



**Narrabri Underground Mine
Stage 3 Extension Project**
Environmental Impact Statement

Narrabri Underground Mine

Stage 3 Extension Project

Historical Heritage Assessment

Prepared for Narrabri Coal Operations Pty Ltd

Prepared by Niche Environment and Heritage | 24 August 2020



Document control

Project number	Client	Project manager	LGA
3884	Narrabri Coal Operations Pty Ltd	Joshua Madden	Narrabri Shire

Version	Author	Review	Status	Date
Final	Joshua Madden	Joshua Madden	Final	24 August 2020

Cover photograph: South western view of the Pilliga East State Forest (Source: Niche, 2019).

© Niche Environment and Heritage Pty Ltd (ACN 137 111 721) 2019

Copyright protects this publication. All rights reserved. Except for purposes permitted by the Australian *Copyright Act 1968*, reproduction, adaptation, electronic storage, transmission and communication to the public by any means is prohibited without our prior written permission. Any third party material, including images, contained in this publication remains the property of the specified copyright owner unless otherwise indicated, and is used subject to their licensing conditions.

Important information about your Report

Your Report has been written for a specific purpose: The Report has been developed for a specific purpose as agreed by us with you and applies only for that purpose. Unless otherwise stated in the Report, this Report cannot be applied or used when the nature of the specific purpose changes from that agreed. **Report for the sole benefit of Niche's client:** This Report has been prepared by Niche for you, as Niche's client, in accordance with our agreed purpose, scope, schedule and budget. This Report should not be applied for any purpose other than that stated in the Report. Unless otherwise agreed in writing between us, the Report has been prepared for your benefit and no other party. Other parties should not and cannot rely upon the Report or the accuracy or completeness of any recommendation. **Limitations of the Report:** The work was conducted, and the Report has been prepared, in response to an agreed purpose and scope, within respective time and budget constraints, and possibly in reliance on certain data and information made available to Niche. The analyses, assessments, opinions, recommendations, and conclusions presented in this Report are based on that purpose and scope, requirements, data, or information, and they could change if such requirements or data are inaccurate or incomplete. **No responsibility to others:** Niche assumes no responsibility and will not be liable to any other person or organisation for, or in relation to, any matter dealt with, or conclusions expressed in the Report, or for any loss or damage suffered by any other person or organisation arising from matters dealt with, or conclusions expressed in the Report.

Niche Environment and Heritage Pty Ltd (ACN 137 111 721)
Enquiries should be addressed to Niche Environment and Heritage
PO Box 2443, Parramatta NSW 1750, Australia
Email: info@niche-eh.com

Executive Summary

The Narrabri Mine is located approximately 25 kilometres (km) south-east of Narrabri and approximately 60 km north-west of Gunnedah within the Narrabri Shire Council Local Government Area of New South Wales (NSW). The Narrabri Mine is operated by Narrabri Coal Operations Pty Limited (NCOPL).

NCOPL is seeking a new Development Consent under the State Significant Development provisions of Part 4 of the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* for the Narrabri Underground Mine Stage 3 Extension Project (the Project).

The Project involves an extension to the south of the approved underground mining area to gain access to additional coal reserves within Mining Lease Applications 1 and 2, an extension of the mine life to 2044 and development of supporting surface infrastructure. Run-of-mine coal production would occur at a rate of up to 11 million tonnes per annum, consistent with the currently approved limit.

This Historical Heritage Assessment (HHA) forms part of the Environmental Impact Statement which has been prepared to accompany the Development Application for the Project. The Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements states the following requirement in regard to the HHA:

- **Heritage** – including an assessment of the likely Aboriginal and historic heritage (cultural and archaeological) impacts of the development;

This HHA includes the results of heritage register searches, a summary of the historical background, the results of a field survey, a significance and impact assessment, conclusions and the provision of management recommendations. This assessment has been prepared in accordance with best practice in historical heritage management as guided by the *NSW Heritage Manual* (Department of Urban Affairs and Planning, 1996) and the *Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance, The Burra Charter* (Australia ICOMOS, 2013), with reference to the provisions of the *NSW Heritage Act 1977* and the *Narrabri Local Environmental Plan 2012*.

This HHA has concluded that the Project would have no impact on any items or areas of heritage significance. Therefore, the Project would not affect the heritage values of the Narrabri region.

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	i
1. Introduction	1
1.1 Project Background	1
1.2 Proposed Works	1
1.3 Aims	4
1.4 Methodology and Report Outline	4
1.5 Authorship and Acknowledgements	4
2. Statutory Context	5
2.1 Preamble.....	5
2.2 Regulatory and Assessment Framework	5
2.3 Heritage Register Searches and Review of Previous Assessments.....	6
3. Historical Summary	8
3.1 Preamble.....	8
3.2 Early Exploration and Settlement of the Narrabri Region.....	8
3.3 Establishment of Narrabri town	10
3.4 Baan Baa	16
3.5 Boggabri.....	16
3.6 Narrabri Underground Mine.....	17
4. Review of Previous Heritage Assessments	18
5. Site Inspection	19
5.1 Preamble.....	19
5.2 Methodology	19
5.3 Results	23
6. Significance & Impact Assessment	32
6.1 Preamble.....	32
6.2 Significance Assessment	32
6.3 Impact Assessment.....	32
7. Conclusions and Recommendations	33
7.1 Conclusions.....	33
7.2 Recommendation	33
8. References	34
Appendix 1	35

List of Figures

Figure 1: Regional Location	2
Figure 2: Study Area	3
Figure 3: 1899 Parish of Parkes showing the southern section of the Study Area	20
Figure 4: 1913 Parish of Gorman showing the Study Area.....	21
Figure 5: 1931 Parish of Gorman showing the Study Area.....	22

List of Plates

Plate 1. Lithograph of Nundawar Range by Major T. L Mitchell. Source State Library NSW.	8
Plate 2. The epic of Tangulda, now Barbers Pinnacle. By Major T. L Mitchell 1792-1855. Source: State Library NSW.	9
Plate 3. Narrabri West Post Office circa 1905. Source: National Archives of Australia.	11
Plate 4. Narrabri West Post Office circa 1905. Source: National Archives of Australia.	12
Plate 5. Narrabri Post and Telegraph office, circa 1885 to 1888. Source: National Archives of Australia.....	13
Plate 6. Maitland Street, looking South from Post Office, Narrabri, 1905. Source: National Museum of Australia.....	14
Plate 7. Pastoral Industry, Narrabri NSW, circa 1956. Source: National Archives of Australia.	15
Plate 8. Village of Baan Baa in County Baan Baa (8th Edition 19 June 1967).....	16
Plate 9. Town of Boggabri (3 rd Edition 1906, date of map 1899)	17
Plate 10. Eastern view of potential homestead farm area identified during desktop assessment (taken from south-eastern location on Study Area) (see Figure 1).....	24
Plate 11. North-eastern view of potential homestead farm area identified during desktop assessment (taken from south-eastern location on Study Area) (see Figure 1).....	24
Plate 12. Western view of potential homestead farm area identified during desktop assessment (taken from south-eastern location on Study Area) (see Figure 1).....	25
Plate 13. South-western view of potential homestead farm area identified during desktop assessment (taken from south-eastern location on Study Area) (see Figure 1).....	25
Plate 14. Western view of existing dwelling on potential homestead farm area identified during desktop assessment (taken from south-eastern location on Study Area) (see Figure 1).	26
Plate 15. South-western view of existing dwelling within potential homestead farm area identified during desktop assessment (taken from south-eastern location on Study Area) (see Figure 1).	26

Plate 16. Southern view of existing dwelling within potential homestead farm area identified during desktop assessment (taken from south-eastern location on Study Area) (see Figure 1).	27
Plate 17. Eastern view of MLA 1 (taken from north-eastern location on Study Area).....	27
Plate 18. Western view of MLA 1 (taken from north-eastern location on Study Area).....	28
Plate 19. Northern view of MLA 1 (taken from north-eastern location on Study Area).....	28
Plate 20. Abandoned farming equipment scattered across MLA 1.....	28
Plate 21. Southern view of MLA 1 (taken from north-eastern location on Study Area).....	29
Plate 22. Northern view of MLA 1 (taken from eastern location on Study Area).	29
Plate 23. North-western view of MLA 1 (taken from eastern location on Study Area).	29
Plate 24. Western view of MLA 1 (taken from southern location on Study Area).....	30
Plate 25. Northern view of Pilliga East State Forest (MLA 2) from Scratch Road.	30
Plate 26. Western view of Pilliga East State Forest (MLA 2) from Scratch Road.	31
Plate 27. Southern view of Pilliga East State Forest (MLA 2) from Scratch Road.	31

1. Introduction

1.1 Project Background

The Narrabri Mine is located approximately 25 kilometres (km) south-east of Narrabri and approximately 60 km north-west of Gunnedah within the Narrabri Shire Council Local Government Area (LGA) of New South Wales (NSW) (Figure 1). The Narrabri Mine is operated by Narrabri Coal Operations Pty Limited (NCOPL).

