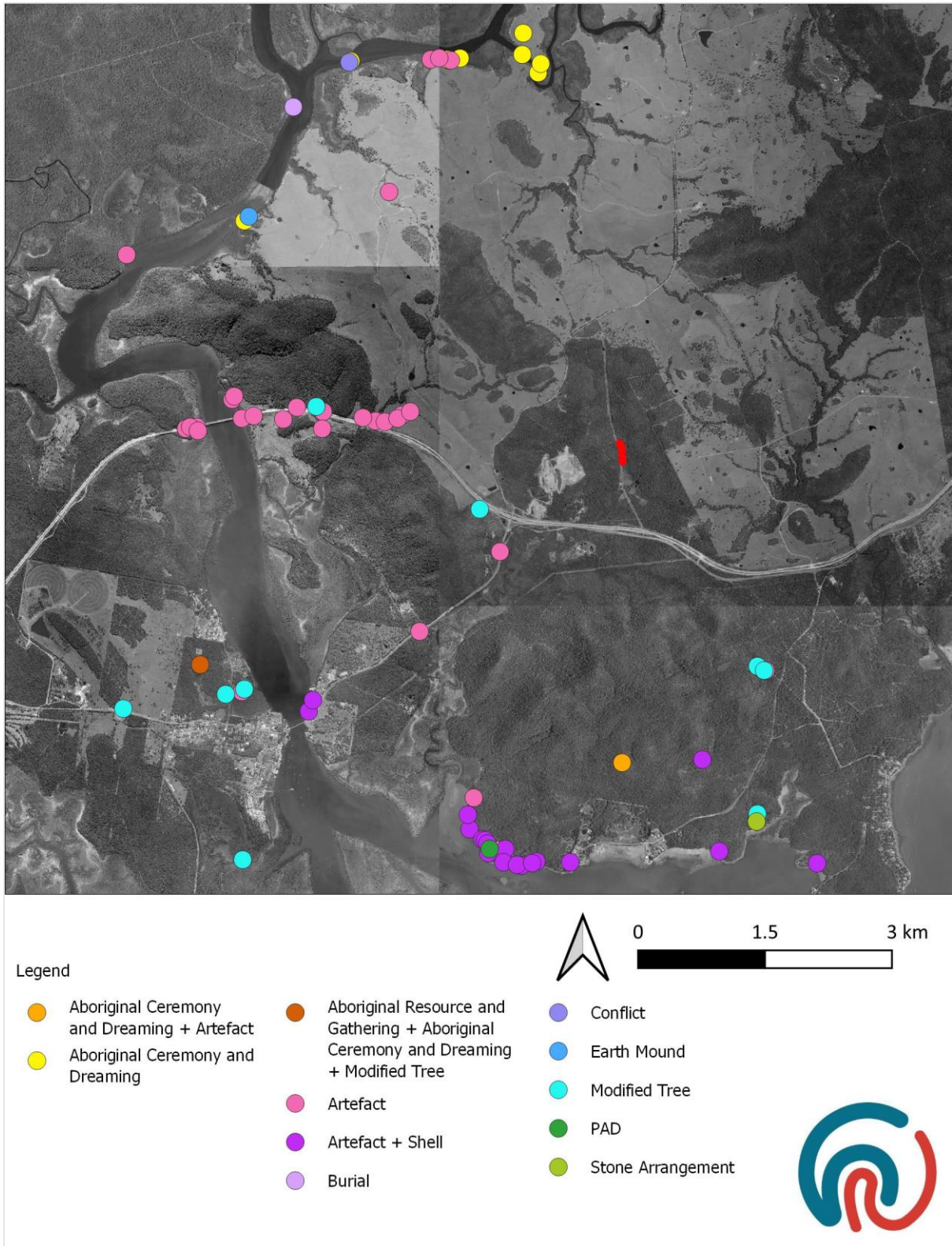


Figure 13. AHIMS search results. (Source: SCP with Heritage Now and AHIMS additions)

4.2.2 Heritage Report Summaries

Heritage reports relevant to the Project Area have been summarised in this section to provide an understanding of the previous assessments that have been undertaken and the implications for Aboriginal site patterning.

RPS (2011 & 2012) Karuah East Quarry (MP09_0175)

RPS undertook two archaeological surveys for the existing Karuah East Quarry, including the current Project Area. The study area consisted of vacant land, characterised by the Gan Gan Soil Landscape. Ground surface visibility was low, and exposures were generally limited to an existing unsealed vehicle track. It was concluded that the area had previously been subjected to land clearing, and no Aboriginal sites were identified. It was recommended that no further archaeological investigations were required, but that works must stop if any Aboriginal sites were identified (RPS 2012; 2012).

Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council (2018) Karuah East Quarry (MP09_0175) MOD1

In 2018, Karuah LALC assessed the possible impact of an additional disturbance area of 2,500m² (located approximately 190m south-west of the Project Area) at Karuah East Quarry (MOD1). MOD1 resulted in improved vehicle manoeuvring in proximity of the crushing plant and processing area. The survey identified this land as being of low archaeological potential due to the steep slope and distance from reliable sources of water, as well as an absence of older growth trees (Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council 2018, 14).

RPS (2018) Karuah East Quarry (MP09_0175) MOD2

In 2018, RPS undertook a due diligence assessment for a modification of the Karuah East Quarry project approval (MOD2). MOD2 provided approval to expand the area of disturbance of the Karuah East Quarry adjacent to the western edge of the quarry by 1.133ha (located approximately 400m south-west of the Project Area). MOD2 facilitated improved environmental management and improved operational safety by allowing separation of light and heavy vehicles on the internal north-south haulage road.

Desktop investigation identified two Aboriginal objects within 1km of the MOD2 Project Area; however, pedestrian survey found no Aboriginal objects or sites within the study area itself. The archaeological sensitivity of the study area was assessed as low (RPS 2018, 16).

RPS (2021) Karuah East Quarry (MP09_0175) MOD10

RPS undertook a due diligence assessment for the proposed modification of the Karuah East Quarry (MOD10), which increased the disturbance area at Karuah East Quarry by 7.17ha to allow for an increase in product stockpiling, improved water management, a new administrative building, additional parking and improved vehicle manoeuvring.

No Aboriginal objects or sites were identified during the visual inspection of the area. Ground surface visibility was moderate throughout. There was limited material identified, and significant quantities of imported material were also observed. These materials were assessed as not suitable for artefact manufacture. The sub-surface archaeological potential was considered low due to the amount of disturbance and erosion (RPS 2021).

Myall Coast Archaeological Services (2000) “Karuah Holdings” North Arm Cove

Myall Coast Archaeological Services undertook an archaeological survey of approximately 350ha in the vicinity of Carrington/North Arm Cove for a proposed rural subdivision of “Karuah Holdings”, c.430m east of the Project Area. The subject site consisted of mostly cleared farmland, as well as a dam, hills and Bulga Creek. No Aboriginal sites were identified on the farmland, hills or in the vicinity of the dam, which was attributed to disturbance from long-term land use for farming, and the close distance to “better” sites for Aboriginal occupation (Bulga Creek and the shoreline of Port Stephens). However, a number of scarred stringybark trees were found among remnant native vegetation along Bulga Creek, ranging in condition from poor to extremely good (Myall Coast Archaeological Services 2000).

JMCHM (1997) Karuah Hard Rock Quarry (DA 265-19-2004)

In 1997, JMCHM conducted a survey of part Lots 221 and 222 DP573153 for an expansion of the Karuah Quarry, c.700m west of the Project Area. No Aboriginal sites were identified, which was attributed to poor ground surface visibility, previous vegetation clearing and possibly logging activities, and the steep nature of the upper hill slopes (JMCHM 1997).

ERM Mitchell McCotter Pty Ltd (1998) Pacific Highway Upgrade Between Karuah and Bulahdelah

An archaeological assessment was undertaken by ERM Mitchell McCotter Pty Ltd in 1998, along a 38km corridor of the Pacific Highway and the associated easement between Karuah and Bulahdelah, c.780m south of the Project Area. The study area for the highway upgrade project included both forested land and cleared land used for cattle grazing on grass pastures, as well as areas of salty marsh, plantation pine woodland and regenerated scrub. A survey was undertaken which sampled land adjacent to the road corridor. While ground surface visibility was generally good, the archaeological potential of the corridor was considered limited due to previous disturbance from road works and associated construction. No archaeological sites were identified; however, it was noted that any subsurface investigation needed would be part of a future second stage of investigation (ERM Mitchell McCotter Pty Ltd 1998).

Heritage Now (2023) Karuah Red Quarry (SEARs 937)

Heritage Now assessed an area proposed to obtain a new quarry (to be known as Karuah Red Quarry), c.800m west of the Project Area, which also did not identify any Aboriginal sites or potential archaeological deposits (Heritage Now Pty Ltd 2023).

OzArk Environmental & Heritage Management (EHM) (2012) Telstra Fibre Optic Cable, Karuah

This report was commissioned by Telstra for proposed impacts associated with the installation of fibre optic cable at Karuah, the route of which runs approximately 840m south of the Project Area, to the south of the Pacific Highway.

A survey was conducted by pedestrian transects. No Aboriginal sites or areas of archaeological potential were recorded. Much of the study area for the optic cable project was considered disturbed by previous construction, or too vegetated or inundated to be surveyed. The location of a previously recorded possible scarred tree (KA28 [AHIMS 38-4-0637], discussed above) was not able to be confirmed (OzArk EHM 2012).

Navin Officer (1999, 2000) Proposed Pacific Highway Karuah Bypass & Duplication

Surface survey and subsurface investigations were conducted for the proposed Pacific Highway Karuah bypass route, the alignment of which was approximately 10km long and 100m wide, extending north-east from the existing highway to the west of the Reedy Creek Crossing and re-joining the highway to the north of Yalimbah Creek (Navin Officer 1999). The study area is approximately 1.1km south-west of the Project Area at the nearest point.

Surface survey identified eight Aboriginal sites (including five artefact sites, one estuarine midden and two probable Aboriginal scarred trees) and ten areas of archaeological potential. Of particular interest are sites KA22 (KPAD4) and KA23 (KPAD5) (located approximately 3.8km west of the Project Area), as they are mapped within the same Gan Gan Soil Landscape as the Project Area:

- Site KA22 (KPAD4) was identified as a potential archaeological deposit (PAD) located on a low gradient toe slope overlooking the upper reaches of an unnamed creek-line which joins the Karuah River. Twelve pits were excavated across the face of the slope, from which nine artefacts were recovered (five made of tuff and four of an unidentified stone material). The majority of pits were dug to a depth of 20-30cm, but some were as shallow as 10cm or as deep as 50cm. The soil was described as dark grey brown loamy silt with dark grey mottling, which sometimes included yellowish clayey mottling, overlying yellow brown clay (Navin Officer 1999, 100–105).
- KA23 (KPAD5) was also identified as a PAD, located on level ground on a ridgeline overlooking the eastern side of the Karuah River valley. Eight pits were excavated from which three tuff artefacts were recovered. Most pits were dug to a depth of 40cm, but some were as shallow as 20cm or as deep as 60cm. The soil was described as dark grey brown loamy with coarse sandy content, which overlies light grey sandy silt that contained sandstone gravel or rubble, on top of yellow brown clay (Navin Officer 1999, 106–11).

It was concluded that it was likely that a few separate low-intensity knapping and discard activities took place at both sites over an unspecified period of time.

Generally, subsurface investigations recovered artefacts in greater quantities close to major watercourses (the Karuah River and Mosquito Creek), on flat elevated land that had good drainage. The quantity of artefacts from these areas were considered to be evidence of focused activity (Navin Officer Heritage Consultants 1999, 134).