NCOPL is seeking a new Development Consent under the State Significant Development (SSD) provisions of Part 4 of the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) for the Narrabri Underground Mine Stage 3 Extension Project (the Project). This Historical Heritage Assessment (HHA) forms part of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) which has been prepared to accompany the Development Application for the Project. The Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) state the following requirement in regard to the HHA:

- **Heritage** – *including an assessment of the likely Aboriginal and historic heritage (cultural and archaeological) impacts of the development;*

This HHA has also considered the general requirements of the SEARs:

- *a description of the existing environment likely to be affected by the development, using sufficient baseline data;*
- *an assessment of the likely impacts of all stages of the development, including appropriate worst-case scenarios and consideration of any cumulative impacts and taking into consideration any relevant legislation, environmental planning instruments, guidelines, policies, plans and industry codes of practice; [and]*
- *a description of the measures that would be implemented to mitigate and/or offset the likely impacts of the development [...]*

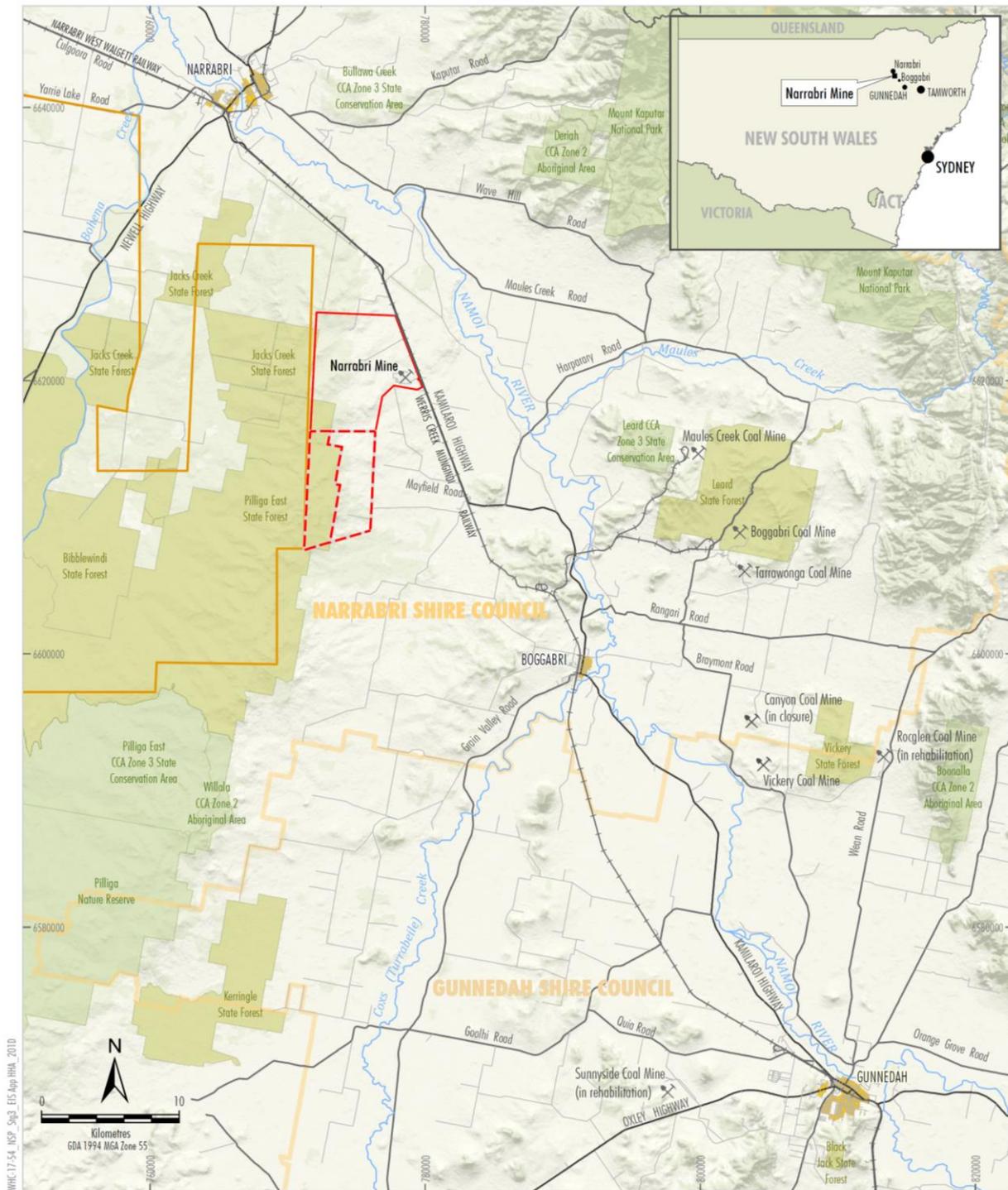
In addition, the SEARs refer to guidelines that are relevant to this HHA, including the *NSW Heritage Manual* (Department of Urban Affairs and Planning, 1996) (the NSW Heritage Manual) and the Australia International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) *Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance, The Burra Charter* (ICOMOS, 2013) (hereafter referred to as the Burra Charter).

1.2 Proposed Works

The Project involves an extension to the south of the approved underground mining area to gain access to additional coal reserves within Mining Lease Applications (MLAs) 1 and 2 (Figure 2), an extension of the mine life to 2044 and development of supporting surface infrastructure. Run-of-mine (ROM) coal production would occur at a rate of up to 11 million tonnes per annum (Mtpa), consistent with the currently approved limit.

A detailed description of the Project is provided in Section 2 in the Main Report of the EIS.

The Study Area largely comprises MLAs 1 and 2 (Figure 2). The area shown on Figure 2 as 'Underground Mine Footprint to be Extended for the Project' was assessed for impacts to historical heritage as part of a previous assessment (refer to Section 4) and did not need to be re-inspected.



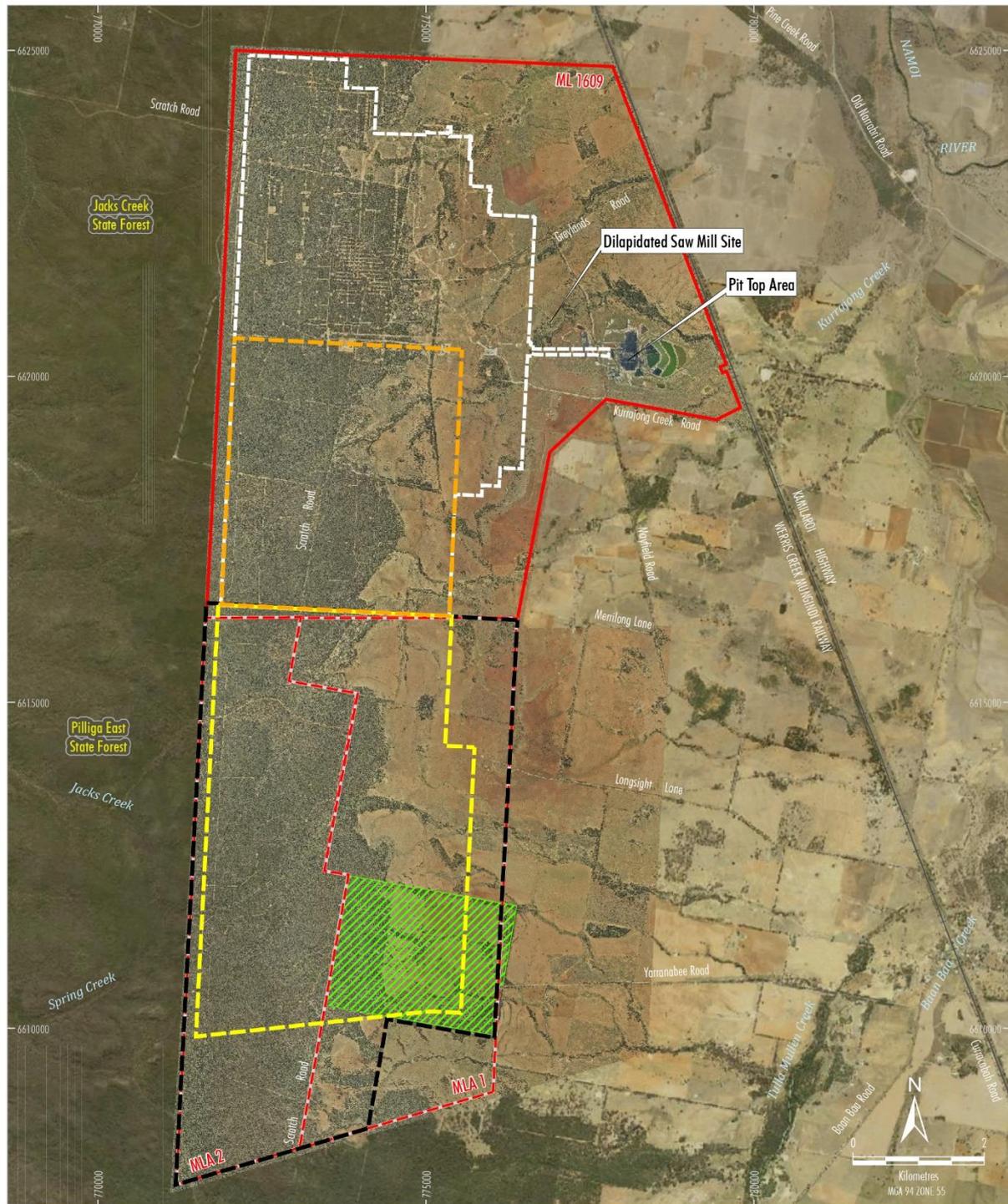
Source: Geoscience Australia (2011); NSW Spatial Services (2019)

- LEGEND**
- Mine Site
 - Mining Lease (ML 1609)
 - Provisional Mining Lease Application Area
 - Local Government Boundary
 - State Forest
 - State Conservation Area, Aboriginal Area
 - Narrabri Gas Project (Santos NSW [Eastern] Pty Ltd)

WHITEHAVEN COAL
NARRABRI STAGE 3 PROJECT
Regional Location

Figure 1

Figure 1: Regional Location



- LEGEND
-  Mining Lease (ML 1609)
 -  Provisional Mining Lease Application Area
 -  Approved Underground Mine Footprint
 -  Underground Mine Footprint to be Extended for Project
 -  Project Underground Mine Footprint
 -  Study Area
 -  Potential Homestead Farm Area

Source: NCOPL (2019); NSW Spatial Services (2019);
Archaeological Surveys & Reports Pty Ltd (2004)

WHITEHAVEN COAL
NARRABRI STAGE 3 PROJECT
Study Area

Figure 2

Figure 2: Study Area

1.3 Aims

This HHA aims to assess the potential impacts of the Project on historical heritage items and provide recommendations for impact mitigation and management. This assessment has been prepared in accordance with best practice in historical heritage management in NSW, as guided by the NSW Heritage Manual and the Burra Charter.