Supplementary surveys undertaken for the proposed locations of work camps, construction material depots and sediment basins identified a possible scarred tree (KA28) approximately 1.8km south-west of the Project Area. KA28 was located on the basal slopes of a range of hills, and identified as probably a rough-barked Eucalypt, in poor to fair condition (Navin Officer 2000, 10). It was assessed as having moderate archaeological significance, and it was recommended that it be conserved in place, but that if the proposed development could not avoid impact, then the scars should be salvaged (Navin Officer 2000, 25).

Byrne (1991) Archaeological Investigations, Karuah-Bulahdelah Optical Fibre Cable Route

A survey was conducted for the Karuah-Bulahdelah section of the optic fibre cable route, targeting portions of the proposed route in the vicinity of wetlands and on the margins of wetlands, and the Myall River in Sector #1 (a 6.5km section from Lakes Road across the Myall River to Burdekins Road) and Sector #2 (a 5km section from the Pacific Highway near the north bank of the Karuah River, then

north-east and east meeting the highway again at what is now the Easement Trail in Karuah Nature Reserve). Sector #2 was located approximately 1.2km south of the Project Area, and included the margins of Yalimbah Creek and surrounding wetlands, and higher ground to the east of the creek along a ridge-line with a substantial slope. Ground visibility was generally very low in the creek/wetland areas, and better on the higher ground. No Aboriginal sites were identified, although scatters of loose local stone (very coarse-grained sandstone and silcrete) were noted in the area (Byrne 1991).

4.3 Synthesis

No Aboriginal sites have previously been recorded within the Project Area. The Project Area lies within 200m of two minor creeks, which may have provided a source of fresh water for Aboriginal people in the past, although locations closer to the resource rich Karuah River and Port Stephens estuary would most likely have been more suitable for resource gathering and long-term habitation. Further, given the steepness of the Project Area, it is considered unlikely that it would have been used as a place to camp or as a travel route by past Aboriginal people.

5 Visual Inspection

The Project Area was inspected by Crystal Phillips of Heritage Now on 2 September 2024.

The purpose of the inspection was to identify material evidence for Aboriginal occupation on the surface as well as provide an assessment of archaeological potential – the non-visible material traces or evidence of Aboriginal land use which have a likelihood of being present under the ground surface (DECCW 2010b, 12).

The Project Area was surveyed in one survey unit, being located within one landform, a mid-slope (Figure 14-Figure 15). The visibility and effective survey coverage is summarized in Table 6.

The ground slopes steeply up to the west (Plate 1) and steeply down to the east towards a creek line (Plate 2). The Project Area is covered in thick grass and few trees, with little to no ground visibility (Plate 3). The few areas of exposure revealed shallow rocky soils with little to no topsoil, indicating low potential for archaeological deposit (Plate 4). The survey coverage was therefore considered adequate for the purposes of identifying sites or areas of archaeological potential.

No Aboriginal sites and no areas of archaeological sensitivity were identified during the inspection.

Table 6. Survey coverage.

Survey Unit	Landform	Survey Unit Area	Visibility (%)	Exposure (%)	Effective Coverage	Sample Fraction	Sites Identified
1	Midslope	4690	1	70	32.83	0.7	0



Figure 14. Survey Units with track log. (Source: SCP aerial with Heritage Now additions)

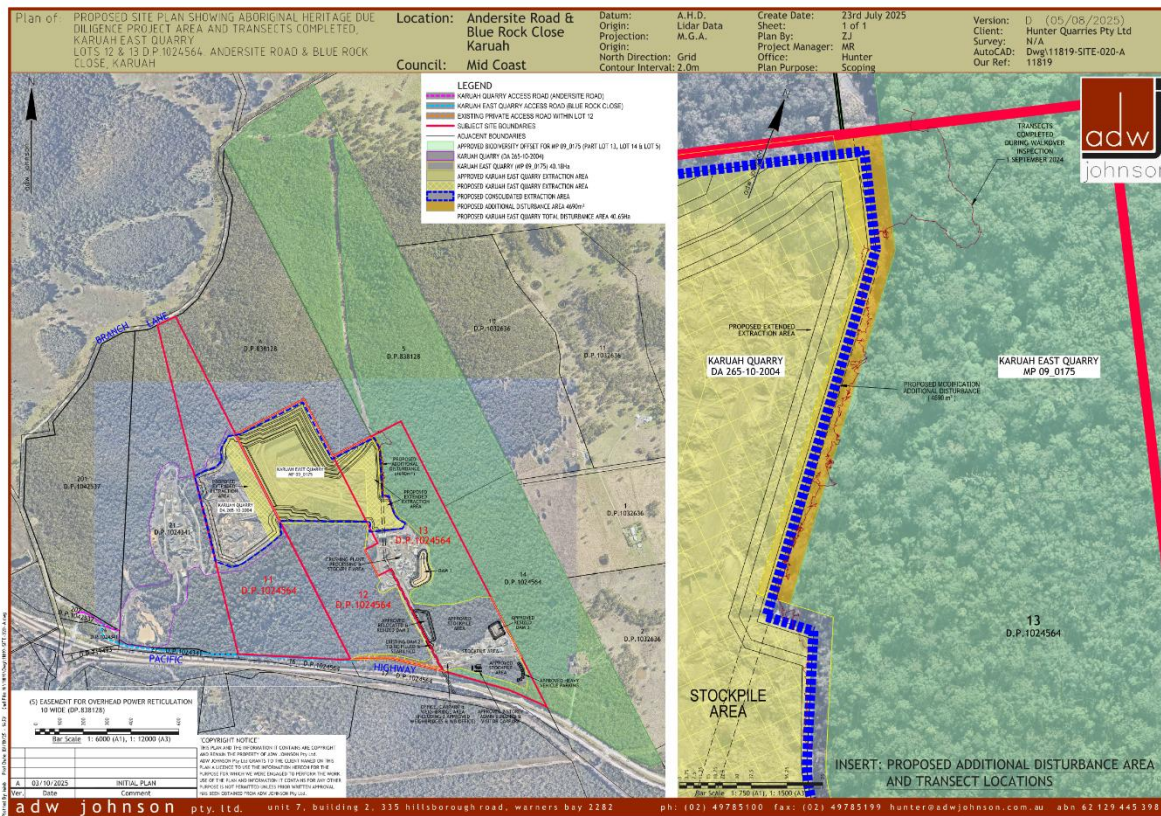


Figure 15. Fieldwork transects completed during the inspection. (Source: ADW Johnson)

6 Impact Assessment

This section assesses the potential impact of the proposed works in relation to Aboriginal heritage values in the Project Area.

6.1 Proposed Works

The proposed development is a modification to the State Significant Development (SSD) approval for the Karuah East Quarry (Project Approval MP09_0175) under the provisions of S4.55(2) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. The minor extension to the approved KEQ disturbance area forms part of the Karuah Pit Consolidation Project.

The proposed modification consists of:

1. Concurrent modification of the KEQ Project Approval (MP09_0175) and the adjoining KHRQ Development Consent (DA265-10-2004) to extract the known resource contained within already disturbed areas of Lot 11, Lot 12 and Lot 13, including the dividing highwall, within currently approved extraction depths of RL45 at KEQ and RL65 at KHRQ.
Note – This document relates specifically to the proposed modification to the KEQ consent.
2. Minor extension to the KEQ disturbance area of approximately 4,690m² in the north eastern corner of the site. This area is highly degraded and comprised entirely of exotic and disturbed vegetation. It has been historically cleared and managed to support a now redundant powerline corridor (infrastructure has been previously removed).
3. Minor extension and overlap of extraction boundaries of the KEQ and adjoining KHRQ (to holistically encompass the highwall structure). No changes to approved disturbance boundaries are sought to facilitate this outcome.
4. Continued environmental management. Environmental safeguards incorporated into Management Plans in place for the KEQ will be reviewed and updated to accommodate the proposal.
5. Changes to approved blasting activity including a reduction in cumulative weekly blasts between both the KEQ and KHRQ (from three to two) and achieving consistent blasting hours between both the KEQ and KHRQ.
6. Revised final landform resulting in a free-draining landscape of the current extraction area, resulting in reduced geotechnical risks over the long-term and a landform with greater consistency with the existing surrounding environment.

This Due Diligence Assessment has been prepared specifically in relation to point 2 – the proposed increase in size of the project disturbance area (Figure 16). The rationale for this work is detailed in the scoping letter produced by KEQPL and submitted to the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure, as follows:

As site design refinement has progressed as part of the pit consolidation project, opportunity for a minor adjustment to the north-eastern boundary of the approved Karuah East Quarry disturbance area has been identified. This area is approximately 4,690m².

This area is highly degraded and comprised entirely of exotic and disturbed vegetation. It has been historically cleared and managed to support a now redundant powerline corridor (infrastructure has been previously removed).

This area is proposed to form a minor extension of the approved disturbance area.

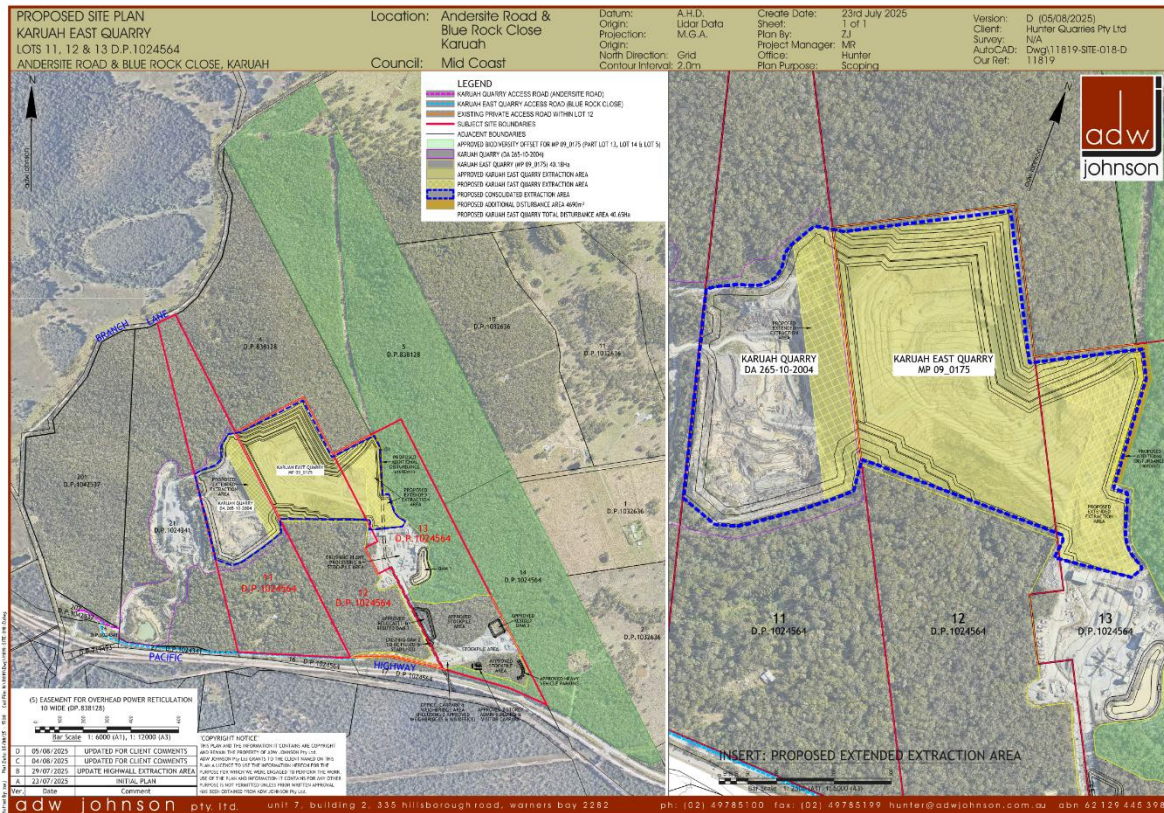


Figure 16. Proposed Site Plan with Project Area in orange. (Source: ADW Johnson)

6.2 Impact Assessment

There are no proposed impacts to Aboriginal sites or areas of sensitivity.

6.3 Management Strategies

The below strategies have been developed to prevent harm and/or loss of Aboriginal cultural values as a result of the proposed works.

The Karuah East Quarry Heritage Management Plan is to be updated to include this additional disturbance area.

All on-site personnel are to be made aware of their obligations under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974. This includes protection of Aboriginal sites and the reporting of any new, or suspected, Aboriginal heritage sites. This may be done through an on-site induction or other suitable format.

7 Conclusions and Recommendations

No Aboriginal sites or areas of archaeological sensitivity were identified during the inspection of the Project Area. The land is very steep with shallow topsoils, and is unlikely to have been used by past Aboriginal people as a place to camp or as a travel route.

There are no proposed impacts to Aboriginal sites and no further archaeological investigation is required for the Project Area. Works may proceed in accordance with the recommendations below.

Recommendation 1

All on-site personnel are to be made aware of their obligations under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974, which includes protection of Aboriginal sites and the reporting of any new, or suspected, Aboriginal heritage sites. This may be done through an on-site induction or other suitable format.

Recommendation 2

In the unlikely event that Aboriginal, or suspected Aboriginal, archaeological material is uncovered during the development, then works in that area are to stop and the area is to be cordoned off. The KEQPL Environment and Development Manager is to contact the Heritage Consultant to make an assessment as to whether the material is classed as Aboriginal object/s under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NSW)* and advise on the required management and mitigation measures. Works are not to recommence in the cordoned off area until heritage clearance is given and/or the required management and mitigation measures have been implemented.

Recommendation 3

In the very unlikely event that human remains, or suspected human remains, are uncovered during the development, then works in that area are to stop and the area is to be cordoned off. The KEQPL Quarry Manager is to contact the NSW Police to establish whether the area is a crime scene. If it is not a crime scene, and the remains are determined to be Aboriginal ancestral remains, then Heritage NSW is to be notified via the Environment Line on 131 555 and management measures are to be devised in consultation with the local Aboriginal community. Works are not to recommence in the area until the management measures have been implemented.

Recommendation 4

The Karuah East Quarry Heritage Management Plan must be updated to include the increase in disturbance footprint subject to the Modification proposal.

8 References

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9 Plates



Plate 1. The Project Area, view to south showing steep slope. (Source: Heritage Now 2024)



Plate 2. The Project Area, view to north showing steep slope. (Source: Heritage Now 2024)



Plate 3. Dense grass cover in the Project Area, view to south. (Source: Heritage Now 2024)



Plate 4. Ground surface exposure where shallow rocky soils were observed. (Source: Heritage Now 2024)

Attachment 1 Heritage NSW Comments

Heritage NSW Reply RE: Prelim Consultation with Heritage NSW | Karuah Pit Consolidation Project (MP09_0175)

From Marika Low <marika.low@dcceew.nsw.gov.au>
Date Mon 3/11/2025 9:13 AM
To Scott Ellerton <se@hunterquarries.com.au>
Cc Corey O'Driscoll <Corey.ODriscoll@environment.nsw.gov.au>; Alison Lamond <alison.lamond@dcceew.nsw.gov.au>

You don't often get email from marika.low@dcceew.nsw.gov.au. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi Scott,

Thank you for reaching out to Heritage NSW and for providing a project brief for the Karuah Pit Consolidation Project which is being assessed as two concurrent Modifications to Project Approval MP09_0175 under the provisions of S4.55(2) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. It is understood that the proposed Modifications include a c.4,690m² extension to the approved disturbance area of the quarry to include a historically disturbed powerline corridor that is now redundant. We note that an Aboriginal Heritage Due Diligence Assessment has been prepared by Heritage Now to support the Modification Application/s.

Please note that the due diligence process outlined in the *Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (DECCW, 2010) is a legal defence against harm under section 87 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1979* (NPW Act). As the regulator under the NPW Act, Heritage NSW can be called upon on to participate in non-compliance investigations under the Act, including strict liability offences for which due diligence is used as a defence. For this reason, Heritage NSW has a strict practice of not reviewing or providing comment on due diligence assessments, irrespective of the approval pathway, as they are a self-assessment mechanism for the purposes of identifying potential impacts to Aboriginal cultural heritage, so proponents can decide whether they need an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) and/or other relevant approvals, as due diligence assessments can be a legal defence against prosecution should harm occur.

We understand that the Karuah East Quarry project has an approved Heritage Management Plan and that the project has an established group of Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) as listed in the plan. With this in mind, Heritage NSW provides the following advice in relation to the Aboriginal heritage assessment requirements for the proposed modification/s.

- The information/assessment completed by Heritage Now should be re-framed in terms of the *Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011) and the *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (DECCW 2010) and be presented as an Addendum to existing project assessments.
- Consultation regarding the Modification/s should be undertaken with the established group of RAPs for the project. This should be in the form of an update letter and provision of the Addendum report for comment. Evidence of this consultation (e.g. email with all relevant email addressed shown) should be provided with the Modification application assessment/s.

This has been saved to the project file accordingly (ref: HMS 12131). Please include a copy of this email, or reference the HMS number, as part of the supporting documentation for the Addendum assessment report/s.

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding the above.

Kind regards,

Marika

Marika Low, BA (Hons), PhD (she/her)

Senior Assessments Officer – Major Projects

Heritage NSW

**Department of Climate Change,
Energy, the Environment and Water**

M 0400 477 904 **E** marika.low@dcceew.nsw.gov.au

Locked Bag 5020 Parramatta 2124

Working days Monday to Friday, 08:00am - 04:00pm



From: Scott Ellerton

Sent: Wednesday, 15 October 2025 1:38 PM

To: OEH HD Heritage Mailbox

Subject: Prelim Consultation with Heritage NSW | Karuah Pit Consolidation Project

Hi Heritage NSW,

Please find below project briefing for the Karuah Pit Consolidation Project in accordance with Environmental Assessment Requirements from NSW Planning.

Particularly relevant for Heritage NSW is a minor extension (4,690 m² in area) to the approved disturbance footprint of the Karuah East Quarry within an historically disturbed powerline corridor that is now redundant.

A due diligence report has been completed by Heritage Now and considers that no further archaeological investigation or consultation is required for the project, subject to the following recommendations:

1. All site personnel to be subject to heritage inductions outlining their responsibilities under the NPW Act 1974;
2. Implementation of a stop-work and assessment procedure if suspected objects are uncovered;
3. Implementation of a stop-work and assessment procedure if suspected human remains are uncovered; and
4. Review and update the KEQ Heritage Management Plan for this project (KEQ MOD11).

It would be appreciated if Heritage NSW could review the below project briefing and relevant supporting documentation (attached) and provide any commentary by COB, [Friday 07 November 2025](#).

We would be happy to arrange a meeting if considered necessary.

Please let me know if you have any questions or wish to discuss – 0447 044 646.

Thanks,
Scott

Scott Ellerton

Environment & Development Manager

Grounded in Quality



A proud member of Hunter Construction Group

M: 0447 044 646

E: se@hunterquarries.com.au

A: Blue Rock Close, Karuah NSW 2324

W: hunterquarries.com.au



Introduction

Hunter Quarries Pty Ltd (HQPL) & Karuah East Quarry Pty Limited (KEQPL) (affiliated companies) are in the process of preparing concurrent Section 4.55(2) Modification Applications to modify the following State Significant Development (SSD) approvals of two adjacent quarry operations, including:

- Karuah Hard Rock Quarry (DA265-10-2004 – MOD2) (KHRQ); and
- Karuah East Quarry (MP09_0175 – MOD11) (KEQ).

The concurrent modification applications will be known as the 'Karuah Pit Consolidation Project'. HQPL/KEQPL have submitted Scoping Reports to the NSW Department of Planning, Housing & Infrastructure (NSW Planning) and following review of the Scoping Reports, NSW Planning has issued 'Assessment Requirements' to guide the preparation of both modification applications (see attached). In accordance with the attached NSW Planning Assessment Requirements, the purpose of this email is to invite comment from Heritage NSW in relation to both proposed modification applications; and specifically relevant to Heritage NSW is the proposed submission of a Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Due

Diligence report (Heritage Now, 2025) that confirms that this project is unlikely to impact on any heritage values and that any unexpected finds could be managed through appropriate mitigation measures outlined in the KEQ Heritage Management Plan (HMP).

Background of Karuah Pit Consolidation Project

The KEQ was approved on 17 June 2014 (MP 09_0175 (as amended)) to operate as a stand-alone quarry operation on lands adjoining the older KHRQ (approved on 03/06/2005 (DA265-10-2004)) being Lot 12 and Lot 13 DP 1024564. The KEQ is well established and operational.

During assessment of the KEQ application, one of the items that was considered during NSW Planning's assessment was alternate ways to extract the known resource from Lot 12 and Lot 13 (which now contains the KEQ pit). At the time of preparation of the original KEQ application, one alternate option considered was extending the KHRQ from Lot 11 directly into Lot 12 and Lot 13; however, this was not possible because at that time HQPL only had rights conferred under specific licence terms with the landowner of Lot 11. The terms of the licence did not provide a legal right of way across Lot 11 for extraction of material within Lot 12 and Lot 13. Efforts were made by HQPL/KEQPL to secure access across Lot 11 however an agreement was unable to be achieved. Therefore, HQPL/KEQPL had no other option than to pursue a stand-alone quarry on Lot 12 and 13 (the KEQ site).

The approval of the KEQ resulted in the side-by-side operation of two independently operated quarries, being the KHRQ and the KEQ, with a remnant dividing highwall located in between the quarry pits (refer to **Figure 1** below) consisting of sterilised material. This outcome was understood by HQPL/KEQPL and that the removal of the remnant structure could readily occur, subject to appropriate approvals. Lot 11 was recently acquired by HQPL/KEQPL and removal of the dividing highwall can now proceed.

Separately, it is noted that the former owner of Lot 11 previously submitted a separate SSD Application for the proposed Karuah South Quarry (KSQ) over part of Lot 11 (refer SSD-8795) which has not yet been determined. This proposal was not affiliated with HQPL/KEQPL and sought to extract material from the southern portion of Lot 11 as a third stand-alone quarry operation. A decision has not been made by the HQPL whether this application will be progressed or withdrawn. Notwithstanding this, the proposed Karuah Pit Consolidation project does not affect the proposed KSQ.

Figure 1 below shows the location of the KHRQ and KEQ in their local context. In particular the figure shows:

- The KHRQ (DA 265-10-2004);
- The KEQ (MP 09_0175);
- Proposed Karuah South Quarry (SSD 17_8795);
- The conservation offset area established for the KHRQ;
- The biodiversity offset area established for the KEQ; and
- The footprint of the formerly proposed Karuah Red Quarry. SEARs for Designated Development were issued to HQPL for the proposed Karuah Red Quarry (SEARs 937), which was to be located on Lot 201 DP 1042537 and Lot 21 DP 1024341. The Applicant made the decision in late 2023 to allow the SEARs for the Karuah Red Quarry to expire due to other projects of higher priority.