1.4 Methodology and Report Outline

The assessment was prepared by undertaking the following tasks:

Review of Heritage Listings

The results of searches of relevant statutory Commonwealth, National and State heritage registers, local planning instrument schedules to identify any known items of heritage significance within the Study Area, are presented in Section 2 and preceded by a summary of relevant legislation.

Historical Research

A historical context for the assessment, used to assist in identifying potential historical heritage items and values within the Study Area, is presented in Section 3.

Review of Previous Heritage Assessments

A review of previous historical heritage assessments undertaken at the Narrabri Mine, to identify potential historical heritage items and values in the area, is presented in Section 4.

Site Inspection

The methodology and results of the visual inspection undertaken for the Project are documented in Section 5.

Significance and Impact Assessment

Significance and impact assessment of the potential impacts of the Project on historical heritage items is discussed in Section 6.

Recommendations and Conclusions

Recommendations to manage, minimise or avoid potential heritage impacts on items of historical heritage are presented in Section 7.

1.5 Authorship and Acknowledgements

This report has been prepared by Ricardo Servin (Heritage Consultant, Niche) and Joshua Madden (Team Leader – Historic Heritage, Niche).

2. Statutory Context

2.1 Preamble

Section 2.2 presents a summary of relevant Commonwealth and State legislation and associated local planning instruments, designed to protect and conserve significant historical heritage items and their values, as they relate to SSD. The results of heritage register searches for historical heritage items located within, or in close proximity to, the Study Area are presented in Section 2.3.

2.2 Regulatory and Assessment Framework

2.2.1 Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) is the Australian Government's central piece of environmental legislation. It provides a legal framework to protect and manage nationally and internationally important flora, fauna, ecological communities and heritage places. Under the EPBC Act, protected heritage items of significance are listed on the National Heritage List (NHL) or the Commonwealth Heritage List (CHL). The NHL provides protection to places of cultural significance to the nation of Australia, while the CHL comprises natural, Aboriginal and historic heritage places owned and controlled by the Commonwealth.

2.2.2 NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

The EP&A Act establishes the framework for cultural heritage values to be formally assessed in the land use planning and development consent process in NSW. The EP&A Act requires that environmental impacts, including impacts on heritage items, are considered prior to land development. The EP&A Act also requires local governments to prepare planning instruments (such as Local Environmental Plans [LEPs]) in accordance with the principles of the legislation, to provide guidance on the level of environmental assessment required.

2.2.2.1 Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements

The SEARs have been issued for the Project under clause 3, Schedule 2 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000*. The SEARs outline the requirements for the EIS for the Project. Specific to heritage, the SEARs state the following requirement:

- **Heritage** – including an assessment of the likely Aboriginal and historic heritage (cultural and archaeological) impacts of the development;

The Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) provided input into the SEARs for the Project. For historic heritage, the OEH's requirements are as follows:

9. *The EIS must provide a heritage assessment including but not limited to an assessment of impacts to State and local heritage including conservation areas, natural heritage areas, places of Aboriginal heritage value, buildings, works, relics, gardens, landscapes, views, trees should be assessed. Where impacts to State or locally significant heritage items are identified, the assessment shall:*
 - a. *outline the proposed mitigation and management measures (including measures to avoid significant impacts and an evaluation of the effectiveness of the mitigation measures) generally consistent with the NSW Heritage Manual (1996),*
 - b. *be undertaken by a suitable qualified heritage consultant(s) (note: where archaeological excavations are proposed the relevant consultant must meet the NSW Heritage Council's Excavation Director criteria),*
 - c. *include a statement of heritage impact for all heritage items (including a significance assessment),*

- d. *consider impacts including, but not limited to, vibration, demolition, archaeological disturbance, altered historical arrangements and access, landscape and vistas, and architectural noise treatment (as relevant), and*
- e. *where potential archaeological impacts have been identified develop an appropriate archaeological assessment methodology, including research design, to guide physical archaeological test excavations (terrestrial and maritime as relevant) and include the results of these test excavations.*

This report is intended to address the historic (non-Aboriginal) heritage requirements as listed above, where relevant.

2.2.3 Heritage Act 1977

The *Heritage Act 1977* (the Heritage Act) is a statutory tool designed to conserve environmental heritage in NSW. It is used to regulate development impacts on the State’s historical heritage assets. The Heritage Act defines a heritage item as “a place, building, work, relic, moveable object or precinct”. Items that are assessed as having State heritage significance can be listed on the NSW State Heritage Register (SHR). Proposals to alter, damage, move or destroy heritage items listed on the SHR (or protected by an Interim Heritage Order), require an approval under s60 of the Heritage Act.

Archaeological features and deposits are afforded statutory protection by the ‘relics provisions’ of the Heritage Act. A relic is defined as “any deposit, artefact, object or material evidence that relates to the settlement of the area that comprises NSW, not being Aboriginal settlement, and is of State or local heritage significance”. Land disturbance or excavation that will, or is likely to, result in a relic being discovered, exposed, moved, damaged or destroyed is prohibited under the provisions of the Heritage Act, unless carried out in accordance with a permit issued under s140 or s139 of the Heritage Act.

2.3 Heritage Register Searches and Review of Previous Assessments

The following presents the results of Commonwealth, National, State and local heritage register searches for listed historical heritage items located within, or in close proximity to, the Study Area. Results from the review of a previous historical heritage assessment at the Narrabri Mine are also presented.

2.3.1 Commonwealth and National Heritage Registers

Searches of Commonwealth and National heritage registers via the Australian Heritage Database were undertaken on 3 July 2019. No listed items were identified on the CHL or NHL within or in close proximity to the Study Area.

2.3.2 State Legislation

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

No listed items were identified on the NSW State Heritage Register within or in close proximity to the Study Area.

2.3.3 NSW State Heritage and Conservation (s.170) registers

Under s.170 of the Heritage Act, NSW government agencies are required to maintain a register of heritage assets under their control or ownership. Each government agency is responsible for ensuring that the items entered on its register under s.170 are maintained with due diligence in accordance with State Owned Heritage Management Principles. Items listed on s.170 Heritage and Conservation Registers are listed on the State Heritage Inventory.

No items within or in close proximity to the Study Area are listed on the State Heritage and Conservation (s170) Register.

2.3.4 Local Government Planning Instruments

Each LGA is required to create and maintain an LEP that identifies and conserves historical heritage items. These items are protected under the EP&A Act.

Heritage items within the Narrabri LGA are listed in Schedule 5 of the Narrabri LEP 2012. These items are subject to the planning controls and provisions set out in Clause 5.10 (Heritage Conservation) of the Narrabri LEP 2012.

No items within or in close proximity to the Study Area are listed under the Narrabri LEP 2012.

3. Historical Summary

3.1 Preamble

This Section provides a summary of the relevant historical land use of the Narrabri region for the purpose of providing a historical context for existing and potential historical heritage items. This background has been prepared from, primarily, a review of secondary sources.

The Study Area is located within the Narrabri Shire Council, approximately 6 km west of Baan Baa and 25 km south-east of Narrabri. Boggabri is located approximately 19 km south-east from the southern boundary of the Study Area (Figure 1).

3.2 Early Exploration and Settlement of the Narrabri Region

The first European to explore the Narrabri region was John Oxley, who crossed the Liverpool Plains in 1817 reaching the Nandewar Range in 1818. John Oxley sighted the region that encompassed the future site of Narrabri in August 1818 (Hunt, 1980). In 1823 Alan Cunningham explored the Boggabri plains in his search to find a suitable way to cross over the Liverpool Range (Reed, 1969).

George Clarke, also known as the 'Barber', was the first European to settle in the region in 1825. Clarke was an escaped convict who roamed what is now Narrabri Shire and settled to the north of the current township of Boggabri. He assimilated with the local Aboriginal people, undergoing initiation and taking two Aboriginal wives (Hunt, 1980; Reed, 1969), before being captured by police in 1831. Clarke was eventually hanged for his crimes; however, he provided a detailed account of his life in the area. Barbers Lagoon and Barbers Pinnacle are two local landmarks that bear his name. One of Clarke's stories related a great river, the 'Kindur', to the sea. This river was supposedly beyond the Namoi River. His tales of a vast inland river prompted the Acting Governor, Sir Patrick Lindesay to dispatch the Surveyor General, Major Thomas Mitchell, to see if the story was true (Reed, 1969).



Plate 1. Lithograph of Nundawar Range by Major T. L. Mitchell. Source State Library NSW.