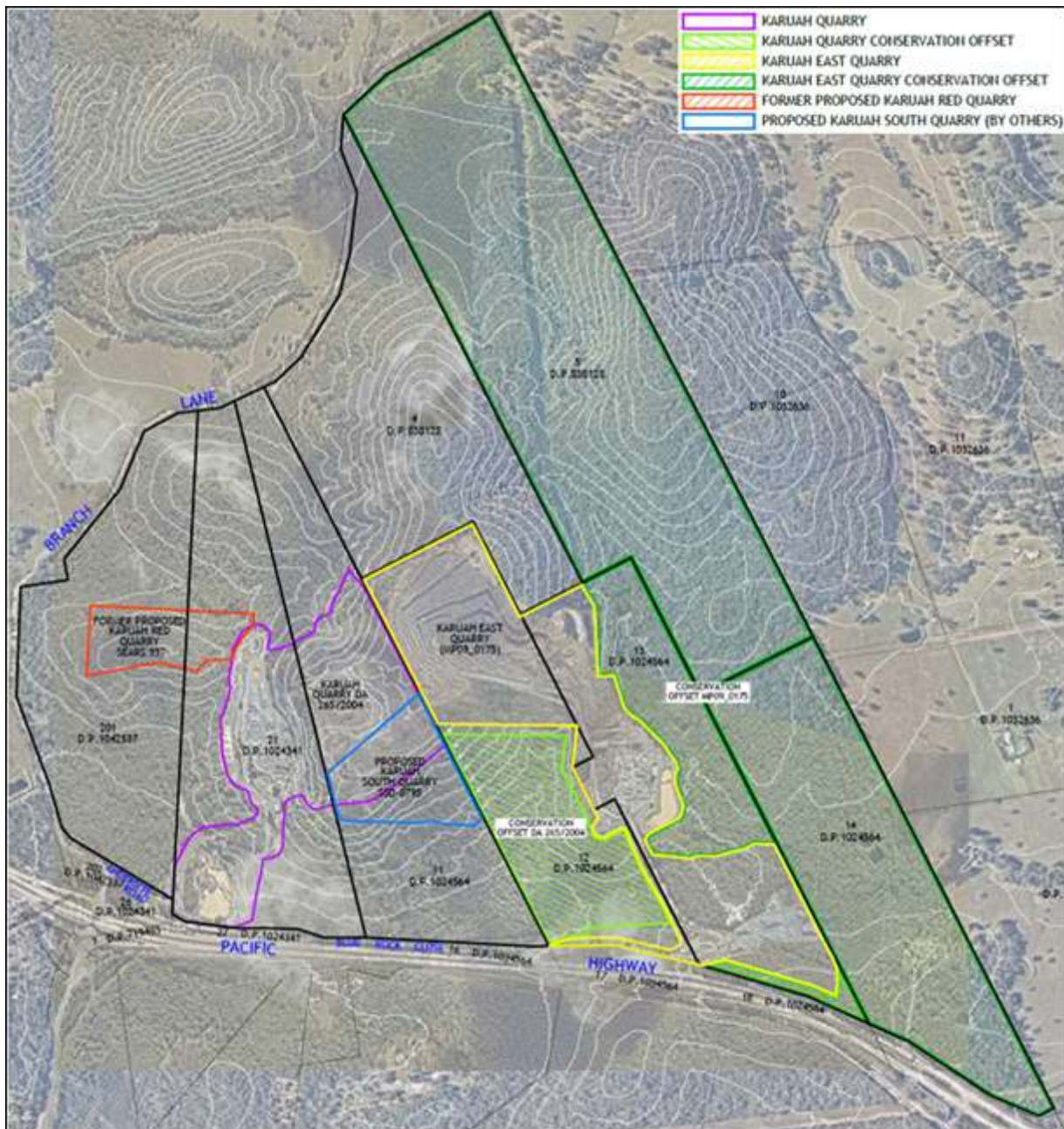


Figure 1 Location Plan Showing the KEQ and KHRQ in the Context of Surrounding Lands

Summary of Proposed Modifications to the KHRQ and KEQ

Attached are the proposed site plans for the KHRQ and the KEQ.

Provided below is a summary of the proposed changes to each consent to facilitate the Pit Consolidation Project.

Karuah Hard Rock Quarry

1. Concurrently modify both the KHRQ and KEQ consents to extract the known resource contained within already disturbed areas of Lot 11, Lot 12 and Lot 13 including the dividing highwall, within the currently approved excavation depths of RL65 at KHRQ and RL45 at KEQ.
 - o Note: The total disturbance area of the KHRQ will not change and no new vegetation clearing is necessary.
2. Increase the total life of quarry extraction from 11.2 Mt to 13.2 Mt.
 - o Note: No change to annual extraction, processing and transport rates are necessary (500,000 tpa).
3. Minor extension and overlap of extraction boundary of both KHRQ and KEQ extraction areas to holistically encompass the highwall structure, inclusive of appropriate safety offsets.
4. Continued environmental management including update of relevant Management Plans.
5. Extension of life of quarrying operations from 3 June 2027 to 31 December 2034 (to achieve consistency with KEQ).
6. Application of contemporary operational noise conditions / criteria.

7. Extended hours of operation to match the approved hours of operation of the KEQ.
8. Changes to approved blasting activities as follows (cumulative reduction across both sites from 3 to 2 and extending blasting hours to 9am to 5pm weekdays at both sites).
9. Revised final landform resulting in a 'free draining' landscape resulting in reduced geotechnical risk over the long term and with greater consistency with the existing surrounding environment.

Karuah East Quarry

1. Concurrently modify both the KEQ and KHRQ consents to extract the known resource contained within already disturbed areas of Lot 12, Lot 13 and Lot 11 including the dividing highwall, within the currently approved excavation depths of RL45 at KEQ and RL65 at KHRQ.
2. Formalise a total life of quarry extraction of 28.32Mt.
 - o Note: No change to annual extraction, processing and transport rates are necessary (1.5 Mtpa).
3. Minor extension and overlap of extraction boundary of both KEQ and KHRQ extraction areas to holistically encompass the highwall structure, inclusive of appropriate safety offsets.
4. Continued environmental management including update of relevant Management Plans.
5. Changes to approved blasting activities as follows (cumulative reduction across both sites from 3 to 2 and extending blasting hours to 9am to 5pm weekdays at both sites).
6. Revised final landform resulting in a 'free draining' landscape resulting in reduced geotechnical risk over the long term and with greater consistency with the existing surrounding environment.
7. Minor extension to the KEQ disturbance area. As design refinement of the KEQ extraction area has progressed as part of the pit consolidation project, opportunity for a minor adjustment to the north-eastern boundary of the approved KEQ disturbance area has been identified. This area is shown in Figure 2 below and includes an area of approximately 4,690 m². It has been historically cleared and managed to support a now redundant powerline corridor (infrastructure has been previously removed). This area is proposed to form a minor extension of the approved disturbance area and is incorporated into the consolidated extraction area. With the inclusion of this area, the total site disturbance area of KEQ will increase nominally from 40.18ha to approximately 40.65 ha (a 1.2% increase).

Invitation to Comment & Confirmation of Heritage Environmental Assessment Requirements

1. The attached Environmental Assessment Requirements issued from NSW Planning require the applicant to consult with Heritage NSW and invite comment. Any comments will be considered during preparation of the Modification Applications.
2. The attached Environmental Assessment Requirements for the KEQ MOD 11 notes the following (in relation to highlighted item 7 of the KEQ proposal described above):

"I note that you have proposed a due diligence assessment for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage impacts. The Department recommends consultation with Heritage NSW regarding the appropriateness of this approach."

A due diligence report has been completed by Heritage Now and considers that no further archaeological investigation or consultation is required for the project, and that any unexpected finds can be managed through the site's existing KEQ Heritage Management Plan.

Supporting Documentation:

Attached Documents

1. KHRQ MOD2 – Environmental Assessment Requirements – NSW Planning dated 01 October 2025
2. KHRQ MOD2 – Proposed Site Plan – ADW Johnson dated 05 Aug 2025
3. KEQ MOD11 – Environmental Assessment Requirements – NSW Planning dated 01 Oct 2025
4. KEQ MOD11 – Proposed Site Plan – ADW Johnson dated 05 Aug 2025
5. KEQ MOD11 – ACH Due Diligence Report – Heritage Now dated 13 Oct 2025

Published Documents Website Link

6. [KEQ Heritage Management Plan](#)

Attachment 2 Aboriginal Consultation

Aboriginal Consultation Log

Contact	Organisation	Contacted by	Organisation	Method	Date	Comment/response
Report sent for comment						
Anthony Anderson	Mur-Roo-Ma Inc		Heritage Now	Email	7/11/2025	Project update and report sent for comment
Andrew Smith	Worimi LALC		Heritage Now	Email	7/11/2025	Project update and report sent for comment
Del Arnold	Garrigal Aboriginal Community Inc		Heritage Now	Post	7/11/2025	Project update and report sent for comment
Lennie Anderson	Nur-Run-Gee		Heritage Now	Email	7/11/2025	Project update and report sent for comment
Michael Rodgers	Karuah LALC		Heritage Now	Email, Post (emails bounced)	7/11/2025	Project update and report sent for comment
Sheryl Hendry	Worimi Aboriginal Community Co-operative		Heritage Now	Email	7/11/2025	Project update and report sent for comment
Carol Ridgeway-Bissett	Maaiangal Aboriginal Heritage		Heritage Now	Email, Post	7/11/2025	Project update and report sent for comment
Lorna Paulson	Forster LALC		Heritage Now	Email	7/11/2025	Project update and report sent for comment
Mick Leon	Interim Worimi Knowledgeholders Council		Heritage Now	Email	7/11/2025	Project update and report sent for comment
Steve Larkin	Worimi Conservation Lands		Heritage Now	Email	7/11/2025	Project update and report sent for comment
Anthony Anderson	Mur-Roo-Ma Inc		Heritage Now	Email	2/12/2025	Reminder that if they would like to comment on report, please do so by Friday 5/12/25
Andrew Smith	Worimi LALC		Heritage Now	Email	2/12/2025	Reminder that if they would like to comment on report, please do so by Friday 5/12/25
Lennie Anderson	Nur-Run-Gee		Heritage Now	Email	2/12/2025	Reminder that if they would like to comment on report, please do so by Friday 5/12/25

Aboriginal Consultation Log

Contact	Organisation	Contacted by	Organisation	Method	Date	Comment/response
Michael Rodgers	Karuah LALC		Heritage Now	Email, Post (emails bounced)	2/12/2025	Reminder that if they would like to comment on report, please do so by Friday 5/12/25
Sheryl Hendry	Worimi Aboriginal Community Co-operative		Heritage Now	Email	2/12/2025	Reminder that if they would like to comment on report, please do so by Friday 5/12/25
Carol Ridgeway-Bissett	Maaiangal Aboriginal Heritage		Heritage Now	Email, Post	2/12/2025	Reminder that if they would like to comment on report, please do so by Friday 5/12/25
Lorna Paulson	Forster LALC		Heritage Now	Email	2/12/2025	Reminder that if they would like to comment on report, please do so by Friday 5/12/25
Mick Leon	Interim Worimi Knowledgeholders Council		Heritage Now	Email	2/12/2025	Reminder that if they would like to comment on report, please do so by Friday 5/12/25
Steve Larkin	Worimi Conservation Lands		Heritage Now	Email	2/12/2025	Reminder that if they would like to comment on report, please do so by Friday 5/12/25
Responses to Report						
Jenna Weston	Heritage Now	Carol Ridgeway-Bissett	Maaiangal Aboriginal Heritage	Post	received 4/12/25	Detailed comments, incorporated into section 3.2 of the report
Carol Ridgeway-Bissett	Maaiangal Aboriginal Heritage	Tessa Boer-Mah	Heritage Now	Post	8/12/2025	Detailed response to comments

Aboriginal Consultation Log


Contact	Organisation	Contacted by	Organisation	Method	Date	Comment/response
	Heritage Now		Garrigal Aboriginal Community Inc	Post	30/01/2026	A letter response dated 29 November 2025 was received by Heritage Now by mail on 30 January 2026. The response centred around general environmental concerns and the application of traditional law rather than any project-specific heritage-related matters. Due to the nature of the content of the letter and associated safety concerns, no further correspondence was provided regarding this matter. We note the MOD11 project will be subject to rigorous environmental assessment to appropriately consider the potential impacts to each environmental aspect.

HN476-F Karuah East Quarry MOD11 due diligence report

From Heritage Now | Hello <hello@heritagenow.com.au>

Date Fri 7/11/2025 6:01 PM

To ceo@forsterlalc.org.au <ceo@forsterlalc.org.au>

 1 attachment (8 MB)

Heritage Now Report HN476-F DD KEQ revised draft.pdf;

Attn: Forster LALC

Good day,

Thank you for registering, in 2010, as an Aboriginal stakeholder for the Karuah East Quarry (KEQ), as outlined by the KEQ Heritage Management Plan (HMP) (version 2B, Heritage Now, October 2023).

In accordance with the HMP, we are providing the attached Due Diligence report to support the proposed KEQ MOD11 Pit Consolidation Project. Relevant to heritage is a proposed c.4,690m² extension to the approved disturbance area of the quarry site, within a now redundant powerline corridor that was historically cleared and maintained to support the electrical infrastructure.

If you would like to comment on the report, please feel free to contact us by phone or return email, in the next 28 days (by 5 December 2025).

Kind regards,

Hello Heritage Shared Inbox



Heritage Now

Mobile [0460 744 466](tel:0460744466) Email hello@heritagenow.com.au

Sydney Office Address [51 Reuss St, Leichhardt NSW 2040](#)

Hunter Office Address [Unit 1/48 Kalaroo Road, Redhead NSW 2290](#)



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Heritage Now acknowledges the traditional Aboriginal custodians of the land | IMPORTANT: The contents of this email and any attachments are confidential. They are intended for the named recipient(s) only. If you have received this email by mistake, please notify the sender immediately and do not disclose the contents to anyone or make copies thereof.

Re: HN476-F Karuah East Quarry MOD11 due diligence report

From Heritage Now | Hello <hello@heritagenow.com.au>
Date Fri 7/11/2025 6:05 PM
To Office@karuahaboriginal.com.au <Office@karuahaboriginal.com.au>
Cc ceo@karuahaboriginal.com <ceo@karuahaboriginal.com>

 1 attachment (8 MB)

Heritage Now Report HN476-F DD KEQ revised draft.pdf;

Attn: Karuah LALC

Good day,

Thank you for registering, in 2010, as an Aboriginal stakeholder for the Karuah East Quarry (KEQ), as outlined by the KEQ Heritage Management Plan (HMP) (version 2B, Heritage Now, October 2023).

In accordance with the HMP, we are providing the attached Due Diligence report to support the proposed KEQ MOD11 Pit Consolidation Project. Relevant to heritage is a proposed c.4,690m² extension to the approved disturbance area of the quarry site, within a now redundant powerline corridor that was historically cleared and maintained to support the electrical infrastructure.

If you would like to comment on the report, please feel free to contact us by phone or return email, in the next 28 days (by 5 December 2025).

Kind regards,

Hello Heritage Shared Inbox



Heritage Now

Mobile [0460 744 466](tel:0460744466) **Email** hello@heritagenow.com.au

Sydney Office Address [51 Reuss St, Leichhardt NSW 2040](#)

Hunter Office Address Unit 1/48 Kalaroo Road, Redhead NSW 2290

Attn: Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council
PO Box 30
Karuah NSW 2324



Hunter Office: Unit 1, 48 Kalaroo Rd., Redhead
NSW 2290

Sydney Office: 275 Stanmore Rd., Petersham
NSW 2049

E: projects@heritagenow.com.au

M: 0460 744 466

W: www.heritagenow.com.au

Project Number: HN476-F

7/11/2025

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: HN476-F Karuah East Quarry MOD11 due diligence report

Thank you for registering, in 2010, as an Aboriginal stakeholder for the Karuah East Quarry (KEQ), as outlined by the KEQ Heritage Management Plan (HMP) (version 2B, Heritage Now, October 2023).

In accordance with the HMP, we are providing the attached Due Diligence report to support the proposed KEQ MOD11 Pit Consolidation Project. Relevant to heritage is a proposed c.4,690m² extension to the approved disturbance area of the quarry site, within a now redundant powerline corridor that was historically cleared and maintained to support the electrical infrastructure.

If you would like to comment on the report, please feel free to contact us by phone or email, in the next 28 days (by 5 December 2025).

Kind regards,

Jenna Weston, Principal Heritage Consultant/Archaeologist, Heritage Now

HN476-F Karuah East Quarry MOD11 due diligence report

From Heritage Now | Hello <hello@heritagenow.com.au>

Date Fri 7/11/2025 6:02 PM

To earthsustainingsciencetech@outlook.com <earthsustainingsciencetech@outlook.com>

 1 attachment (8 MB)

Heritage Now Report HN476-F DD KEQ revised draft.pdf;

Attn: Carol Ridgeway-Bissett (Maaiangal Aboriginal Heritage)

Good day,

Thank you for registering, in 2010, as an Aboriginal stakeholder for the Karuah East Quarry (KEQ), as outlined by the KEQ Heritage Management Plan (HMP) (version 2B, Heritage Now, October 2023).

In accordance with the HMP, we are providing the attached Due Diligence report to support the proposed KEQ MOD11 Pit Consolidation Project. Relevant to heritage is a proposed c.4,690m² extension to the approved disturbance area of the quarry site, within a now redundant powerline corridor that was historically cleared and maintained to support the electrical infrastructure.

If you would like to comment on the report, please feel free to contact us by phone or return email, in the next 28 days (by 5 December 2025).

Kind regards,

Hello Heritage Shared Inbox



Heritage Now

Mobile [0460 744 466](tel:0460744466) Email hello@heritagenow.com.au

Sydney Office Address [51 Reuss St, Leichhardt NSW 2040](#)

Hunter Office Address [Unit 1/48 Kalaroo Road, Redhead NSW 2290](#)



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Attn: Carol Ridgeway-Bissett
Maaingal Aboriginal Heritage
33 Ullora Road
Nelson Bay NSW 2315



Hunter Office: Unit 1, 48 Kalaroo Rd., Redhead
NSW 2290

Sydney Office: 275 Stanmore Rd., Petersham
NSW 2049

E: projects@heritagenow.com.au

M: 0460 744 466

W: www.heritagenow.com.au

Project Number: HN476-F

7/11/2025

Dear Carol,

RE: HN476-F Karuah East Quarry MOD11 due diligence report

Thank you for registering, in 2010, as an Aboriginal stakeholder for the Karuah East Quarry (KEQ), as outlined by the KEQ Heritage Management Plan (HMP) (version 2B, Heritage Now, October 2023).

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If you would like to comment on the report, please feel free to contact us by phone or email, in the next 28 days (by 5 December 2025).

Kind regards,

Jenna Weston, Principal Heritage Consultant/Archaeologist, Heritage Now

HN476-F Karuah East Quarry MOD11 due diligence report

From Heritage Now | Hello <hello@heritagenow.com.au>
Date Fri 7/11/2025 6:01 PM
To doowakee@gmail.com <doowakee@gmail.com>
Cc doowakee@virginbroadband.com.au <doowakee@virginbroadband.com.au>

 1 attachment (8 MB)

Heritage Now Report HN476-F DD KEQ revised draft.pdf;

Attn: Mick Leon (Interim Worimi Knowledgeholders Council)

Good day,

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Kind regards,

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Heritage Now

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Sydney Office Address [51 Reuss St, Leichhardt NSW 2040](#)


Hunter Office Address Unit 1/48 Kalaroo Road, Redhead NSW 2290

HN476-F Karuah East Quarry MOD11 due diligence report

From Heritage Now | Hello <hello@heritagenow.com.au>

Date Fri 7/11/2025 6:02 PM

To Anthony Anderson <murroomainc1@gmail.com>

 1 attachment (8 MB)

Heritage Now Report HN476-F DD KEQ revised draft.pdf;

Attn: Mur-Roo-Ma Inc

Good day,

Thank you for registering, in 2010, as an Aboriginal stakeholder for the Karuah East Quarry (KEQ), as outlined by the KEQ Heritage Management Plan (HMP) (version 2B, Heritage Now, October 2023).

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HN476-F Karuah East Quarry MOD11 due diligence report

From Heritage Now | Hello <hello@heritagenow.com.au>
Date Fri 7/11/2025 6:01 PM
To Lennie Anderson <lennie.anderson011@bigpond.com>

 1 attachment (8 MB)

Heritage Now Report HN476-F DD KEQ revised draft.pdf;

Attn: Nur-Run-Gee

Good day,

Thank you for registering, in 2010, as an Aboriginal stakeholder for the Karuah East Quarry (KEQ), as outlined by the KEQ Heritage Management Plan (HMP) (version 2B, Heritage Now, October 2023).

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HN476-F Karuah East Quarry MOD11 due diligence report

From Heritage Now | Hello <hello@heritagenow.com.au>

Date Fri 7/11/2025 6:02 PM

To npws.huntercoast@environment.nsw.gov.au <npws.huntercoast@environment.nsw.gov.au>

 1 attachment (8 MB)

Heritage Now Report HN476-F DD KEQ revised draft.pdf;

Attn: Sheryl Hendry (Worimi Aboriginal Community Co-operative) and Steve Larkin (Worimi Conservation Lands)

Good day,

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Sydney Office Address [51 Reuss St, Leichhardt NSW 2040](#)


Hunter Office Address Unit 1/48 Kalaroo Road, Redhead NSW 2290

HN476-F Karuah East Quarry MOD11 due diligence report

From Heritage Now | Hello <hello@heritagenow.com.au>

Date Fri 7/11/2025 6:02 PM

To andrew@worimi.org.au <andrew@worimi.org.au>

 1 attachment (8 MB)

Heritage Now Report HN476-F DD KEQ revised draft.pdf;

Attn: Worimi LALC

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Attn: Del Arnold
Garrigal Aboriginal Community Inc
PO Box 82
Gloucester NSW 2422



Hunter Office: Unit 1, 48 Kalaroo Rd., Redhead
NSW 2290

Sydney Office: 275 Stanmore Rd., Petersham
NSW 2049

E: projects@heritagenow.com.au

M: 0460 744 466

W: www.heritagenow.com.au

Project Number: HN476-F

7/11/2025

Dear Del,

RE: HN476-F Karuah East Quarry MOD11 due diligence report

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Kind regards,

Jenna Weston, Principal Heritage Consultant/Archaeologist, Heritage Now

Recipient mobile

Company name

Contact name

Traditional place name (if known)

Street address or PO Box number

Suburb or town, State, Postcode

Aviation Security and Dangerous Goods Declaration*

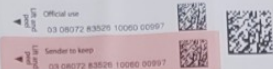
Sign here:

[Signature]

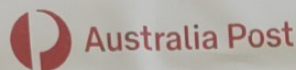
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Suburb or town, State, Postcode

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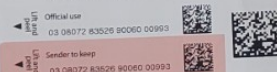
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[Signature]

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Aviation Security and Dangerous Goods Declaration*

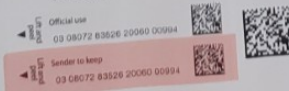
Sign here:

[Signature]

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Re: HN476-F Karuah East Quarry MOD11 due diligence report

From Heritage Now | Hello <hello@heritagenow.com.au>

Date Tue 2/12/2025 9:48 AM

To ceo@forsterlalc.org.au <ceo@forsterlalc.org.au>

Good day,

This is just a reminder that if you would like to comment on the report, please reply by Friday 5 December 2025.