Major Thomas Mitchell left Sydney in 1831 and arrived at the Namoi River later that year. There he located what was believed to be Clarke's camp which was associated with a number of Aboriginal 'gunyas' (Hunt, 1980). Before venturing further down the Namoi River, Mitchell spent some days exploring an area to the north-east of Clarke's camp. He described cutting his way through scrub of forest oak and the description he gives is that of what is now known as Leard State Forest (Hunt, 1980). He returned to the Namoi River after a few days and made camp near the river where he prepared for his journey downstream. Mitchell failed to find evidence to support Clarke's claims of an inland sea. He returned to Sydney via Clarke's camp passing through that area in late February 1832. The area had no European settlers when he passed through in 1831; however, Mitchell met a guide 'Mr Brown' on his return trip (Hunt, 1980). Brown, who had a station to the south ('Wallamoul'), was following in Mitchell's tracks, no doubt scouting for land suitable for settlement. Despite Governor Darling placing a geographic limit on the spread of settlement, it was impossible to keep settlers from going beyond the 'Nineteen Counties – the Limits of Location' (Hunt, 1980).

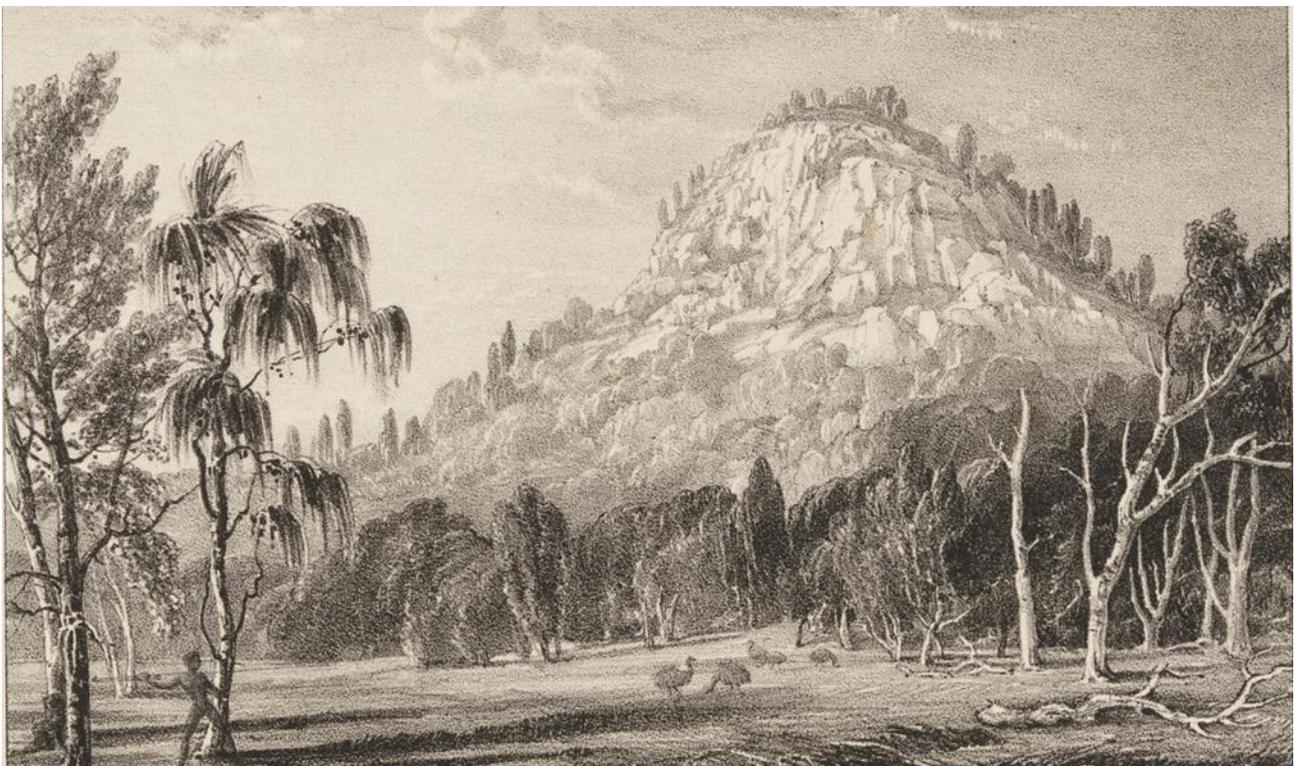


Plate 2. The epic of Tangulda, now Barbers Pinnacle. By Major T. L Mitchell 1792-1855. Source: State Library NSW.

A few years after Mitchell's exploration of the area, interest on the region began to grow. The first known squatter in the region was recorded by Mitchell around 1832, who wrote that 'the country around the Barber's stockyard has, ever since the return of the expedition been occupied by the cattle of Sir John Jamison' (Hunt, 1980).

On 17 March 1834 Patrick Quinn and Andrew Doyle set claim to a vast area to be known as the Nurrabry Run. To prevent others from squatting in the area, Quinn set his own boundaries. Quinn claimed for the station an area greater than his needs, as most squatters did, partly because he was thinking of the successful growth of his cattle and sheep, and partly because of the convenience of existing natural features that would be descriptive boundaries of the Run. Rivers, creeks, mountains and forests were common boundaries between runs. Unless neighbouring squatters could amicably decide on a common line the indefinite boundaries of unsurveyed and unfenced runs became the cause of many feuds, fights and law suits (Hunt, 1980).

Generally, runs were not fenced as each shepherd would be allotted a flock of sheep numbering 400 to 1,500, depending on the terrain of the country and hardness of his boss. The shepherd, who tendered his flock on foot, would take the sheep to good pastures, or outstations, on the Run. Here he would remain with his flock until lack of feed or other contingency required him to move on to another outstation. Nurrabry had a number of these outstations where a tiny portable watchbox or hut was taken as shelter for the shepherd and premade wooden hurdles were provided to build a fold to hold the sheep at night for their protection (Hunt, 1980).

For many years pastoralist relied completely on the natural grasses for stock food. There were no safe wards against droughts except to move sheep to unaffected areas if such places could be found. Drought brought many squatters to the verge of ruin and some to complete ruin as they lost their stock and stations.

The earliest pastoral runs occupied immense areas. Burbugate extended from its southern boundary, about eleven miles north of Gunnedah to Maules Creek which formed part of its northern limit. Nurrabry Run extended from the Namoi River to the top of the Nandewars, Baan Baa contained 107,500 acres and George Loder's South Wee Waa contained 96,000 acres. These vast runs persisted while total grazing continued to the exclusion of agriculture, the practice of which would have resulted in closer settlement and consequent higher regional population. While these huge runs remained the appearance of towns was hindered. Squatters were opposed to the idea of a town as they feared to lose their land. George Loder, for example, even objected to primitive huts for police officers being built on his Wee Waa run (Hunt, 1980).

In some cases, depending on several factors, the head stations of a particular run developed into a town or village irrespective of the squatter's wish. The first factor was that the Head Station should be on the track that led further outback for it was the heavy traffic of travellers and stock that often initiated the origin of a town. They provided water for men and their stock. These facilities of the station including a tiny station store greatly benefited travellers. In some instances, as Patrick Quinn did, some squatters or their overseers would even provide an accommodation hut for travellers (Hunt, 1980).

3.3 Establishment of Narrabri town

Authorities in Sydney were still concerned with the increasing occupation of land by the squatters and the possibility of any unofficial siting and uncontrolled growth of new towns. In 1848 Surveyor Gorman was instructed to survey the Namoi River and to recommend reserves that later might be suitable town sites. Gorman recommended a reserve at Nurrabry however, as the reserve was not on the high road he decided that the Tibereena Reserve was the site for a town in this area and perhaps, at this point, he visualised a small village at Nurrabry.

Gorman and others believed that the high road to Wee Waa and beyond would continue to be on the southern bank of the Namoi. However, the traffic through Nurrabry Head Station was steadily increasing, particularly as more and more squatters moved into the Moree District and further north into land that was to become Queensland. As a result, the road to Moree and beyond developed into an important stock route. The road junction at Nurrabry proved to be a more desirable place for a township. Eventually, more traffic passed through Nurrabry than through Wee Waa.

In 1858, Stephen Humphries took out a licence for his primitive inn, the Greyhound, and Ephraim Dunne established a blacksmith's workshop on land which is now part of the Commercial Bank block (Hunt, 1980). These forerunners of commerce in Narrabri started the same year as the reserve for the town was gazetted. In January 1859 the site for a town to be called Narrabri, 'on the creek of that name', was officially proclaimed (Hunt, 1980). The declaration of the name for the new town sealed the spelling of that word which had for so long been spelt in many different ways (Hunt, 1980).

The Government consented to the request and in 1861 Narrabri Post Office opened (Plate 3 and Plate 4). Two years after the township of Narrabri was established, a committee met to seek the erection of a hospital which was built in 1864 and began operations in 1865. The Government granted two acres of land at the corner of Maitland and Killarney Streets, now the location of the Narrabri Bowling Club and The Club Motor Inn. On that site the Narrabri Benevolent Society built the Narrabri Hospital and Benevolent Asylum. The Hospital was a very small building with accommodation for 12 patients across four wards, three wards for men and one for women (Hunt, 1980).



Plate 3. Narrabri West Post Office circa 1905. Source: National Archives of Australia.



Plate 4. Narrabri West Post Office circa 1905. Source: National Archives of Australia.

Between 1862 and 1865 meetings to get a school at Narrabri were unsuccessful. Towards the end of 1866 Henry Parkes passed his Public Schools Act which enabled the opening of a number of new schools. However, it was not until the beginning of 1868 that the School began under the care of Mr. Edward Warlad, not in its own building but in a cottage. As the town's population grew and enrolment increased the School moved into its own building in 1869. The building stood on the site of the present Infants Building at the corner of Barwan and Dewhurst Street.