Kind regards,

Hello Heritage Shared Inbox



Heritage Now

Mobile [0460 744 466](tel:0460744466) Email hello@heritagenow.com.au

Sydney Office Address [51 Reuss St, Leichhardt NSW 2040](#)

Hunter Office Address Unit 1/48 Kalaroo Road, Redhead NSW 2290



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From: Heritage Now | Hello <hello@heritagenow.com.au>

Sent: Friday, 7 November 2025 6:01 PM

To: ceo@forsterlalc.org.au <ceo@forsterlalc.org.au>

Subject: HN476-F Karuah East Quarry MOD11 due diligence report

Attn: Forster LALC

Good day,

Thank you for registering, in 2010, as an Aboriginal stakeholder for the Karuah East Quarry (KEQ), as outlined by the KEQ Heritage Management Plan (HMP) (version 2B, Heritage Now, October 2023).

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Kind regards,

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Heritage Now

Mobile [0460 744 466](tel:0460744466) **Email** hello@heritagenow.com.au

Sydney Office Address [51 Reuss St, Leichhardt NSW 2040](#)

Hunter Office Address [Unit 1/48 Kalaroo Road, Redhead NSW 2290](#)

The banner features the Heritage Now logo (a stylized 'H' in blue and red) and the text 'HERITAGE NOW' in blue and red. To the right, it says 'partnering with' followed by the Casey & Lowe logo (a grid of green dots) and the text 'CASEY & LOWE' in black. Below this is a landscape image of a lake and hills at sunset. The text 'Heritage Now supports the next generation of archaeologists.' is centered over the image, with a 'More Here' button below it. At the bottom left, it says 'Heritage Now acknowledges the traditional Aboriginal custodians of the land'. At the bottom right, there is a small disclaimer: 'IMPORTANT: The contents of this email and any attachments are confidential. They are intended for the named recipient(s) only. If you have received this email by mistake, please notify the sender immediately and do not disclose the contents to anyone or make copies thereof.'

Re: HN476-F Karuah East Quarry MOD11 due diligence report

From Heritage Now | Hello <hello@heritagenow.com.au>
Date Tue 2/12/2025 9:47 AM
To Office@karuahaboriginal.com.au <Office@karuahaboriginal.com.au>
Cc ceo@karuahaboriginal.com <ceo@karuahaboriginal.com>

Good day,
This is just a reminder that if you would like to comment on the report, please reply by Friday 5 December 2025.
Kind regards,

Hello Heritage Shared Inbox



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Sydney Office Address [51 Reuss St, Leichhardt NSW 2040](#)

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From: Heritage Now | Hello <hello@heritagenow.com.au>
Sent: Friday, 7 November 2025 6:05 PM
To: Office@karuahaboriginal.com.au <Office@karuahaboriginal.com.au>
Cc: ceo@karuahaboriginal.com <ceo@karuahaboriginal.com>
Subject: Re: HN476-F Karuah East Quarry MOD11 due diligence report

Attn: Karuah LALC

Good day,

Thank you for registering, in 2010, as an Aboriginal stakeholder for the Karuah East Quarry (KEQ), as outlined by the KEQ Heritage Management Plan (HMP) (version 2B, Heritage Now, October 2023).

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Hunter Office Address [Unit 1/48 Kalaroo Road, Redhead NSW 2290](#)



The banner features the Heritage Now logo on the left, followed by the text "partnering with" and the Casey & Lowe logo on the right. Below the logos is a scenic landscape image of a lake and hills. The main text reads "Heritage Now supports the next generation of archaeologists." with a "More Here" button. At the bottom left, it says "Heritage Now acknowledges the traditional Aboriginal custodians of the land". At the bottom right, there is a disclaimer: "IMPORTANT: The contents of this email and any attachments are confidential. They are intended for the named recipient(s) only. If you have received this email by mistake, please notify the sender immediately and do not disclose the contents to anyone or make copies thereof."

Re: HN476-F Karuah East Quarry MOD11 due diligence report

From Heritage Now | Hello <hello@heritagenow.com.au>

Date Tue 2/12/2025 9:51 AM

To earthsustainingsciencetech@outlook.com <earthsustainingsciencetech@outlook.com>

Good day,

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Kind regards,

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From: Heritage Now | Hello <hello@heritagenow.com.au>

Sent: Friday, 7 November 2025 6:02 PM

To: earthsustainingsciencetech@outlook.com <earthsustainingsciencetech@outlook.com>

Subject: HN476-F Karuah East Quarry MOD11 due diligence report

Attn: Carol Ridgeway-Bissett (Maaiangal Aboriginal Heritage)

Good day,

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Date Tue 2/12/2025 9:47 AM
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Cc doowakee@virginbroadband.com.au <doowakee@virginbroadband.com.au>

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Hunter Office Address Unit 1/48 Kalaroo Road, Redhead NSW 2290



The banner features the Heritage Now logo on the left and the Casey & Lowe logo on the right, with the text "partnering with" between them. The background is a festive red with green pine branches and red and white ornaments. On the left, there is a circular image of a historical landscape with the text "Step back in time: Tale of Two Christmases 1788" and a "More HERE" button. In the center, the text "Thank you for your support over the year!" is written in a cursive font. Below this, it states "Our offices will be closed from December 22, 2025 to January 12, 2026" and "Please take this into account when providing us with work/correspondence requests". At the bottom left, it says "Heritage Now acknowledges the traditional Aboriginal custodians of the land". At the bottom right, there is a small "IMPORTANT" notice: "The contents of this email and any attachments are confidential. They are intended for the named recipient(s) only. If you have received this email by mistake, please notify the sender immediately and do not disclose the contents to anyone or make copies thereof."

From: Heritage Now | Hello <hello@heritagenow.com.au>
Sent: Friday, 7 November 2025 6:01 PM
To: doowakee@gmail.com <doowakee@gmail.com>
Cc: doowakee@virginbroadband.com.au <doowakee@virginbroadband.com.au>
Subject: HN476-F Karuah East Quarry MOD11 due diligence report

Attn: Mick Leon (Interim Worimi Knowledgeholders Council)

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Re: HN476-F Karuah East Quarry MOD11 due diligence report

From Heritage Now | Hello <hello@heritagenow.com.au>

Date Tue 2/12/2025 9:49 AM

To Anthony Anderson <murroomainc1@gmail.com>

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Kind regards,

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Heritage Now

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Hunter Office Address Unit 1/48 Kalaroo Road, Redhead NSW 2290



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Sent: Friday, 7 November 2025 6:02 PM

To: Anthony Anderson <murroomainc1@gmail.com>

Subject: HN476-F Karuah East Quarry MOD11 due diligence report

Attn: Mur-Roo-Ma Inc

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Kind regards,

Hello Heritage Shared Inbox



Heritage Now

Mobile [0460 744 466](tel:0460744466) **Email** hello@heritagenow.com.au

Sydney Office Address [51 Reuss St, Leichhardt NSW 2040](#)

Hunter Office Address Unit 1/48 Kalaroo Road, Redhead NSW 2290

The banner features the Heritage Now logo on the left, followed by the text "partnering with" and the Casey & Lowe logo on the right. Below the logos is a scenic landscape image of a lake and hills. Centered over the image is the text "Heritage Now supports the next generation of archaeologists." with a "More Here" button. At the bottom left, it says "Heritage Now acknowledges the traditional Aboriginal custodians of the land". At the bottom right, there is a small "IMPORTANT" disclaimer.

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Re: HN476-F Karuah East Quarry MOD11 due diligence report

From Heritage Now | Hello <hello@heritagenow.com.au>
Date Tue 2/12/2025 9:49 AM
To Lennie Anderson <lennie.anderson011@bigpond.com>

Good day,
This is just a reminder that if you would like to comment on the report, please reply by Friday 5 December 2025.
Kind regards,

Hello Heritage Shared Inbox



Heritage Now

Mobile [0460 744 466](tel:0460744466) **Email** hello@heritagenow.com.au
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From: Heritage Now | Hello <hello@heritagenow.com.au>
Sent: Friday, 7 November 2025 6:01 PM
To: Lennie Anderson <lennie.anderson011@bigpond.com>
Subject: HN476-F Karuah East Quarry MOD11 due diligence report

Attn: Nur-Run-Gee

Good day,

Thank you for registering, in 2010, as an Aboriginal stakeholder for the Karuah East Quarry (KEQ), as outlined by the KEQ Heritage Management Plan (HMP) (version 2B, Heritage Now, October 2023).

In accordance with the HMP, we are providing the attached Due Diligence report to support the proposed KEQ MOD11 Pit Consolidation Project. Relevant to heritage is a proposed c.4,690m2 extension to the approved disturbance area of the quarry site, within a now redundant powerline corridor that was historically cleared and maintained to support the electrical infrastructure.

If you would like to comment on the report, please feel free to contact us by phone or return email, in the next 28 days (by 5 December 2025).

Kind regards,

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Re: HN476-F Karuah East Quarry MOD11 due diligence report

From Heritage Now | Hello <hello@heritagenow.com.au>

Date Tue 2/12/2025 9:50 AM

To npws.huntercoast@environment.nsw.gov.au <npws.huntercoast@environment.nsw.gov.au>

Good day,

This is just a reminder that if you would like to comment on the report, please reply by Friday 5 December 2025.

Kind regards,

Hello Heritage Shared Inbox



Heritage Now

Mobile [0460 744 466](tel:0460744466) Email hello@heritagenow.com.au

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From: Heritage Now | Hello <hello@heritagenow.com.au>

Sent: Friday, 7 November 2025 6:02 PM

To: npws.huntercoast@environment.nsw.gov.au <npws.huntercoast@environment.nsw.gov.au>

Subject: HN476-F Karuah East Quarry MOD11 due diligence report

Attn: Sheryl Hendry (Worimi Aboriginal Community Co-operative) and Steve Larkin (Worimi Conservation Lands)

Good day,

Thank you for registering, in 2010, as an Aboriginal stakeholder for the Karuah East Quarry (KEQ), as outlined by the KEQ Heritage Management Plan (HMP) (version 2B, Heritage Now, October 2023).

In accordance with the HMP, we are providing the attached Due Diligence report to support the proposed KEQ MOD11 Pit Consolidation Project. Relevant to heritage is a proposed c.4,690m2 extension to the approved disturbance area of the quarry site, within a now redundant powerline corridor that was historically cleared and maintained to support the electrical infrastructure.

If you would like to comment on the report, please feel free to contact us by phone or return email, in the next 28 days (by 5 December 2025).

Kind regards,

Hello Heritage Shared Inbox



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Sydney Office Address [51 Reuss St, Leichhardt NSW 2040](#)

Hunter Office Address Unit 1/48 Kalaroo Road, Redhead NSW 2290



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Re: HN476-F Karuah East Quarry MOD11 due diligence report

From Heritage Now | Hello <hello@heritagenow.com.au>

Date Tue 2/12/2025 9:50 AM

To andrew@worimi.org.au <andrew@worimi.org.au>

Good day,

This is just a reminder that if you would like to comment on the report, please reply by Friday 5 December 2025.

Kind regards,

Hello Heritage Shared Inbox



Heritage Now

Mobile [0460 744 466](tel:0460744466) Email hello@heritagenow.com.au

Sydney Office Address [51 Reuss St, Leichhardt NSW 2040](#)

Hunter Office Address Unit 1/48 Kalaroo Road, Redhead NSW 2290



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From: Heritage Now | Hello <hello@heritagenow.com.au>

Sent: Friday, 7 November 2025 6:02 PM

To: andrew@worimi.org.au <andrew@worimi.org.au>

Subject: HN476-F Karuah East Quarry MOD11 due diligence report

Attn: Worimi LALC

Good day,

Thank you for registering, in 2010, as an Aboriginal stakeholder for the Karuah East Quarry (KEQ), as outlined by the KEQ Heritage Management Plan (HMP) (version 2B, Heritage Now, October 2023).

In accordance with the HMP, we are providing the attached Due Diligence report to support the proposed KEQ MOD11 Pit Consolidation Project. Relevant to heritage is a proposed c.4,690m2 extension to the approved disturbance area of the quarry site, within a now redundant powerline corridor that was historically cleared and maintained to support the electrical infrastructure.

If you would like to comment on the report, please feel free to contact us by phone or return email, in the next 28 days (by 5 December 2025).

Kind regards,

Hello Heritage Shared Inbox



Heritage Now

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1/11/2025

Karrah East Quarry
Worimi Nation

Heritage Now Jenna Weston
Unit 1, 48 Kalaroo Road
Redhead N.S.W. 2290
projects@heritagenow
com.au

Carol Ridgeway-Bissett
33 Ulloa Road
Nelson Bay, NSW
2315
PH-02-49843113

How do you know, that the project area, wasn't, used for a campsite or a travel route? Don't you know that Aboriginal Cultural Heritage, includes landscapes, all wildlife species, including flora and water sources. You cannot assume that no proposed impact sites in the area exist. My family the Ridgeways from Soldier's Point apart from 1 family at Stroud and 1 family at Glendon are the only Worimi Traditional owners left. Massacres and introduced diseases occurred throughout Worimi Nation. All other people living in Worimi Nation are descendants of the stolen generations, put on missions and reserves in the Hunter Region.

All Aboriginal sites in NSW are not recorded. Traditional Owners have registered some on National Parks Data Base, however others have not

②
been disclosed, due to destruction and desecration of some heritage sites already been registered, by developers, councils and government officials.

Koalas and other native wildlife or Native flora exists within or around the subject area. In Port Stephens, the loss of Native vegetation, species habitat and food sources, are a major problem, as is the protection of Worimi cultural heritage and significant cultural landscapes. Water sources and loss of oxygen from tree loss. Climate change is a major factor concerning tree loss, human impacts and out of date energy sources such as coal and gas. Oceans are warming up.

In Port Stephens a large number of turtles have died. This situation was never happened before.

Don't you think that blasting noise will affect native wildlife species and humans? Has any Quarry developers ever replanted a quarry areas that are no longer used or area surrounding Quarry sites? It be very naive to think only artefacts laying on or beneath the ground are the only important parts of Aboriginal Heritage. Scarred trees, Shelter trees, lookout trees, Food, medicine, tools, utensils, ground covers, raincoats, winter coats and weapons are all important.

Not all land has been registered as Aboriginal Places in Worimi Nation, because the legislation isn't well known or people who aren't traditional Worimi people have no knowledge of because these people are the descendants of the Stolen generations, and know very little or nothing about our Nation heritage, customs, practices, religion and traditions.

The Land Rights Act does nothing for Traditional people who still live in their country and have been dispossessed through government officials and the Land Rights Act. Once destroyed our land and Heritage can never be replaced, due to the damage inflicted on it... To conclude that no heritage exists in the proposed area is a fallacy. This shows how very little consultants, government officials, developers, Land Councils & non-indigenous people and descendants of the Stolen generations know about Traditional Society and Culture.

Land is Earth Mother who provides us with the sources to survive for over 125 years. However our rights since the European invasion have been taken away.

Volcanic lava was used in Maiengal Traditional Country in Port Stephens for animal skin scrapes and axe heads in other parts of our nation it was probably used in similar ways.

Flathead was not the main fish source. All different seafood was also used. When a certain wattle was in flower, that was the start of the Mullet run. That's what look out trees placed around the harbour was used for. All clubs, weapons, shields, spears, digging sticks weren't all made from from hardwood Eucalyptus. What type of trees were these and what part was used? This is just guessing by Brayshaw (1987) and N.S.W. Environment, Energy and Science. (2022). Fish-hooks were also made from certain plant parts.

Fresh water is used for a number of purposes, drinking, cooking, washing, ceremonial

In Wirim. Nation more than 4 Ngurra existed. Our Nation is bigger than the report says.

Stone arrangements.

These represent fish traps and sometimes ceremonial sites

Burials on the coast was above the high tide mark along shorelines or around wetland areas, and caves,

In land sometimes they were placed in tree groves

Boundries weren't only stone arrangements. certain trees were also used, or sticks pointing in different directions.

Why is a landscape called Gan-Gan. Gan Gan means whales. On the Tomaree peninsula it was a lookout for sighting whales.

Wetlands are the lungs of the environment. Hunting, gathering, eel traps, burials and food, medicine and other purposes.

Development labelled state significant place little value on Aboriginal traditional landscapes, society and culture. Since the European Invasion of Australia, a large number of Native Wildlife, Native flora, Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and landscapes, have been destroyed or desecrated or given to hands Council. Aboriginal traditional Owners who still live in their country have no rights. We are dispossessed people, whose rights to protect our culture heritage has been pushed aside by government legislation all in the name of progress and money. Once our landscapes have all been destroyed there will be very little of our culture left, including Native flora and fauna. Once destroyed it can never be replaced.

Carol Ridgeway-Bissett
Marangal Knowledge
Holder and Custodian
Worimi Nation
Port Stephens &
Stockton.

Attn:
Carol Ridgeway-Bissett
33 Ullora Road
Nelson Bay NSW 2315



Hunter Office: Unit 1, 48 Kalaroo Rd, Redhead
NSW 2290
Sydney Office: 51 Reuss St, Leichhardt NSW 2040
E: pm@heritagenow.com.au
M: 0460 744 466
Project Number: HN476-F

8/12/2025

Dear Carol,

RE: Karuah East Quarry Addendum Report HN476-F

Thank you for your detailed correspondence, we appreciate your time and input. We received your letter by mail on 4/12/2025 in response to the following report:

- Aboriginal Heritage Due Diligence Assessment Addendum Report – Karuah East Quarry Proposed Modification (Heritage Now, Revised Draft 7/11/2025)

The Karuah East Quarry has had multiple heritage assessments undertaken for various quarry related works over the course of the last two decades. The above report is for a 4,690m² extension to the existing approval MP09_0175 and was undertaken to identify if Aboriginal objects protected under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* were present.

In relation to the first paragraph of your letter, no Aboriginal objects indicative of an Aboriginal campsite were identified. As you have mentioned, it is possible that the area was a travel route; however, there were no Aboriginal objects such as scarred trees to indicate this, and travel routes by themselves are not protect by the *Act*. We acknowledge the information you have provided in relation to connection to country and comments about other people living in the Worimi Nation.

In relation to the second paragraph of your letter, we acknowledge that not all Aboriginal sites in NSW are registered. We have undertaken a visual inspection of the area and have not identified any unregistered Aboriginal sites.

In relation to paragraphs three and four, the purpose of the assessment was not to assess native vegetation or fauna, but you will be able to get more information on this through the <https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects> website under the project number MP09_0175.

In relation to paragraphs five and six, if you have specific cultural information about heritage, customs, practices, religion and traditions in relation to the Project Area, please let us know and we can put forward that information to the regulator.

We have included some of the information from the bottom of pages 3 and 4 into the report.

In relation to the first paragraph on page 5, the Gan Gan soil landscape is a nominated name that soil scientists used and is not meant to represent a direct Aboriginal word in its meaning.

We acknowledge your concerns in the last paragraph on page 5, with relation to Aboriginal heritage and wider concerns about native flora and fauna. In this instance, the assessment has not identified impacts to Aboriginal heritage.

Kind regards,

Tessa Boer-Mah, Director and Principal Heritage Consultant

To: Heritage Now PTY. LTD

29 - 11 - 25

Projects@heritagenow.com.au

0460 744 466

Dear Heritage now

Garigal Aboriginal Community have come to the conclusion of your proposal by BlueRock Close, Karuah NSW2324, that it is unwise for you to proceed with this venture because it is Environmental Vandalism and subject to Aboriginal Law which states Death to those who give their country away.

Should you proceed, you will be placed on the International Court of Law for prosecution because this is an assault on our country. Be warned and warn any Aboriginal People should they break Aboriginal Law, they will be dealt with by Traditional Aboriginal People.

Yours sincerely


Garigal Aboriginal Community Inc.



SWLF CFCP 461

23.01.26 17h16

Secure your dog



for safe delivery

AUSTRALIA

Heritage Now
51 Reuss street
Leichhardt
NSW

POSTCODE

2	0	4	0
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From: GARIGAL AB COMMUNITY INC.
PO BOX 182 GLOUCESTER
NSW 2422

Attachment 3 AHIMS Search

SiteID	SiteName	Datum	Zone	Easting	Northing	Context	Site Status **	SiteFeatures	SiteTypes	Reports
38-4-0501	KA 4	AGD	56	402570	6384820	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : -	Scarred Tree	
	<u>Contact</u>									
38-4-0510	KA 13	AGD	56	404140	6389990	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site	
	<u>Contact</u>									
38-4-0515	KA 18	AGD	56	402030	6389920	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Isolated Find	
	<u>Contact</u>									
38-4-0535	KA20	AGD	56	401900	6389900	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site	
	<u>Contact</u>									
38-5-0409	ceremony initiation place	GDA	56	407157	6386153	Closed site	Valid	Aboriginal Ceremony and Dreaming : -, Artefact : -		
	<u>Contact</u>									
38-4-0523	Karuah River, KR1	AGD	56	402446	6390244	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site	
	<u>Contact</u>									
38-4-0498	KA 1	AGD	56	403350	6386570	Open site	Valid	Shell : -, Artefact : -	Midden	
	<u>Contact</u>									
38-4-0502	KA 5	AGD	56	402370	6386770	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : -	Scarred Tree	
	<u>Contact</u>									
38-4-0513	KA 16	AGD	56	404450	6390060	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Isolated Find	
	<u>Contact</u>									
38-4-0226	Port Stephens;	AGD	56	405250	6385180	Open site	Valid	Shell : -, Artefact : -	Midden	1333,98847
	<u>Contact</u>									
38-4-1077	Karuah River murder site	AGD	56	403829	6394218	Open site	Valid	Conflict : 1		
	<u>Contact</u> Mr.Leonard (Lennie) Andersor									
38-4-1079	The Branch artefact 3	AGD	56	404892	6394267	Open site	Valid	Artefact : 10		
	<u>Contact</u> Mr.Leonard (Lennie) Andersor									
38-5-0083	Carrington 1;Carrington;	AGD	56	408200	6384920	Open site	Valid	Shell : -, Artefact : -	Midden	849
	<u>Contact</u>									
38-5-0084	Carrington 2;Carrington;	AGD	56	408650	6385360	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : -	Scarred Tree	849
	<u>Contact</u>									
38-5-0001	Little Swan Bay;Tahlee;	AGD	56	408000	6386000	Open site	Valid	Shell : -, Artefact : -	Midden	
	<u>Contact</u>									
	<u>Recorders</u>									

Report generated by AHIMS Web Service on 09/10/2025 for Crystal Phillips for the following area at Datum :GDA, Zone : 56, Eastings : 401030.0 - 411030.0, Northings : 6384776.0 - 6394776.0 with a Buffer of 0 meters.. Number of Aboriginal sites and Aboriginal objects found is 72

This information is not guaranteed to be free from error omission. Heritage NSW and its employees disclaim liability for any act done or omission made on the information and consequences of such acts or omission.