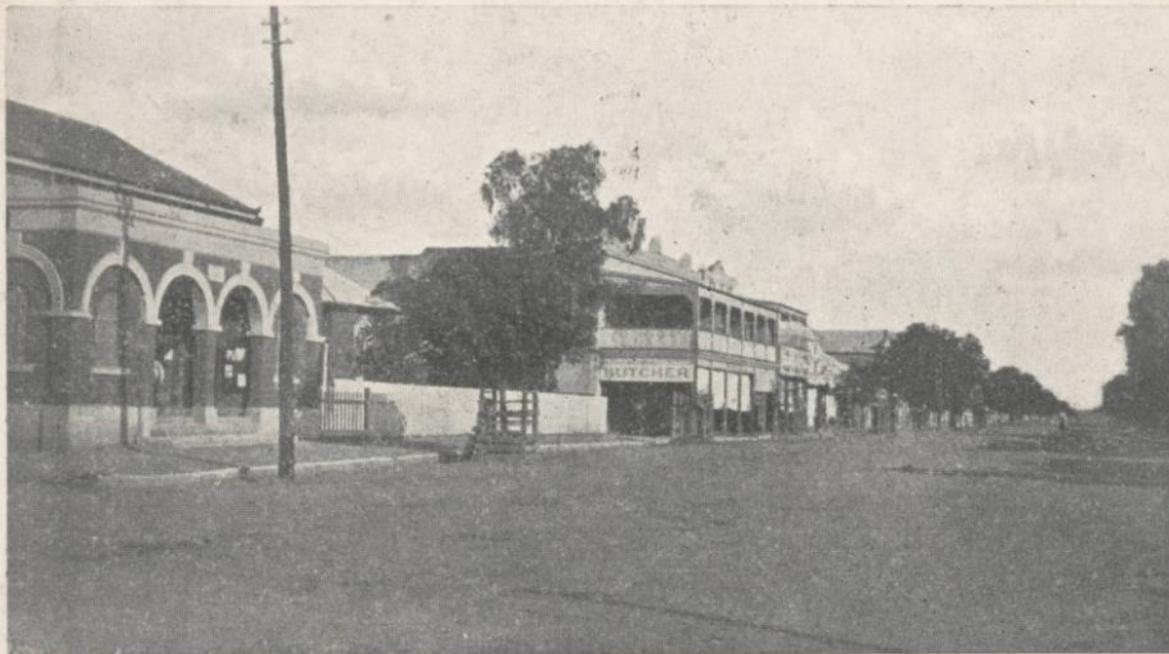
By 1870 Narrabri was firmly established as a progressive though still small town. The town had a population of about 300 with a resident Magistrate and a Court House with police officers. There was also a School, a post office, a telegraph office, a Commercial Bank and a coach service operating in the town (Plate 4 and Plate 5) (Hunt, 1980).



Plate 5. Narrabri Post and Telegraph office, circa 1885 to 1888. Source: National Archives of Australia.

The development of Narrabari continued as the population increased. During the 1880s the population was approximately 700 and the town experienced two major changes that stimulated its progress. These major changes were the arrival of the railway and the establishment of the Municipality. On 1 October 1882 the railway officially reached Narrabri West. However, the town was almost 5 km away from the station which created an inconvenience and added burden of cost before goods landed in town. As a result, the town gradually spread towards the station (Hunt, 1980).

MAITLAND STREET, looking South from Post Office, Narrabri.



A. E. Wallrabe & Co., Stationers

Plate 6. Maitland Street, looking South from Post Office, Narrabri, 1905. Source: National Museum of Australia.

The establishment of the Municipality was a result of the discontent of the residents. Prior to the establishment of the municipality the Police Magistrate exerted, to some extent, control over the town and the Road Superintendent (with limited funds) attended the roads, which were in poor condition (Hunt, 1980). In 1883 citizens requested the Magistrate to convene a public meeting in which a Committee was formed to send the petition to the Governor. As a result, the Municipality was created and the first election took place on 7 November 1883 (Hunt, 1980).

As the town of Narrabri developed, the Bank of Australia began operations in the town in 1876 and by 1885 erected a brick building on the site of the current ANZ Bank Building. (Hunt, 1980). A second hospital was built on land near the town railway station in 1896; a year before the railway properly reached the town and passed close by the hospital (Hunt, 1980). By the end of the 19th century Narrabri was firmly established as an important centre for the pastoral industry with a promising future as a wheat growing centre. The town was essentially a service centre for the surrounding agrarian district population which had increased with the arrival of the free selectors (Brooks, 2002).



Plate 7. Pastoral Industry, Narrabri NSW, circa 1956. Source: National Archives of Australia.

After World War I soldier blocks were allocated in the Pilliga Forest. These blocks were cleared by volunteers who travelled to and from the Pilliga Scrub lands on trains supplied by the Railway Department. The men worked to prepare land for ex-servicemen to begin remaking their lives. This massive voluntary effort set the standard for community involvement in town projects (Brooks, 2002).

The same initiative was followed at the end of World War II. Edgeroi Estate, located between Narrabri and Moree, was proposed as suitable for closer settlement. By mid-1948 all settlers occupied the land with a few homes already built. Establishment of these blocks was to prove a boost to Narrabri's economy after WWII (Brooks, 2002).

In 1948 the Narrabri Blue Metal company established a crushing plant at Little Mountain to supply gravel for concrete in building construction and road works in the Narrabri district. However, the blue metal proved difficult to crush using the plant equipment available in those days and it closed down within a few years.

Seismic surveys during the 1960s involving a system of drilling in a grid pattern throughout the district resulted in the discovery of potential gas and oil deposits in the Pilliga Forest area. These locations were considered to be an extension of the Moonie oil fields and part of the great Surat Basin. In 1963 a major American company expressed interest in deep drilling for oil. Further oil exploration was undertaken in 1985 when a methane gas deposit was discovered 17 km south-west of Narrabri at Wilga Park. Reports indicated the potential for a significant energy resource, sufficient for the North West and New England areas.

Discoveries of other mineral deposits have been recorded over the years, from gold and diamonds to chalk and lime deposits.

3.4 Baan Baa

Baan Baa is located on the Kamilaroi Highway and had early beginnings as a squatting run (Narrabri Shire Council, 2019) and was named after a local property of the same name which is ‘swim away’ in the local Aboriginal language.

A railway line between Narrabri South Junction and Boggabri was opened on 1 October 1882 with the railway station at Baan Baa opened in 1883 (Plate 8). The village grew to service the surrounding agricultural community and boasted a bakery, two general stores, a butchery, two churches and a shop, of which little remains (Narrabri Shire Council, 2019). The village is now primarily a grain terminal and continues to service the wider agricultural community.

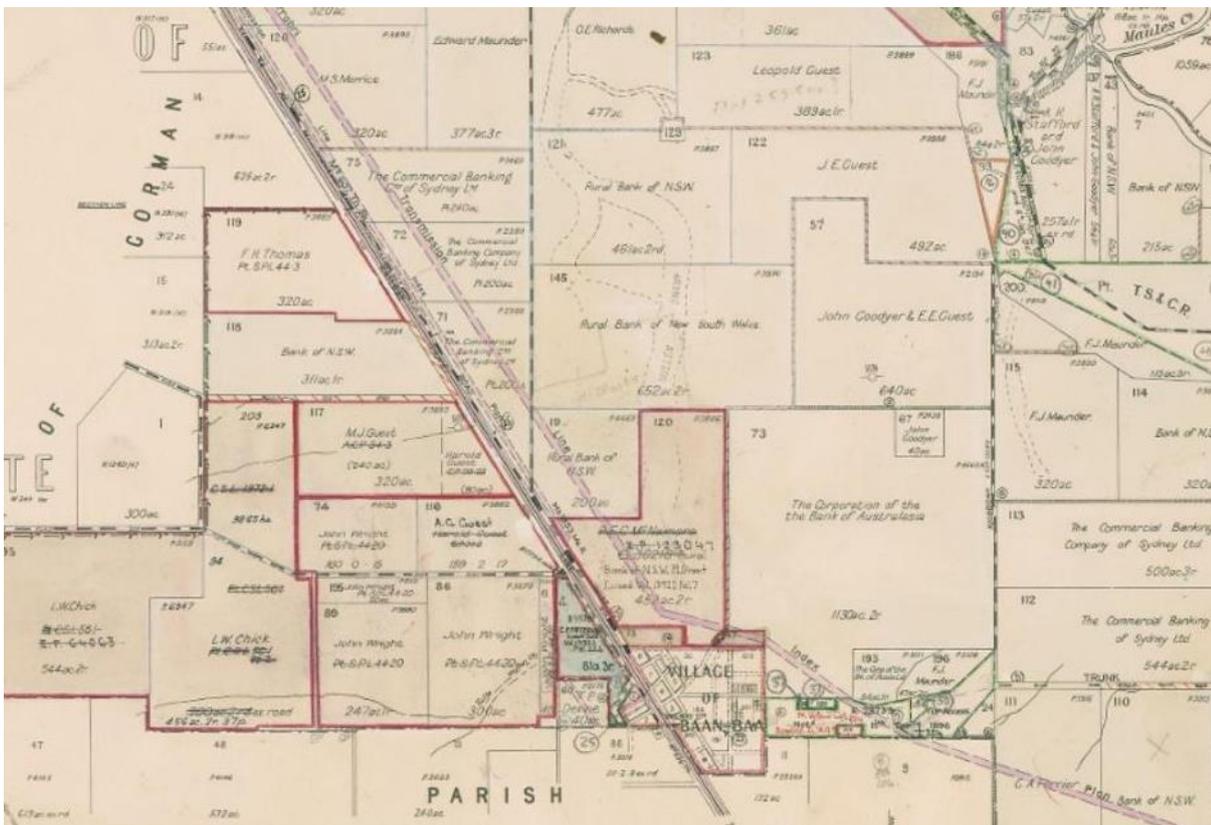


Plate 8. Village of Baan Baa in County Baan Baa (8th Edition 19 June 1967)

3.5 Boggabri

In the 1830s the original town was established approximately 20 km south of the current town. The town would eventually be relocated in the 1850s after a flood washed the earlier town away. In 1859 the town was surveyed and proclaimed in 1860 with the first land sales in the town occurring in Gunnedah on 31 December 1861. The town was slow to establish with it reaching 50 by 1866 (Aussie Towns, 2019).

By 1882 the railway had reached the district, with the terminal opened on 11 July 1882. By the early 1900s the wider district was a major producer of wool and wheat. The town has continued to grow steadily and continues to service the surrounding agricultural community.

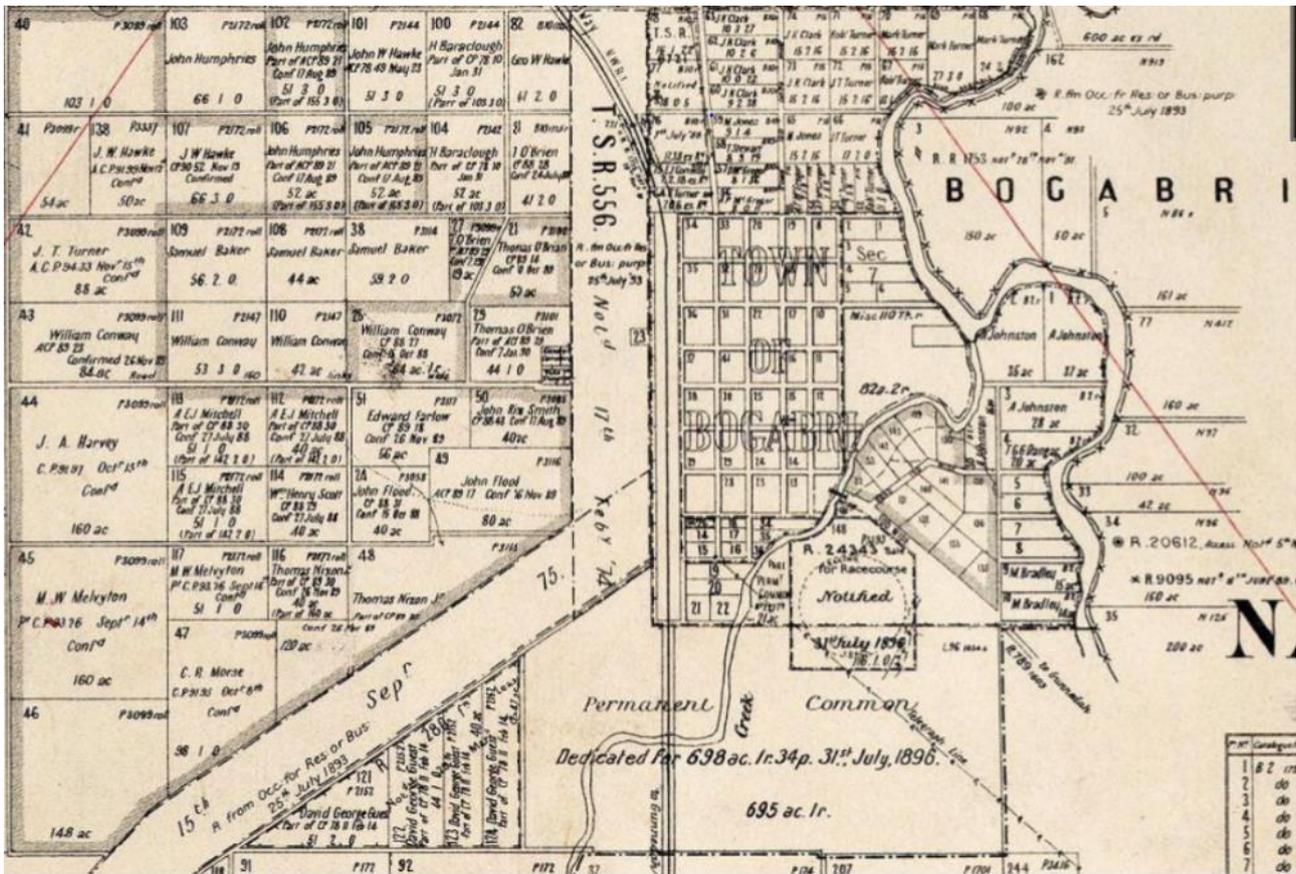


Plate 9. Town of Boggabri (3rd Edition 1906, date of map 1899)

3.6 Narrabri Underground Mine

Stage 1 of the Narrabri Mine was approved under Part 3A of the EP&A Act in 2007 and involved initial site establishment activities and continuous miner mining operations (Project Approval 05_0102).

Stage 2 of the Narrabri Mine was issued under Part 3A of the EP&A Act in 2010 and allowed the Narrabri Mine to convert to a longwall mining operation (Project Approval 08_0144).

The Narrabri Mine, incorporating Stages 1 and 2, extracts coal from the Hoskissons Seam. Project Approval 08_0144 allows for the production and processing of up to 11 Mtpa of ROM coal until July 2031. The approved Narrabri Mine comprises 20 longwall panels, Longwalls 101 to 120.

4. Review of Previous Heritage Assessments

A desktop search for heritage listed items was undertaken for the *Narrabri Coal Project Environmental Assessment* (R. W. Corkery & Co. Pty. Ltd, 2007) (the Stage 1 Assessment). No listed heritage sites were identified and therefore a site inspection was not undertaken.

The *Narrabri Coal Mine Stage 2 Longwall Project Non-Indigenous Heritage Assessment* (the Stage 2 Assessment) was undertaken by Archaeological Surveys and Reports Pty Ltd in 2009, to identify sites and/or places of non-Indigenous heritage significance within the 'Approved Underground Mine Footprint' (Figure 2) and approved brine storage areas.

No items of heritage significance were identified in the desktop assessment for the Stage 2 Assessment and the site inspection identified only one item of interest: a dilapidated saw mill to the west of the mine box cut at the existing Narrabri Mine (Figure 2). The significance assessment completed for the saw mill concluded that (Archaeological Surveys and Reports Pty Ltd, 2009):

The Sawmill is assessed to be of no local historical interest, and of only low educational value, insufficient to warrant its classification as a structure of Heritage Significance.

The site inspection for the Stage 2 Assessment encompassed the area shown on Figure 2 as the 'Underground Mine Footprint to be Extended for the Project'. Therefore, this area did not need to be re-surveyed for this assessment. As described in Section 5, the saw mill was re-inspected in August 2019 to contribute to the Stage 2 assessment. It is noted, however, that the saw mill is located outside of the 'Underground Mine Footprint to be Extended for the Project' and the 'Project Underground Mine Footprint' (Figure 2), and is therefore not expected to be impacted by the Project.

5. Site Inspection

5.1 Preamble

A field survey of the Study Area was undertaken from 13 to 15 August and 29 October 2019 by Ricardo Servin (Heritage Consultant, Niche) and Samuel Ward (Heritage Consultant, Niche). The Study Area encompassed MLAs 1 and 2 (Figure 2). As described in Section 4, the 'Underground Mine Footprint to be Extended for the Project' (Figure 2) was assessed as part of the Stage 2 Assessment and did not need to be re-inspected.

5.2 Methodology

A desktop assessment was initially conducted to identify any potential items of heritage significance in the Study Area, for verification in the site inspection. The desktop assessment identified a potential farm homestead within the limits of the Study Area. An 1899 parish map of Parkes, County of White shows an area located within the southern boundary of the Study Area named "Homestead Farm Area" (Figure 3). This area was identified as a "Homestead Farm Area" on the Parish map of Gorman until 1913 (Figure 4). However, by 1931 the area was acquired by the Bank of New South Wales (Figure 5). There is no available information indicating that any structure was present in the potential homestead farm area within this period, however, the desktop assessment indicated there was archaeological potential for a structure to be present within the Study Area.

A site inspection of the Study Area was undertaken to identify items of potential heritage significance, as well as assess the potential homestead farm area identified during the desktop assessment.

The survey involved driving through a majority of the Study Area using existing access tracks. Targeted survey based on desktop research was then carried out on foot.

The findings of the field surveys are provided in Section 5.3.

An abandoned saw mill previously identified and assessed (Archaeological Surveys and Reports Pty Ltd, 2009) was re-inspected and assessed (Appendix 1) to contribute to the previous significance assessment. The saw mill is located to the west of the mine box cut at the existing Narrabri Mine (Figure 2) and is not expected to be impacted by the Project.

Figure 3: 1899 Parish of Parkes showing the southern section of the Study Area



Niche PM: Joshua Madden
Niche Proj. #: 3884
Client: Narrabri Coal Operation Pty. Ltd

Parish of Parkes: 1899
Narrabri Underground Mine
Stage 3 Extension Project

Figure 3

publicNSW_imagery

5.3 Results

5.3.1 MLA 1

MLA 1 of the Study Area encompasses large sections of six properties including the potential homestead farm area identified during the desktop assessment (Figure 1). The south-eastern portion of MLA 1 (outside of the Study Area), was not inspected as no impacts are anticipated in this area.

Field survey on MLA 1 was targeted through available access roads. The vehicle was stopped at potential items of interest and a closer inspection undertaken on foot.