SiteID	SiteName	Datum	Zone	Easting	Northing	Context	Site Status **	SiteFeatures	SiteTypes	Reports
38-4-0509	KA 12	AGD	56	403990	6390030	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site	
	Contact	Recorders	Kerry Navin,Mr.Kelvin Officer							
38-4-0511	KA 14	AGD	56	404250	6389980	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site	
	Contact	Recorders	Kerry Navin,Mr.Kelvin Officer							
38-4-0512	KA 15	AGD	56	404400	6390020	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site	
	Contact	Recorders	Kerry Navin,Mr.Kelvin Officer							
38-1-0030	KA22	AGD	56	403050	6390010	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site	104486
	Contact	Recorders	Kerry Navin,Mr.Kelvin Officer							
38-4-0721	Tahlee PAD 1	AGD	56	405486	6384947	Open site	Valid	Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD) : 1		98847
	Contact	Recorders	Robert Paton							
38-4-1088	The Branch Midden 1	AGD	56	404993	6394251	Open site	Valid	Aboriginal Resource and Gathering : 500		
	Contact	Recorders	Mr.Leonard (Lennie) Anderson							
38-4-0225	Port Stephens;	AGD	56	405230	6385350	Open site	Valid	Shell : -, Artefact : -	Midden	1333,98847
	Contact	Recorders	Warren Bluff							
38-5-0202	MT KARUAH/CARRINGTON 1	AGD	56	408750	6387050	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -		
	Contact	Recorders	Brad Welsh							
38-4-0637	KA28	AGD	56	405370	6388950	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : -		102741
	Contact	Recorders	Navin Officer Heritage Consultants Pty Ltd							
38-4-2271	Women Site Karuah	GDA	56	402173	6387309	Open site	Valid	Aboriginal Resource and Gathering : -, Aboriginal Ceremony and Dreaming : -, Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : -		
	Contact	Recorders	Mr.Tony Demamiel,DPIE - Armidale							
38-4-0500	KA 3	AGD	56	402590	6386830	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : -	Scarred Tree	
	Contact	Recorders	Kerry Navin,Mr.Kelvin Officer							
38-4-0503	KA 6	AGD	56	402560	6386800	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Isolated Find	
	Contact	Recorders	Kerry Navin,Mr.Kelvin Officer							
38-4-1075	Worimi North South crossing/The Branch River	AGD	56	405016	6394238	Open site	Valid	Aboriginal Ceremony and Dreaming : 1		
	Contact	Recorders	Mr.Leonard (Lennie) Anderson							

Report generated by AHIMS Web Service on 09/10/2025 for Crystal Phillips for the following area at Datum :GDA, Zone : 56, Eastings : 401030.0 - 411030.0, Northings : 6384776.0 - 6394776.0 with a Buffer of 0 meters.. Number of Aboriginal sites and Aboriginal objects found is 72

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SiteID	SiteName	Datum	Zone	Easting	Northing	Context	Site Status **	SiteFeatures	SiteTypes	Reports
38-4-0223	Port Stephens; Contact	AGD	56	406040	6384800	Open site	Valid	Shell : -, Artefact : -	Midden	1333
	Recorders Warren Bluff							Permits		
38-4-0233	Port Stephens; Contact	AGD	56	405860	6384750	Open site	Valid	Shell : -, Artefact : -	Midden	1333
	Recorders Warren Bluff							Permits		
38-4-0524	Karuah River, KR2 Contact	AGD	56	402470	6390282	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site	
	Recorders ERM Australia Pty Ltd- Sydney CBD							Permits		
38-4-0537	KA24 Contact	AGD	56	403520	6390100	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site	
	Recorders Kerry Navin,Mr.Kelvin Officer							Permits		
38-4-0720	Number One Cove Site 2 Contact	AGD	56	405580	6384934	Open site	Valid	Artefact : 2		98847
	Recorders Robert Paton							Permits		
38-4-1083	The Little Branch Ceremonial site Contact Mr.Leonard (Lennie) Andersor	AGD	56	405884	6394561	Open site	Valid	Aboriginal Ceremony and Dreaming : 1		
	Recorders Mr.Leonard (Lennie) Anderson							Permits		
38-5-0085	Carrington 3;Carrington; Contact	AGD	56	408640	6385270	Open site	Valid	Stone Arrangement : -	Stone Arrangement	849
	Recorders Helen Brayshaw							Permits		
38-5-0203	NT KARUAH/CARRINGTON 2 Contact	AGD	56	408650	6387100	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : -		
	Recorders Brad Welsh,Carol Ridgeway Bisset							Permits		
38-5-0204	MT KARUAH/CARRINGTON 3 Contact	AGD	56	408730	6387050	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : -		
	Recorders Brad Welsh							Permits		
38-4-0799	KCF1 Contact Searle	AGD	56	404300	6392690	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -		104585
	Recorders Mrs.Angela Besant							Permits	2089	
38-4-1085	The Branch Artefact 4 Contact Mr.Leonard (Lennie) Andersor	AGD	56	405029	6394241	Open site	Valid	Artefact : 1		
	Recorders Mr.Leonard (Lennie) Anderson							Permits		
38-4-1087	Karuah River open campsite 1 Contact Mr.Leonard (Lennie) Andersor	AGD	56	402590	6392348	Open site	Valid	Aboriginal Resource and Gathering : 200		
	Recorders Mr.Leonard (Lennie) Anderson							Permits		
38-4-0507	KA 10 Contact	AGD	56	402560	6390020	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site	
	Recorders Kerry Navin,Mr.Kelvin Officer							Permits		
38-4-0514	KA 17 Contact	AGD	56	404550	6390100	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Isolated Find	
	Recorders Kerry Navin,Mr.Kelvin Officer							Permits		
38-4-0516	KA 19 Contact	AGD	56	401950	6389920	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Isolated Find	
	Recorders Kerry Navin,Mr.Kelvin Officer							Permits		
38-1-0029	KA21 Contact	AGD	56	402700	6390050	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site	
	Recorders Kerry Navin,Mr.Kelvin Officer							Permits		

Report generated by AHIMS Web Service on 09/10/2025 for Crystal Phillips for the following area at Datum :GDA, Zone : 56, Eastings : 401030.0 - 411030.0, Northings : 6384776.0 - 6394776.0 with a Buffer of 0 meters.. Number of Aboriginal sites and Aboriginal objects found is 72

This information is not guaranteed to be free from error omission. Heritage NSW and its employees disclaim liability for any act done or omission made on the information and consequences of such acts or omission.

SiteID	SiteName	Datum	Zone	Easting	Northing	Context	Site Status **	SiteFeatures	SiteTypes	Reports
38-4-0539	KA26	AGD	56	403440	6390160	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) :	Scarred Tree	
	Contact									
38-5-0003	Northarm Cove Baromee Point	AGD	56	409356	6384778	Open site	Valid	Shell : -, Artefact : -	Midden	
	Contact									
38-4-1074	Coorinook Burial	AGD	56	403169	6393690	Open site	Valid	Burial : 1		
	Contact Mr.Leonard (Lennie) Andersor									
38-4-1082	The Little Branch midden 3	AGD	56	406061	6394094	Open site	Valid	Aboriginal Resource and Gathering : 15		
	Contact Mr.Leonard (Lennie) Andersor									
38-4-0499	KA 2	AGD	56	403400	6386700	Open site	Valid	Shell : -, Artefact : -	Midden	
	Contact									
38-4-0504	KA 7	AGD	56	404660	6387510	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site	
	Contact									
38-4-0506	KA 9	AGD	56	401160	6386600	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) :	Scarred Tree	
	Contact									
38-4-0508	KA 11	AGD	56	403510	6389900	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site	
	Contact									
38-4-0724	Little Mountain One	AGD	56	401200	6391950	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -		
	Contact									
38-4-0536	KA23	AGD	56	403210	6390150	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site	
	Contact									
38-4-1043	Flat Rock Midden	GDA	56	402747	6392590	Open site	Valid	Earth Mound : -		
	Contact									
38-4-1076	Karuah River Midden	AGD	56	403848	6394231	Open site	Valid	Aboriginal Resource and Gathering : 30		
	Contact Mr.Peter Anderson									
38-4-1078	The Branch Artefact	AGD	56	404791	6394251	Open site	Valid	Artefact : 1		
	Contact Mr.Leonard (Lennie) Andersor									
38-4-1080	The Little Branch Midden	AGD	56	405873	6394309	Open site	Valid	Aboriginal Resource and Gathering : 20		
	Contact Mr.Leonard (Lennie) Andersor									
38-4-1081	The little Branch midden1	AGD	56	406091	6394201	Open site	Valid	Aboriginal Resource and Gathering : 30		
	Contact Mr.Leonard (Lennie) Andersor									
38-4-0224	Port Stephens;	AGD	56	405300	6385550	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Isolated Find	1333

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SiteID	SiteName	Datum	Zone	Easting	Northing	Context	Site Status **	SiteFeatures	SiteTypes	Reports
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	Warren Bluff					<u>Permits</u>		
38-4-0227	Port Stephens;	AGD	56	405400	6385060	Open site	Valid	Shell : -, Artefact : -	Midden	1333,98847
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	Warren Bluff					<u>Permits</u>		
38-4-0228	Port Stephens;	AGD	56	405430	6385050	Open site	Valid	Shell : -, Artefact : -	Midden	1333,98847
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	Warren Bluff					<u>Permits</u>		
38-4-0229	Port Stephens;	AGD	56	405460	6385010	Open site	Valid	Shell : -, Artefact : -	Midden	1333,98847
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	Warren Bluff					<u>Permits</u>		
38-4-0231	Port Stephens;	AGD	56	405650	6384790	Open site	Valid	Shell : -, Artefact : -	Midden	1333,98847
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	Warren Bluff					<u>Permits</u>		
38-5-0088	Tahlee;	AGD	56	406440	6384790	Open site	Valid	Shell : -, Artefact : -	Midden	1333
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	Warren Bluff					<u>Permits</u>		
38-4-0505	KA 8	AGD	56	405610	6388450	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site	
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	Kerry Navin,Mr.Kelvin Officer					<u>Permits</u>		
38-4-1069	Horse Island Artefacts	AGD	56	402042	6389875	Open site	Valid	Artefact : 20		
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	Mr.Leonard (Lennie) Andersor					<u>Permits</u>		
38-4-0230	Port Stephens;	AGD	56	405470	6384900	Open site	Valid	Shell : -, Artefact : -	Midden	1333,98847
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	Warren Bluff					<u>Permits</u>		
38-4-0232	Port Stephens;	AGD	56	405810	6384760	Open site	Valid	Shell : -, Artefact : -	Midden	1333
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	Warren Bluff					<u>Permits</u>		
38-4-0234	Port Stephens;	AGD	56	405990	6384780	Open site	Valid	Shell : -, Artefact : -	Midden	1333
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	Warren Bluff					<u>Permits</u>		
38-4-0710	Number One Cove Site 1	AGD	56	405672	6384946	Open site	Valid	Artefact : 2, Shell : 20		98847
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	Janice Wilson					<u>Permits</u>		
38-4-1086	The Branch Midden 2	AGD	56	405138	6394265	Open site	Valid	Aboriginal Resource and Gathering : 60		
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	Mr.Leonard (Lennie) Anderson					<u>Permits</u>		

**** Site Status**

Valid - The site has been recorded and accepted onto the system as valid

Destroyed - The site has been completely impacted or harmed usually as consequence of permit activity but sometimes also after natural events. There is nothing left of the site on the ground but proponents should proceed with caution.

Partially Destroyed - The site has been only partially impacted or harmed usually as consequence of permit activity but sometimes also after natural events. There might be parts or sections of the original site still present on the ground

Not a site - The site has been originally entered and accepted onto AHIMS as a valid site but after further investigations it was decided it is NOT an aboriginal site. Impact of this type of site does not require permit but Heritage NSW should be notified