Properties within MLA 1 are currently being used for livestock grazing. The ground surface on lands assessed during field survey has been heavily impacted over time by agricultural practices (e.g. clearing and grazing). This was also confirmed during conversations with a member of the Narrabri Historical Society who stated that any items of historical significance in “that area, if existed, have very likely been destroyed as that area next to the Pilliga has been cleared for years” (Gordon Cain, pers. comm., 14 August 2019). Structures and/or features associated with early use of the land were not identified.

The potential homestead farm area is currently used for livestock grazing (Plates 10 to 13). Similar to most of the land within MLA 1, this area has been significantly impacted by historical clearing and continuous grazing. A twentieth century weatherboard residence with a fibro extension on a concrete slab is present. Associated structures include a paved entrance, water tanks and a number of sheds (Plate 14 to 16). The survey did not identify any structures and/or features that could be associated with a farm homestead.

Disused farming equipment was found scattered around MLA 1 (Plate 20); however, no items were considered to have historical significance.

Based on the results of the survey the assessment found that the MLA 1 area has no archaeological potential (Plates 10 to 24).



Plate 10. Eastern view of potential homestead farm area identified during desktop assessment (taken from south-eastern location on Study Area) (see Figure 1).



Plate 11. North-eastern view of potential homestead farm area identified during desktop assessment (taken from south-eastern location on Study Area) (see Figure 1).



Plate 12. Western view of potential homestead farm area identified during desktop assessment (taken from south-eastern location on Study Area) (see Figure 1).



Plate 13. South-western view of potential homestead farm area identified during desktop assessment (taken from south-eastern location on Study Area) (see Figure 1).



Plate 14. Western view of existing dwelling on potential homestead farm area identified during desktop assessment (taken from south-eastern location on Study Area) (see Figure 1).



Plate 15. South-western view of existing dwelling within potential homestead farm area identified during desktop assessment (taken from south-eastern location on Study Area) (see Figure 1).



Plate 16. Southern view of existing dwelling within potential homestead farm area identified during desktop assessment (taken from south-eastern location on Study Area) (see Figure 1).



Plate 17. Eastern view of MLA 1 (taken from north-eastern location on Study Area).



Plate 18. Western view of MLA 1 (taken from north-eastern location on Study Area).



Plate 19. Northern view of MLA 1 (taken from north-eastern location on Study Area).



Plate 20. Abandoned farming equipment scattered across MLA 1.



Plate 21. Southern view of MLA 1 (taken from north-eastern location on Study Area).



Plate 22. Northern view of MLA 1 (taken from eastern location on Study Area).



Plate 23. North-western view of MLA 1 (taken from eastern location on Study Area).



Plate 24. Western view of MLA 1 (taken from southern location on Study Area).

5.3.2 MLA 2

MLA 2 of the Study Area covers a large section of the Pilliga East State Forest (Figure 1). MLA 2, along the Pilliga East State Forest, was surveyed by vehicle along Scratch Road. Scratch Road is located along the eastern boundary of the forest, with a north-south alignment.

The forest area contained sections of land clearing, including areas disturbed by maintenance activities along Scratch Road (Plate 23 to Plate 25). The area has also been recently impacted by fire which was evident in some sections of the forest.

The desktop assessment did not identify any areas of significance within MLA 2. No items of archaeological potential were identified during survey of MLA 2.



Plate 25. Northern view of Pilliga East State Forest (MLA 2) from Scratch Road.



Plate 26. Western view of Pilliga East State Forest (MLA 2) from Scratch Road.



Plate 27. Southern view of Pilliga East State Forest (MLA 2) from Scratch Road.

6. Significance & Impact Assessment

6.1 Preamble

The NSW Heritage Manual provides the framework for assessing heritage significance in NSW. These guidelines incorporate the five aspects of cultural heritage value identified in the Burra Charter into a framework currently accepted by the NSW Heritage Council.

6.2 Significance Assessment

In accordance with the NSW Heritage Manual, the significance assessment criteria are listed below:

- (a) *An item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)*
- (b) *An item has strong or special associations with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in the cultural or natural history of NSW (or the cultural and natural history of the local area)*
- (c) *An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievements in NSW (or the local area)*
- (d) *An item has a strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW (or the local area) for social, cultural or spiritual reasons*
- (e) *An item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)*
- (f) *An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area); and*
- (g) *An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's (or the local area's)*
 - i. *cultural or natural places; or*
 - ii. *cultural or natural environments.*

One potential item of heritage significance was identified during the desktop assessment; however, it was confirmed to not exist through the site inspection. No items of heritage significance were identified during a site inspection of the Study Area and therefore a significance assessment is not required.

6.3 Impact Assessment

No items of heritage significance were identified within or in close proximity to the Study Area. As the ground surface of the Study Area has been significantly disturbed due to historic agricultural practices, it is unlikely that any remains of historical value could be exposed or impacted during the proposed works. No indications of archaeological remains were identified during site inspection of the Study Area.

The area shown as 'Underground Mine Footprint to be Extended for the Project' was assessed by as part of the Stage 2 Assessment (Archaeological Surveys & Reports, 2009). No items of heritage significance were identified in this area, therefore, no impacts associated with the Project would occur in this area. Re-assessment of the dilapidated saw mill (refer to Appendix 1), identified in the Stage 2 Assessment and located to the west of the mine box cut at the existing Narrabri Mine, confirmed it does not meet the criteria to be listed as an item of heritage value.

It is therefore concluded that the Project would have no impact on any items or areas of heritage significance and would not affect the heritage values of the Narrabri region.

7. Conclusions and Recommendations

7.1 Conclusions

This HHA did not identify any items of heritage significance in the Study Area for the Project. It is therefore concluded that the Project would have no impact on any items or areas of heritage significance and would not affect the heritage value of the Narrabri region.

7.2 Recommendation

This HHA has concluded that the Project would not impact the heritage value of the Narrabri region or any items of heritage significance within the area. However, the following recommendation is made to prevent any impact to unexpected items or remains of heritage significance:

Recommendation 1:

In the unlikely event that historical archaeological relics were to be discovered during ground disturbance for the Project, work in the immediate area would need to cease and a suitably qualified archaeologist be engaged to assess the condition, extent and likely significance of the remains. Depending on the results of this assessment, the Heritage Council may need to be notified of the discovery in accordance with Section 146 of the Heritage Act.

8. References

Archaeological Surveys and Reports Pty Ltd (2009) *Narrabri Coal Mine Stage 2 Longwall Project Non-Indigenous Heritage Assessment*.

Aussie Towns (2019) *Boggabri, NSW*. [Online] Available: <https://www.aussietowns.com.au/town/boggabri-nsw>. Accessed 10 December 2019.

Australia ICOMOS (2013) *The Burra Charter, The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance, ICOMOS Australia*.

Brooks, John (2002) *130 years on, still going strong: a brief history of Narrabri Rural Lands Protection Board*, DSAMC Education Pty. Ltd South Tamworth, NSW.

Department of Urban Affairs and Planning (1996) *NSW Heritage Manual*.

Exxon Mobil (2019) *Mobil history*. [Online] Available: <https://www.exxonmobil.com.au/Company/Who-we-are/Mobil-history>. Accessed 10 December 2019.

Guy L. Hunt (1980) *When Narrabri was young: a story of Narrabri from 1818 to 1900*, written for the Council of the Municipality of Narrabri.

Narrabri Shire Council (2019) *Baan Baa*. [Online] Available: <http://www.visitnarrabri.com.au/our-towns/baan-baa/>. Accessed 10 December 2019.

Reed, A. W. (1969) *Place Names of New South Wales: Their Origins and Meanings*, Sydney.

Appendix 1

SAW MILL

A previous assessment by Surveys & Reports Pty Ltd in 2009 identified a dilapidated saw mill located in the northern bank of Pine Creek to the west of the mine box cut at the Narrabri Mine (Figure 2). The area was surveyed, re-assessed and recorded from 13 to 15 August 2019 to contribute to the previous significance assessment (Archaeological Surveys and Reports, 2009). However, it is noted that the saw mill is located outside of the Project extent and Study Area and is therefore not expected to be impacted by the Project.

The saw mill was found in a dilapidated state as the timber structures are extensively decayed and iron items are heavily corroded. The saw mill is completely exposed to weather conditions with no cover or a fence line protecting it.

The saw mill consists of a 20.26 metre (m) long iron track line placed on a north-south alignment supported on timber sleepers. Although the gauge between the track line was covered with grass and coarse sand, timber sleepers were visible where rails joined. The rail line is structured on three different track sections. From north to south, the first 1.5 m of the track line consist of two parallel L-shaped iron rails that potentially marked the end of the track line and was also used to situate the long trolley into the next flat bottom iron rail line. The flat bottom iron rail line extends south from the end of the L-shaped iron rails to the edge of the fine saw station located across the alignment of the track line. This track line consists of three segments of parallel flat-bottomed iron rails joined by bolts and a timber sleeper.

From the southern end of the fine saw station the track line extends approximately 5 m further south. This section of the track line consists of two parallel L-shaped thin iron rails which were potentially used to transport the end product from the fine saw station. There is no evidence of rail welding on the track line.

Adjacent to the north-eastern side of the rail line there is a deteriorated structure of a potential rough saw station. The structure consists of an extensively decayed platform supported by four timber posts. In the middle of the platform there is an iron axle fixed to the platform in an east-west position. The heavily rusted axle has a working fitting for a belt drive on its eastern end. If the station functioned as a rough saw it was here where logs were cut into a basic size, which is usually the first stage for preparing wood for more accurate work.

The previous assessment of the saw mill indicates that the rough saw station had a 'large diameter saw' (Archaeological Surveys and Reports, 2009). This is also confirmed in their archival recording. However, during survey assessment carried out by Niche from 13 to 15 August 2019, the blade was no longer in the station. The station has no indications of having been vandalised but, rather, that the blade has been removed from the axle which was then reassembled.

Further south, approximately 6 m from the rough saw station, there is a structure of a potential fine saw station across the rail line. The structure consists of a platform of timber planks supported by six timber posts set in an east-west alignment by three sets of two posts. Corrugated iron covers the north, south and east sections of the timber posts supporting the platform, which may have functioned to control the accumulations of timber out-cuts.

In the middle of the platform there is an iron axle fixed to the frame of the platform in an east-west position and with a fitting for a belt drive on the eastern end of the axle. The axle extends approximately to the centre of the platform. There is a mount for a circular blade to fit on the western end of the axle and a cut-out section for the saw blade to fit on the centre of the platform. There are iron rollers installed on the north and south end of the platform which were likely used to facilitate the manipulation of heavy timber objects through the saw. Also, an iron frame above the platform and a device mounted on the north-western corner of the platform could have potentially been used to facilitate the control of the items as they passed through the saw. Some of the bolts and nuts from the structure of the fine saw station seem to have been recently replaced. Some of the remaining old bolts have also been reinforced with wire.

A piece of rubber potentially associated with the belt drive that operated between the two saw stations was found a few metres west from the rail track line.

There is a small iron trolley located on the rail line south from the fine saw station. The trolley consists of an iron frame with four wheels and two axles. There is another iron frame placed on a perpendicular position at the centre of the trolley. Given that the trolley is located on a thin L-shaped iron rail line with the flange of the wheels facing outwards next to the fine saw stations; this suggests that the trolley and the rail line construction at this end was used to transport light processed planks from the fine saw station as the end product.

A large trolley with an iron structure is located on the flat bottom track line close to the rough saw station. The trolley is 2.76 m long made of an iron structure with a flat platform. Wheels and axles are missing from the trolley. The previous assessment (2009) identified an axle with two wheels associated with the trolley, however, this has been removed since then.

This large trolley potentially operated to transport heavy logs into the rough saw station and then into the fine saw station, as it runs through flat-bottomed iron rail tracks that could endure the constant stress of heavy movement. The trolley is currently tipped over to the western side of the rail line resting on one of the timber racks.

Along the western side of the rail line there are three sets of three wooden racks that were potentially used to rest timber products as they were transported through the different stages of the saw mill process. Each rack set has been categorised from north to south as rack set A, rack set B and rack set C. In order to describe each individual rack, they have been numbered from a north to south position within each set as 1A, 2A and 3A; 1B, 2B and 3B; 1C, 2C and 3C.

Rack set A consists of three timber racks each with a timber log placed on a horizontal east-west position supported by three timber posts fastened with wire. Horizontal timber logs on this set have an average length of 4.2 m and each rack is 1.5 m apart. Rack 1A has a height of 94 centimetres (cm), the height of rack 2A is 84 cm and rack 3A is 74 cm in height. The decreasing north-south height arrangement of these racks would have maintained timber logs at an angle that would have facilitated the rolling of these logs from and towards the trolley. This arrangement type is found on each rack set.

Rack set B is located 4 m south from rack set A. It consists of three timber racks with a horizontal timber log placed on an east-west orientation supported by three timber posts each and fastened with wire. Horizontal timber logs are 4.2 m long on average. The height of these racks does not decrease as much as on rack set A. Rack 1B has a height of 87 cm, rack 2B is 81 cm high and rack 3B has a height of 78.5 cm.

Rack set C is approximately 3.8 m south of rack set B on the western side of the rail line. This rack set is in poor condition as the horizontal timber from rack 2C has been removed and the remaining timber racks are in a decayed state. The average size of this rack was significantly smaller compared to rack set A and B. The average size of the two remaining horizontal timber logs is 2.4 m and they have an average height of 80 cm.

Each rack set is located 50 cm west from the rail line.

There is a T-shaped timber feature located on the eastern side of the rail line approximately 1.5 m south of the fine saw station. This feature, potentially a prop, is in a decayed condition and it is not known if other features were attached to it.

Next to the south-western edge of rack set C there is a pile of weathered timber planks discarded on the ground. Approximately 15 m south there are another two piles of discarded timber planks. These are heavily weathered.

A radius of approximately 20 m around the saw mill was surveyed on foot in order to identify potential features associated with it. Several scattered items were found that were potentially associated with the saw mill. Most of these items consisted of corroded fasteners and discarded oil drums. Close to the rail line on the south-eastern side of the saw mill there is a discarded timber frame with two iron straps across laying against a tree. These scattered items around the saw mill area suggests that the saw mill was dismantled before being abandoned. This was potentially done just before Narrabri Mine acquired the land around the saw mill.

Corroded oil drums have the faded brand Esso printed on the surface. This indicates that the saw mill was potentially in use as late as the early 2000s after Esso merged with Exxon in 1999 and the production of Esso oil drums and were replaced by drums with 'Mobil' branding (Exxon Mobil, 2019).



North-eastern view of saw mill.



Western view of saw mill. Fine saw in the centre.



Western view of saw mill. Fine saw on the left side and rough saw on right side of image.



South-western view of saw mill.



Western view of saw mill showing rough saw mill.



Southern view of saw mill showing rough saw.



Northern view of saw mill showing rough saw



Eastern view of saw mill with rough saw at the centre of image showing large trolley tipped over towards timber racks.



Northern view of saw mill showing fine saw.



Eastern view of saw mill showing fine saw.



Southern view of saw mill showing fine saw.



Western view of saw mill showing fine saw.

Significance Assessment

Introduction

The NSW Heritage Manual, prepared by the former NSW Heritage Office and Department of Urban Affairs and Planning, provides the framework for assessing significance in NSW. These guidelines incorporate the five aspects of cultural heritage value identified in the Burra Charter: The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance 1999 (Burra Charter) into a framework currently accepted by the NSW Heritage Council.

Dilapidated Saw Mill

The following significance assessment of the saw mill contributes and updates a previous significance assessment developed by Archaeological Surveys and Reports Pty Ltd in 2009. The saw mill is located outside of the Project extent and Study Area, to the west of the mine box cut at the existing Narrabri Mine.

NSW Heritage Manual Criterion	Significance
<i>(a) An item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)</i>	There is no recorded information associated with the saw mill. The saw mill potentially operated from the 1950s up until the end of the 20 th century. The location and characteristics of the saw mill do not represent an important aspect of the history of Narrabri.
<i>(b) An item has strong or special associations with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in the cultural or natural history of NSW (or the cultural and natural history of the local area)</i>	The saw mill is an example of a private bush saw mill. However, it is not associated with a distinctive resident or groups from the region.
<i>(c) An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievements in NSW (or the local area)</i>	The saw mill is in a dilapidated state and it has been dismantled. None of the remaining items in the saw mill are unique or distinctive. The saw mill is representative of a common private small saw mill from the 20 th century.
<i>(d) An item has a strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW (or the local area) for social, cultural or spiritual reasons</i>	There is no recorded information of the saw mill or its association to any specific community. This is a common 20 th century private saw mill.
<i>(e) An item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)</i>	The saw mill is in a dilapidated state and it has been dismantled. The remaining items indicate it was a small private saw mill that operated during the 20 th century. The location and characteristics of the saw mill are typical of the use of available local resources by residents of the area, and the saw mill itself is representative of a small private bush saw mill. However, it is not a unique or distinctive item of the way of life of a local pastoralist.

NSW Heritage Manual Criterion	Significance
<i>(f) An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area); and</i>	The saw mill does not possess any uncommon or rare features of a small saw mill. It is a common small private saw mill that operated during the 20 th century.
<i>(g) An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's (or the local area's) (i) cultural or natural places; or (ii) cultural or natural environments.</i>	The saw mill is an example of rural life and the private processing of timber available in the region. It does not demonstrate the principal characteristics of local pastoralists in the region. There is no indication that the saw mill was an important aspect of the local pastoralist in the Narrabri region.

Statement of Significance

The dilapidated saw mill is an example of a private bush saw mill from the 20th century. The remaining features in the site illustrates saw milling practice and use of available resources in the area up to the end of the 20th century. There are no rare or unique features within the saw mill site. The saw mill is unlikely to have local or state significance. It is a common small private saw mill that operated during the 20th century. It is probable that there are numerous other abandoned saw mill sites elsewhere and that the saw mill is just one of many variations of the saw milling process.

Contact Us

Niche Environment and Heritage
02 9630 5658
info@niche-eh.com

NSW Head Office – Sydney
PO Box 2443 North Parramatta
NSW 1750 Australia

QLD Head Office – Brisbane
PO Box 540 Sandgate
QLD 4017 Australia

Sydney
Illawarra
Central Coast
Newcastle
Mudgee
Port Macquarie
Brisbane
Cairns



Our services

Ecology and biodiversity

Terrestrial
Freshwater
Marine and coastal
Research and monitoring
Wildlife Schools and training

Heritage management

Aboriginal heritage
Historical heritage
Conservation management
Community consultation
Archaeological, built and landscape values

Environmental management and approvals

Impact assessments
Development and activity approvals
Rehabilitation
Stakeholder consultation and facilitation
Project management

Environmental offsetting

Offset strategy and assessment (NSW, QLD, Commonwealth)
Accredited BAM assessors (NSW)
Biodiversity Stewardship Site Agreements (NSW)
Offset site establishment and management
Offset brokerage
Advanced Offset establishment (QLD)